Industry Facts & Stats

- The average service life of a modern hard drive is 3 – 5 years. (www.storagereview.com)

- Disk drives have annual failure rates of 0.3% – 3% per year, with hard drive manufacturing companies claiming a 1% failure rate per year.

- A 2003 study estimated that the cost of data loss – including technical services for repair, lost productivity, and the value of lost data – is approximately $3,400 per episode, or a total loss of $18.2 billion dollars per year for US companies ("The Cost of Lost Data: The importance of investing in 'that ounce of prevention'", David M. Smith, PhD. From http://gbr.pepperdine.edu/033/dataloss.html#return15)

- Bill Gates says that 5% of Windows machines experience some type of crash, on average, twice daily (www.pcmag.com)

- 31% of PC users have lost all of their files due to events beyond their control (data loss statistics - http://www.bostoncomputing.net/consultation/databackup/statistics)

- 93% of companies that lost their data center for 10 days or more due to a disaster filed for bankruptcy within one year of the disaster. 50% of businesses that found themselves without data management for this same time period filed for bankruptcy immediately. (National Archives & Records Administration in Washington – from http://www.bostoncomputing.net/consultation/databackup/statistics)

- According to a MacInTouch survey of 4,000 iPod users, accounting for 8,926 iPods, 1,416 failed in the 5 years since Apple started selling iPod products. Some models showed a failure rate as high as 29.9% (iPod Reliability survey - http://www.macintouch.com/reliability/ipodfailures.html)

- Hard drives are more sensitive to altitude than other components and have a higher rate of failure at heights over 10,000 feet (www.storagereview.com)

- According to the Harris/Symantec Data Back-Up Survey 2006, just 57 percent said they back up their data, with digital pictures the most commonly backed up files. The other 43 percent don't back up -- ever -- despite the fact that nearly a quarter of the respondents (24 percent) admitted to losing data from a computer crash over the past six months.

- Gartner estimated that 5 percent of desktop PCs purchased in 2005-2006 will break within the first year, and that 12 percent will break within four years. In contrast, 15 percent of laptops will break within a year, and 22 percent will break within four years.