Running Head: DATA TRANSFER

Medium Types: Data Transfer

Jered McClure

Walden University

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| **Column1** | **Setup Old Hard Drive as an External Hard Drive** | **Network Connection to Old Hard Drive** |
| **Transfer Large Files/libraries all at once** | This should not be an issue, the only limit is the transfer speed of the connecting cable medium (Firewire, USB X.0, or Ethernet) | As the connection will be via Ethernet, the only limitation will be the robustness of the network. A direct crossover link will have no trouble transferring large files. |
| **Speed** | Firewire S400: 400 Mbps FireWire S800: 800 Mbps **FireWire S1600: 1600Mbps** USB 2.0: 480 Mbps **USB 3.0: Up to 4.8Gbps** | 10 Base-T Ethernet: 10 Mbps 100 Base-t Ethernet: 100 Mbps **Gigabit Ethernet: 1 Gbps** |
| **Backup** | As data is stored on the external hard drive, it is already in a Backup state | Data is stored on the original hard drive, and as such is in a backup state already. |
| **Keep Same File System** | The file system of the destination drive from the external hard drive must remain of the same type. Otherwise, the OS may transfer the data into a new file system type automatically. | The file system of the destination drive from the external hard drive must remain of the same type. Otherwise, the OS may transfer the data into a new file system type automatically. |
| **Can Transfer to New File System** | Yes | Yes |
| **Portability** | As the hard drive is setup in an external hard drive chassis, the data can be physically moved to any location. | As the data remains in it's original location, the only way to portably move it is to transfer the data via a network connection. |
| **Access Installed Programs** | The original OS is no longer present due to the hard drive now being on an external hard drive. As such, the programs would not be able to be accessed as they were previously, only the files. | A remote desktop connection to the old computer's hard drive would allow the user to access the program's functionality. That being said, the programs themselves could not be transferred to a new computer without specialized software. |

Conclusion

The external hard drive offers the fastest speed, the most portability, and the most mediums under which data can be transferred. Although I did not place it on the comparison chart, as I wanted to keep the networking side pure, an external hard drive could be setup via a network connection, as well. As such, unless the user desperately needs to access the application functions of software installed previously, the external hard drive is the best option.

Reference

Schmid, P. (20004, April 2). *Go External: FireWire 800.* Retrieved February 3, 2012, from Tom's Hardware: <http://www.tomshardware.com/reviews/external,782.html>

UH Information Technology Services. (2004, January 5). *Network Communication Speed Comparison Table.* Retrieved February 3, 2012, from Michigan tech: <http://www.ice.mtu.edu/~jamyles/references/speeds.html>