✠ Computer Security ✠

Why You Need Online Backup

(NAPSA)—Dave Rice supervised the packing of his family's personal belongings for their big cross-country move. Furniture, computers, and data backups were carefully loaded onto an 18-wheeler and sent down the road.

Not too far into the drive, a wheel bearing on the semi caught fire in Colorado and destroyed everything.

"A single point of failure," Rice said. "I had years of work on my computer. The contents of the trailer were a total loss."

Computers are full of information—treasured family photos, music collections, financial records and more—that would be expensive or even impossible to replace. Anyone who relies on a computer may want to consider a way to save those resources in the event of a disaster.

Not only are computers vulnerable to viruses, hard-drive crashes and theft, but bad weather—from summer hurricanes to winter ice storms—can cause floods and power outages that may permanently damage a computer's hard drive.

Statistics show that one in every 10 hard drives fails each year, and the cost of recovering a failed hard drive can exceed $7,500. Even after paying that hefty price, there is no guarantee that all the information can be successfully recovered.

Inevitably, the role of technology in our lives will increase in coming years, and with that, the amount of information stored digitally will increase by leaps and bounds. Personal information, once stored in albums, boxes and filing cabinets, is now found on computers, digital devices and Web sites.

As businesses and households increasingly rely on their computers to access personal and professional data, there is a sense of

Let it snow, let it storm, let it snow. The information on your computer is protected from any weather-related power outages.

urgency to find the most efficient way to protect such information.

For many Mac and Windows users, the most secure and pain-free way to safely store this information is with an online backup service such as Mozy. The low monthly fee makes it inexpensive enough for individual use. Meanwhile, many organizations—from Fortune 500 companies like General Electric to thousands of other small and medium-sized businesses—are using Mozy to back up their most sensitive data.

Mozy.com offers 2 GB of free storage, or customers can sign up for unlimited storage space to back up all their computer information for $4.95 a month. When users sign up for the service, Mozy automatically encrypts a copy of their files and sends it securely to Mozy's data centers, where the information is safe from theft, natural disaster and accidental deletion. Through February, Mozy is providing a 20 percent discount to users who sign up and enter the code "NEWYEAR" upon registration.

"I will never risk having no backups," Rice said. "And I will never ever have my backups WITH my computer."

For more information, visit www.mozy.com.