

Hello to all the subscribers of the Jamaica Bay Computer Club website.

Here is a special article I wrote just for you!

I always receive feedback from club members about not having the computer backed up, or being asked "how to transfer pictures or photos from an old computer to a new one".

A few years ago I asked the question "What do you do with the pictures you take on your camera or phone?" Several members commented "Why, I load them up on my computer".

I then asked "What do you do next?" (I was hoping to illicit the response "I backup them up!") What I got instead was the comment "I wonder where they went!"

I have been trying now for a few years to come up with an easy way to help folks find, organize & backup their photos (and important files) on their computer. Last summer we had some special club meetings to address this very topic. There are of course several ways to accomplish this.

My review is specifically directed to computer users. If your pictures are on an iPhone, I'll write about that in a future email.

This review specifically talks about my recent experience with a fairly new product called "THE PHOTOSTICK or PHOTO STICK".

What does the photostick claim to do? They say to insert the flash drive and run the program one click and all your photos will be found and copied automatically to the flash drive provided. There are options to backup videos as well.

This would be a great solution for our more inexperienced club members.

I went to AMAZON and purchased the 128GB version (I have a lot of photos & videos!) for \$53.79. Expensive for a flash drive but you are mostly paying for the program.

My drive arrived and I inserted it into a USB slot on my test computer, running the program right from the drive. Fairly quickly it found 12,654 photos to back up, founding 1110 duplicates with a total size of 20.79GB

Run #1: I then chose to do an immediate back up. The results were it only copied 3,549 pictures. I could not immediately tell why.

After some investigation, the program only backs up .JPG files by default. So much for the easy one-click claim. There are at least 12 other file types (.mov .avi, .gif .png etc) and you must maneuver around & “select” them to get a complete backup. So, I did.

Run #2: as it was scanning folders, it prematurely ended. That was unexpected! So, I reran the backup again. It searched 4834 folders (same as the first run) It found 3095 new files, taking up 11.33GB of space and 156 duplicates. I restarted the program and 20 minutes it seemed to freeze backing up 1 particular file. I waited 45 minutes for something to change. It never did.

The program had ended itself out (just like run #2). I cautiously re-booted the computer to insure no programs were hung up. After the reboot, I tried to do run #4.

Clicking on the USB drive yielded this result: the USB drive is CORRUPTED. I tried the flash drive in 3 other computers and each time Windows told me the drive needed to be formatted.

I contacted AMAZON for a refund. I shipped it back and am still waiting for my \$53.79.

Conclusion: Even if the software performed flawlessly (and it did not) the claim “one-click” backup of your photos & videos is inaccurate. I do not recommend this item for reasons listed above. There are better ways to spend your money on backup solutions for your computer.