

The following is a repeat from the “Channel Islands PC Users Group.” It is part president Jim Brown’s “Command Com” article.

Restore Previous Versions

The June 16 issue of “Windows Secrets,” an electronic newsletter, includes an article on Restore Previous Versions, which it calls “Win7’s least known data protection system” <http://windowssecrets.com/top-story/rpv-win7s-least-known-data-protection-system> RPV first appeared in Vista and is available in all versions of Windows 7. While it is not a substitute for regular backups, it does help you to recover copies of recent files that have been deleted or overwritten by mistake. It backs up every data file and folder that changes on the drive that holds windows. If you want to enable it for other drives, you must do so.

To see if it’s enabled, right click on any folder and search for “Restore Previous Versions.” Click on it to see what files can be recovered.

If you want to enable it for any folder—if, for instance you keep your document on a different drive—right click on the folder, left click on “Restore Previous Versions” and left click on “How do I use previous versions.”

Follow the instructions to enable the program, which “Windows Secrets” writer Fred Langa calls “a hidden gem.”

Be sure to also read Fred’s article, which explains why RSV is not a substitute for backups (simply put, the files aren’t kept forever). Even so, a free security tool that works is hard to beat.