

My Johnny.Decimal ID:

3-2-1 data storage & backup

This is the 3-2-1 documentation¹ for Johnny.Decimal system:

Last updated on:

My **primary**
copy of this
data is stored
at²:

My **secondary**
copy of this
data is stored
at³:

My **backup** of
this data is
stored at⁴:

This is my
offsite copy

Notes

1. What does 3-2-1 mean?

This industry-standard guidance helps keep your data safe from accidental loss.

You need to have:

- 3: **Three copies** of your data, in total.
- 2: Stored on **two different types of media**.
 - e.g. one copy on your laptop, one copy in the cloud, or
 - one copy on your laptop, one copy on a server.
- 1: **One copy must be offsite**.
 - Which means 'not at the same location as your laptop'.
 - Otherwise when your house burns down you lose everything.

2. The 'primary copy' of your data

The 'primary copy' of your data counts as one of your three copies.

This is probably your laptop.

Note: this assumes that you have a *complete* copy of your data on this laptop. Many cloud services (iCloud, Dropbox) allow you to keep a *partial* copy. **In this case your laptop is not the primary copy of your data.** Life gets more complicated and we'll discuss this another day.

3-2-1 tracker

Copies: 1/3

Media: 1/2

Offsite: 0/1

3. The 'secondary copy' of your data

The 'secondary copy' counts as the second of your three copies.

It *might* also be your offsite copy; or that might be your backup.

This is probably a cloud service like iCloud or Dropbox.

Copies: 2/3

Media: 2/2

Offsite: 0/1? 

4. The 'backup' of your data

Finally, your backup is the third of three copies.

It *might* also be your offsite copy; or that might be your 'secondary copy'.

You might think that iCloud/Dropbox is a backup. It is not!

This must be a dedicated backup service like Time Machine (runs locally) or Backblaze (in the cloud).

Copies: 3/3

Media: 2/2

Offsite: 1/1