

Adjutant Software Customer Support Tech Notes

Document Title: Recovering from a hard drive crash or other system disaster
Document Number: 017
Applies to: Campaign ToolBox
Related Tech Notes: 007

SUMMARY

A hard drive crash or other system disaster can be either a major disaster or just a major annoyance depending on whether or not routine backups are made of your data files. This document describes how to get back up and running with Campaign ToolBox – **assuming that you have a recent backup copy of your database file or you are somehow able to recover your database file**. Unless you have a backup copy of your file or you are able to recover it from your crashed hard drive, you will be starting over from the very beginning; this Tech Note will not be of any help in that case.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

1. Campaign ToolBox installation file. This is named “setup_xx.exe” where “xx” is your state abbreviation. This can be downloaded from <http://www.campaigntoolbox.com>. No codes or passwords are required to download this. If necessary, you can download it on one computer, save it to a CD or flash drive, then transfer it to your new computer.
2. A backup or recovered copy of your main database file. If you are trying to recover it from your damaged hard drive and you can't remember the name or location of your database file, and you can recover files in the main program folder (C:\Program files\CTBxx - where “xx” is your state), look for the file “MRU.cfg”. Open that file using Windows Notepad. The first line of that file will be the name and path of the most recently used database file. The second line will be the second most recently used file, etc. The database file will always end in “.MDB”, and the default name is “Campaign.mdb”.
3. Backup or recovered copies of any files that end in “.LST” and are located in the main program folder. If these files are not available, don't be too concerned - they can be replaced fairly easily.

PROCEDURE

Install Campaign ToolBox on your new/repared computer as described on the page where you downloaded the program from. You should NOT go through Initial Program Setup - that information should be on your existing backup database file.

Copy your backup of the main database file onto your hard drive. Use the “Restore” function on your backup program to do this; if your backup consists of making a simple file copy onto a floppy or Zip disk, use Windows Explorer to copy the file(s) onto your hard drive. Your database file should be copied somewhere under your “My Documents” folder, regardless of where it was on your previous system.

Copy list files (if available from your backup or by recovery) into the main program folder (default location is C:\Program files\CTBxx - where “xx” is your state). These are files that end in “.LST” and are always located in the main program folder. Allow them to over-write the default files that are installed with the main program. These files are easily replaceable and contain user-definable lists such as Expense Categories, etc.

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Set the data file location in Campaign ToolBox

1. Start Campaign ToolBox.
2. Close the Opening Form
3. Click on File | Open
4. Browse until you locate the data file
5. Click on the data file, then click on OK

Campaign ToolBox will now be set up and ready to use the new database file. Note that normally you should NOT need to go through Initial Program Setup when using a recent backup. Your Registration Code is a part of the database file, so you should not need to enter it again unless you were unable to recover the database file.

NOTES

1. Routine regular backup of your important data files is one of the most basic rules of using a computer for anything more important than games. There simply is no excuse for not having a regular data backup system in place. A backup system is beyond the scope of this document, but there are several excellent programs available that will automate this process.
2. Tech Note TN-007 (“Transferring a database file to another system”) may also be helpful.
3. TECH SUPPORT for Campaign ToolBox DOES NOT INCLUDE locating files on your system, copying, moving, backing up or restoring files, or other activities outside the normal use of the program on a working computer. If you or a technician working on your system have specific questions about recovering Campaign ToolBox files, please feel free to ask, and we will try to help; however there is very little that can be done if you don't have a recent backup of your data files (See Note 1).