

# CYBER HOARDING

The Compulsive Hoarding of Information

# What is Hoarding?

## □ Definition:

**hoarder** – *n.* a person who accumulates things and hides them away for future use.

<http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=hoarder>

**hoarding** – *v.* the excessive collection of items, along with the inability to discard them.

<http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/hoarding/ds00966>

# When is Hoarding Good?

- When there's a definable purpose
  - Preserving Life
    - Food (against possible famine or war)
    - Medical supplies
  - Preserving Culture
    - Histories
    - Folklore
  - Preserving Property
    - “Goodness” of this is debatable
- A Recreational Hobby
  - Limited to occasional acquisition



Source: [“Should We Really Start Stockpiling Food?”](#)

*The Fun Times Guide; Money & Finances*

<http://personal-finance.thefuntimesguide.com/images/blogs/pantry-by-ear153.JPG>

# When is Hoarding Bad?

- When hoarding becomes compulsive



Source: Wikimedia Commons

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/20/Compulsive\\_hoarding\\_Apartment.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/20/Compulsive_hoarding_Apartment.jpg)

# Signs

- Compulsive hoarding is related to obsessive-compulsive disorder
- Compulsive hoarding is often harmful
- Compulsive hoarders may seek to justify their acquisitions
- Compulsive hoarders may see the hoarding of others as “useless” or “silly.”

# Hoarding in the New Age

- “Cyber” Hoarding
  - ▣ Accumulating data and software and hiding them away.
- Less Cluttered
  - ▣ Only as large as the physical storage medium
  - ▣ Storage media gets smaller every year
- Less Noticable

# Hoarding in the New Age

- “Cyber” Hoarding
  - ▣ Accumulating data and software and hiding them away.
- Harmful
  - ▣ Time and productivity lost managing large quantities of data
  - ▣ Money lost on sales of hoarded data
- Lacks recognition as a “problem” condition

# My Experience

- I have this problem
  - ▣ Current size of my data archive:  $\approx 700\text{GB}$
- I have friends who make my collection look like a weekend data binge
- I place more value in a \$100 hard drive than a \$2600 video card



# My Opinions

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- Cyber-hoarding more harmful than hoarding
- Cyber-hoarding needs to be recognized as a legitimate illness
- Hoarding of any kind needs to be taken more seriously

# My Opinions

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- Wint-O-Green Lifesavers are awesome

# Research Sources

- “Hoarders – When Collecting Becomes an Addiction”
  - February 10, 2010
  - KPLR St. Louis
  - <http://www.kplr11.com/news/kplr-ward-hoarders-021010,0,5962512.story>
- “Secret of compulsive hoarding revealed”
  - November 15, 2003
  - NewScientist
  - <http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg18024212800-secret-of-compulsive-hoarding-revealed.html>
- “When People Hoard”
  - Date Unknown
  - WebMD
  - <http://www.webmd.com/balance/features/when-people-ward>
- Hoarding – The Mayo Clinic
  - <http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/hoarding/ds00966>
- Hoarding – OCD Foundation
  - <http://www.ocfoundation.org/hoarding/>
- Compulsive Hoarding – Wikipedia
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compulsive\\_hoarding](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compulsive_hoarding)