Surge Suppressor/Uninterruptible Power Supply ("UPS")

1. **Why You Need a UPS**: You must have one of these on every computer in your office. The uninterruptible power supply is an excellent surge suppressor, it will keep your PC running during power blips and makes sure you have "clean" power. If the power goes out when you're not there, it comes with software that will safely shut down your PC for you. It's worth it. Imagine that you're almost done with a brief due in an hour. As Murphy's Law would have it, the power goes out just as you're ready to print. If you had a good UPS, you would be able to finish and print even though your entire building was without power.

   It is critically important that everything be plugged into a surge suppressor or uninterruptible power supply. When we say everything, we mean the switch/firewall/router, the monitor, the computer and the printer. The fact that you have to plug everything into a UPS may necessitate buying a few more of them than the one included in this quote.

2. **Plain Surge Suppressors**: You can get plain surge suppressors that are good and every electrical device in your office should at least be plugged into one of them (if not a UPS). However, they are not exactly cheap and can't keep your PC running in the event of a black-out or brown-out. Be advised that the cheapo power strips are just extension cords and aren't going to help you avoid problems. If you bought your surge suppressors in a 3 pack for $9.95 at Wal-Mart, you've wasted your money.

3. **Warning About UPS VA Ratings**: Make sure the VA rating of your UPS is high enough to support the equipment you're plugging in. To determine a UPS's VA rating, then calculate the VA ratings (wattage) of what you're plugging in (amps x 120 volts). We had a client who had a Tripp Lite SmartUPS 1050 - (only 705 VA). He plugged in the following:

   - Dell OptiPlex – 720 watts
   - Dell monitor – 180 watts

- Printer – 936 watts

The first time the power went out, he fried his Tripp Lite and it wouldn't even work again. Since he exceeded the VA rating, his warranty was void. Sadly, the Dell representative he bought the foregoing equipment from was the one who recommended this particular UPS. Since the computer alone exceeded the VA rating for the UPS, he obviously didn't know about this issue either.

4. **What You Should Plug Into A UPS**: Most UPSs have multiple outlets, some are designated both surge suppressed and battery backed up, and some are *only* surge suppressed. With computers, I would only plug in the computer and monitor to the battery backed up outlets. Plug in everything else to the surge suppressed only outlets. Printers and multifunction machines will overload most UPSs, even if the UPS is rated for 1,500 VA.

5. **UPS Recommendations for Notebook Computers and Smaller Devices**:

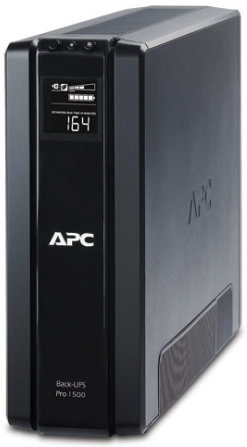
   a. **CyberPower CP550SLG 8-Outlets 550VA Surge Protected Battery Backup**: $54 from www.amazon.com.

   b. **APC BE550G Back-UPS - BE550G**: $60 from www.amazon.com.

   c. **Tripp Lite INTERNET550U 550VA UPS**: $56 from www.amazon.com.

6. **UPS Recommendations for Desktop Computers**: Here are a few options to consider:

   a. **APC Back-UPS**: APC BR1500G 1500 VA 865 Watt 10 Outlet Power Saving Back-UPS RS 1500. $170 from www.buy.com.



b. **Tripp Lite Smart1500LCD Digital UPS** - Tripp Lite SMART1500LCD Digital LCD 1500VA UPS Line-Interactive 8 Outlets. $180 from www.buy.com.

c. **CyberPower Intelligent LCD Series CP1500AVRLCD UPS**. $155 from www.amazon.com.