Software

RECOVERY UTILITY

STELLAR PHOENIX WINDOWS DATA RECOVERY V6

₹17,601
(Technical Version)
www.stellarinfo.com
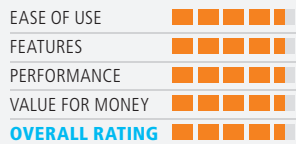
SPECS
OS: **Windows all, Mac, Linux;**
Disk space: **Depends on size of data to be recovered**

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CHIP RECOMMENDED JULY 2013

Recover Just About Everything

✓ SIMPLE – Do It Yourself recovery tool
✓ Recover from Internal & External storage media
✓ Three step recovery – Scan, Preview & Recover

RATINGS

EASE OF USE	▮▮▮▮▯
FEATURES	▮▮▮▮▯
PERFORMANCE	▮▮▮▮▯
VALUE FOR MONEY	▮▮▮▮▯
OVERALL RATING	▮▮▮▮▯

FOR
Easy to use; simple user interface; remote recovery, image and cloning.

AGAINST
None.

VERDICT

A must-have utility for home, office and professionals.

Stellar Phoenix Windows Data Recovery has been around for a while now and the company's latest release bumps the program to version 6. This iteration of the program can recover data from almost any storage medium, be it optical media, hard drives, flash cards or RAID storage. Stellar Phoenix is offering the application in three variants: Home, Professional and Technical. Of these, the Home version can do basic scans and recover data from drives and media cards. The Professional version can recover data from RAW media, exFAT partitions, optical drives, and emails, besides being able to clone drives and create and recover data from images. The Technical version is meant for the engineers and IT administrators in larger organisations, and can recover data from RAID

The utility also features a System Startup Disk utility that creates a bootable recovery disk for your PC or laptop.

drivers on servers, NAS devices and also from remote locations.

The application's user interface is very simple and even inexperienced users will not face much difficulty using it. The main window has three tabs—Data Recovery, Recovery from an Image, and Advanced options. The Data Recovery tab has five sections: Drive Recovery, CD/DVD Recovery, Photo Recovery, Email Recovery and RAID Recovery. We particularly liked the 'Recovery from an Image' section. It provides a simple and

safe way to recover data by making an image of the volume or drive and then attempting the recovery. The application mounts the image as a virtual drive and then recovers the data from it. This process ensures that the faulty drive doesn't run, preventing overheating, crashes and additional issues. What's more, if there are bad sectors on the drive, the application can skip those sectors on the image, quickening the recovery process. You can save multiple images on different locations and recover data from them without having to worry about the health of the drive.

The Advanced Options tab lets you create an image of a volume or drive for image-based recovery; clone drives to get rid of bad blocks or make recovery easier; and get data and the status of each connected drive (labels, volumes, IDs and drive health).

Another cool feature is Remote Recovery, which is akin to using a VPN. This lets you either put the PC on host mode or take over a machine to recover data remotely. All you need to do is download the free remote utility from the Stellar Phoenix website and set the system as a host. Then, using the Remote Recovery option, you can simply connect to the host using its IP address and port number.

We tried to recover data from a 250GB laptop hard drive with a large number of bad sectors using this application. Copying data to another drive via Windows Explorer took ages as the drive would stall when it hit a bad sector. To make the process simpler and faster, we created an image of the volume and mounted the image as a virtual drive. Once that was done, copying data from the virtual drive was quick and easy. The entire data to be recovered was approximately 74GB in size, and the process took around three hours to complete. We also tried recovering data from a microSD card from an Android phone. The drive was deliberately formatted and inserted

The program has a pretty simple user interface that makes recovery simple.

into the phone again to simulate real-world situations. The card was then plugged into a card reader and we managed to recover almost 90 percent of the data.

Stellar Phoenix Windows Data Recovery is capable of recovering data from drives larger than 2TB. The utility also features a System Startup Disk utility that creates a bootable recovery disk for your PC or laptop. Simply boot from the disc and recover data from a crashed operating system.

In a nutshell, Stellar Phoenix Windows Data Recovery is one of the simplest and most powerful do-it-yourself data recovery utilities we have come across. The application is available for Rs 2,909 for the Home version, Rs 5,818 for the Professional version and Rs 17,601 for the Technical version.

- Francis D'sa