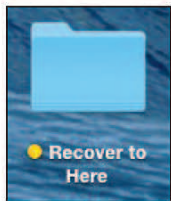# Stellar Phoenix
Mac Data Recovery V6

Data Recovery is a "try-before-you-buy" program, free to download, install, and use to see if it will save your files before you commit to spending any money for it. You can even preview the rescued files to see what has been found. The registration fee makes the actual file recovery operation possible but all of the scavenge and preview operations can be done just with a demo copy.

You don't get a lot of complicated choices with Stellar Phoenix Data Recovery for Macintosh, and you really don't need many. The program only does one thing - recover lost data - so it makes sense that when you launch the program there is one big friendly button that says "Recover Data". (You use "Create Image" when you have reason to suspect that a drive is physically failing and you want to capture everything on it to some other location so that you can recover individual files later on. "Resume Recovery" is obviously for when you've already begun a recovery operation but had to pause it for any reason).
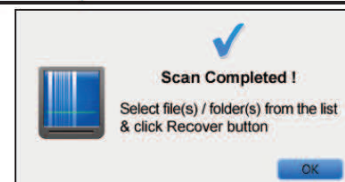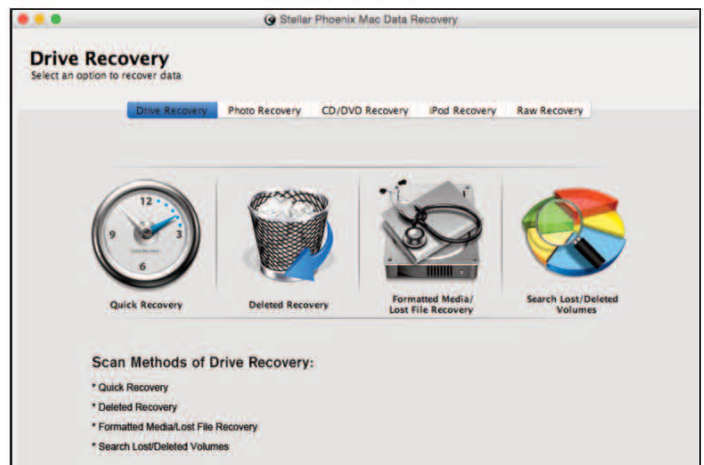
As far as actually recovering data, this program does it all. It has recovery panels for recovering data from drives, optical disks, iPods, and various types of image storage media. And it does it safely. The program has built-in warnings, notices and reminders to make sure that the user understands the importance of having a destination for recovered files that is separate from the recovery target to ensure that the files the user is trying to recover do not get over-written during the recovery process.

The thing to remember in any data recovery operation is that when files are deleted from any type of media they do not actually disappear. What happens is that they stay right where they were and are still intact and recoverable until such time as new data is written to the sectors of the drive that they inhabit. So the time to institute data recovery is as quickly as possible after access to the data is "lost".
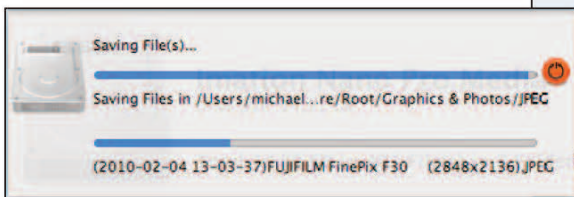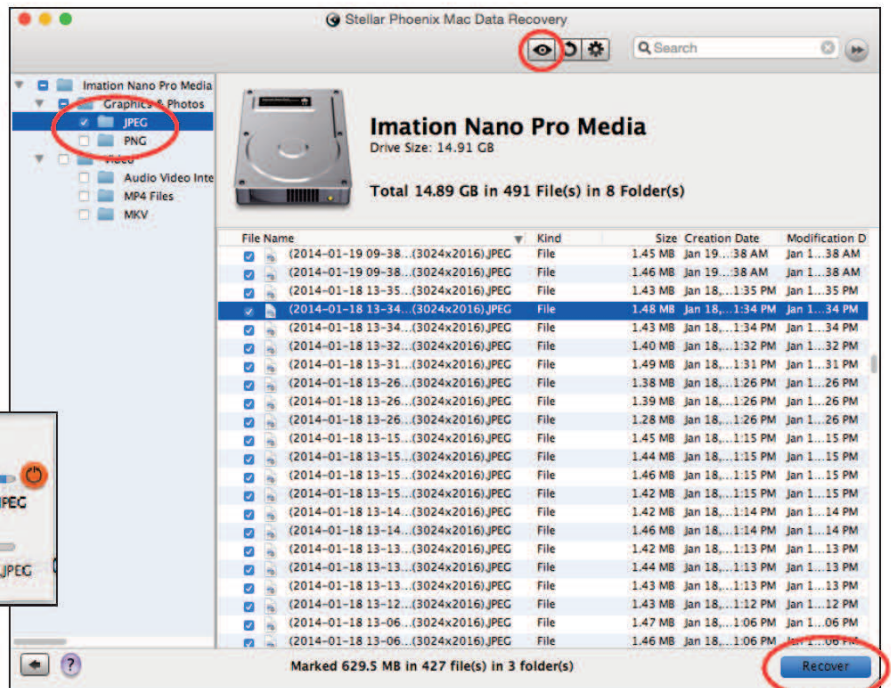

Since the data I was recovering was on a removable flash drive, it was sufficient that I created a new folder on my Desktop and named it appropriately to be the destination for recovered files. (Conversely, if I were recovering files from a hard drive in my computer I would have to save to a destination on another internal hard drive, another partition or volume, or to a external USB or FireWire drive).

To test out the Stellar Phoenix Mac Data Recovery program I inserted a 16 Gig Imation flash drive that I have not used in at least a year, one that I know had been used in the past for pictures but has since been used for other purposes. I checked the drive to make sure that there were no viable JPEGs on it. Then I ran the Stellar program and specified the target folder mentioned above to save just the JPEGs to.

Stellar Phoenix Mac Data Recovery found a HUGE number of files of all sorts on the flash drive, including 427 JPEG images (630 megabytes of JPEGS) on a drive that had no JPEGs on it. The program listed them all with their creation dates and exact information about their sizes in pixels.

In the Preview window (shown at right) it is possible to set the program to recover the found files by type and to click on each file individually to select it. Clicking on the View button (the eye at the top of the window) will bring up a full sized Preview of each file. Clicking on the Recover button will cause the program to start saving the selected files to the destination folder.

I found the Stellar Phoenix Data Recovery for Macintosh to be very fast and effective at scanning the target drive, finding and recovering previously deleted files and in saving them to my hard drive. In the past I have had experiences with some types of recovery software that indicated that files could be recovered but gave results that were only partially saved. With this latest version of Stellar Mac Data Recover the images that were recovered were all 100% present when inspected. As I mentioned before, this software is designed to operate in demo mode to indicate what it is capable of before payment is required, so it is important that it be accurate in regards to what it can actually do.

This software works with every version of Mac OSX from 10.4 to 10.10. It costs $99 as a download only, or $119 on disk. Keep this program in mind. If you ever find that you might need it you will find it a comfort to know that there is software out there that you can try out to save your lost files. Even if you only use it once, it can save you many hours of duplicating lost files.

Submitted by Michael Shaw