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Planning for the after life now means organizing your personal information

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Receiving messages from the dead?

YouDePARTed.com, a website recently opened by Incline Village residents Collin and Nick Harris, may be responsible. The site allows users to upload and store personal information to be released to family and friends upon the user's death. Since the site's opening in June, the father and son team have seen their website across the world, from Australia to Spain and in Incline itself.

"Think of it as a personal organizer with a death benefit," said Collin Harris, President of YouDePARTed.com.

The user's space on the website can hold anything from the location of the spare car keys to credit card numbers. The user designates a number of "recipients," who can notify the website of the death. If enough of the recipients report the death, all recipients receive access to the user's information. For each recipient and the user are notified when any recipient claims the user's death.

Of course, the YouDePARTed.com website is not a replacement for a legal will.

"This starts where your will ends," said Collin.

Security, of course, has been a major concern for the Harris'. In order to convince users to upload credit card numbers and other important information, the site's security had to be beyond a doubt. For this reason, the duo spent several months setting up the website before its opening, largely working on the site's security.

"The reason it's taken a while to make the website is because security is paramount," said Collin.

For security, the website requires two passwords and uses Advanced Encryption Standard, an encryption method approved by the National Security Agency. This encryption method changes the text of a password into an entirely different length than the original message.

Collin was inspired to create the website by the sudden death of his father in 2000, and by the more sudden death of a 63 year old Truckee man killed in a car accident last October. Realizing that this man probably left nothing but a will for his family. Collin wanted to be sure his family would have more thought others might feel the same way.

Collin contacted his son, Nick, to make the website a reality. Both experienced programmers, Collin and Nick started with a bare-bones version up quickly, but spent several months adding features and perfecting security.

"When you start thinking about these things, you're surprised by some of the cool things you come up with," said Collin.

Originally intended simply to pass details on after a user's death, the site now equally focuses on online storage. The site can store anything from 20 megabytes to 5 gigabytes, allowing users to keep any type of information organized and constantly accessible.

"The biggest thing I never expected was using our site as a personal organizer," said Collin. "It's just something I use all the time."

According to the Harris', the experience of working together has been an interesting one. With Collin handling the service itself and Nick working on the programming, the duo claims that, while working together had their share of arguments, everything's gone well as a whole.

Bonanza Photo -
Carrie Richards



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"We do work side by side, day after day, and we've been here for a long time," said Collin. "The way we bounce ideas off each other has resulted in a pretty good website."

For more information on YouDeparted.com, visit, of course, YouDeparted.com or call (877) 576-1239.

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