

Re: Back Up Entire Hard Drive

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That is where I defer from others and hardly EVER recommend or suggest "mirror" or "ghosting" software. Here is how I tell which, if any of these you need.

1- You need mirroring software software if your minute by minute by minute, if not second by second by second data is so critical that to lose mere seconds may cause catastrophic loses. Cases where to use: 911 services, telcos, the launching of the space shuttle, operations that process so many transactions that backups cannot be made because the data changes faster than you can make backups, ie: Visa, Mastercard, Interac, or a corporation that takes 86,400 orders a day. Mirroring software is not invoked, it's always on. What does it do? It writes 2 copies of everything that you do, always all the time, instantly. It mirrors your activities on another drive as it happens. Usually used with hot swap hardware.

2- Ghosting software. Are you deploying 500 workstations at once? How about 100? 50? Maybe 10? or 5? How about 2? You aren't deploying any workstations? Then you don't need ghosting software. Period. Oh sure if your desktop fails you can ghost your drive back to your pc or to another pc. What pc? The same, or same make? Same CPU? Same hardware? Same peripherals? Ghosting might work... or not... most likely not. Unless of course you are ghosting the same pc, to the same pc. But ghosting is not the best to use for that. Difficult to keep up to date and use incrementally.

3- Backup software. The most prevalent, versatile and useful software for those who don't need mirroring or ghosting software and used always by those who use the aforementioned. It will completely restore a completely broken OS and data files to the latest backup. On the same pc it will do "bare metal" restores. On a new or different pc it will "insert data" where you want it inserted or "restore" data to a new or different pc. Not quite so with mirrors or ghosts. It is the easiest to use "incrementally". You don't need to ghost when you have good back up software, but the newer ghosting software does both... more or less. Read your software documentation.

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You say that in case you have a failure of sort you could open your case and change the drives around and reboot the pc to windows 2000 as if nothing happened. Then ghost your W2k installation onto your second hard drive and test it, it should work. As to the rest well it's a cumbersome u