

Re: Windows Backup Utility Question

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-12/msg01302.html>

- *From:* "Patrick Keenan" <test@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 2 Dec 2006 02:14:43 -0500
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"sbier" <sbier@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:B9A852F1-9F16-43C4-A36A-B05CCB4D5E3F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Thanks, Rock. Good advice re: multiple copies. To make my backups more usable, I use the Copy option so the files aren't compressed or encrypted. But there's still plenty of chances for restores just not working. I used to use Drive Image but ran afoul of some disastrous problems, which not only wiped out my data but made my PC unbootable – and there was virtually no tech support to help. I've read some very bad things about Norton Ghost and also Acronis True Image (not as many complaints as Ghost, though). I'm now trying for the zillionth time to get Retrospect Express HD for Maxtor OneTouch to work on my PC, but so far no dice. Very frustrating stuff. Thanks again!

If you're just wanting to do backups of the user folders, I'd suggest Backup Plus. It doesn't use a proprietary format. Its .BAC backup files are actually ZIP files, which are reliable and well understood and there are plenty of recovery tools should things go wrong. It's hard to make that statement about ntdbackup. And it's not expensive.

<http://www.backupplus.net/>

We normally have Backup Plus run at night, backing up incrementally to DVD, and have the office manager change the DVD each morning, so there are five daily DVDs. It's important to periodically verify that you can restore files from these backups, but that's easy to do. You can pick individual files.

This will **not** make a fully restorable, bootable image of a drive.

If you want backups of the entire drive, I have had good results on many systems with TrueImage. Did have some issues with older versions and newer XP installs (like TrueImage wanting to run with no UI) but updating it fixed that. I have been able to pick individual files out of a TrueImage archive

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for restoration.

When migrating machines, I often use FileSync to just move files from one drive's folder structure to the new one. This works very well and doesn't just give up if it can't copy a file.

<http://www.fileware.com/products.htm#FileSync>

HTH

-pk

"Rock" wrote:

"sbier" wrote

I need some advice. I use WinXP Pro and am planning to buy a new PC, also with WinXP Pro. I use the XP Pro Backup Utility to do nightly backups of everyone's Documents and Settings folders. Can I use these files to transfer my Documents and Settings stuff from old to new PC by just copying the file to the new PC and running restore?

That should work, however if I were you I would have multiple backups in different forms. There have been posts in here where someone created a backup file using ntbakup and then later couldn't restore from it. You might just copy the required data to DVD or to an external hard drive or thumb drive. It's always good to have redundancy in backups. Of course if you keep the old PC and data in tact until after the data is safely copied to the new PC that's another means of redundancy.

Personally I'm not very fond of ntbakup for a variety of reasons. You could look into a different backup method such as a disk imaging program like Acronis True Image. I am not sure if it can restore individual files but I think it can.

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