

Re: Backup solution question

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2004-12/5282.html>

From: Chad A. Gross [SBS MVP] (*chad.gross_at_laytonflower.nospam.com*)

Date: 12/20/04

Date: Mon, 20 Dec 2004 13:08:37 -0600

I agree with Frank 100%. Tape is my preferred method, but do to the fact that large HD capacities are cheap and tape manufacturers have their heads up their a\$\$, a tape backup solution can easily cost more than the server itself. There's just something wrong with that picture . . .

As a result, we have several clients using external USB hard drives for backups. We usually spec three of these devices at 3x the available server HD space on each. We do full backups every night, and the drives are taken off-site daily. We keep the box that the drives come in, and the backup changer uses the original box (complete with styrofoam packing) to transport the drives.

In short, the media you're using to backup isn't quite as important as generally good backup practices –

- * Regular full server backups
- * Transporting backups off-site
- * Doing test restores of your data to ensure backup health

And yes – I have done a bare-metal disaster recovery on a server that was using USB drives for backups, and I had no issues restoring that server.

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Chad A. Gross - SBS MVP

SBS ROCKS!

www.msmvps.com/cgross

www.gosbs.org

susan wrote:

- > Thank you very very much. The owner of the company hates buying tapes
- > and would prefer external hard drive solution. We discussed the
- > offsite problem and he is most unconcerned about it.
- >
- > I will re-visit the issue with him and make sure he fully understands
- > the danger in not keeping a backup offsite.
- >
- > It is obviously IMPERATIVE that we have an exchange-aware solution,
- > so this information helps my sense of panic alot.
- >
- > Thanks!!!! This forum is THE place for questions and answers.
- >
- >
- > "Frank McCallister SBS MVP" <anonymous> wrote in message

microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs: Re: Backup solution question

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> news:OCmOm0q5EHA.3840@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl...
>> Hi Terry and TK
>>
>> What TK says is correct on taking Backups offsite however he is
>> wrong on Exchange not Backing up to Hard drive. If SBS Wizard is
>> used to Backup to External Hard Drive it is Exchange aware and you
>> will get a complete restorable backup. USB or Removable Hard Drive
>> enclosures are a low cost way of rotating Hard drives to provide
>> off-site storage, however Tape is still the preferred Medium
>>
>> --
>> Frank McCallister SBS MVP
>> COMPUMAC
>> "MTBoxTech" <terry@removethis.mtboxcomputers.com> wrote in message
>> news:O90WG1q5EHA.3756@TK2MSFTNGP14.phx.gbl...
>>> "susan" wrote:
>>>> Implementing new server in a small business environment (10-12
>>>> users)...SBS
>>>> Std. edition...
>>>> Nothing fancy, mainly just a file/print server. Will not even
>>>> bring email in
>>>> house for a few months, but will do so eventually.
>>>>
>>>> Question: would a external hard drive be okay for backups instead
>>>> of a tape
>>>> drive? Anybody know of issues related to that -- especially
>>>> ability to restore?
>>>
>>>
>>> You should consider many things when planning your
>>> backups/restores/disaster recover. One of them is the ability to
>>> keep your backups offsite. A hard drive will not give you that
>>> ability unless you have multiples and are taking them offsite
>>> regularly. Also, Exchange will not backup to HDD unless you are
>>> doing offline backups (essentially just the files w/ Exchange
>>> offline). For general - nothing fancy, get the job done - backups
>>> I would suggest a tape drive with a four-week tape rotation and an
>>> end-of-month tape for each month of the year as well as an
>>> end-of-year tape.
>>>
>>> -TK
>>> M/T Box Computers
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