

WHAT BACKUP SOFTWARE DO YOU USE?

I have something called "Roxio" but I'm not happy with it. A couple of times I tried to restore and it informed me that the most recent tape did not contain the files it wanted.

Anyone recommend a different on-site software system?

Novabackup. Great software and great support. I have several crashes and transfers of data to a new computer and its worked great every time.

Anthony Alpert, California

I used to use Retrospect and TimeMachine, but have moved to CrashPlan and TimeMachine (OK, I'm a bit paranoid about backups). I find that CrashPlan's user interface is a little more intuitive and I like the fact that I can create my own "cloud" - that is I can backup to my office NAS and I can backup to a NAS at home (I use the NAS because I happen to have them, it is just as easy to backup to a hard drive attached to a computer).

I use multiple backup drives and multiple software systems because I don't want a single point of failure -- I'd hate to find out that my data is safely stored on disk, but because of a software bug I can't get to it.

Bruce Cameron, Minnesota

I have been using MOZY for the past 2 mos. 2 gig free. I just back up docs, financial and excel docs and 1.8 gig covers a decade of letters and the rest for a solo like me. MOZY does an incremental backup for me every night automatically. I would clone my drive if I could have incremental backups that include program updates but it has never been a high enough priority to spend much time or money on the thought.

Charles Cochran

I also do a "Windows Live OneCare" backup weekly on all 3 computers on this service. However, the one care service ends june 2010 and I will need to look elsewhere to set up my on site backups. I liked OneCare because it did the backups on a single exterior disk drive on the Master computer on the Circle of 3. I think it is key that whatever you use it should not require

scheduling and follow the rule of KISS.

Nerino Petro, Wisconsin

Does anyone else use Novabackup, and Anthony, can you comment more on your experiences? It looks like an interesting solution: it supports servers and network drives; it supports imaging; it has more features than rebit; and it costs \$650 less than Acronis.

Right now, I have to manually back up to external HDs that I rotate through my safe deposit box. Together with daily online backup, that gives me good coverage. But i'd be much happier to retain complete drive images of the server and both workstations.

Erik Hammarlund, Massachusetts

Like Mr Chuang, I use Cobian--did he mention its FREE. I use a newer version, 9. Maybe because my files are fairly small and I fearful, I save uncompressed, unencrypted, so I can open anything with any appropriate software. Only save data daily, rotate among three storage locations. Do full computer backup weekly. Cobian will do as many tasks as you can think of. Will run across local net, but its free so easier just to install on each box but be careful they don't fight for space.

John Page, Florida

Nerino,

You've whetted our appetites but have left us unsated.. Do you have a link for Rebit or Acronis?

Marc Matheny, Indiana

A new comer is Rebit whioch provides software and/or backup drives as well. Really designed for a small office, it's simple and I've tested it and it worked well. Reasonable priced as well. My favorite so far remains Acronis TruImage

Atty Nerino J. Petro, Jr.

Sorry about not including links. Here you go:

<http://www.rebit.com/>

<http://www.acronis.com/homecomputing/>

Nerino

Carbonite is the one i use.

Pablo Uresti, Texas

Tape? You are backing up to tape????

Robert Roth, New York

I used ShadowProtect for a while but their customer support is abysmal. I have switched to Macrium Reflect Free Edition. Seems to do everything ShadowProtect did and more. Did I mention it's free? I have used it to retrieve some old files so I believe it works. I have not used it to do a full restore -- since I don't have a spare HD to test it on. I did, however, use ShadowProtect to do a bare metal restore -- actually, to replace all the contents of my laptop HD on a new, larger hard drive -- which worked like a charm. I haven't had to use Macrium's in-person support but the one problem I had was prominently answered in the support forum. Did I mention it is free? The free edition does a full-drive backup (similar to Acronis) including compression but the \$40 version also does file/folder backup. Did I mention it's free? And works?

Stephanie Hill, Minnesota

For mac I use the built-in Time Machine, which is very cool, but has some issues (great for files, not so great for OS). I supplement with CarbonCopy Cloner to make a bootable clone and use Backblaze.com as a cloud backup. Certain other files are backed up on a thumb drive, saved to mobile me and put on my website's doc folder (w/ strong encryption).

Steve O'Donnell, Pennsylvania

I use Cobian Backup 8. I run it on my desktop. Every night, it pulls all the files off the file server, compresses them, and encrypts the backup file. A copy of the encrypted backup file is left on my desktop, and another copy is made on the file server. A rsync script on the file server copies the backup file to a remote backup server. This provides me with a daily snapshot of all my files, an onsite backup of the files, and a secure offsite backup. The only problem is that if I want to access the files from the backup server, I have to download the entire shebang.

William Chuang, New York
