



Installing

CANCEL

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When was the last time you checked your system backup software? Yesterday? Last week? Last month? Last year? Are you even aware of what type of backup your company uses, if any at all? The answers to these questions are important to know if you want to protect your business from an unforeseen event. So you decide to invest in system backup software to protect your company. Now where to begin? There are several different options on the market today, so which one do you need? Full? Incremental? Differential? A combination of them? Luckily, you don't have to figure it out alone; Nerds Support is here to help!

The Most Common Forms of System Backup

Full System Backup Software

A full system backup is the most basic of all backup solutions. Most would argue that a full system backup provides the most protection for your business. It works by taking a single snapshot of all your data files, saving the copy to a different media set which could include a flash drive, tape, or disks such as a CD or DVD. Because full system backup software saves your data on a single set of media, you're able to restore your data in minimal time. However, because full backups take a significant amount of time to perform, many businesses with large quantities of data only use run their full system backup software periodically.

Incremental System Backup Software

Incremental backup software was introduced as a way to combat the time-consuming drawbacks of full system backup software. To

save time, incremental backups work by layering data copies and is usually done in tandem with full system backups. For instance, a company which performs a full backup at the beginning of the week would not need to run another full backup and can instead run incremental backups throughout the week to only save new or revised files. Because you're not backing up everything all at once every time you run a backup, the time it takes to complete is significantly reduced. However, because incremental system backup software works in layers, the time required to restore data is quite a bit longer, as a business must work its way through the data backward: first restoring the full backup copy, then the next layer and so on.



Differential System Backup Software

Similar to an incremental system backup, differential backup also works by backing up data in layers. However, as incremental backups contain only the files that changed since the last backup session, differential backup makes a copy of all modified data files since the original full system backup. Companies who use differential system backup software as opposed to incremental find that the tradeoffs are significant. Differential uses far less memory space than an incremental backup and the restore times are far shorter.

Other Forms of System Backup to Consider

Synthetic-Full

While a synthetic full backup works in the same way as an incremental backup, it goes an extra step. Think of synthetic full backup as a multi-layered cake with synthetic full being the icing. You still have the layering process that incremental



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backup performs, however, the server takes it a step further by merging the layers together to create a new full backup, much as the icing combines the layers together to make a whole complete cake. Unlike incremental backup, synthetic full backup significantly reduces restore times by not requiring multiple media sets to perform the restore.

Incremental-Forever

Typically used in disk-to-disk-to-tape backup systems, incremental-forever backup, again, works much like a regular incremental backup. A full backup is initially taken, and afterward, only incremental backups are made. How incremental-forever differs is data availability. While incremental backup restoration requires the full backup set as well as the subsequent backup sets, an incremental-forever backup stores all sets in a library or large disk array. The restoration process is automated, saving you from having to figure out which set needs to be restored. Restoring incremental-forever backup is transparent and mimics the process of restoring a full backup set.

Nerds Support Will Help Determine What is Right for You

Most companies don't have any idea what type of backup is best for their business, and that's okay. Nerds Support has years of experience analyzing companies to determine which system backup software will be the best fit and implement, monitor, and test it to make sure it works when you need it to the most. Even if you already have a backup in place, Nerds Support can come in and enhance it to ensure you are getting the most from your backup and recovery plan. Don't wait for a disaster to happen before you start planning. Call Nerds Support and get started today. ■





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