

The Trouble with Tape

Tape backups are expensive, require a lot of manual intervention, leave gaps in protection and have high failure rates. If you can't afford to lose time and data, software-based replication and restoration may be a better solution.

Is tape right for you?

Tape backup used to be the only option for backing up servers - however, tape backup has inherent problems that can go quickly from inconvenient to disastrous. Consider some of the issues and how they would affect your business in a disaster or system outage:

- Tape backup hardware and software are expensive, especially if you have multiple offices
- Making backups every day requires manual intervention - it's easy to forget or skip it
- Tape backup always involves downtime - you can't backup a system that is in use
- Tapes are easily damaged, lost or destroyed
- At best, you'll be recovering from yesterday's data
- 40% of restoration attempts from tape fail - can you afford to permanently lose your data?
- Tape restoration, when it works, involves hours or days of complete downtime
- The costs of tape backup
- Acquisition and ongoing maintenance of hardware
- Acquisition of backup software and ongoing maintenance/support
- Acquisition and replacement of tape media
- Offsite storage and transportation costs
- Operation costs for performing backup and recovery
- Cost of downtime incurred during recovery
- Cost of data loss due to recovering to previous night's data

What will downtime cost you?

When considering a backup and recovery strategy, it's helpful to determine your cost of downtime. (Large businesses average \$42,000 per hour, small businesses average \$18,000.)

How much can you afford to lose?

It is also helpful to determine how much time and data you can afford to lose. For help determining your cost of downtime, see our Determining RPO and RTO Solution Guide.

An affordable alternative

Once you've estimated your cost of downtime and how much data and time you can afford to lose, you can make an informed decision about which backup strategy is right for you. If tape backup is too expensive or leaves too much risk in your plan, a software-based solution is a better choice.

Double-Take Availability is a software-based replication and recovery solution that continuously copies changes to critical data and applications to a target server, eliminating downtime and data loss. In an outage, you can choose to manually or automatically failover to your target server - where a complete and up-to-the minute copy of your data and applications is always waiting. When it's time to restore, Availability transfers everything back to the original or new production server - over standard networks, and without regard to hardware differences.

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Double-Take Availability leaves no protection gaps, needs no reminders or intervention, and doesn't require a rocket scientist for installation and set up. Besides being more comprehensive and reliable than tape, it's more affordable. Consider this:

Cost benefits of Double-Take Availability

- Reduces tape backup hardware costs by consolidating backups
- Reduces tape media costs by reducing backup frequency
- Reduces operational costs of performing tape backup
- Reduces the cost of downtime from hours or days to minutes or hours
- Reduces the cost of data loss to near zero

QUESTIONS?

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