

Another Excellent Tool!

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Name

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Message

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Greeting everyone,

Posts 223
Score: 6
Joined since 4/21/2002

GOAL:

To provide and contribute a simplified way of dealing with your SMS Site System Backup and Recovery procedure (applies also to Exchange, MOM, BizTalk, etc) in the most simplest and quickest method. This applies to single server and/or multiple site server systems.

BACKGROUND:

Many advice and suggestions about the subject of Backup and Recovery of SMS Site Systems are constantly being written. What I would like to present is just the best way (in my POV) or an alternative =). From Microsoft's SMS Recovery Expert to the expert articles written by the fine folks at this forum, numerous suggestions are available.

SOLUTION:

Using a backup software like Backup for Workgroups from Lockstep enables you to accomplish all what you need and more! Locksteps differs mainly in that it is a hard drive based backup system - not tape. You install the server piece on a server (centralized backup server) with lots of hard drive space, and then you install the client components on the machine(s) or server(s) you wish to backup. There may be other softwares that has similar capabilities, but this is the best I've found in a all-in-one solution. Why? Few things - SIMPLICITY, SPEED, and ability to RESTORE to a DIFFERENT hardware (awesome), and SIZE - ohhh and PRICE!

Simple because the interface is very intuitive (I did not even read the docs to set it up - try that with CA, Veritas, or other major backup vendors).

SPEED, takes you 10-20 minutes to restore to previous backup (this is entire system). You have options or templates (default or create your own) to restore entire system, directories/files, etc. This is not an image base backup. I thought about the benefit of imaged based backup (V2i or UltraBac); it's great only for the same hardware, but this solution is just as fast but more flexible.

Finally, ability to RESTORE to different hardware - this is probably one of the biggest draw for me. There are so many confusing ways you can do this with other softwares and methods, but with Lockstep it is a click of a radio button, and is included in the product - not add on.

SIZE, an impressive 7.5 MB only. That is the install source for either the server and client component - not bloatware.

PRICE: Cheappppp.
<http://www.backup-for-workgroups.com/index.html>

CONS:

Well, what did I not like about it? One, the name Backup for Workgroups, is a terrible name. The name gave me the impression of low end workgroup based system. WRONG! This is enterprise ready backup solution for Hard Drive based backup. Lastly, the product does not have an admin console to monitor or perform job easily on the servers it is monitoring (unless I need to read more). You can see the Client(s) or the machines you are backing up on the server console but I wish it was richer on the server console. A need for centralized deployment of clients or backup agents.

USAGE EXAMPLE:

Setup a central backup server using Lockstep server component. Install client components on SQL and SMS Site Servers. Format Primary site Server and just install OS and client. Tell new client to restore entire system. BAMMM-back to original state! And get this, if your hardware goes bad, and you have to restore to a different hardware, you can choose to restore entire system but not on same hardware feature (the old server drivers are not loaded or included) - sweet. Again there are some other backup softwares that performs similar feats but for added \$\$\$ and as a separate add on, and COMPLICATED.

COMMENTS:

I am NOTTTT a sales guy - just an avid fan of this new software. Trust me I know about others - UltraBac, Veritas, V2i by PowerQuest, CA, Dantz, etc. Lockstep even mentions of these others such as I have (I have added V2i), but you will see after one usage of its potential. Backup softwares are known to be overly complicated products, but I suggest you take this one for a drive. Not only have I suggested this for SMS, but for all MS based servers.

NOTE:

Servers such as Exchange, SMS, etc have services running - include in the backup of those servers the services to stop during the process. Basically, it stops the services and restarts it after it begins the process (normal backup process) - just a reminder.

Good Luck,
Lindley 😊

Notable items to I failed to mention:

(1) The copied items will NOT be RECOPIED if it is identical to the last (saves space), it just creates intelligent pointers or references. This applies to EVERYTHING you copy. This is simialr to RIS and Groveler service - same idea.

(2) You can make as many backups as you want...examples - snapshot everyday.

< Message edited by **llee176** -- 11/8/2003 1:59:46 PM >

Date 11/8/2003 1:25:37 PM

hwaldron 
Expert Member


 RE: Another Excellent Tool!



Thanks for sharing a well written product perspective, as having worked recently with upgrading our own Disaster Recovery plans, it's beneficial to know about some of the better products and strategies out there.

Regards - Harry



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Date 11/10/2003 7:07:50 AM

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