Take Control of Mac OS X Backups

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- Traditional Backup Varieties
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Traditional Backup Varieties

- Archives (or “backups” or “additive incremental archives” or “evolutive mirrors” or...)
- Syncing
- Duplicates
- Version Control
  - For groups: CVS, Perforce, Subversion
  - For individuals: Versomatic, NTI Shadow
New Trends in Mac Backups

- Cheaper online storage
- Byte-level incremental backups
- Immediate, unscheduled backups
- Peer-to-peer backups
A Word About Backup Media

- Tapes: best for many large groups
- Optical media: slow, low-capacity, cheap
- Flash drives: convenient until lost
- Hard drives: fast, random access, bootable
- Servers: secure, slower than you’d think
Choosing Backup Software

- Cheap, easy, good: pick two
- What to look for:
  - Feature set
  - Ease of use
  - Support
  - Price
Retrospect:
the good, bad, and ugly

The Good:

- Still the best option for centralized Mac network backups
- Backup Server script type
- Broadest feature set by far
Retrospect: the good, bad, and ugly

The Bad:

- Lousy interface
- Slow with new driver support
- Bugs
- Support is expensive
Retrospect: the good, bad, and ugly

The Ugly:

- Intel issues...still no Universal Binary
- Layoffs at EMC
- Only one driver update so far in 2007 (4/19); there were 7 in 2006
- Last major update: version 6.1, 10/3/2005
- No public commitment to new version
- Mac version way behind Windows version
If not Retrospect, then what?

- For larger groups: BRU
- For individuals and small groups:
  - Data Backup
  - Tri-Backup
  - ChronoSync
- live with duplicates only
- or...peer-to-peer backups
What about Unix scripts?

- Pick a winner: rsync, psync, cp, CpMac, ditto, asr, rdiff-backup…
- Think about metadata issues
- Consider incremental backup issues
- Scheduling: cron or launch services
- Who’s going to be restoring files?
- Support (and blame)
Online Backup Services

- Inexpensive, offsite, slow
- CrashPlan: peer-to-peer with server option
- Mozy: dirt cheap, oddly designed, buggy
- Amazon S3-based apps: not quite there yet
  - JungleDisk
  - S3 Backup
  - more on their way
Home & Mobile Backup Options

- Cheap: Data Backup, DVDs
- Portable: CrashPlan (peer-to-peer and/or online)
- Handy: SuperDuper, external drive
- Better yet: some combination of the above
Time Machine

Pluses:
- Elegant backups built into Mac OS X 10.5
- Backs up everything
- Easy to restore files
- Record-level backups

Minuses:
- No bootable duplicates
- No centralized network backups
- No highly selective archives
- Just one backup per day
Take Control of Mac OS X Backups

• 176 pages, $10

• www.TakeControlBooks.com
Backups Q & A