

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 “evolutionary 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

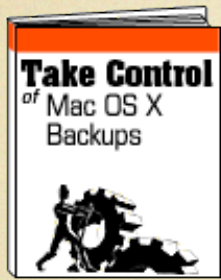
Time Machine

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