10 things your data center backup solution should do

Reliable, fast and easy backup is only the beginning

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Backing up data from a server, desktop or laptop seems easy—simply copy data from the host system to another device. Yet effective data backup systems are a thorn in the side of nearly every organization at some point. Ineffective backup solutions can fail halfway through, never occur or—worst of all—fail to recover data that was thought to have been archived.

A shelf of 500 backup tapes with color-coordinated labels may look nice. But what good is it if data recovery isn't possible? Data backup and recovery systems are only useful if simple and comprehensive data restoration is reliable, fast and easy.

The following pages outline 10 things your data center backup solution should do to make this happen.

With any data backup system, the only true measurement of value is data recovery.

1. Reduce hours spent on backup every day

Let's say you have a host of servers running your business-critical applications. Like clockwork, you spend hours at the end each working day making sure tapes are rotated properly and backup operations are set up and executed correctly. There has to be a better way.

The ideal backup and recovery system has policy and control features that can make the entire backup process easy. In other words, the system is so simple that it just does the job reliably without any daily work on your part.

Reduce the burden and cost of your day-to-day backup management

2. Ensure platform-independent restoration

At some point, it is inevitable that hardware will fail. Processors burn out, hard disks stop spinning, motherboards start smoking. How can you restore all the operating system and program files? Bare Metal Recovery is a good option, but what if the same hardware platform is no longer available? Even if it is, who wants to go through reconfiguring an operating system, reinstalling applications and reapplying patches?

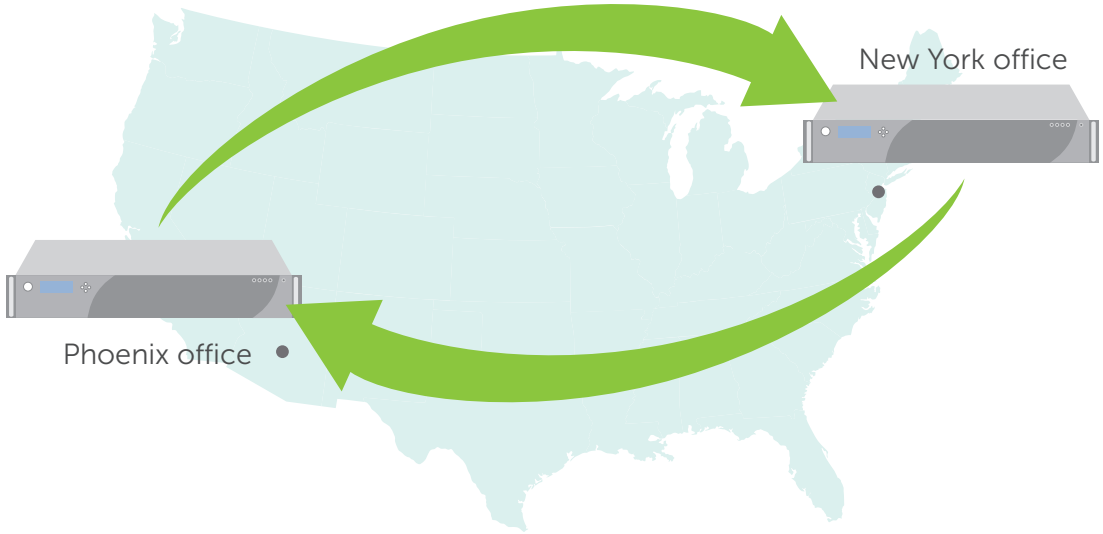
Universal System Restore (USR) software rebuilds complete partitions regardless of the platform. Want to transfer a Windows server to another physical server, to a virtual environment, or back again? No problem. Can your current backup solution do that?

Restore your operating system and all installed applications regardless of the hardware.

3. Be ready when disaster strikes

What if your data backup system stops working? Is your data going to be lost forever? Or say your organization just expanded and decided it needed to back up both offices. Wouldn't it be great if all the data backed up from the Phoenix office was automatically sent to the New York office, and vice-versa?

Backup and recovery solutions need to be ready for disaster recovery with optional site-to-site backups. Organizations with multiple locations can be assured that all data backed up can be automatically transmitted across the internet to another CDP appliance—even on the other side of the world. It is essential that site-to-site technology transmit backups using industrial-grade AES 256-bit encryption in order to protect data from peering eyes.



Have a backup system for your backup system.

4. Be ready when catastrophe strikes

What happens if the office burns down and the data center is destroyed? After a fire, earthquake, tornado or flood, data recovery is often the last thing on people's mind. However, disaster recovery is an absolutely essential component to any business continuity plan. Saving data to a local backup platform is one thing, but what happens when the backup devices are destroyed along with the building?

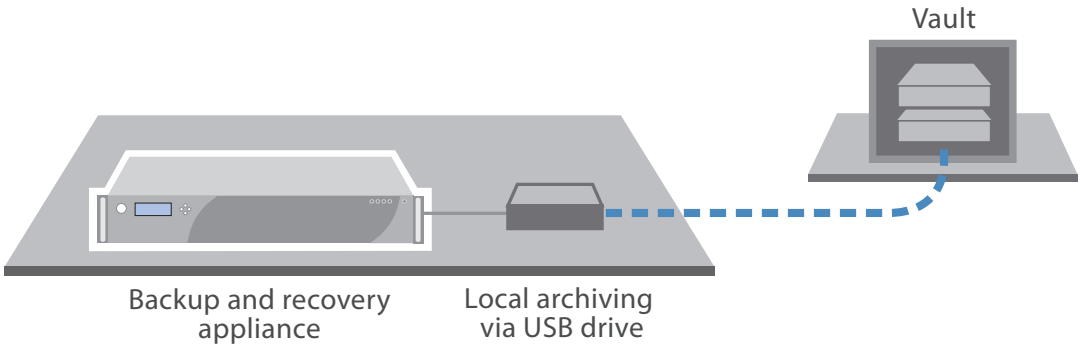
In today's digital age, data is the new currency; organizations do virtually all business using computer systems. An effective backup solution for mission critical information can save tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars or more in development and lost productivity costs if lost or destroyed. To address such concerns, backup and recovery solutions need to offer optional off-site transfer to a secured remote data center. Organizations concerned with the 'what-ifs' in life can take care in knowing that their data is safely secured and always accessible from the cloud.

Protect your data no matter what happens.

5. Make an extra copy, just in case

Most data protection appliances available allow for local backups to the appliance itself, but what about taking data off the appliance? Want to make a copy of the entire appliance and place it in a vault just in case? Need to maintain archival records for compliance purposes?

Easily move data to a removable hard disk or USB flash drive with backup and recovery solution's local archiving functionality. Flexible data retrieval options allow administrators to easily off-load specific files or the entire volume of a backup and recovery appliance to a USB storage device.



Send backed up data to a removable disk drive.

6. Recover Microsoft servers and databases

Almost every organization out there relies on a Microsoft application server on a daily basis. But what happens if that server crashes? How long would it take to repopulate every user profile, recover user emails, or restore a SQL database housing an important web server?

With application server support on a backup and recovery solution, it is easy to backup and restore mission-critical Microsoft application servers (e.g., Active Directory, Exchange, SharePoint, MS SQL and Small Business Server). Backup and recovery solutions with recovery manager functionality can even restore individual Exchange emails or entire mailboxes. You can relax, knowing you're covered from failed servers or corrupted databases.

Microsoft® Sharepoint® 2010

Microsoft® SQL Service®

Microsoft® Exchange Service®

Windows Service Active Directory

Protect your Microsoft application servers.

7. Restore deleted email messages

Email is now a fundamental business communication tool for your organization. It's no wonder IT departments get bombarded with constant requests to recover specific email message, entire mailboxes, or even all of the data in a particular store for legal, compliance or audit purposes.

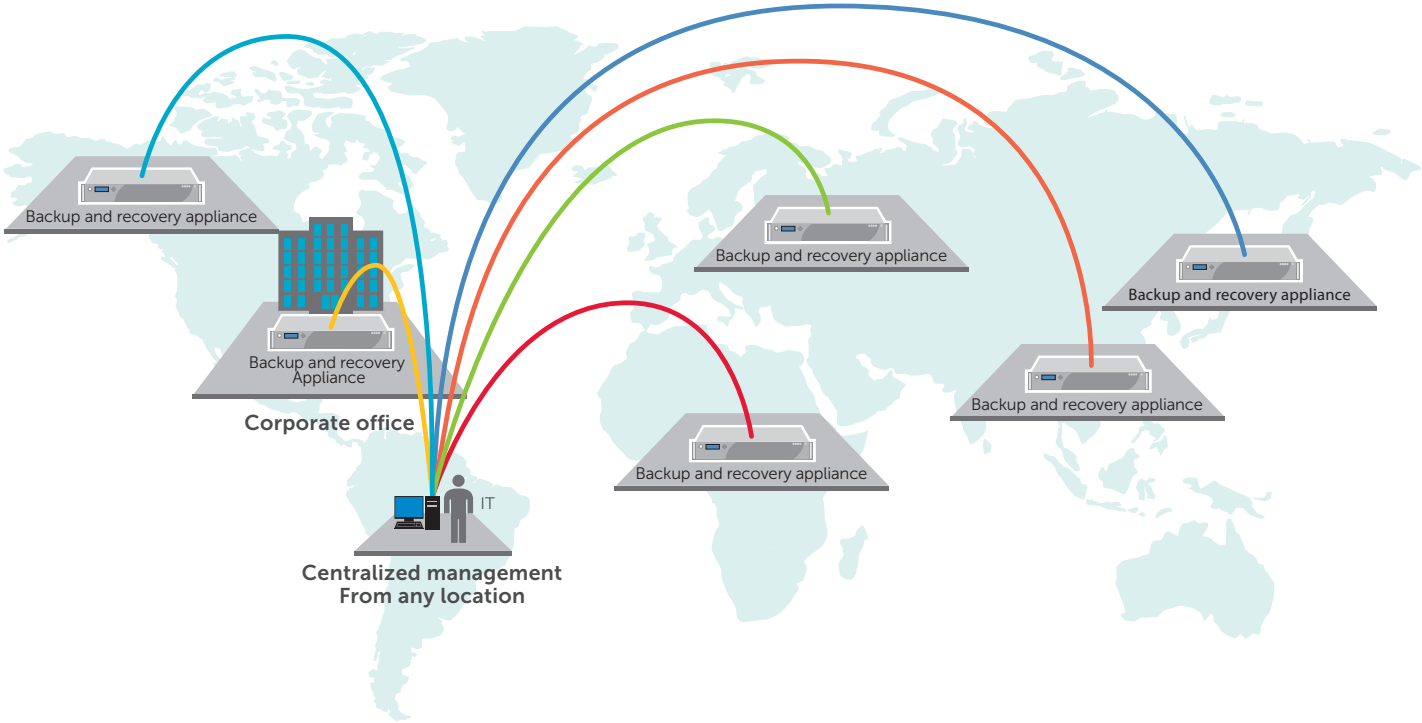
Backup and recovery solutions with granular recovery of email data make it a snap to find and recover messages from .pst files, mailboxes, public folders, data stores or even Lotus Domino® databases.

Easily respond to email recovery requests.

8. Manage from anywhere

Administration ease is an essential component of any network appliance. Telecommuting is a modern-day reality as more and more employees are remote. So what happens if the server crashes while the administrator is working from home?

Remote administration comes standard with an effective backup and recovery solution. Using the intuitive web-based graphical interface or agents over a VPN connection allows for policies to be crafted or data to be restored from virtually anywhere.

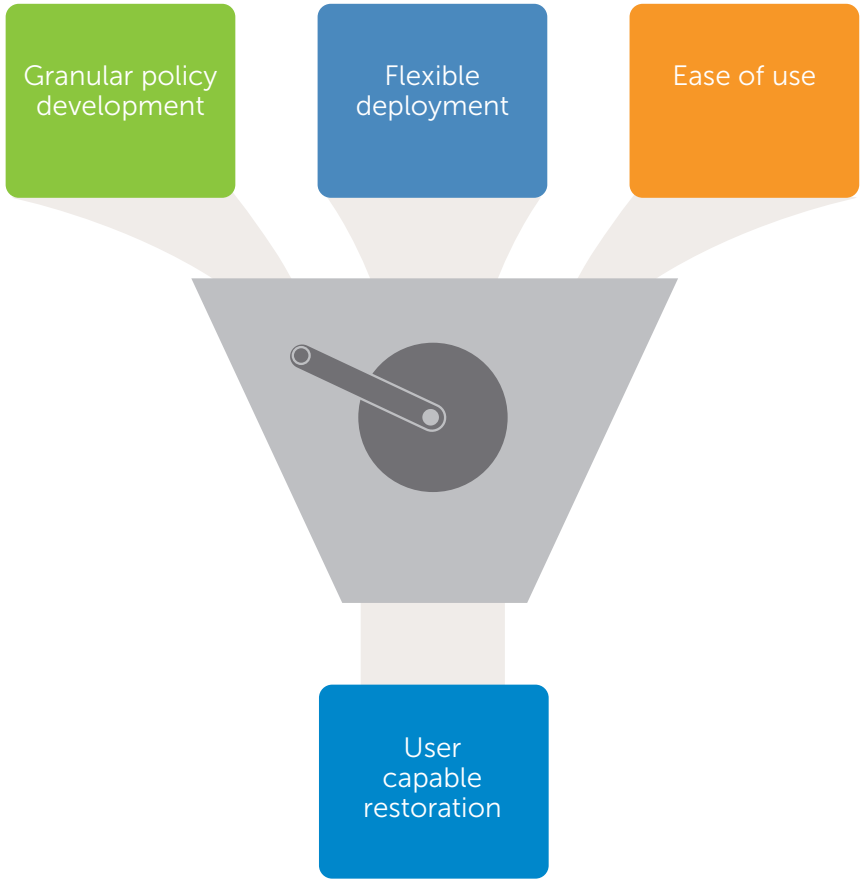


Challenge: access the backup appliance from anywhere.

9. Empower users while retaining control

Protecting end users has always been a problem for server backup solutions. Can one appliance actually protect both the end user and the corporate data center? What happens when users want to restore files on the fly? Is IT really able to handle every user that accidently deletes an Excel spreadsheet?

A backup and recovery solution should provide an all-in-one solution to protect both critical system servers and end user data. With the right workstation agents, end user backup and recovery should be easy to use and manage. To save the administrator time and the organization money, end users should be able to quickly find and restore their backed-up files.



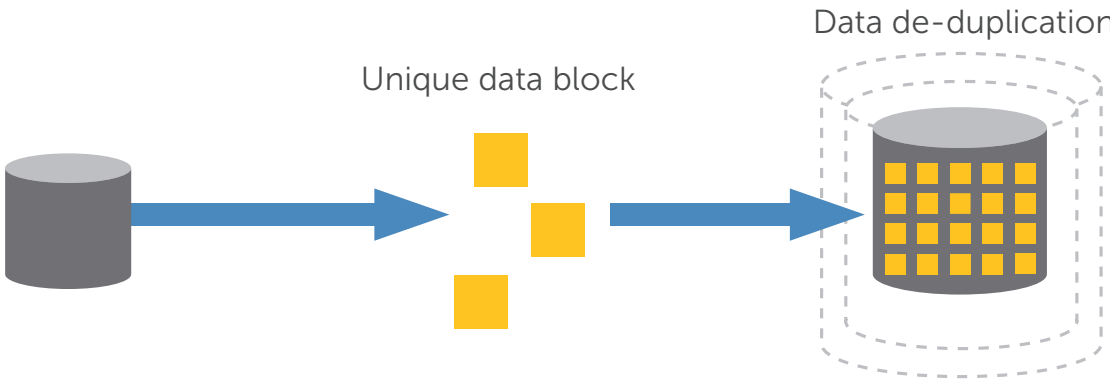
Enable users to restore their own files.

10. Keep backup volumes from growing out of control

Last month, your nightly backup took around 9 hours to complete. Last night, it took over 12 hours. It's getting harder to handle the data growth in your backup environment. Growing backup volumes are making your backup windows take longer, slowing network performance and increasing storage cost.

Backup and recovery solutions solutions can give you:

1. More bandwidth and faster backups with de-duplication technology that stops resending the same data over the network
2. Smaller backups with smart and well-defined backup rules that capture and keep business data and remove non-business data



Reduce your backup volume and its impact on network performance.

Dell SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP)

Dell™ SonicWALL™ CDP offers an impressive array of features and functions to provide easy to use and comprehensive data backup and restoration. Dell SonicWALL's next-generation CDP solution offers the comprehensive data protection organizations demand and the power administrators need for vigilant data backup and disaster recovery, featuring:

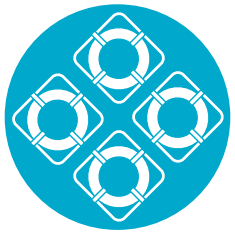
Flexible administration

Flexible deployment enhancements allow administrators the ability configure master policies for all users and easily deploy the Dell SonicWALL CDP agent to remote systems throughout the network. CDP automates tedious backup administrative tasks, providing an easy-to-manage, low-touch solution. This includes automatically generating e-mail alerts and producing regularly scheduled reports on backup activity.

Easy to use end user administration

End-user remote administration features built into Dell SonicWALL CDP allow for users to quickly and easily access their data as needed regardless of where the user is located. Users, as allowed by Administrators, can restore historical versions of their own lost or deleted files without compromising privacy or security. This increases user satisfaction and improves both user and IT productivity.

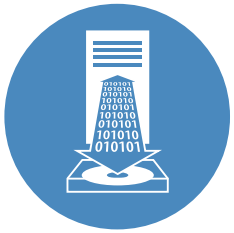
Flexible disaster recovery options



CDP provides flexible disaster recovery options, including Dell SonicWALL Off site Data Backup, Dell SonicWALL Site-to-Site Data Backup and Dell SonicWALL Local Archiving, as well as Dell SonicWALL Bare Metal Recovery of complete systems. Extensible across multiple platforms including Windows, Apple® and Linux®, CDP solutions can instantly recover data, applications or entire workstation or server systems onto original, new or virtual devices with Dell SonicWALL Universal Restore.

Dell SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP)

Universal system restoration



Dell SonicWALL's Universal System Restoration technology takes bare-metal recovery technology to the next level. Data centers servers and end-user laptops are protected from failure regardless of hardware platform being utilized. Supported restoration methods include: Physical to Physical, Physical to Virtual, Virtual to Physical, and Virtual to Virtual.

Remote backups

Dell SonicWALL CDP allows for remote backup over VPN allows for total protection of end user data regardless of the distance from the data-center; whether traveling on the road or simply working from home, CDP is always available.

Policy-driven automatic backup

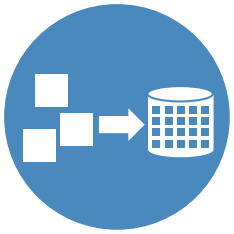
Allows administrators to globally enforce defined backup policies and automate backup that ensures data, applications and systems are reliably protected from common user error, hardware failure, deletion, potential disaster and malicious attack. Platform and application support includes Windows, Mac OS or Linux and Microsoft SQL, Exchange and SharePoint servers, System State, Active Directory and Outlook.

Granular backup control rules

CDP intelligently identifies, captures and preserves valuable information, while eliminating the costly backup and storage of irrelevant or outdated data.

Dell SonicWALL Continuous Data Protection (CDP)

Agent-side data de-duplication



CDP increases backup efficiency and performance by eliminating redundant data blocks at the source to shorten backup windows, minimize bandwidth utilization, optimize storage, and reduce operational costs.

Recovery manager for Exchange® (RME)

RME lets administrators search, compare and restore individual, criteria-specific items—including single messages, multiple mailboxes and public folders—from unmounted .edb files, without setting up a dedicated recovery server.

Dell SonicWALL Global Management System (GMS)

GMS helps distributed enterprises manage policies, reports, diagnostics, backup automation, restores, statistics, licensing information and export and import settings for multiple CDP deployments—at the device, device group or global level—using a simple-yet-robust centralized Web console.

How can I learn more?

- Download the Whitepaper "Five Best Practices to Optimize Backup Management for Effective Data Recovery–The Dell SonicWALL CDP v.6 Solution"
- Opt-in to receive Dell SonicWALL Newsletters

For feedback on this e-book or other Dell SonicWALL e-books or whitepapers, please send an email to feedback@sonicwall.com.

About Dell SonicWALL

Dell™ SonicWALL™ provides intelligent network security and data protection solutions that enable customers and partners to dynamically secure, control, and scale their global networks. Securing any organization with multi-threat scanning based on global input at wire speed, Dell SonicWALL is recognized as an industry leader by Gartner and NSS Labs. For more information, visit the web site at **www.sonicwall.com**.

Software

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