\- Data protection

Server backup: Backing up critical business systems

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The easiest way to back up a server is with a server backup solution. These solutions can come in the form of software or appliances, experts said.

Server backup solutions are typically designed to help you backup server data to another local server, a cloud server, or a hybrid system. In particular, backup to hybrid systems is becoming more popular. This is because hybrid systems enable you to optimize resources, support easy multi-region duplication, and can enable faster recovery and failover.

In general, server backup solutions should include the following features:

Support for diverse file types— should not include any file types. In particular, solutions should support documents, spreadsheets, media, and configuration files.

Backup location—you should be able to specify backup locations. The solution should support backup to a variety of locations and media, including on and off-site resources.

Scheduling and automation—in addition to enabling manual backups, solutions should support backup automation through scheduling. This helps ensure that you always have a recent backup and that backups are created in a consistent manner.

Backup management—you should be able to manage the lifecycle of backups, including number stored and length of time kept. Ideally, solutions also enable easy export of back-ups for transfer to external resources or for use in migration.

Partition selection—partitions are isolated segments of a storage resource and are often used to separate data within a system. Solutions should enable you to independently backup data and restore partitions.

Data compression—to minimize the storage needed for numerous backups, solutions should compress backup data. This compression needs to be lossless and maintain the integrity of all data.

Backup type selection—you should be able to create a variety of backup types, including full, differential, and incremental backups. Differential backups create a backup of changes since the last full backup while incremental records the changes since the last incremental backup. These types can help you reduce the size of your backups and speed backup time.

Scaling—backup abilities should not be limited by the volume of data on your servers. Solutions should scale as your data does and support backups of any size.