

Ubuntu Backups

System/bare metal backups

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System versus Data Backups

- System Backups

- Bare metal
- Boot, system, OS and related partitions (not all data on the entire computer)
- Useful for computers with extensive configurations/customization and for deployments

- Data Backups

- User data
- Home directory

Doug's 3-2-1 Strategy

- 3 types of system backups for your Ubuntu computer
 - Clonezilla (or similar bare metal backup like Acronis or Ghost)
 - Timeshift for regularly scheduled system snapshots
 - Synology Active Backup for Business (AB4Biz) for a scheduled to remote computer backup
- 2 types of media for your system
 - External hard drive (I find USB flash drives flaky for backups)
 - Synology Network Attached Storage (NAS)
- 1 offsite backup (cloud storage, a friend's house or ?)

Clonezilla

- Clonezilla for system backups, restores and deployments
- No installation needed: download ISO from <https://sourceforge.net/projects/clonezilla/> to Ventoy USB drive
- Recommended use:
 - Boot from Ventoy, choose Clonezilla and choose the applicable options from the menus
 - Backup the system drive and partitions to an image on a backup drive or backup partition
 - Copy image to external hard drive and/or NAS

Timeshift

- Timeshift is a system snapshot utility similar to System Restore in Windows
- Install Timeshift from SNAP, other store or command prompt
- Recommended use:
 - Snapshot the system partition to a backup drive or backup partition
 - Set a schedule for regular snapshots

Synology AB4Biz

- Synology DS720 Network Attached Storage (NAS) or similar
 - \$300 used on eBay
 - The Synology NAS software is key
- Recommend use:
 - Install AB4Biz client to the Ubuntu computer
 - Configure AB4Biz to backup the computer to a NAS on a schedule

Caveats

- Drives, Partitions, etc.
 - Where is your boot, system and other (if any) OS partitions (sda1, sda2, sdb, ?)
 - Put your backup image on a dedicated backup drive (or partition)
 - GParted is a must have tool to figure out what is going on with your disks, drives and partitions
- A backup is useless if you can't restore from it

References

- <https://clonezilla.org/>
- <https://sourceforge.net/projects/clonezilla/>
- <https://github.com/linuxmint/timeshift>
- <https://itsfoss.com/backup-restore-linux-timeshift/>
- <https://www.synology.com/en-global/dsm/feature/active-backup-business/pc>