

About Community and Enterprise Editions

[Community](#) [Enterprise](#)

Bacula Community and Bacula Enterprise are two closely related editions of the same powerful backup and recovery platform. They share the same proven core engine, but they are aimed at very different types of users and use cases. Understanding how they relate to each other will help you set the right expectations before you dive in.

Because Bacula Community and Bacula Enterprise share the same underlying core, their technical documentation is also integrated. In practice, this means there is a single documentation space that covers both products.

To keep things clear:

- Individual topics and articles are explicitly marked as Community, Enterprise, or both, depending on where the described feature is available.
- Users can navigate the documentation knowing at a glance whether a given feature applies to their edition.

This integrated approach avoids duplication and reflects the strong technical relationship between the two editions, while still making it easy for users to see what is specific to Bacula Enterprise.

This article is intentionally high-level. If you're considering a move from Bacula Community to Bacula Enterprise or want to understand all the feature and support differences in depth, the next step is to review Bacula Systems' official comparison.

 [More information and detailed article download](#)

What is Bacula Community?

Bacula Community is the open-source edition of Bacula, providing a comprehensive network backup and recovery platform that protects a wide variety of workloads and scales smoothly from small installations to large, distributed IT environments.

Because it is open source (AGPLv3), the software itself is free to download and use, and it has been adopted by a very large user base worldwide, which makes it one of the most widely used open-source backup projects.

Typical expectations with Bacula Community:

- **Industry-leading open-source project** – mature, feature-rich backup and restore engine with a long history and a large ecosystem.
- **Ideal for evaluation, labs, and skilled in-house teams** – organizations often use Community to test Bacula, to run smaller environments, or to build customized solutions around it.
- **Self-managed operations** – you manage upgrades, testing, troubleshooting and any advanced integrations yourself, often relying on community resources rather than guaranteed vendor support.
- **File-based backup only** – you back up data by installing agents on your systems and reading files directly, without requiring agentless, snapshot-based, API-based, image-level backup technologies or other advanced techniques integrated directly at the application, database, or filesystem level.
- **No deduplication requirements** – storage space is not a major constraint, and standard compression is sufficient; eliminating duplicate blocks is unnecessary.
- **No multi-cloud or enterprise NAS targets** – no need to send data to platforms such as Azure, Oracle, Google Cloud, or enterprise NAS systems like HPE StoreOnce using protocols such as Catalyst.

- **Standard security is sufficient** – Bacula's built-in secure architecture meets your needs, without the need for additional Bacula Enterprise security technologies or compliance-oriented features.

In short, Bacula Community gives you the core backup capabilities and full access to the source code, but you are responsible for turning that into an operational, supported service.

What is Bacula Enterprise?

Bacula Enterprise is the commercial, open-core edition of Bacula. The essential backup engine is the same as Bacula Community, which is made of exactly the same code as the Community version, but on top of that shared core, Bacula Systems adds a broad set of additional enterprise-only features, plugins and services.

Bacula Enterprise is designed specifically for production environments that need higher levels of scalability, performance, security and integration across virtual, physical, container and cloud workloads.

Key things to expect from Bacula Enterprise, which are not generally available in the Community edition:

- **Open-core with many additional features**

On top of the shared Bacula engine, Bacula Enterprise introduces:

- **Specialised plugins and modules** – for major hypervisors, databases, applications and cloud platforms (for example VMware, Hyper-V, various databases, Kubernetes, public clouds and more).
- **Powerful performance and scalability options** – features focused on very large datasets, catalogue performance and advanced storage targets.
- **Advanced security capabilities** – additional hardening, encryption options and features needed for organizations with security and compliance requirements.

- **Enterprise-grade packaging and QA**

Bacula Enterprise is released as fully tested, quality-assured binaries, with controlled release cycles and formal certification/validation processes. This means you don't need to invest internal time in testing snapshots, integrating patches or validating every upgrade path yourself.

- **Professional support and services**

With Bacula Enterprise, organizations can complement the strengths of Bacula Community by adding fully backed commercial support from Bacula Systems. Instead of relying solely on community channels, Enterprise customers get direct access to senior experts with defined SLAs, including guaranteed response times and clear escalation paths. For mission-critical or always-on environments, optional 24/7 support offerings are available, providing an extra layer of assurance on top of the robust, shared Bacula core.

- **Modern enterprise-grade web interface**

BWeb provides a full-featured web console with granular roles and permissions, object-level dashboards, and integration with external identity providers through LDAP or OIDC.

- **Bare Metal Recovery for Windows and Linux**

Bacula Enterprise includes advanced Bare Metal Recovery capabilities, delivered through dedicated Windows and Linux BMR plugins that enable fast and reliable system restoration.

- **Deduplication and communication-line optimization**

Built-in deduplication (where applicable) and communication-line compression help reduce storage consumption and optimize data transfer performance across your environment.

- **Additional security technologies**

Bacula Enterprise offers a broad set of extra security-focused features beyond the Community edition, designed to strengthen protection, harden deployments, and support organizations with elevated security requirements.

- **Low-cost**

Bacula Enterprise, professional support and services are all available in one single low-cost annual subscription. Contact Bacula for a [quote](#).

Bacula Community and Bacula Enterprise share the same core technology but serve different needs. Community offers a powerful, open-source backup platform that you manage yourself, while Enterprise builds on that foundation with additional features, performance, plugins and professional support for demanding, business-critical environments. To decide which edition best fits your organization, review the official comparison linked above for a deeper feature and support overview.