



# **Define a backup strategy**

## **SnapCenter Software**

NetApp  
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# Table of Contents

- Define a backup strategy ..... 1
  - Backup schedules of custom plug-in resources ..... 1
  - Number of backup jobs needed ..... 2

# Define a backup strategy

Defining a backup strategy before you create your backup jobs ensures that you have the backups that you require to successfully restore or clone your resources. Your service-level agreement (SLA), recovery time objective (RTO), and recovery point objective (RPO) largely determine your backup strategy.

## About this task

An SLA defines the level of service that is expected and addresses many service-related issues, including the availability and performance of the service. RTO is the time by which a business process must be restored after a disruption in service. RPO defines the strategy for the age of the files that must be recovered from backup storage for regular operations to resume after a failure. SLA, RTO, and RPO contribute to the data protection strategy.

## Steps

1. Determine when you should back up your resources.
2. Decide how many backup jobs you require.
3. Decide how to name your backups.
4. Decide if you want Consistency Group Snapshot copies and decide on appropriate options for deleting Consistency Group Snapshot copies.
5. Decide whether you want to use NetApp SnapMirror technology for replication or NetApp SnapVault technology for long term retention.
6. Determine the retention period for the Snapshot copies on the source storage system and the SnapMirror destination.
7. Determine if you want to run any commands before or after the backup operation and provide a prescript or postscript.

## Backup schedules of custom plug-in resources

The most critical factor in determining a backup schedule is the rate of change for the resource. The more often you back up your resources, the fewer archive logs SnapCenter has to use for restoring, which can result in faster restore operations.

You might back up a heavily used resource every hour, while you might back up a rarely used resource once a day. Other factors include the importance of the resource to your organization, your service-level agreement (SLA) and your recovery point objective (RPO).

SLA defines the level of service expected and addresses many service-related issues, including the availability and performance of service. RPO defines the strategy for the age of the files that must be recovered from backup storage for regular operations to resume after a failure. SLA and RPO contribute to the data protection strategy.

Backup schedules have two parts, as follows:

- Backup frequency

Backup frequency (how often backups are to be performed), also called schedule type for some plug-ins, is

part of a policy configuration. For example, you might configure the backup frequency as hourly, daily, weekly or monthly. You can access policies in the SnapCenter GUI by clicking **Settings > Policies**.

- Backup schedules

Backup schedules (exactly when backups are to be performed) are part of a resource or resource group configuration. For example, if you have a resource group that has a policy configured for weekly backups, you might configure the schedule to back up every Thursday at 10:00 p.m. You can access resource group schedules in the SnapCenter GUI by clicking **Resources**, then selecting the appropriate plug-in, and clicking **View > Resource Group**.

## Number of backup jobs needed

Factors that determine the number of backup jobs that you need include the size of the resource, the number of volumes used, the rate of change of the resource, and your Service Level Agreement (SLA).

The number of backup jobs that you choose typically depends on the number of volumes on which you placed your resources. For example, if you placed a group of small resources on one volume and a large resource on another volume, you might create one backup job for the small resources and one backup job for the large resource.

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