[How to backup a full Centos Server?](https://serverfault.com/questions/120431/how-to-backup-a-full-centos-server)

1. The best tool to use for this is probably dump, which is a standard linux tool and will give you the whole filesystem. I would do something like this:

/sbin/dump -0uan -f - / | gzip -2 | ssh -c blowfish user@backupserver.example.com dd of=/backup/server-full-backup-`date '+%d-%B-%Y'`.dump.gz

This will do a file system dump of / (make sure you don't need to dump any other mounts!), compress it with gzip and ssh it to a remote server (backupserver.example.com), storing it in /backup/. If you later need to browse the backup you use restore:

restore -i

Another option, if you don't have access to dump is to use tar and do something like

tar -zcvpf /backup/full-backup-`date '+%d-%B-%Y'`.tar.gz --directory / --exclude=mnt --exclude=proc --exclude=tmp .

But tar does not handle changes in the file system as well.

1. If you want to backup from Linux to Linux I wouldn’t use dump, because it’s inconvenient when you need to access something inside the backup file. Just using rsync over SSH to [do a full system backup](https://wiki.archlinux.org/index.php/Full_system_backup_with_rsync) should be fine in most cases:

rsync -aAXv --delete-after --exclude={"/dev/\*","/proc/\*","/sys/\*","/tmp/\*","/run/\*","/mnt/\*","/media/\*","/lost+found"} / user@server:backup-folder

This will keep everything important and let you browse the backup without additional steps.