MetaAlligators Backup Guide

Technical Details

The backup system for our production server exists out-of-band from the main software. Essentially, our backup system is simply a VM that has 3 cronjobs scheduled to run at on a daily schedule, weekly schedule, and monthly schedule respectively. Those cronjobs trigger scripts that pop the latest dump if we've reached the max number of dumps in a given folder (i.e. more than 7 for daily dumps, more than 4 for weekly dumps, more than 12 for monthly dumps) and then store a new backup dump from the database.

Steps to Backup

Note: You will need an internet connection to restore the database from mLab (Cloud-based database hosting service)

1) Open a terminal shell
2) Run the follow command: `ssh` vcm@vcm-9112.vm.duke.edu
3) Run the `ls` command and note that there is a DailyDumps, WeeklyDumps, and MonthlyDumps folder
4) `cd` into one of these folders (i.e. `cd DailyDumps` or `cd WeeklyDumps` or `cd MonthlyDumps`)
5) In these folders, run the `ls` command and note that there are backups in all of these folders taken according to different schedules (i.e. DailyDumps will have the 7 most recent dumps taken every day, WeeklyDumps will have the 4 most recent dumps taken every week, MonthlyDumps will have the 11 most recent dumps taken every month). All these backups are named with the following convention <year-month-day-hour-minute-AM/PM>.
6) `cd` into one of the dated dump folders.
7) Run the following command: `mongorestore -h ds135592.mlab.com:35592 -d meta-meals-prod-ev3 -u admin -p testtest123 ~/<DailyDumps OR WeeklyDumps OR MonthlyDumps>/<year-month-day-hour-minute-AM/PM>/meta-meals-prod-ev3/ --drop`