BackupAssist V4 vs V5

BackupAssist™
Windows® Backup Made Easy!

TECHNICAL COMPARISON
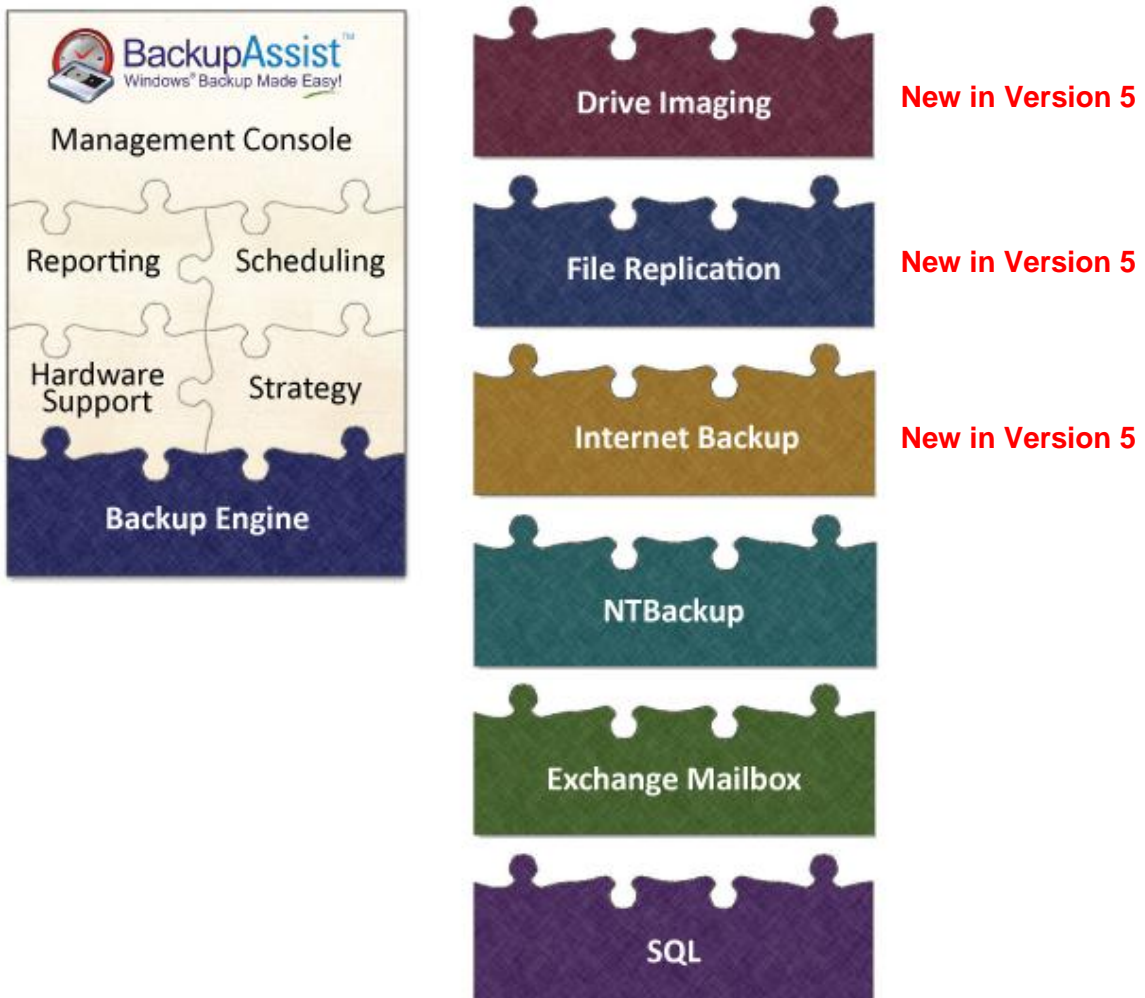
BackupAssist Version 4 vs Version 5

Cortex I.T.

What's new in BackupAssist Version 5?

After another 18 months of solid development, we have three new exciting backup engines, plus the ability to monitor multiple installations from one central location!

Ready for Server 2008, SBS & EBS 2008	New: Windows Imaging Engine for fast drive imaging and hardware independent restore
Internet Backup capabilities	New: Backup via the Internet using the bandwidth efficient, in-file delta Rsync protocol
File copying & replication capabilities	New: High performance local file copying with single instance store, enabling hundreds of days of file version history
Centralized Monitoring	New: Monitor multiple jobs and installations using our managed service, and receive one daily email report for all your backup jobs

**Complete protection**: server recovery, data archival plus Internet offsite backup

With BackupAssist version 5 users are now able to protect themselves from an entire range of data loss disaster scenarios – not just a subset. It combines multiple backup technologies to create a complete backup strategy that covers all the pieces of the backup puzzle. This means that you can pick and choose components suitable for your systems, or use BackupAssist to complement the limitations of your existing backup strategy.

New in Version 5 (Drive Imaging)

New in Version 5 (File Replication)

New in Version 5 (Internet Backup)

New Windows Drive Imaging Engine (Server 2008)

BackupAssist version 5 schedules and manages the block-level image-based backup program in Windows Server 2008 and Vista*[1], providing excellent data protection and disaster recovery capabilities. You can backup entire volumes, System State and Volume Shadow Copy Service aware applications to disk for fast disaster recovery.

When combined with BackupAssist's easy to configure user interface, extended hardware support, automated media rotation, storage management, and powerful email reporting, you get a complete drive imaging solution at the fraction of the price of similar competing solutions, without the hassles of having to manually script or schedule wbadmin.exe (Windows Server Backup).
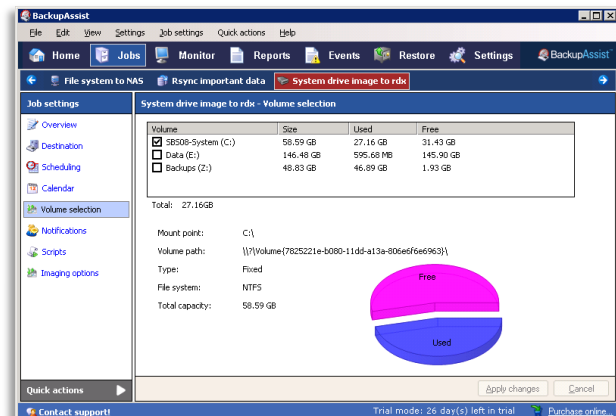
Fast differential backups

Using Windows Server Backup technology, you can perform fast differential backups every day after your initial full backup, which helps to reduce your daily backup times. With a variety of differential backups, you have multiple points in time that you can restore from.

Advanced hardware support

BackupAssist's Windows Imaging Engine enhances Windows Server Backup by providing additional hardware support for an extensive range of backup destinations, such as eSata, local disks, NAS and removable disks, like rdx and REV. Removable HDD management is also available with support for safe HDD eject after the backup and automatic drive letter remapping if the backup drive has been incorrectly assigned.
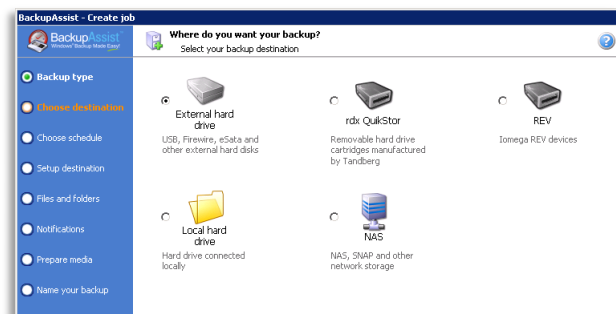
Fast hardware independent restoration

By using Microsoft's block level backup engine you benefit from the ability to restore an entire system to dissimilar hardware at fast speeds (approx. 70-90 GB/hour), meaning that you can perform restores from one physical machine to another or even one physical machine to a virtual machine using VMWare Server. The Drive Imaging functionality makes hardware independent restoration easy: a Windows Recovery Environment boot disk can be used to restore volumes or perform a bare-metal recovery effortlessly.

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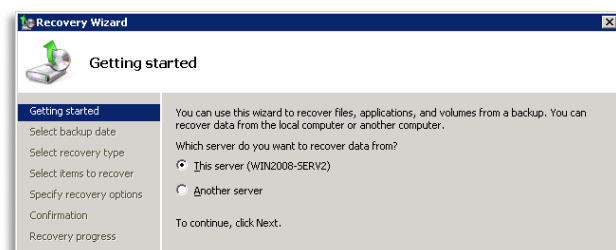
[1] Windows Vista Business or better

New File Replication Engine

Based on the fundamental principle of copying a file from one location to another, the File Replication Engine is BackupAssist's new file-based backup technology. Designed to run on Windows XP, 2003, Vista and 2008, the File Replication engine is fantastic for backing up data files and maintaining version history containing hundreds of day's worth of backups.

Tuned for high performance

Using our "side-by-side" differential comparison technology, only the differences between source folders and the backup destination are copied across. So your initial backup will replicate all your data to the backup device, and subsequent backups will only replicate the changes. This makes it eminently suitable for backing up huge data sets in limited time. Thanks to its speed and design, it's also suitable in a disk-to-disk-to-tape, disk-to-disk-to-NAS or disk-to-disk-to-Internet setup.
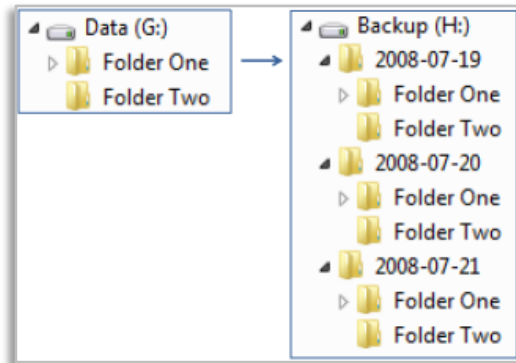
Backup more with less space using Single Instance Store

The File Replication engine uses the power of our new Single Instance Store technology so that only one unique copy of each file is stored. This means that you can achieve faster differential backups, helping you slash daily backup times. And you can store more backups on your backup destination.
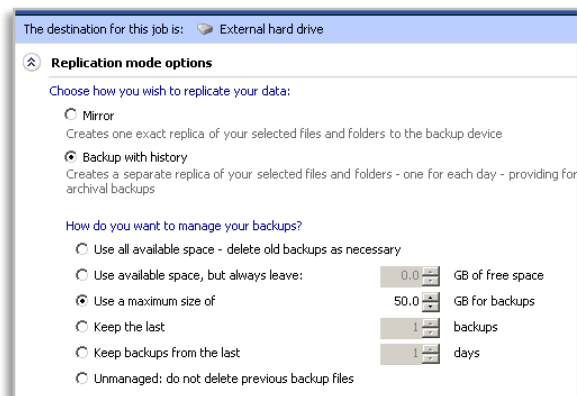
No more scripting and debugging

You can use BackupAssist to replace commonly used scripting tools, such as Robocopy, while adding a number of powerful advantages, including: automatic monitoring, reporting and scheduling, open file backup via VSS support, an easy to set up user interface, and Single Instance Store for backup history.

Preserve file attributes

The File Replication engine creates exact copies of files, which means that file attributes such as dates, NTFS security permissions and data streams are preserved in your backups.

Simple one-step restore

In a "backup file" recovery situation, accessing an important file or folder is a one step process, eliminating the complexity and cost of traditional recovery processes. Simply search for the file or folder you wish to restore on your backup destination as you would with on a normal file server and copy it to the original destination. Due to the non-proprietary nature of the file replication engine backups, you don't need any special software to restore the files from your backup.

New Rsync Internet Backup Engine

With our Rsync Internet backup engine you can easily achieve fully automated, set-and-forget and secure offsite backups using the proven and popular Rsync protocol. Rsync backups are perfect as an extra layer of data protection in addition to backing up locally for Disaster Recovery.

Combined with BackupAssist's easy to configure UI, powerful email reporting and VSS support, BackupAssist allows you to take advantage of the world's most widely deployed in-file delta remote backup protocol in an easy-to-use Windows based application.
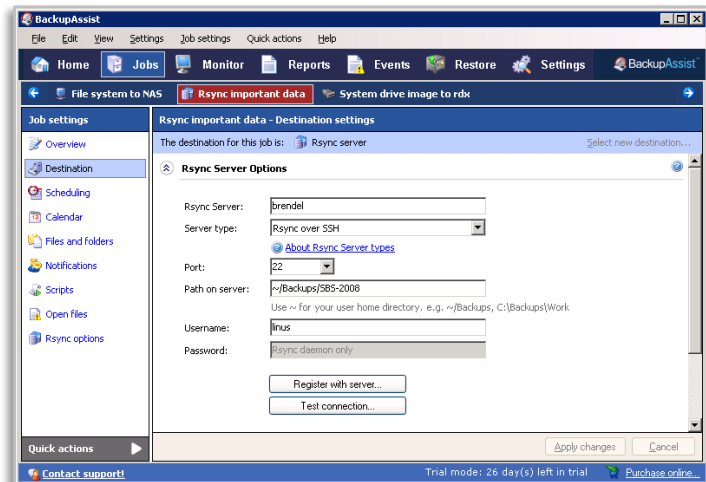
Industry standard Rsync protocol

Using an industry standard backup method gives you:

✓ Proven backup technology, developed for over 10 years and deployed on millions of computers

✓ Maximum interoperability and compatibility

✓ Over the wire encryption when using Rsync over SSH

Easy setup and monitoring

BackupAssist makes it easy to set up your Rsync jobs:

✓ Fully managed in our intuitive UI

✓ Easily select which files and directories (local or network) to backup

✓ Backup open files with inbuilt VSS support

✓ Saves time: no messing with complex command line parameters, manual scripting, cygwin versions

✓ Overcomes the Windows limitation on 253 character filenames
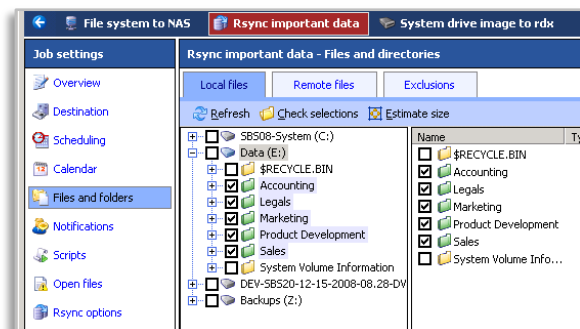
Easy scheduling and backup history

You can set up BackupAssist to run in one of two modes:

- ✓ Simple mirror – where your backup device contains an up-to-date mirror of your original file system

- ✓ Backup with history – where a range of backups and version history are available (such as Monday – Friday, Week 1 – Week 4, etc). The transparent single-instance-store means that unchanged files are only stored once, saving space and making the backups faster.

Of course, this is all managed behind the scenes by BackupAssist!
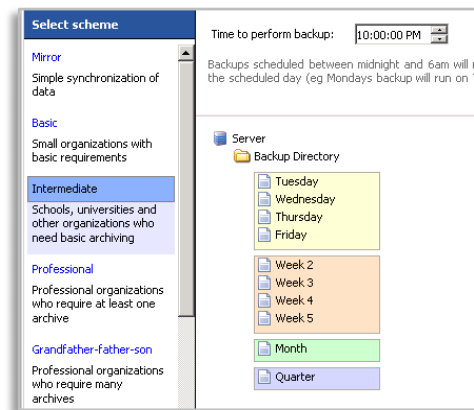
Choose where to host your data

Unlike virtually all other remote backup solutions, BackupAssist's solution allows you unparalleled flexibility in choosing where to host your data. Basically, any Rsync Server can be used to host data:
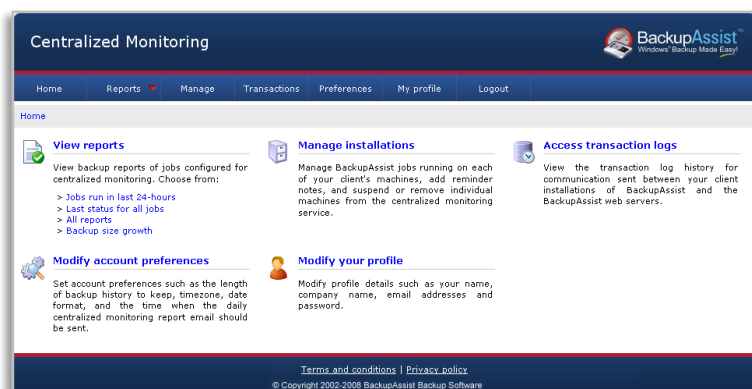
- ✓ Internally hosted – at a different branch office, to the boss' home

- ✓ Externally hosted – at a 3rd party data center, Amazon, or one of our recommended hosting partners

- ✓ Windows or Linux machines

- ✓ Selected NAS devices can be used for a turnkey solution (Rsync-enabled NAS Hardware Compatibility List)

New Centralized Monitoring Console (CMC)

With BackupAssist version 5, comes the new Centralized Monitoring Console which makes it easy to monitor multiple BackupAssist installations.

Using the CMC, you can manage multiple BackupAssist installations from one location, create personalized summary reports using your company logo for your clients, and view the backup data growth over time.

This tool is created for System Administrators or VARs who deploy many installations of BackupAssist. The CMC takes over the collection and sorting of the backup reports so executives have more time to fulfil the demands from their customers and users. The CMC prepares reports so executives can easily identify issues that can undermine your backup strategy.

With Centralized Monitoring it is easy to proactively manage numerous BackupAssist jobs, running on multiple servers or sites from anywhere around the world. No additional hardware or software is required.

Daily Summary Emails

Instead of receiving one email per job that you're monitoring, you can use the Centralized Monitoring Console to process all the different BackupAssist installations that are being monitored into **one** summary email delivered to your inbox every day.

A summary at the top shows problem sites clearly so that you are aware as soon as an error with the backup occurs and are able to organise appropriate maintenance activity.

The summary email also gives you full details on all the previous day's backups, full reports for individual jobs and let you know when a backup has been missed.
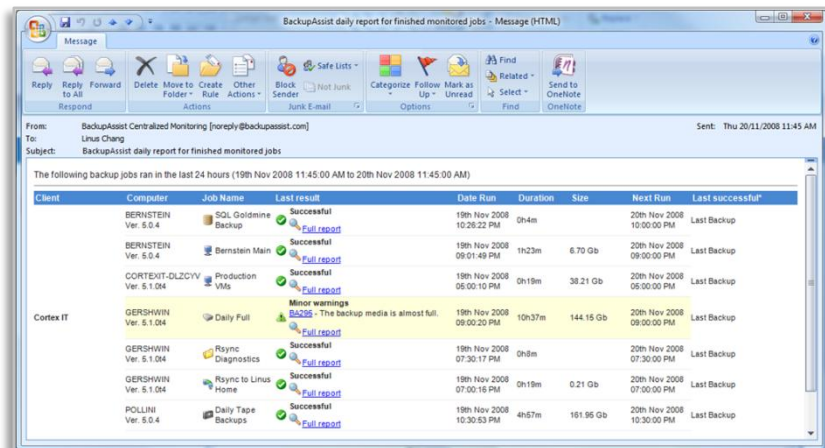
Web console and PDF reporting

For organizations spread over many sites, the Centralized Monitoring Console lets you monitor and report on recent or historical backup results over the last 90 days from anywhere around the world. Available reports include:

✓ All backup results in last 24 hours

✓ The status of all backup jobs and individual job reports

✓ Graphs of data growth for individual clients
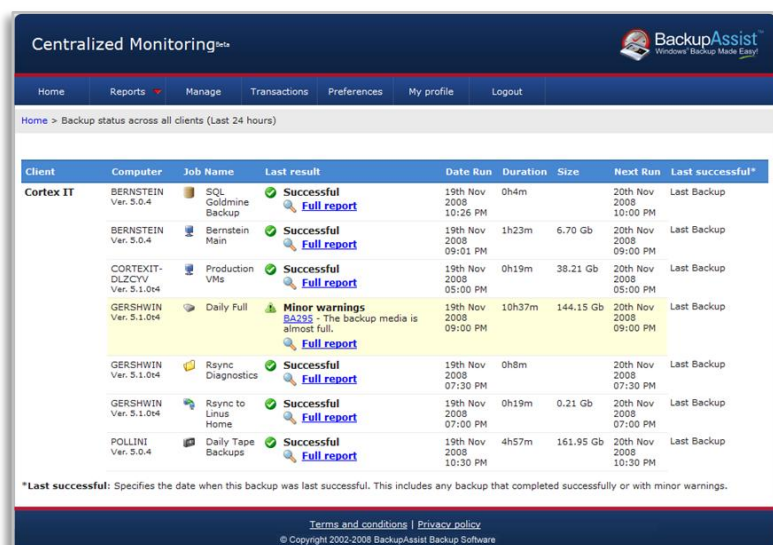
You can also personalize the reports with your own company details and logo for a more professional look.

Analyze your backup results for better results

The online Centralized Monitoring Console lets you view your backup results over a 90 day period, enabling you to identify and analyse any patterns of issues. The Data Growth graph helps you anticipate the need and timing for future hardware upgrades to accommodate larger data sets. These facilities will reassure your clients that their backup strategy is being closely monitored and that they are well protected against data loss.

Comparison Matrix

Features	BackupAssist v4	BackupAssist v5
Windows Drive Imaging	✘	✔
Fast differential backups	✘	✔
Advanced hardware support	✘	✔
Fast hardware independent restoration	✘	✔
File Replication	✘	✔
High performance delta copy	✘	✔
Single instance storage for improved disk space usage	✘	✔
File attributes are preserved	✘	✔
Backup history and mirroring capabilities	✘	✔
Simple one-step restore	✘	✔
VSS support for open file backup	✘	✔
Script free, fully automated replacement for 'Robocopy'	✘	✔
Rsync Internet Backup	✘	✔
Industry standard, in-file delta Rsync protocol	✘	✔
Single instance storage for improved disk space usage	✘	✔
Bandwidth throttling	✘	✔
Backup history and mirroring capabilities	✘	✔
VSS support for open file backup	✘	✔
Choose where to host your data (Windows, Linux, NAS).	✘	✔
Centralized Monitoring	✘	✔
Daily summary email for all backup jobs	✘	✔
Web console for backup report analysis	✘	✔
Customizable PDF reports (success rate/data growth)	✘	✔