



## Windows Server 2008 and BackupAssist



### WHITEPAPER

BackupAssist Version 4

[www.BackupAssist.com](http://www.BackupAssist.com)

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## Windows Server 2008 and BackupAssist

NTBackup will no longer be included in Windows Server 2008 – so what is the future of BackupAssist, and what will happen on Microsoft's latest platform?

We are planning to release Version v5 of BackupAssist, compatible with Windows Server 2008, by the end of Q3 2008

### Drive Imaging in Server 2008

The backup and restore functionality in Windows Server 2008 will be based on drive imaging. This represents a radically different approach to Disaster Recovery and a departure from the file-based method in Windows 2003 and prior.

The new name for the backup system in Windows Server 2008 is **Windows Server Backup**.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fast disaster recovery</b> from bare metal; you can create your own recovery CD.</li><li>• <b>Daily incremental backups</b> give you multiple points in time from which to restore.</li><li>• <b>Restore individual files</b> by mounting the backup image.</li><li>• <b>Free with the operating system</b>, compared with many hundreds or thousands of dollars for 3rd party imaging solutions.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No file-based backups.</li><li>• No support for tape drives.</li><li>• Not suitable for long term data archiving or compliance purposes.</li><li>• Have to select entire drives to backup; cannot choose individual files or directories.</li></ul>

BackupAssist allows you to take advantage of Microsoft's extensive R&D investment in drive imaging technology, while also addressing some of the drawbacks (see below).

We believe that when combined together, Windows Server Backup plus BackupAssist will deliver equivalent or superior disaster recovery capabilities compared to many of the existing drive imaging solutions.

### How does BackupAssist help Windows Server Backup?

Just like NTBackup, it is possible to script Windows Server Backup to run scheduled backups. However, there will be some drawbacks and limitations when using the built-in Microsoft scheduler, just as is the case with NTBackup on Windows Server 2003, and BackupAssist adds significant management features to make sure that the backups are run properly and reliably.

1. **Easy setup and scheduling:** using BackupAssist you'll be able to easily setup your jobs and their schedule with the same brilliant simplicity that BackupAssist is famous for.
2. **Support for removable disk cartridges:** proper management and integration with devices like the Tandberg QuikStor, Quantum GoVault, Iomega REV.
3. **Removable HDD management:** safely eject your HDD after the backup; automatic remapping of drive letter if incorrectly assigned.

4. **Reporting:** emailed reports inform you of progress; the media usage report shows you how much HDD backup space is used, and what backups are present on the disk.
5. **Rotation schemes:** automatically select from different rotation schemes (similar to the NTBackup schemes) to ensure that you have **multiple backups** to restore from; automatically check that the drives have been rotated according to plan, and warn the user if it hasn't been done.
6. **Scripting:** easy to write scripts to run before and after the backup, and also conditional scripts (run specific commands based on whether the backup failed or succeeded).
7. **Additional System State backup:** makes it easy to perform an additional system state backup in addition to the full drive image.
8. **Other drawbacks that BackupAssist overcomes** (as compared to configuring the backup without BackupAssist):
  - USB HDD is “invisible” when formatted for use with Windows Server Backup – you cannot see its contents or use it for any other purpose, or share one device for multiple computers. BackupAssist overcomes this by using USB HDDs in NTFS mode, and using its own management capabilities to assign drive letters, eject the disk, etc.
  - Monitor the “live” progress of your backups – BackupAssist allows you to do this through its Administration Console.

## What happens to my tape drive? File backups?

We know that drive imaging is not the “be all and end all” of backup.

In fact, many people who currently use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party drive imaging products on Windows Server 2003 also use BackupAssist for file-based backups. There are a variety of reasons for this, such as:

- Long term archiving
- Legal compliance
- Having multiple redundant copies of data in different formats (ie. if one backup fails, you have another to fall back on)
- Easy ability to select individual files and directories to backup, not just an entire drive
- Backup and replicate your important files to a different medium, like DVD, FTP Server, etc.

We are currently developing (at time of writing – December 2007) a file-based backup engine that will allow users of Windows Server 2008 to backup and restore individual files.

Depending on demand, we will likely extend this engine to interface with tape drives.

## Contacting us

If you would like to tell us what you think of our plans, or if you have requests for BackupAssist on Windows Server 2008, please let us know by contacting us at [support@backupassist.com](mailto:support@backupassist.com)

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**Please note:** the information in this document is based on our evaluation of Windows Server 2008 RC0 and subject to change. While we have used our best efforts to ensure the accuracy of the information, there may be omissions or oversights – if you believe this to be the case, please contact us so we can update our documentation. Cortex I.T. provides no warranties for the accuracy of the information, and it is subject to change.