

BackupAssist™

BackupAssist v7

Central Administration User Guide

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1. Introduction

BackupAssist7™



Backup



Restore



Recover

BackupAssist **Central Administration** allows you to securely manage your BackupAssist installations from a web console, within your local area network (LAN).

Central Administration includes two powerful tools to remotely administer your backup solution:

- The Central Administration **console** is a web interface from which you can enable, disable, start, stop and monitor all backup jobs on your LAN.
- The *console* can also be used to start a **remote session** to any BackupAssist installation on your LAN. The session provides access to:
 - The *Backup* tab so you can create and modify your backup jobs
 - The *Settings* tab so you can modify your BackupAssist settings.
 - The *Restore* tab so you can run the BackupAssist, SQL and Hyper-V Granular Restore tools.

Licensing

BackupAssist Central Administration is included with every installation of BackupAssist. Please contact your local BackupAssist reseller or distributor for pricing information, or visit www.BackupAssist.com.

For instructions on how to activate / deactivate license keys, visit our [Licensing BackupAssist page](#).

Overview

To be remotely managed, a BackupAssist installation must have Central Administration enabled and configured under the *Remote* tab. The configurations include a URL that is used to open the Central Administration console in a web browser. You only need to select the URL of one of your Central Administration enabled computers, and it will in turn connect to the other BackupAssist installations.

- The computer you run the web console from, is called the *client* computer.
- The computer whose URL you use is called the *host* computer.

The other computers (BackupAssist installations) are added to the host computer using the Central Administration console. These computers are called *nodes*. The host computer will remember and authenticate the computers that have been added to the console. For that reason, it is recommended that you choose one computer to be your host computer and use it every the time.

When you use the Central Administration web console to start a *remote session*, the host computer (whose URL you are using) will transfer the configuration file required to open the connection. You will then communicate directly with the node computer you have opened the remote session to.

In summary: you do not connect to the Central Administration URL for each BackupAssist installation that you want to administer. You choose one host and it will act as a proxy to the other computers, when you add the other computers to the Central Administration console's interface.

2. Configuring Central Administration

This section explains how to enable and configure **Central Administration**, and the settings that are available. To enable Central Administration:

1. Start BackupAssist.
2. Select the **Remote** tab, and then select **Central Administration Setup**.

Figure 1: Central Administration Setup

3. Tick **Enable Central Administration**: For security reasons, Central Administration access is not enabled by default.
4. **HTTP port**: The web connection uses the default port 8464 and is configurable.
HTTPS provides a secure socket connection when you launch Central Administration in your web browser. To use HTTPS, you need a digital SSL Certificate, which your network's Systems Administrator will have to generate and configure. This is a technical process that requires an understanding of your local network, server and internet provider.
5. **Create remote administrator**: Use these fields to create a login for the Central Administration console. These credentials are used internally by BackupAssist, and they are not associated with any user account on the local machine or on any domain.
6. **Open in browser**: This is the URL that can be used to open the Central Administration console.
7. Tick, **Enable remote console access**. This option allows your BackupAssist console to be remotely accessed across your local area network.

The option, **Open ports on the Windows Firewall**, will be selected and should remain checked. This will allow communication between the web browser and the host machine.

3. Using Central Administration

Once Central Administration is enabled on a computer, you will be able to access it from anywhere on your local area network using a web browser. To open the Central Administration console:

1. Type the URL (the **Open in Browser** URL setting), of the BackupAssist installation that you are going to use as the host, into your web browser. This link should be saved as a favorite.

Alternatively, if you have BackupAssist installed on the computer that you are running the console from, you can open the BackupAssist **Remote** tab and select **Launch Central Administration**.

2. Sign in with the credentials created the in *Central Administration Setup* screen.

Computers screen – all computers view

The default view when you use the Central Administration console is a list of all managed computers. To view and administer a computer, you need to add it to the console. The host computer you have connected to will remember the node computers that you add.

- Each machine added must have the *Central Administration Setup* screen configured.
- Only installations of BackupAssist v7 can be managed using Central Administration.

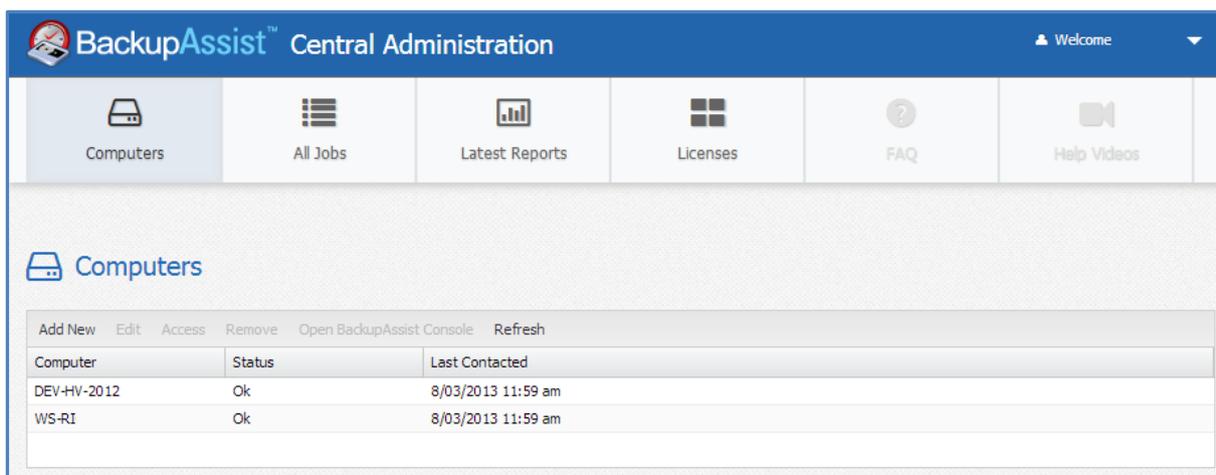


Figure 2: Central Administration web console – main screen

To add additional BackupAssist installs / machines to Central Administration:

1. Click **Add New**, and the **Add new Computer** dialogue box will appear.
2. Enter the credentials that were created locally on that machine.

After adding the machine, it will appear in the managed computers list. It will also be included in the consolidated reporting and licensing sections. Use the drop down list at the end of any column, to modify what columns are displayed.

If you select **Open BackupAssist Console**, you will start a remote session to that computer's BackupAssist installation. See the, [Remote Control of BackupAssist](#) section, for how to use this feature.

Computers screen – single computer view

If you select **Access**, or double-click a computer, the BackupAssist and system information for that computer will be displayed within the following tabs: *Manage, Reports, System Info, Support* and *License*. Below are descriptions for each of these tabs:

- **Manage:** This tab will display all of the backup jobs on the selected machine. The following menu items are available to administer the backup jobs:
 - *Edit:* This option will initiate a BackupAssist remote console session. See the, [Remote Control of BackupAssist](#) section for more information on this feature.
 - *Enable job & Disable job:* Available for each selected backup job on the machine.
 - *View Reports:* Provides a summary of past backup reports. Each report listed can be opened.
 - *Run Job & Cancel Job:* To interactively start and stop a backup job.
 - *Launch Job Monitor:* Displays a summary of the last backup job run. This window will automatically open when **Run Job** is selected and display the job's progress in real-time.
 - *Refresh:* The backup jobs displayed and their status is automatically updated. Selecting *Refresh* will force an immediate update.

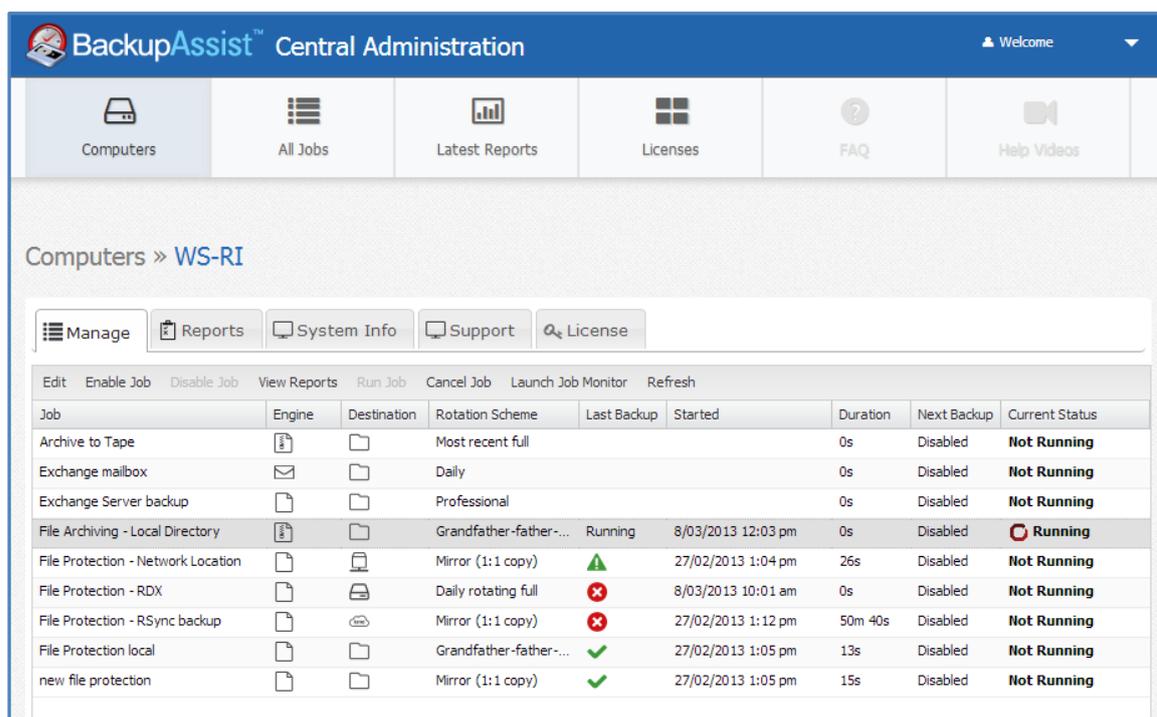


Figure 3: Central Administration console – Computers > Manage selected computer

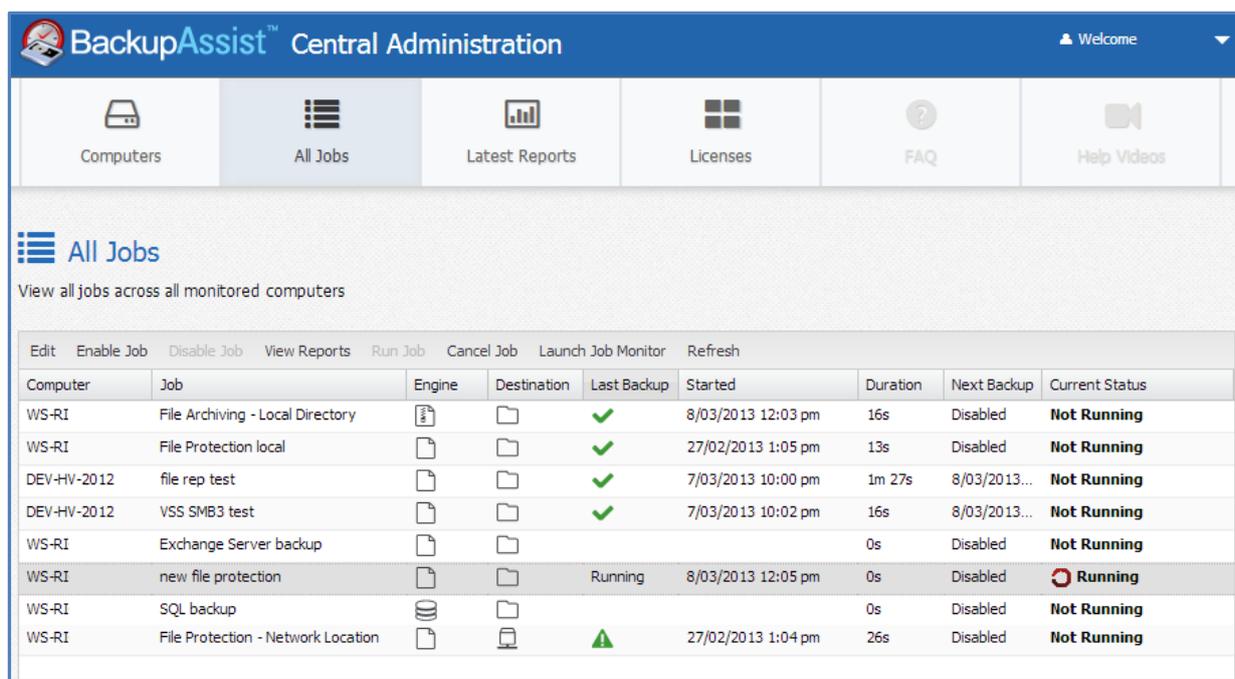
- **Reports:** This tab lists all reports, for all backup jobs, that have been run on the selected machine. Select *view* or double click the report to display its contents.
- **System info:** This tab will display system information such as the operating system and BackupAssist version installed on the selected machine.
- **Support:** This tab allows you to send an email with a diagnostic file from the selected machine to BackupAssist support.
- **License:** This tab displays the status of the BackupAssist license, and add-on licenses, for the selected computer's installation of BackupAssist.

All Jobs screen

This screen displays a list of all backup jobs on all machines connected to the Central Administration console. From this single interface, all backup jobs on your LAN can be run and monitored.

The following menu selections are available to administer these backup jobs:

- *Edit*: This option will initiate a BackupAssist remote console session. See the, [Remote Control of BackupAssist](#) section for more information on this feature.
- *Enable job & Disable job*: Available for each selected backup job on the machine.
- *View Reports*: Provides a summary of past backup reports. Each report listed can be opened.
- *Run Job & Cancel Job*: To interactively start and stop a backup job.
- *Launch Job Monitor*: Displays a summary of the last backup job run. This window will automatically open when **Run Job** is selected and display the job's progress in real-time.
- *Refresh*: The backup jobs displayed and their status is automatically updated. Selecting *Refresh* will force an immediate update.



Computer	Job	Engine	Destination	Last Backup	Started	Duration	Next Backup	Current Status
WS-RI	File Archiving - Local Directory			✓	8/03/2013 12:03 pm	16s	Disabled	Not Running
WS-RI	File Protection local			✓	27/02/2013 1:05 pm	13s	Disabled	Not Running
DEV-HV-2012	file rep test			✓	7/03/2013 10:00 pm	1m 27s	8/03/2013...	Not Running
DEV-HV-2012	VSS SMB3 test			✓	7/03/2013 10:02 pm	16s	8/03/2013...	Not Running
WS-RI	Exchange Server backup					0s	Disabled	Not Running
WS-RI	new file protection			Running	8/03/2013 12:05 pm	0s	Disabled	Running
WS-RI	SQL backup					0s	Disabled	Not Running
WS-RI	File Protection - Network Location			⚠	27/02/2013 1:04 pm	26s	Disabled	Not Running

Figure 4: Central Administration console - All Jobs

Latest Reports screen

This screen displays the backup reports of all machines connected to the Central Administration console. From this single interface, the reports for all installations of BackupAssist on your LAN can be viewed and sorted in one place.

Each report is listed with the date it was generated, the name of the backup job, the name of the computer the backup job ran on, the label of the media used and the result of the backup job.

Selecting each column will sort the list by that column.

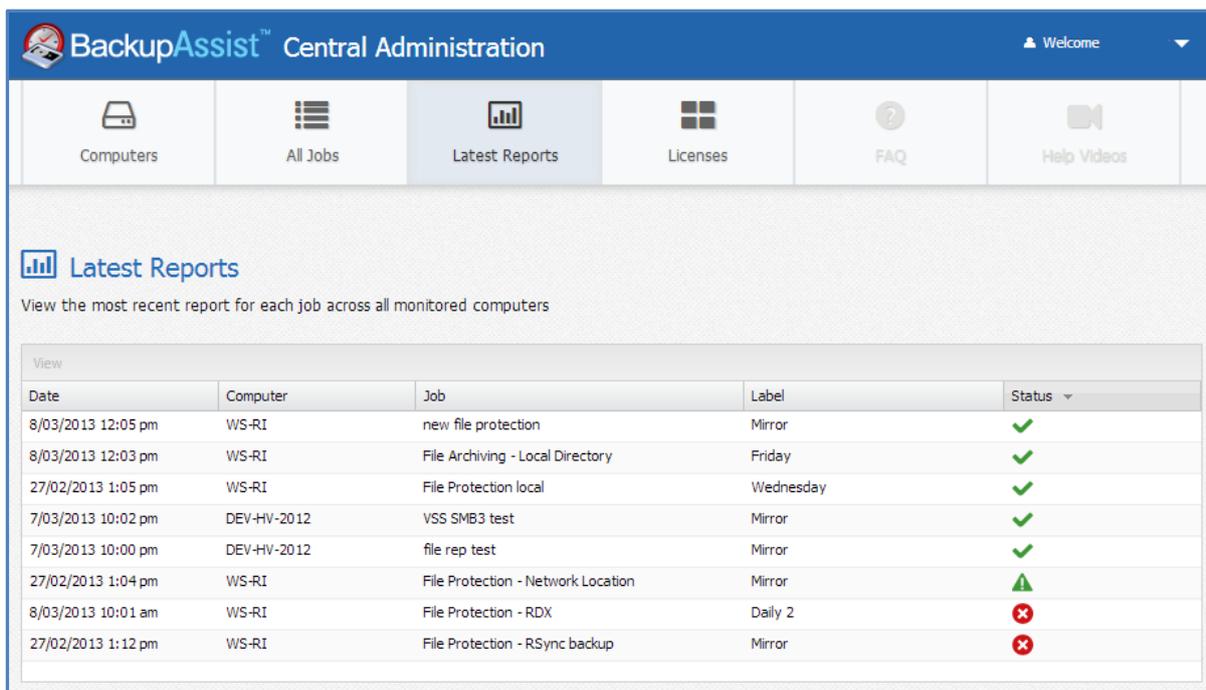


Figure 5: Central Administration console - Latest Reports

View: If you select a backup job and click *View*, the backup report will open. You can also open the backup report by double-clicking on the report.

Licenses screen

This screen displays the status of ALL BackupAssist licenses on you LAN, by machine, for each machine connected to the Central Administration console.

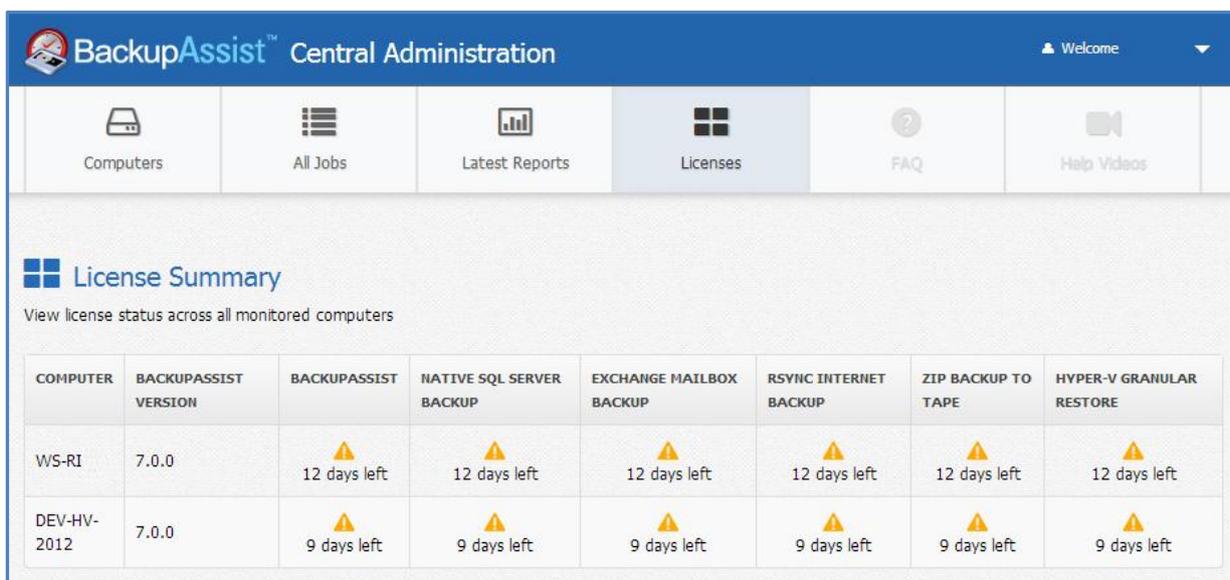


Figure 6: Central Administration console – Licenses

4. Remote Control of BackupAssist

Central Administration can be used to open a remote BackupAssist session on another computer. The session will give you access to:

- The *Backup* tab so you can create and modify your backup jobs.
- The *Settings* tab so you can modify your BackupAssist settings.
- The *Restore* tab to run the *BackupAssist Restore Console*, the *SQL Restore* tool the *Hyper-V Granular Restore* tool.

Remote session requirements

Below are the requirements of both the local client computer that you are running the Central Administration console from, and the computer that you are opening the remote session to.

- The Central Administration console must have the computer that you are opening the remote session to, added to it.

See the section [Managing Computers](#), for instructions.

- The client computer that you are running the Central Administration console from must have **BackupAssist** or the BackupAssist **Remote Console Client** installed. If neither is installed, you will be prompted to download and install the Remote Console Client, before you can start the remote session.

The **Remote Console Client** can be downloaded for free from the [BackupAssist downloads page](#). It enables a computer without BackupAssist installed to open a remote session and manage computers that do have BackupAssist installed.

- The client computer running the Central Administration console must be on the same local area network (LAN) as the node computer (BackupAssist installation) that it is connecting to. This is because the remote session looks for computers on the local subnet.
- Only installations of BackupAssist v7 or later can be managed using Central Administration.
- Each BackupAssist installation must have the *Central Administration Setup* configured locally under the BackupAssist *Settings Tab*. See [Configuring Central Administration](#) for instructions.

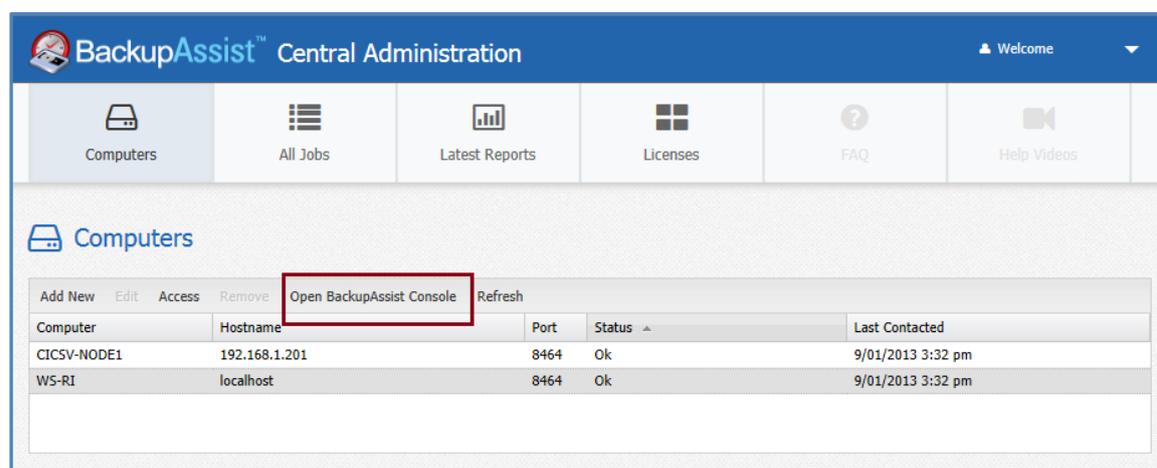


Figure 7: Central Administration - Remote session selection

Initiating a remote session

To start a remote BackupAssist session:

1. **Open** the **Central Administration** console, following the steps outlined in the section [Using Central Administration](#).

The computer initiating the remote session must have BackupAssist or the BackupAssist *Remote Console Client* installed. If neither is installed, you will be able to *Download and Install* the *Remote Console Client* when you start a remote session. The client does not require a BackupAssist licence.

2. **Select the computer** that you want to remotely connect to from the Central Administration console's *Computers* screen.
3. Select, **Open BackupAssist Console**. If the *Open BackupAssist Console* is greyed out, review the [Central Administration settings](#).
4. The first time you start a remote session, a window will open and ask you to confirm that you have *BackupAssist* or the *Remote Console Client* installed.

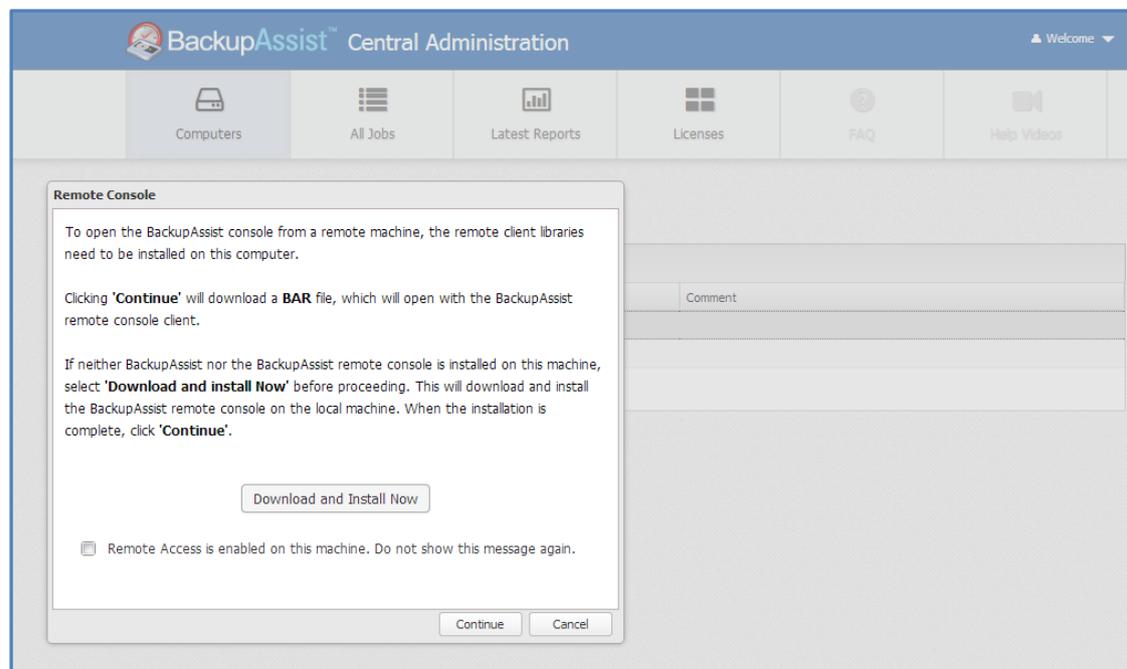


Figure 8: Remote Console - local client libraries confirmation

- If you do not have *BackupAssist* or the *Remote Console Client* installed, select **Download and Install Now**. This will download and install the Remote Console Client. Once you have installed this client, you do not need to manually run it.

The Remote Console Client starts automatically when you initiate a remote session using the Central Administration Console. The Remote Console Client is not used to open the Central Administration Console.

- If you have either *BackupAssist* or the *Remote Console Client* installed, select **Continue**.
- Tick the box next to, *Remote Access is enabled on this machine*, if you do not want to see this message again.

5. **Receive the connection file.** You will be prompted to confirm a .BAR file download and to open the file. This step will vary with different browser security configurations. The .BAR connection file will be opened using the BARemoteConsole.exe in the local BackupAssist installation directory.
6. **Start the remote session.** Once you have opened the .BAR file, a small window will open and initiate a connection. When the connection is ready, the *Status* will display *Connected* and the remote session will start. BackupAssist will open on the local client computer (running the console), but it will be a remote session of the node computer's BackupAssist installation.

The small connection window must be left open while using the remote BackupAssist session. Central Administration authenticates the connection but after period of inactivity re-authentication may be required. The connection window includes a username and password field for this purpose. Use the credentials specified in *Central Administration Setup* on the host computer, if required.

The BackupAssist session will have REMOTE COMPUTER appended to the node computer's name on the title bar. You can access the *Backup*, *Restore* and *Settings* tabs on the remote BackupAssist installation.

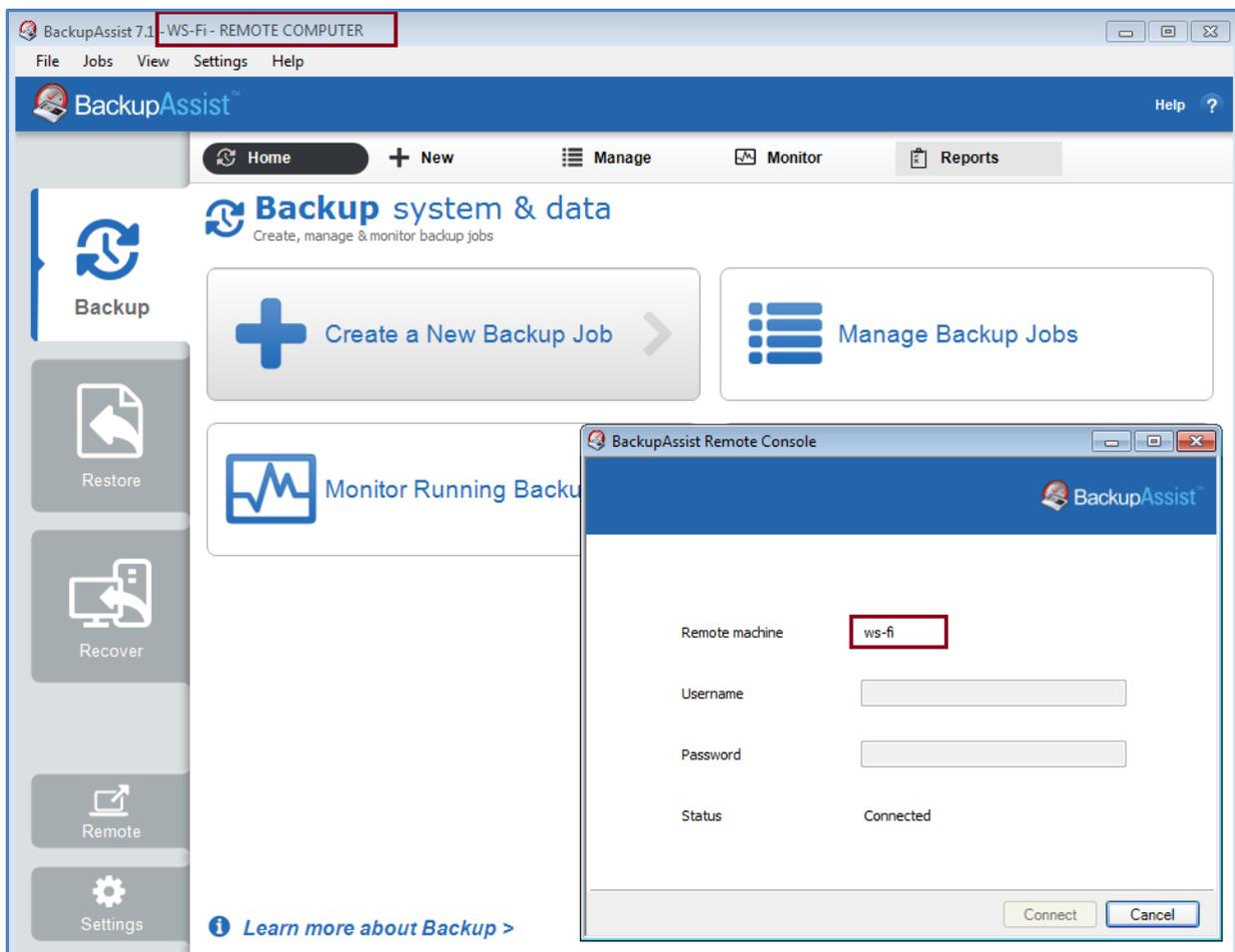
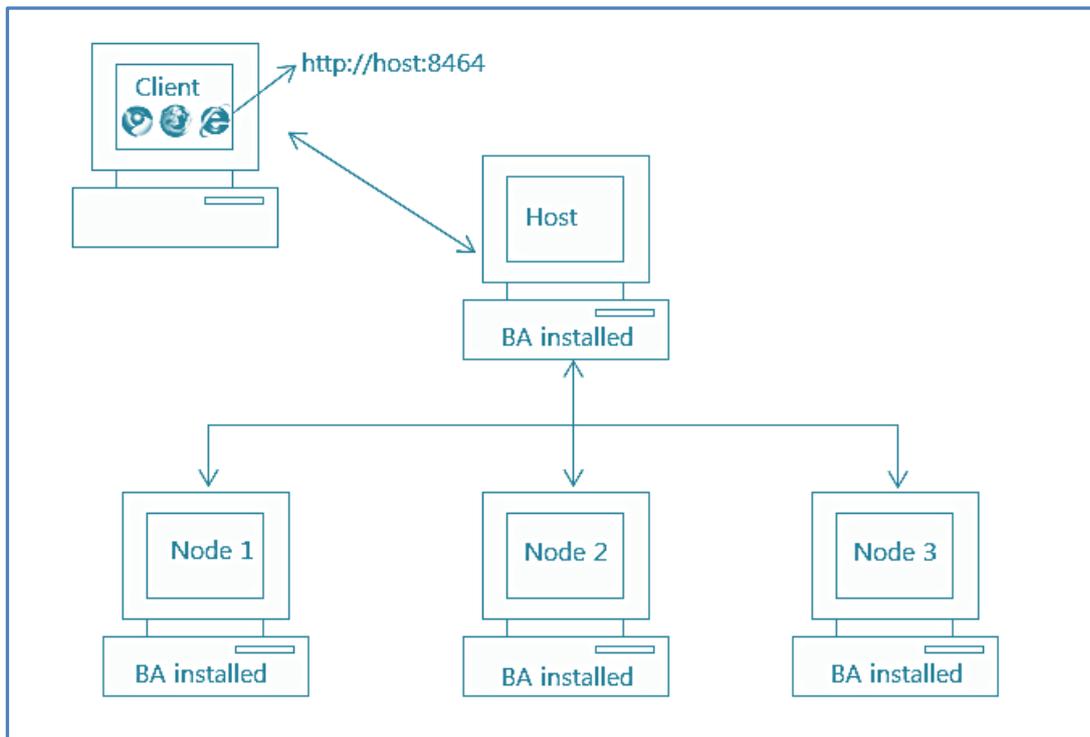


Figure 9: Remote BackupAssist session

When you have finished administering the computer, select *File* then *Exit* to end the session.

Central Administration implementation

The diagram below shows the roles of computers in a Central Administration implementation.



The Remote Console Client

The *Remote Console Client* is used to facilitate a remote session, when using the Central Administration Console, if you do not have a local copy of BackupAssist installed.

To install the Remote Console Client:

1. Go to <http://www.backupassist.com/BackupAssist/download.php>
2. Download *Remote Console Client v7.x.x*.
The download steps will depend on your web browser's security configurations.
3. Open the downloaded installation file *setupRemoteConsoleClient_7.x.x*
4. Confirm the licence agreement and destination as prompted, to complete the installation process.

! Once you have installed the *Remote Console Client*, you do not need to manually run it.

Important: The *Remote Console Client* starts automatically when you initiate a *remote session* using the *Central Administration Console*. The Remote Console Client is not used to open the Central Administration Console.

Remote Console Client FAQ

What do I do differently now that I have the Remote Console Client?

The *Central Administration Console* is commonly started by selecting it from the *Remote* tab in BackupAssist. By installing the Remote Console Client, you no longer need to have BackupAssist installed, so how you open the Central Administration Console will change.

How do I open the Central Administration Console without BackupAssist?

Start your web browser and open the Central Administration URL of a computer with BackupAssist installed. The URL is displayed under the *Remote* tab > *Central Administration Setup*. The BackupAssist computer must have Central Administration enabled to create the URL. Each BackupAssist installation you configure will have a different URL. It does not matter which one you choose. Save this URL as a favorite and use it each time you want to open the Central Administration Console.

Why am I not able to open the Central Administration Console from the Remote Console Client?

The Central Administration Console is a web console that is hosted by a licensed BackupAssist installation. The Remote Console does not have the ability to host the web console.

Can I use my local computer to host the Central Administration Console?

You can, but you need BackupAssist installed locally to do it. If you are not using your local computer for backups, you may not want to install BackupAssist locally and pay for a license.

When and how does the Remote Console Client run?

When you start a *remote session* from the *Central Administration Console*, the *Remote Console Client* will automatically start. It will give you the functionality of a local copy of BackupAssist, for the purpose of running a remote session. The computer you are going to remotely administer will send you a .BAR configuration file, and the Remote Console Client will open it and initiate a remote session.

How do I start a remote session?

A remote session is started within the Central Administration Console, by selecting either *Open BackupAssist Console*, on the *Computers* screen, or *Edit* from the *Manage* tab when you view the details of a specific computer.

Do I use the URL of each backup computer to manage them with Central Administration?

No. You choose one of your BackupAssist installation's URL to open the Central Administration Console, and add the other computers to that console. The computer with the URL you choose to use is called the host computer. The host computer will remember and authenticate the computers that have been added to it. For that reason, it is recommended that you choose one computer to be your host computer and use it every time.

In summary: you do not connect to the Central Administration URL of each computer that you want to administer. You choose one and it will act as a proxy to the other computers, when you add the other computers to the Central Administration Console's interface.

What are the requirements for the different computers and their roles?

Any computer can open the Central Administration *Console* in a browser. To open a *remote session* using the Central Administration Console, a computer must have either *BackupAssist* or the *Remote Console Client* installed. To be remotely managed, a computer must have BackupAssist installed and Central Administration configured under the BackupAssist *Remote* tab.

What is the difference between the Central Administration Console, and a remote session?

The Central Administration Console can be used to enable, disable, start, stop and monitor all backup jobs on your LAN. The console can also be used to start a remote session to any computer that has been added to it.

A remote session provides access to the *Backup* and *Settings* tabs (of the remote computer) so you can create and modify backup jobs and modify your BackupAssist settings.

5. Central Administration & BackupAssist v8 FAQ

Central Administration is a single site remote management solution for BackupAssist v7 installations. BackupAssist v8 installations are remotely managed with a product called [MultiSite Manager](#). BackupAssist MultiSite Manager includes additional features such as wide area network support, remote installation, email reports and remote license management.

Central Administration does not support the remote management of BackupAssist v8 installations. This section takes a closer look at what this means and what your options are.

1. Can I upgrade to BackupAssist v8 if I am using Central Administration?

Central Administration does not support the remote management of BackupAssist v8. We recommend that you use Central Administration with BackupAssist v7. If you want to upgrade your computers to BackupAssist v8, you will need MultiSite Manager to manage them remotely.

2. What will happen if upgrade a BackupAssist v7 installation to BackupAssist v8?

Although BackupAssist v8 is not officially supported by Central Administration, a BackupAssist v8 installation (after a migration from v7), will report to the Central Administration console with limitations.

We are aware of the following limitations:

- The Remote Session feature will no longer work.
- Only Enabled backup jobs will appear.
- You will not be able to disable backup jobs.
- The BackupAssist v8 Remote setup screen will be disabled. The remote settings used will be the settings retained from the previous v7 installation.

If you would like to revert to BackupAssist v7, you can perform an uninstall of BackupAssist v8 and then re-install BackupAssist v7, which is still available from our [download site](#).

Important: When you go back to an earlier version, any new settings or backup jobs created after you upgraded to v8, will not be picked up by the v7 installation. For this reason, you should perform an export of your BackupAssist v8 settings before uninstalling, using the menu selection *File > Export settings ...* This will provide a copy of your settings that can be imported again after you reinstall BackupAssist v7.

6. Support and Resources

Contacting Technical Support

Should you have any questions regarding either BackupAssist or Central Administration, please email support@backupassist.com and we will respond to you as soon as possible.

Similarly, if you have any suggestions for additional functionality in BackupAssist, or new products or add-ons, please also forward your feedback to support@backupassist.com