

Rackspace® Managed Backup

Technical Overview

Rackspace offers four main backup and recovery strategies to match your specific needs. When choosing a backup and recovery strategy for each of your servers, you must decide what is most important to you – how fast your data can be recovered in an emergency or how much your backups will cost based on the amount of data stored. Each strategy has specific advantages and disadvantages based on these two factors.

Strategy 1: Daily Full Backups

The Daily Full Backup Strategy is the most comprehensive backup and recovery strategy offered at Rackspace. It provides for the fastest data recovery possible, but comes with a premium cost.

With this strategy, all files/directories you specify are supported with a *Full Backup* once per day, every day. When a full data recovery is required, only one *Backup Set* is needed for restoration – the latest *Full Backup Set*.

Strategy 2: Weekly Full Backup + Daily Differential Backups

The Weekly Full Backup + Daily Differential Backup Strategy is designed to provide speedy data recovery while reducing costs.

With this strategy, a *Full Backup* of all files/directories you specify is performed one day a week. Every day for six days thereafter, a *Differential Backup* is performed on the same set of files/directories. Each daily *Differential Backup* backs up the files and directories that have been modified since your last *Full Backup*. This means that a file modified the day after your *Full Backup* will be supported by a *Differential Backup* every single day until your next *Full Backup*.

When a full data recovery is required with a differential strategy, only two *Backup Sets* are needed to restore all of your important data – the latest *Full Backup Set* plus the latest *Differential Backup Set*. *This makes a full data recovery speedy because the required data only has to be restored from two Backup Sets.*

Strategy 3: Weekly Full Backup + Daily Incremental Backups

The Weekly Full Backup + Daily Incremental Backup Strategy is designed to be the most cost effective strategy that provides for a *Daily Backup* of all modified files and directories. The trade-off for this cost effectiveness is the length of time it may take to perform a full data restoration.

With this strategy, a *Full Backup* of all files/directories you specify is performed one day a week. Every six days thereafter, an *Incremental Backup* is performed on the same set of files/directories. Each daily *Incremental Backup* only backs up the files and directories that have been modified since your last backup – regardless of whether it was a *Full Backup* or not. This means that a file that is modified the day after your *Full Backup* will be backed up only *once per week* unless it is modified again before the next *Full Backup*.

When a data recovery is required with an incremental strategy, up to *seven Backup Sets* may be needed to restore all of your important data – the latest *Full Backup Set* plus every individual *Incremental Backup Set* that occurred after the weekly full backup. *This makes a full data recovery somewhat slow because the data required to perform a full recovery needs to be extracted from up to seven individual Backup Sets.*

Strategy 4: Weekly Full Backups Only

The Weekly Full Backup Only Strategy is designed to be cost effective for servers that do not house data essential to maintaining your online business. *Examples of such servers would be staging or development servers.*

With the Weekly Full Backup Only Strategy, a *Full Backup* of all files/directories you specify is performed one day per week. No additional daily backups are performed. This means that data can only be recovered from this *Full Backup Set*, which may have been up to seven days prior to when you need it. *Data recovery is fast because only one Backup Set is required. However, the data may be from up to seven days prior to the day you request a recovery.*

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