

WHAT'S ON
IT'S MIND
WHEN IT COMES
TO BACKUP?

Making sure that business-critical data and systems are protected, backed up, and restorable is one of the most critical tasks of IT. In February 2013, IDERA commissioned Spiceworks to survey members of their Voice of IT panel to learn how they are handling their backups.

Over 350 North American IT professionals across many different verticals responded. They represent organizations of all shapes and sizes, but most characterized their companies as small to medium sized businesses.

Here is what they told us:

34%

Their most pressing challenge in data protection and backup is ensuring adequate protection across all servers.

30%

A close second is managing backup storage or growth and deduplication.

Given both physical and virtual server sprawl, that has resulted from the proliferation of both applications and data and of business (versus IT) ownership – **this result is not surprising.**

Over the next twelve months, IT will be grappling with this problem, with 42% looking to define or update their disaster recovery plan. Some 37% of respondents are hoping for greater efficiency by combining disparate approaches into a single data protection and storage solution and reducing overall backup and storage costs.

WHAT WORRIES IT ABOUT THEIR CURRENT BACKUP SOLUTIONS?

For both physical and virtual servers, IT shares the same concerns about their solution. The top two challenges were whether their present solution provides adequate storage space for backup and whether the speed of backup is adequate. For those with a physical backup solution, 50% reported that storage space was a challenge, while 45% noted speed as a concern. In the virtual world, the results were nearly identical: 49% storage space, 44% speed. Recovery time took third place on both lists.

DO COMPANIES APPROACH BACKUP DIFFERENTLY IN A PHYSICAL VERSUS VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT?

Seventy-two percent of those surveyed were virtualizing at least some of their servers. For nearly half (47%) of the respondents reported that over half of their server environment is virtualized. With all this virtualization, does IT take a different approach to backup depending on the environment?

There is a small but telling difference between the approach of IT to physical servers versus virtual servers. For physical servers, 81% have implemented a backup up solution for their physical servers, while 73% of those with virtual servers have done so for their virtual servers.

When plans to implement a backup solution are factored in, virtual backup catches up: 21% have plans for a virtual backup solution, 10% have them for a physical server solution. Surprisingly, 10% of the time IT has no backup plan for their physical servers and 6% of the time they have no backup plan for their virtual servers. Now that is living dangerously.

HOW TIME-CONSUMING ARE DATA PROTECTION AND BACKUP?

Fortunately, most respondents have the time they spend on data protection and backup under control. Thirty percent reported that they devote less than an hour a week to it, while 39% spend 1 to 2 hours. Still, for a significant percentage (21%), data protection and backup demand 3 to 5 hours each week. And 7% are spending 6 to 10 hours a week on this task, while the remaining 3% spend 10 or more hours.

SURVEY SAYS

While most physical and virtual servers do have data protection and backup solutions or plans to implement them in the near term, IT remains concerned about the adequacy of those solutions.

What is the top challenge of your company with data protection and backup?

- 34% Ensuring adequate protection across all servers.
- 30% Managing backup storage growth.
- 12% Backup frequency or meeting recovery point objectives.
- 10% Meeting compliance mandates.
- 9% Meeting recovery time objectives.

What is your primary goal for data protection and backup over the next 12 months?

- 42% Defining or updating a disaster recovery plan.
- 20% Consolidating to a single solution.
- 17% Reducing overall costs.
- 14% Backing up virtual servers.
- 7% Other

SQL SAFE BACKUP

AUTOMATE SQL SERVER BACKUP ACROSS YOUR ENTERPRISE

- Backup faster and save space via dynamic compression with encryption
- Choose from multiple options for recovery
- Ensure organizational compliance via policy-based management
- Reduce failures due to temporary network problems
- Receive alerts and create reports with centralized web console

Start for FREE

The screenshot displays the IDERA SQL Safe web console interface. The top navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'POLICIES', 'OPERATION HISTORY', 'INSTANCES', 'DATABASES', 'SQL SAFE AGENTS', 'VIRTUAL DATABASE', and 'ADMINISTRATION'. The user is logged in as 'konoha administrator' with 'Administration' and 'Help' options.

YOU HAVE 23 ALERTS

- LEVEL 2**: 5 databases never backed up. Click show details for more information.
- LEVEL 2**: Last restore operation for database Northwind were cancelled by user. Last restore for database Northwind were cancelled by user.
- LEVEL 3**: Last restore operation for 2 databases succeeded. Click show details for more information.
- LEVEL 3**: Last backup operation for 15 databases succeeded. Click show details for more information.

TOP DATABASES BY SIZE (MB)

Database	Size (MB)
ContosoRetail	High
ContosoRetail...	Medium
ContosoRetail...	Low
AdventureWo...	Very Low
Northwind	Very Low

LONGEST RUNNING BACKUPS BY DATABASE (MINUTES)

Database	Duration (Minutes)
ContosoRetail	High
ContosoRetail...	Medium
AdventureWo...	Low
model	Very Low
msdb	Very Low

My Environment

Category	Count
Managed Instances	3
Not-contacted Instances	0
Not-contacted Backup Agents	0
Databases	21
Databases with failed backup	0
Databases with failed restore	0
Backup Policies	1
Restore Policies	0
Log Shipping Policies	0

Status Details

Status	Count
Policies OK	1
Policies Not OK	0
Operations Successful	15
Operations Failed	0

Disk Space Savings

Period	Space Saved (MB)	Percentage
Today:	772 MB	51 %
This Month:	1944 MB	48 %
This Year:	1944 MB	48 %
Total:	1944 MB	48 %
ROI:		1.9 \$

Bottom navigation: Add instance, Create policy, Backup, Restore