

NTI Backup Now 5 Advanced By Bart Koslow

Backup Now 5 (BUN) is a comprehensive backup program that enables you to perform three types of backups: image backups, continuous in the background data backup, and file based backup. You can backup open files, and backups are in native file format.

Since I downloaded the software, there was no printed manual. However, I was able to download a complete manual. I did not like the fact that I could only install BUN on my C: Drive. Choosing custom install did not provide an option to change the location to a different drive. In this day and age, very few programs still limit you this way. After installing BUN I had a problem loading a program I have used every day for many years. I received an "exception notice" on screen and had to click "continue" about eight times in succession to load the program. When I uninstalled BUN, the problem disappeared.

When I opened the main program screen I was pleasantly surprised to find how completely intuitive and easy to use BUN is. You have the three main parts of the program as tabbed selections near the top of the screen: Continuous Backup, File Based Backup and Drive Based Backup (i.e: Image backup). Along the left side of the screen are Easy Steps you take for each selection: 1, 2, 3 and Start. What could be easier? Maybe I won't have to read the manual?

Continuous Backup and a Basic screen appeared when I initially opened the program. At the top was "What To Backup?" It offered backups of preselected file types like picture files, audio files, document files, etc. I clicked on the Advanced banner and a Windows Explorer like file and folder screen appeared. Here I was able to choose the specific files and folders I wished to continuously backup (as they changed). I clicked on Easy Step 2 and a "Where To Backup?" screen appeared with a request to name the Job. After my selections, I went to Step 3 where I was asked, "When To Backup?" Once I clicked on Start, the program began to perform its task, and the Job was saved.

I went to File Based Backup. Step1, What To Backup, appeared. From here you may backup selected files. There was also a MY Profile Tab. A list of selectable categories appeared. I chose Address Book, Favorites, and Outlook. Then Step 2, Where To Backup?, and Step 3, When To Backup?. I did schedule a weekly automatic backup under Step 3. Next, Start, and your backup Job is saved and performed.. That was easy. I am beginning to like this program.

The Drive Based Backup screen, Step 1, had two selections: Create Drive Image and Create Emergency Recovery DVD/CD. I created the emergency disk and tried it successfully. The Step 1 What To Back Up? Screen, shows all the available drives as does Step 2 Where To Back Up? I selected my external USB drive to use for my image backup, checked Now in Step 3 and clicked Start. My backup job was saved and started. Unfortunately, I ran into a major problem. After 17 minutes, only 26% was completed. I cancelled the backup, modified the Job, and selected Compression for the files hoping this would improve the backup speed. It still took 17 minutes to perform 26% of the backup. At that rate the backup of my C drive (total file size to be backed up equaled 26GB) took almost an hour. This is completely unacceptable. Using Acronis backup it took me 17 minutes to complete the same image backup, roughly 1/4 of the time that BUN takes. The image backup worked, and I was later able to view the files in the image.

The downloaded manual is poorly written, confusing and needs a rewrite. I took a quick look at the BUN restore program. It didn't look simple and intuitive like the backup program. I did not need the manual for backup, but required it for the restore steps. The manual did not make it easy.

There was no need to go further to test the restore functions. The continuous backup and file based backup worked well. However, I consider Drive Image backup the most important feature of any backup program. Due to the lengthy time to backup a drive image compared to its competitors, I do not recommend this program.

NTI Backup Now 5 Advanced \$69.95 from NTI, online may be found for \$50 and up.

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Requirements

- IBM PC or compatibles Pentium 90 or higher.
- Minimum 256 MB and above Recommended
- 35 MB of available free disk space for software installation.
- NTI-supported CD or DVD recorders.
- Microsoft Windows® 2000 / 2003 Server / XP and Vista (All Editions)

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