

Novastor Backup 10 Business Essentials By Bart Koslow

Novastor Backup (Nova) is a comprehensive backup program that will perform image backups, continuous in the background backups, and programmed file and folder copy and backups as desired. Each is setup as a job and each job may be scheduled or run when selected. Nova will backup to hard disks, CD/DVD, tape, and removable drives. It will backup open files and can backup in native format. It also has a provision for disaster recovery in event of a computer crash or malfunction.

Immediately after I installed and started Nova I made a disaster recovery CD. When I booted using the CD, it worked and displayed recovery options. The Nova start page offers Smart Select selections to backup all document files, all music files, email files and all pictures and image files. I backed up my Outlook email files. You are also offered free online storage of 2GB for one year for your backups, which I did not try. The main section offers Wizards for Backup, Restore, Copy and Disaster Recovery. In each case you create a job.

The Backup Wizard and Copy wizard both present steps: 1. Select files and folders; 2. Select destination; 3. Pick options; and 4. Run/Schedule job. Here you may select Run now, One time, Minute, Hourly, Daily, Weekly and Monthly. Apparently the difference between Copy and Backup is that Copy copies the exact same files each time, while Backup copies any new files that are added to a folder. I used Copy jobs for selective file backups and Backup for data folders that are currently used and changed often. The Nova Backup function copies all designated folders and files in full each time it runs and not just changed files. Backing up only changed files is a better way to go since it takes less time and computer resources when running in the background.

Next step was the Disaster Recovery Wizard which launches the disaster recovery tool to backup/restore/create boot CD. The wizard offers the same steps 1 through 4 as above in the Backup and Copy Wizards. Stepping through this I ran an image backup of my C partition. I found that I could not perform the image backup without stopping the continuous file backup I set up previously, which was a real nuisance. The backup took 29 minutes to complete without verification. I ran the same image backup using a competitive backup program and it took only 16 minutes. The Nova image file size was 21.6GB and the other one was 21.7GB, almost exactly the same. I then went to the restore image function. Here you may either restore the entire partition or restore individual folders or files. In order to restore files and folders you had to mount the image into memory as a drive and then use a windows explorer interface to copy the files back to where you wish them.

Novastor Backup was the Editor's Choice in the October 2008 PC World Magazine. Due to the lengthy time it takes to make a backup image compared to

a competitor, I would not recommend this program. Furthermore, I am not enamored of a continuous backup program that backs up all the files in your saved job each time it runs instead of only the changed files. Finally, the fact that I had to stop my continuous backup in order to run an image backup is a nuisance. So far I have not found a program that performs all three functions: Copy, continuous backup and image backups in a satisfactory manner. Until then, to obtain the best of all possible worlds, I will use one program to backup my images and copy selected files, and another for my continuous in the background backups.

Novastor Business Essentials 10 is available on Amazon for \$249.99. Novastor Backup 10 Professional is available on the web for \$34.

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SUPPORT

NovaStor products come with 30 days of free support for all registered users during normal business hours. Telephone support is available for Maintenance Agreement holders, and on a cost per-instance basis for registered NovaNET and NovaNet-WEB users.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Pentium III or higher CPU, 500 MB RAM, minimum 500 MB free disk space, Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher. Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 or higher.

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Windows 2000 Professional SP4
Windows XP Home/Professional SP2 or Higher
Windows Vista (32 / 64 Bit) Home Basic/Home
Premium/Business/Enterprise/Ultimate

SUPPORTED MEDIA

CD-R/RW, DVD-R/RW, DVD+R/RW, External hard drives, USB 1.1/2.0, Blu Ray (Backup only) Network storage (SAN, NAS, etc.), FireWire, Tape, PC-Card (PCMCIA)
FTP-Server (Backup/Copy/Restore)
Online Storage from NovaStor and Amazon S3 (Backup/Copy/Restore)