

RE: Does anyone shut down for system disk backup any more?

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.vms/2003-11/0514.html>

From: Bochnik, William J (*William_Bochnik_at_acml.com*)

Date: 11/06/03

Date: Thu, 6 Nov 2003 08:42:31 -0500

not to split hairs, but unless you do a periodic restore to another disk, you are always reasonably sure your backups are ok, not 100%. Things happen. Tapes go bad, hidden issues with the backup or restore procedures go unnoticed, etc.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mike Rechtman [mailto:michael.rechtman@hp.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2003 5:09 AM

To: Info-VAX@Mvb.Saic.Com

Subject: Re: Does anyone shut down for system disk backup any more?

JF Mezei wrote:

>

> > > *An interesting experiment would be to find an old disk with an easily accessible "write protect" button on the outside. Boot up VMS from such a disk, get your applications going (yes, even if they are on a different disk), and then write protect your system disk.*

>

> *The audit server would get mighty mad at not being able to write its logs and probably freeze the system. OPCOM would also get mighty mad with inability to write to operator.log, and the queue manager would also complain bitterly. You wouldn't have a happy family :-)*

I've tried something similar – actually I was trying to build a minimal OpenVMS system on a CD – If SYSUAF.DAT is not writeable you cannot login. SYSUAF is also a file I have seen corrupted after a restore from backup done with /IGNORE=INTERLOCK. You always have *_some_* applications on the system disk – they're put there when you install OpenVMS. They're just not 3-rd party. To quiesce the system disk sufficiently to close all files/applications you might as well shutdown

Basic question has already been asked: If your system is critical enough to be up 24x365, then surely you should be *_entirely_* sure of the quality of your backups, not 'reasonably' sure? Of course you could always restore a previous backup, and and one previous to that ... until you hit a good one,

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with a decreasing risk of failure. But it sounds inconvenient and open to error.

Mike

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Usual disclaimer: All opinions are mine alone, perhaps not even that.  
Mike Rechtman                               *rechtman@tzora.co.il*  
Kibbutz Tzor'a.                             Voice (home): 972-2-9908337  
  "20% of a job takes 80% of the time, the rest takes another 80%"  
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