

WINDOWS "BACKUP AND RESTORE" VERSUS "ACRONIS TRUE IMAGE.."

by Francis Chao
fchao2@yahoo.com

TuCS COMPUTER
SON SOCIETY

Web location for this
presentation:

<http://aztcs.org>

Click on

“Meeting Notes”

SUMMARY

"Windows 7", "Windows 8" and "Windows 8.1" are all bundled with a Microsoft program that you can use for creating a "system image" of the C: drive partition and the "System Reserved" partition. However this is a no-frills bundled applet which may or may not be as useful as a full-featured, not-free software application such as "Acronis True Image.."

TOPICS

- Hard drive image backups and "bare-metal restores"
- "Acronis True Image.." compared to the bundled "Backup and Restore" applet in "Windows 7", the bundled "Windows 7 File Recovery" applet in "Windows 8", and the bundled "System Image Backup" in "Windows 8.1"

- Point of Information 1:
"Acronis True Image.." costs money while "Backup and Restore" is bundled with "Windows 7".
(We are finding it very hard to convince most of the impoverished non-profit organizations where I volunteer to pay for copies of "Acronis True Image" when we can get the same basic functionality in the bundled "Backup and Restore" as long as we are vigilant about "Point of Information 3".)

- Point of Information 2:
Acronis only changes the name of successive versions "Acronis True Image.." by appending the calendar year to it.

- Point of Information 2
(continued):
Microsoft keeps changing the name of "Backup and Restore" ("Windows 7") which became "Windows 7 File Recovery" in "Windows 8" which became "System Image Backup" in "Windows 8.1".

- Point of Information 2
(continued):
Back in 2008, Microsoft announced the "Backup and Restore" was being "deprecated" which just means that they do not think it will be available in "Windows 9" and onward.

- Point of Information 3:
Acronis lets you create a unique folder for each backup image that you make such as
D:\True Image Backups\2013-12-18 Backup of Jane's Windows 7 PC\

- Point of Information 3
(continued):
Windows 7's "Backup and Restore" automatically creates a backup in
<hard drive letter of external hard drive>:\WindowsImageBackup\
Subsequent attempts to create another backup results in the deletion of the prior backup¹⁰.

- Point of Information 3 (continued):
Trick for Windows "Backup":
If you want to store more than one "system image" on an external or non-C" hard drive, you have to move any "WindowsImageBackup" that you create to a new folder that should be given a name of <year>-<month>-<day> etc.

- **Point of Information 4:**
To restore a hard drive in Acronis, you would use a bootable Rescue Media CD that you either create from inside the Acronis software program running inside Windows 7 or by downloading an ISO file called `ATIH2014_en-US.iso` from the Acronis Web site.

- Point of Information 4 (continued):
To restore a hard drive in Windows 7 "Backup and Restore", you can either boot up the computer with an installation media DVD or with a "Restore Disc" that you can create from inside the "Backup and Restore" applet.

- Point of Information 5:
"Acronis True Image" can do incremental and differential backups that are based on and depend on prior backups.
Windows "Backup and Restore" can only do full backups with each backup wiping out the previous backup unless the computer user uses the trick in "Point of Information 3".

- Point of Information 6:
"Acronis True Image" lets you browse backup images to "cherry pick" and restore just the files that you need to get copies of.

- Point of Information 6 (continued):
Windows 7 "Backup and Restore"
has no built-in way for you to browse
backups.
However, it stores many of your files
in .vhdx files so you might be able to
use mount these .vhdx files in
"Windows Explorer" to browse for
and recover individual files. (We will
try this and report back to you later.)

- Point of Information 7:
When using Windows's "Backup and Restore", the only way that you create a backup image of a C: hard drive is from inside the "Backup and Restore" applet that runs from inside the Windows "Control Panel" as a bundled Windows applet.

- Point of Information 7 (continued):
When using "Acronis True Image", you there are two ways for you to create a backup image of a C: hard drive:
 - Backup Method 1:
Run the Backup Wizard from inside the "Acronis.." program inside "Windows.."
 - Backup Method 2:
Run the Backup wizard after booting up the computer with the Linux-based Acronis "Rescue Media" disc

- Point of Information 8:
The "Windows" application that is part "Acronis True Image" comes with a lot of background processes and uses a significant amount of RAM and CPU cycles (so some users of "Acronis.." do not install the "Acronis.." application into a "Windows" computer and they just use it in "standalone" Linux mode by doing backups and restores with the Linux-based "Rescue Media" CD = "Backup Method 2" in "Point of Information 7").

- Point of Information 8
(continued):
Since Windows 7's "Backup and Restore" is part of the operating system so it uses a lot less RAM, CPU cycles, and space on the C: drive relative to "Acronis True Image..".