Introduction

Acronis Backup & Recovery® Online is a service that enables you to back up data to Acronis Online Storage. The service is available to all users of Acronis Backup & Recovery products starting with version 10 Update 3. You will need a subscription for online backup to use the service.

Acronis Backup & Recovery Online supports backup up of files, volumes, or entire physical and virtual machines. You can run backups manually or on schedule and set retention rules to manage space consumption in your online storage.

The first backup to your online storage is always a full backup, and all subsequent backups are incremental so only actual changes are transferred over your Internet connection. Performance of online backup is subject to your Internet connectivity and will differ for different connection types. For large-size initial backups you may use the Initial Seeding service and send your backup to our datacenters on a hard drive. For a quick restore of a large amount of data you can use the Large Scale Recovery service and receive your backup from our datacenter on a hard disk as well.

The purpose of this guide is to help you evaluate Acronis Backup & Recovery Online by trying several simple online backup scenarios. As a result of the evaluation you will be able to determine optimal online backup usage for your needs and create your online backup strategy.

1. Check your prerequisites.

Acronis Online Backup service is currently provided in the countries listed at http://kb.acronis.com/content/15117. Please make sure that your country is on the list of supported locations. You may verify your country in the account profile.

During this evaluation you will be able to determine whether you have sufficient connectivity to perform Online backups prior to evaluating the product. You may use utilities like speedtest.net. When testing with speedtest.net, the closer you get to above 50Mbit/s, the better your connection. Once you are above 10Mbit/s, you should be able to use Acronis Online Backup reasonably well even for data amounts over 50GB. If you are below the 10Mbit/s mark or your online data storage requirements are very large, we recommend using our Initial Seeding service to physically transport initial full backups from your location to ours, or to ask your service provider about connection upgrade possibilities.

You would need to have Acronis Backup & Recovery 10 with the Update 3 or any version of ABR11 or higher installed in order to evaluate Acronis Backup & Recovery Online. (You do not need a license key for Acronis Backup & Recovery in order to evaluate Online Backup.) Online Backup can be evaluated both with the Standard and Advanced versions of Acronis Backup & Recovery product. Download the latest version of Acronis Backup & Recovery at
2. **Obtain your subscription for the service.**

In order to evaluate Acronis Backup & Recovery Online you will need to obtain a subscription.

If you have a most recent version of Acronis Backup & Recovery installed (ABR 10 U5 and higher or ABR 11 U0 and higher),

click the link “Get your free trial now” in backup path dialogue when creating a backup plan:

![Backup Plan Dialogue](image1)

If you do not have Acronis Backup & Recovery installed, please go to the following link: [http://www.acronis.com/backup-recovery/online/gettrial2.html](http://www.acronis.com/backup-recovery/online/gettrial2.html).

If you do not yet have an account on the website, we will create one for you and send you an email with confirmation link. When creating an account, make sure that your country is included in the list of countries where Online Backup is available. Here is the list of countries where service is available currently: [http://kb.acronis.com/content/15117](http://kb.acronis.com/content/15117). You will also be asked to choose type of your trial subscription. Workstation, Server and Virtual Machine subscriptions are available.
One license of a Workstation or Server type allows you to back up one machine with Acronis Backup & Recovery Online installed. One license for Virtual Machines allows you to back up all virtual machines in agentless ESX/Hyper-V operation.

For a basic evaluation we recommend that you start with a Workstation license. When you login to your account you will see that you now have 1 available subscription:

3. Install Acronis Backup & Recovery (if you have not installed ABR before)

If you do not yet have Acronis Backup & Recovery installed, please install it before going to next step. Installation instructions can be found in Acronis Backup & Recovery documentation available at http://www.acronis.com/support/documentation/ABROS/index.html#9596.html

4. Assign your subscription to a machine If you have installed ABR before, your subscription will be assigned automatically.
If you have just installed it, start Acronis Backup & Recovery on the machine that you want to back up online. Click Actions->Activate online backup subscription and enter your credentials for My Account (those that you use to create and access your personal account at www.acronis.com). In the screen shown on the right select the trial subscription and click Activate now.
5. Create an online Vault.

Online Backup is just one of available types of backup locations (vaults) you can choose to back up to in Acronis Backup & Recovery. You need to create a Vault for online backups. In Acronis Backup & Recovery go to Vaults->Personal and click Create in the right pane.

You now need to set a Path to your online vault. Click Change and when a dialog opens click Log in. Enter the same credentials that you used to create your web account at www.acronis.com. Then click OK twice. A new vault will be added.

6. Create your first online backup.

Click Actions->Create backup plan in the top menu. Click What to back up, then select Files and add a few files from your drive you want to back up.

For your initial test we recommend that you select only 10-100Mbyte of files.

Click Where to back up, chose your online storage vault and enter credentials to the vault.
Make sure you keep the following settings in **How to backup** section: Backup type: **Full**, Backup scheme: **Run now** as shown below.

Click **OK** and the backup will start. You can now view details and progress of your online backup.

7. **Evaluating performance of your first online backup.**
   While your online backup is in progress, take a note of the **Speed** parameter in the **Details** tab of the progress window. It should give you an indication about your Internet connectivity help you estimate how long your backups might take in the future.

   Once you’ve completed your online backup, take a note of the total time it took. You can also check our knowledgebase article at [http://kb.acronis.com/content/14007](http://kb.acronis.com/content/14007) for approximate data transfer rates with different internet connection speeds or refer to our online backup time calculator at [http://www.acronis.com/backup-recovery/online/calculator.html](http://www.acronis.com/backup-recovery/online/calculator.html).

   You might notice that the initial backup takes considerable time depending on the amount of data and your connectivity. In order to get a better idea of the performance of online backup, we recommend that you also perform an incremental backup during the evaluation.

   Please, note that for volumes of data larger than 250GB we recommend that you use our Initial Seeding service, where you will send your backup to our datacenter on a 2TB hard drive for easy and fast upload. After doing this you will be able to run small and fast incremental backups online.
8. **Create an incremental backup**

After you've completed your first full file backup you can start performing incremental backups. Create a new backup plan with the same set of files as before and set **Backup type** to **Incremental** as shown below.

If you are using a 100Mbyte set a rule of thumb would be to add another 10Mbyte to it before running incremental backup. Run the incremental backup and take a note of the total time it took and how big it is.

9. **Recovering from an online backup**

Now let’s create a simple recover task. Select **Actions->Recover** in the menu. Select what you want to recover by clicking **Select data** and then **Browse**. Choose **Online backup storage**. Enter your credentials when prompted and then select the archive you created in step 5.

You can browse the archive and select individual files you wish to restore. Click **OK** or change those parameters if needed.

A recovery task will run and you will be able to see details of the task, similar to what you saw in the backup task.

Now you have evaluated a simple initial backup, incremental backup and recovery with Acronis Backup & Recovery Online. You are ready to plan for your online backup.

10. **Evaluating the results and choosing your optimal online backup strategy**
In the example above you have performed a full file backup to online and an incremental file backup to identify what time it takes to upload a certain amount of data online. Based on your results, you may want to proceed with one of the following approaches to create your online backup strategy.

i. You may wish to continue testing with larger amounts of initial data to backup. In this case we recommend that you gradually increase the amounts of data by 100Mbyte-1Gbyte at a time so that you will notice if your online backup performance pattern changes significantly for certain volumes of data. Based on the outcomes of this test you will be able to determine which sets of data you can optimally back up to online.

ii. You may wish to continue testing with incremental backups. For this purpose we recommend that you start backing up a production environment so that you get an accurate idea of how much changes you will be actually backing up and how you should schedule your incremental backups for optimal performance. Run a few incremental backups on a daily basis and notice the amount of data you back up in each increment. Then create a backup schedule that suits your needs.

iii. You may also try disk image backup to online. In this case we recommend that you chose a disk whose image will be uploaded online within a few hours of non-interrupted backup. You can estimate the speed of uploading a disk image of a given size based on the results of your experiment with file and folder backup. Once you’ve done a successful test with a small disk image, you may run additional tests with increased image sizes. As we mentioned earlier you would like to back up a really large disk image (over 250GB), we strongly recommend that you use Initial Seeding service to deliver your initial backup to our datacenter.

11. Remember to upgrade trial to paid subscription.

Your trial subscription for Online Backup will run for 60 days after activation. You will receive an email notification when your subscription is due to expire. After the 60-day trial period you will still be able to create backups for another 5 days. After these 5 days you will no longer be able to create new backups, but your old backups will still be available for another 25 days for you to restore. To continue using online backup and to keep the backups that you’ve made during your trial, you need to activate a full subscription within 30 days after trial subscription expires and to assign this full subscription in your web account to the machine that you’ve backed up during trial. Follow the steps described in our knowledgebase at http://kb.acronis.com/content/18264. NOTE, that if you do not follow the steps outlined in the article and instead activate a new subscription from within the Acronis Backup & Recovery Online product, you will not be able to access the backups you previously made during your trial.

12. Where to find additional information.

Documentation for Acronis Backup & Recovery Online can be found at http://www.acronis.com/support/documentation/ABRO/
Knowledge base articles for Acronis Backup & Recovery Online can be found at http://kb.acronis.com/content/13928
If you need further assistance with your Acronis product, please visit our support portal at http://www.acronis.com/support/