Windows Backup Tools: You Get More with Acronis

It's no secret that Microsoft Windows is the most common operating system for home and business users. Windows 7 holds the largest market share and Windows 10 is steadily catching up. While the two versions offer different approaches to data protection, both fall short of providing the flexibility and security required by the modern day user.

TWO TYPES OF WINDOWS BACKUP TOOLS

System image is the default backup option in Windows 7. It makes an exact copy of a drive, including everything that is required to restore and run Windows. This includes system settings, programs, and files. It is designed to restore the contents of a computer in the case of a hard disk failure or a hardware malfunction.

Windows 10 comes with the File History backup tool. It monitors files in the user folder and in the offline OneDrive folder, and makes copies of every change. Over time it creates a complete history of user files. If the originals are lost, damaged, or deleted, they can be easily restored. It allows users to browse the timeline and restore the required file version.

There are also different options on how to recover the entire PC and back up personal files.

It's important to note that both Windows 7 and Windows 10 lack the capacity to create multiple backup plans, which may be required for different purposes.

IS WINDOWS BACKUP SUFFICIENT FOR HOME USERS?

Windows File History offers a basic backup functionality by copying files and folders from the C:\Users\%username% folder and the offline OneDrive folder to a specified external hard drive. It ignores files with non-standard extensions or files stored outside those two folders. If the user has files or folders elsewhere on the computer that need to be backed up, the user has to add them to one of these folders first.

This magnifies the risk of losing important data. Users often store important files in different locations outside the user directory, and those files could be lost unless the user remembers to copy them into one of the protected folders.

Acronis True Image addresses these shortcomings. Unlike Windows File History, it provides a comprehensive backup of the entire machine and has the capacity to store the protected data in multiple locations. Acronis True Image protects disks, partitions, folders, files and stores them in the Acronis Cloud, internal or external hard drives or network attached devices. Users have the flexibility to select which folder to back up and how.

Features		Windows 10 File History	System Image Backup	Acronis True Image 2018	Comments
Backup destinations	Cloud	✗	✗	✓	
	Local drive	✗	✗	✓	
	External drive	✓	✓	✓	
	Custom destination	✗	✗	✓	
	NAS	✗*	✗	✓	*Allows adding network connected storage

The older version of Windows backup, System Image Backup, has the capacity to create an image file that contains selected files and folders, or whole the disk. However, it lacks the required functionality as demonstrated by the following table.

Acronis True Image secures backup files with AES-256 certified encryption and allows users to set up the required level of compression, network throughput for the cloud, and backup scheme for local destination. It also has a scheduler with an extensive set of settings. Advanced settings make it a perfect tool for professional users: pre- and post-commands, backup splitting, validation, backup reserve copy, error handling, file level security settings and much more.

EXTRA BENEFITS OF USING ACRONIS TRUE IMAGE

Acronis True Image also allows users to select a specific data center where to store the cloud data. This helps the users to comply with the applicable data privacy and data sovereignty regulations. It also hel.ps users to follow the 3-2-1 rule of backup: keep three copies of data on two different media, and keep one copy outside of the original location.

Data compression is another benefit of using Acronis True Image. It reduces the disk consumption.

The bottom line: Home computers hold large amounts of irreplaceable data — photos, documents, videos and important documents. Acronis True Image provides an easy, reliable way to protect it all.

Features	Source	Windows 10 File History	System Image Backup	Acronis True Image 2018	Comments
Backup sources	Entire PC	✗	✗	✓	
	Disks and partitions	✗*	✓	✓	*allows you to select disk but only performs file/folder backup"
	Files folders	✓*	✗	✓	*by default selected C:\
	Notarized backups	✗	✗	✓	

For additional information, please visit **www.acronis.com**

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