Hard Disk Backup
Software

The hard disk backup programs that met the requirements for the PC/Computing 200 are DOS
and Windows products designed to back up individual PCs to 514-inch and 312-inch floppy disks.
We excluded general utilities in which backup and restore was only one function, as well as disk
mirroring and copy programs.

Product

Central Point Backup 7.1 for DOS
Central Point Software
15220 NW Greenbrier Pkwy.
Beaverton, OR 97006
(800) 445-4208
(503) 690-8090
Price: $129*

Central Point Backup 7.1
 for Windows
Central Point Software
15220 NW Greenbrier Pkwy.
Beaverton, OR 97006
(800) 445-4208
(503) 690-8090
Price: $129*

Norton Backup for Windows 1.2
Symantec Corp.
10201 Torre Ave.
Cupertino, CA 95014
(800) 441-7234
(408) 253-9600
Price: $129*

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FastBack Plus 3.04
Fifth Generation Systems
10049 N. Reiger Rd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
(800) 873-4384
(504) 291-7221

Price: $189

Back-It 4 1.1
Gazelle Systems
305 North 500 West
Provo, UT 84601
(800) 786-3278
(801) 377-1288
Price: $169

Distinct Back-Up
for Windows 2.4
Distinct Corp.
P.O. Box 3410
Saratoga, CA 95070
(408) 741-0781
Price: $129

Toolworks Backup Pro 1.03
The Software Toolworks
60 Leveroni Court
Novato, CA 94949
(800) 234-3088
(415) 883-3000
Price: $59

Sytos Plus File Backup
Manager 1.32
Sytron
134 Flanders Rd.
Westboro, MA 01581
(508) 898-0100
Price: $225

Back EZ 4.1
QTech
256 E. Hamilton, Suite E
Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 370-3910
Price: $99

DMS/IB Intelligent Backup 3.23
Sterling Software
11050 White Rock Rd., Suite 100
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 635-5535
Price: $100

Evaluation	Score
High-scoring Central Point Backup 7.1 for DOS has almost everything you could want. A top-scorer in speed tests, it's reliable, and, with its Windows twin, it's the only product that includes virus-scanning software. The program offers multiple ways to select files to back up or restore, saves configurations for later use, and even includes a viewer to check a file's contents. For $129, Central Point gives you both the DOS and Windows versions in one box.	93.80
Slightly faster than its DOS counterpart, Central Point Backup 7.1 for Windows provides a wide variety of features at a reasonable price. It includes a convenient scheduler and handles backup operations while you work on other projects. However, it doesn't include the DOS version's file viewer. Central Point Backup's well-designed interface also makes it easy to use.	91.80
Norton Backup for Windows 1.2 is highly reliable and includes both basic and advanced capabilities such as data compression, file verification, a scheduler, and a file viewer. The Backup Assistant, which automates regular backups of your entire hard disk, is particularly helpful. However, the program lacks password protection for backup sets, and the macro function is limitedit allows only one macro per setup (a list of files to be backed up), and it doesn't record mouse clicks.	87.50
The fastest of the DOS programs, Norton Backup for DOS's scores consistently exceeded Central Point's. Like its Windows counterpart, this version includes data-compression and file-verification features as well as easy file selection. However, it does not include password protection for backup sets, a file viewer, or a scheduler. Norton for DOS 1.2 does not back up to tape drives, but the newly released 2.0 does. Like Central Point, Symantec sells both versions of Norton Backup together for $129.	81.30
FastBack Plus 3.04 provides basic backup at speeds close to the front-runners'. It includes password protection, data compression, file verification, and an Express mode for beginners. And we're pleased with the toll-free number for support. Its relatively high price and inscrutable manual, however, keep FastBack Plus from ranking higher.	80.30

Exceptionally easy to use, Back-It 4 1.1 includes such features as data   80
compression, file verification, and a scheduler that requires only 2K. In
speed tests, it scored comparably with Norton and Central Point. Back-It 4
is more expensive than the higher-ranked programs, but it's one of only
two programs here that is backed by toll-free technical support.

Another option for Windows users is Distinct Back-Up, which   74.30
provides such handy features as password protection, a file viewer, data
compression, file verification, and a screen blanker. However, it uses only
proprietary formatting, and it lagged behind the leaders in speed tests.

If you're looking for a bargain, check out Toolworks Backup Pro.   72.80
The program covers the basics, providing easy file selection, a scheduler,
and file verification. It lets you save backup configurations for reuse and
performs at acceptable speedsall for half the price of most other
programs.

Sytos Plus File Backup Manager's strength is that it supports a   72.50
variety of tape drives as well as floppy disks. It includes such features as
data compression, password protection, and a scheduler. Its speeds are
consistently high, except when formatting a floppy disk on the fly. Sytos
Plus is priced much higher than other backup programs, however.

Back EZ offers file verification, on-the-fly disk formatting, and good   71.80
file-selection techniques. The program also formats other media, such as
Bernoulli boxes. However, it lacks data compression, password protection,
and one-step backup from multiple drives.

DMS/IB Intelligent Backup 3.23 provides data compression and file   65.50
verification and permits backup to any drive, including tape drives. The
"assist" mode makes it easier to select the files you want to back up. Custom-
izing the program--that is, backing up different sets of files--requires using
special batch files to load the program. It always format disks, so backup
takes longer and requires more disks.