

Q: What is a good strategy for backing up a system?

A: The following is a suggested method of backing up a system using `dump(8)`.

1. Install and configure the software on the system as desired.
2. Generate files depending solely on the release:
 - `cat pages` → `catman(8)`.
 - Index the header files (`/usr/include`) → Digital Librarian.
 - Install desired packages from the CD-ROM.
3. Perform a phony level 0 dump (use one of the following):
 - `dump 0uf /dev/null /dev/rsd0a`
 - Takes longer

- Simpler

· Edit the file **/etc/dumpdates**

- Takes less time
- Slightly more complicated
- Put a line such as the following in the file:

```
/dev/rsd0a          0 Tue Sep 19 12:19:40 1989
```

The easiest way to get such a line truly properly formatted is to copy another one. Format [from dumpdates(5)]:

```
a-16%s %c %s°
```

Key: those blanks are not tabs!

4. Configure the system (NetInfo, restore users, etc.).

5. Perform a level 1 dump.

- Phony if everything is simply restored.
- Real if work was needed.

```
mount /dev/od0a /DUMP
dump 1ufo /DUMP/clients-1.dump /dev/rsd0b
umount /dev/od0a
disk -e /dev/rod0a
```

The file name clients-1.dump is based on the file system name (where it's usually mounted; here, assumed to be /clients) and the dump level.

6. **PUT THE RELEASE DISK, THE UPGRADE DISK, AND THE LEVEL 1 DUMP IN A VERY SAFE PLACE.** It even makes sense to

make a second level 1 dump.

Now you're ready for normal operations.

7. Each day, perform an incremental dump.

- Level 9.
- Rotate media each day (multiple sets precludes destroying the most recent dump if today's dump fails).

8. Each week, do a weekly dump

- On the first week of the month, do a level n dump:
 - n is 1 if there was no configuration work done.
 - n is 2 if configuration work was done.
- The second week, do a level $n+1$ dump.

- Etc.
 - Rotate media, using at least two sets.
9. Each month, do a monthly dump.
- A monthly dump is a level n dump (n as in step 8).
 - Rotate media, using at least two sets
10. Repeat the cycle, rotating media using at least two sets.

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Valid for 1.0, 2.0, 3.0, 3.1