

# ***What Tape Back-up?***

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## What Tape Back-up?

### A Tape Back-up Tracking System

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Thanks for trying my software. Please throw your comments, suggestions, criticisms, etc. my way. Check out the Registration section below for ways to get a free registered copy of WML. Sysops please read SYSOP.DOC for special deals. Shareware vendors please see VENDOR.DOC for distribution information.

I can be reached via the mail or BBS. The bulletin boards below will have

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current versions of my software and I will get any messages left there for me.

Mail                    Angel Babudro, "Organic Computer Wizardry",  
28 Mulberry Street, Clinton, NY 13323-1506, (315) 853-6942

BBS                    Angelo Babudro  
West Coast        The Researcher's BBS, Southern CA (805) 949-8151    USR HST  
DS  
East Coast        Nite-Air BBS, Central NY (315) 339-8831    USR HST 14.4  
                      Odie's PCBoard, Central NY (315) 339-6713    USR HST DS

## **GENERAL**

What Tape Back-up? (WTB) is a programme to help you manage sets of back-up tapes. WTB is provided with the commands for CMS Jumbo 2.5 or Mountain 5.x software.

To use WTB you will need:

- \* PC with MS/PC-DOS 3.3 or higher
- \* About 256k of free memory (the more the better, since most tape software will use it as a buffer to speed up operations).
- \* Monochrome or colour monitor
- \* A tape drive
- \* CMS Jumbo 2.5 or Mountain 5.x tape software or some other tape software which can be controlled via batch

WTB stores your configuration within the executable file WTB.EXE. In order to do this, WTB.EXE must remain in its full size, unmodified by such things as LZEXE (which is otherwise a wonderful product) or PKLite (a similar product).

*What Tape Back-up?* is a FREE copyright work (Freeware). Provided that none of the original files (which are listed in the "Files List" section of this document) are modified in any way (including my copyright notice), you may use it as you will with the exception of selling it. You may distribute copies of WTB along with its accompanying files provided that no more than six dollars (\$6) is charged for its distribution.

Please address comments, questions, suggestions, donations (!), etc. to:

Angel Babudro  
28 Mulberry Street  
Clinton, NY 13323-1506

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(315) 853-6942

## **FILE LIST**

The following files comprise the complete What Tape Back-up? package:

- \* WTB.EXE -- the executable (programme) file
- \* WTB.WP -- the WordPerfect document file
- \* WTB.TXT -- the ASCII document file
- \* FKEY.LST -- a support file
- \* ORDER.FRM -- order form for all of my products
- \* FILE\_ID.DIZ & DESC.SDI -- Description files for BBSs. You can delete these.

## **WHY USE WTB?**

I wrote *What Tape Back-up?* as a way to manage and track my sets of back-up tapes. Although most tape software (including Mountain and CMS) have an automatic scheduling feature, this does not help the user to track which tape was last used, the dates of each back-up, and whether or not the tapes were verified for accuracy. Besides this, I believe that a routine for regular back-ups is critical to completing them on a regular basis. I know that in my own case I rarely did back-ups when it was up to me to figure out which tape to use, what type of back-up was last made, and what type of back-up I needed next.

What Tape Back-up? takes care of helping you to schedule a back-up routine and stick to it by making things as easy as possible. I hope you will use it to provide yourself with better security for your computer information.

## **What Tape Back-up? COMMAND LINE OPTIONS**

To use WTB with default values just type, "wtb" at the DOS prompt. In a few seconds three windows will appear: One with statistics about your disk drives (the Disk Window), another with statistics about your back-up tape set (the Tape Window), and a third with information on how the current back-up will be performed (the Back-up Window).

Note: I refer to "sets" of tapes because many people, like myself, use more than one tape per back-up. I **strongly** recommend using at

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least three sets of back-up tapes. This way if the worst possible case happens -- your system goes down will making a back-up -- you will have other tape copies from which to retrieve your data.

WTB has the following command-line syntax:

```
WTB [#oftapes] [/Dxy] [/Nxy] [/T] [/A] [/M]
```

Note: DOS command-line options are NOT case sensitive. You can use upper- or lower-case letters as you wish.

## **Specifying the Number of Tape Sets**

If you use more than one set of tapes to back-up (use at least three sets of tapes!) use the command "WTB x" where "x" is the number of tapes you use. For example, "WTB 4" would manage four sets of tapes.

## **Specifying a Range of Hard Disk Drives**

With disk statistics (/D)

You may only want to back-up a certain range of hard disk drives rather than all of your drives. Say, for example, you have hard disk drives C: through J: and a CD-ROM as drive H: You will only want to back-up C: through J: since H: is in little danger of being lost. To do this, use the "/Dxy" option where "x" and "y" are the first and last drives to back-up to tape. For example, "/Dcj" will back-up drives C: through J:

Without disk statistics (/N)

You may wish to bypass the Disk Window, especially if you have a large system (such as a network) with a large number of logical drive letters or ridiculously large amounts of storage (if so, I'm jealous!). To turn the drive statistics off, use the /N option followed by the first and last (contiguous) disk drive letters you wish to back-up. For example, if you have drives C: through J: on your system and you want to bypass the Disk Window, use, "WTB /Ncj".

## **Using Other Tape Software (/T)**

You may wish to bypass the tape back-up function of WTB, especially if you don't use CMS or Mountain tape software. To do this, use the "/T" switch like so: "WTB /T". This will cause WTB to end after the

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tape selection is made and pass the Tape Set Number to DOS via ERRORLEVEL. This way you can have a batch file which calls WTB then checks the errorlevel to see which tape to use.

## **Backing-up Modified Files Only (/M)**

The default back-up mode for WTB is a full back-up of all drives. Periodically you may wish to only back-up the files which have changed since your last full back-up since this is normally much faster than doing a full back-up. To do this use the /M command. For example, "WTB /dcj /m" will back-up only the files that have changed on drives C: through J: since the last time a full back-up was made.

## **Appending to the End of a Tape (/A)**

Normally WTB will over-write the data on the tape(s) with the new back-up information. If you would like to append the new information to the end of a tape use the "/A" option on the command line. For example, "WTB /M /A" will back-up modified files only and put the information at the end of the tape.

## **Command-line Examples**

To illustrate use of the options, let's say you have disk drives C: through R:, you don't want the system to calculate statistics on all 16 drives, you use 5 sets of back-up tapes (one for each day of the week), and you use something other than CMS or Mountain software. In your batch file do this:

```
WTB 5 /ncr /t
if errorlevel 99 goto end
if errorlevel 5 goto TapeSet5
if errorlevel 4 goto TapeSet4
...etc...
```

Note: An errorlevel of 99 indicates that "Cancel" was selected from the WTB menu or that a tape error occurred.

Or, let's say you have drives C: through R: but only want to back-up C: through F:, you want hard disk statistics, you use 5 sets of tapes, and you have CMS or Mountain tape software. Just use:

```
WTB 5 /dcf
```

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and WTB will perform the complete back-up for you.

## **USING What Tape Back-up?**

Once you enter the command "WTB" along with any command-line options, several windows will open showing you the operating environment and a menu of options at the top of the screen. You can press the highlighted (first) letter for each option or use a mouse to select the options.

### **Go**

This option begins the back-up as specified.

### **Cancel**

This cancels the back-up and returns you to DOS.

### **Verify**

This toggles the verify flag on and off. When verify is "on" the tape(s) will be verified after the back-up is complete. When "off" only a back-up will be done.

Because verifying a tape doubles the back-up time, I found it more convenient (and virtually as safe) to verify my tapes on a rotating basis. If you use four tapes (like I am) and you verify tape #1, then tape #4 will next be scheduled to be verified, then tape #3, then #2, then #1, then back to #4. This way all tapes are verified on a regular basis. I found that by saving time this way I was less tempted to avoid verifying at all (or even, heaven forbid, backing-up at all!).

### **Set-up**

The set-up screen lets you select the type of software you will be using (as defined in the file WTB.CMD), the type of tapes you use and their capacity, the number of sets of tapes you regularly use, and your preferred back-up scheme.

Each option has a menu of choices except for the number of tapes -- just enter the number here. The back-up scheme (daily, weekly, monthly) has not yet been implemented, so for now it's up to you to specify how to

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do each back-up.

## **Selecting Tape Sets**

In the Tape Window you will see an arrow pointing to the tape set to be used (this is, of course, a recommendation, since you are the one who must put the proper tape(s) in the drive!). WTB recommends the tape set following the last set used (which is normally the oldest set). In other words, it rotates the back-up tapes.

If you want to use a different tape set, use the arrow keys to move the pointer between the available tape sets.

## **REGISTERING What Tape Back-up?**

I am not asking for any money for the registration of WTB. If you like it, however, check out the ORDER.FRM file (use "type order.frm > prn" to print it) for other offers. If you would like your name at the top of the screen just order my Sampler Disk and ask for a copy of WTB with your name on it.