

GRBack 2.00

**GRBack for Windows NT©, Windows 98© and Windows 95©:
The fast and simplest way to backup your computer data.**

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This help file has been kept small since the program is very simple to use. However if something is not clear or you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. See [Contact Information](#) for my mailing addresses.

Many thanks to my wife, Michela, and our sons, Fabio and Ilaria for their patience and encouragement.

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General Description

GRBack is a backup utility that lets you backup one disk drive onto another. This way, if a drive dies you can have a safe copy of its contents at another location. The program works with fixed, network, and removable drives.

To get the best use out of this program, you need to have at least two physical drives. This way you're protected from total hardware failures. If you have only one physical drive, and you make a backup between two partitions, you are only protected from some physical disk surface damages.

The program is designed to integrate with Microsoft's System Agent that you can find in the Microsoft Plus! package for Windows 95. (However, you don't need System Agent to use GRBack.) System Agent is a scheduler that can run different programs at specified times transparently to the user and in unattended mode. NT users can schedule GRBack using the AT utility that come with the Windows NT operating system.

GRBack allows you to perform a Full, Incremental or Differential Backup to better match your needs. The program will create PKZIP compatible ZIP files that you can use with the many available shells without learning how to use a new restore tool. Also, GRBack does not create a unique big archive file, but it transfers to the destination drive an exact copy of the source directory tree structure with a ZIP file for each source directory.

GRBack is completely configurable via simple \$backup.??? files (see [Backup configuration files](#)) placed in the source directories. These files allow you to skip the backup of certain directories, or to select only some files and to exclude other files. See [Configuring your backup](#) for more details.

GRBack accept the command line option /A (or /S) to enable the Autostart unattended mode. Starting the program with this option, instead of the typical [Backup](#) page you will get the [AutoStart](#) dialog box, that after a specified delay time, executes all defined backup jobs.

During the backup execution, GRBack show you the [Progress Report](#) dialog box listing what archives are created or updated. The same information is also stored into the **GRBack.log** file created into the same directory where the GRBack.exe file reside. This file is opened in append mode until a full backup is done. When the full backup is done the GRBack.log file is restarted from zero.

Into this file are also stored the error messages to help the user to understand why some things does not works.

Some example of commonly encountered GRBack problems are:

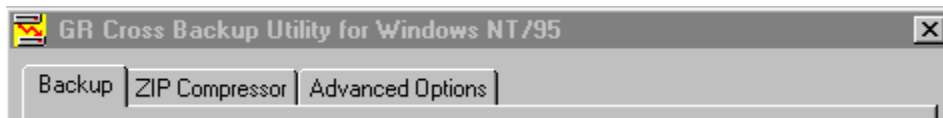
- already opened files (for write) that cannot be read.
- network drives that does not have the write permission.

User Guide

User Guide.

When you run the shareware version of the program, the About dialog box will appear showing the program version and the author's address. This information allows you to register quickly or to get the author email for support. Clicking the OK button will initiate the program execution.

The program uses a property sheet dialog box interface. Click on the Tab you want explanation for:



The first page allows you to define the backup jobs. The second page lets you select the ZIP archive options. The third page is where you set the program options.

The **Quit** button allows you to exit the program without saving any modified option.

The **Apply** button allows you to save all the current options, so that the next time you start the program you'll find your setup just as you left it. This button is enabled only when you change an option. The same effect is obtained when you press the **Start** button. In this case you save all your modified options and start the selected backup jobs.

Backup Log file.

The program make a log file named **GRBack.log** that reside where you have installed GRBack.exe. This file hold all the activities the program do and is useful when you want to known what has happened after the program is run in unattended mode. This file is also useful to track program problems, so include it in your error reports.

Installing GRBack.

Decompress the whole archive were you want and run the setup.exe program. This program will copy all the needed GRBack files and will register GRBack on your system. This setup program allows you to add a desktop icon, and list the program into the "Start Menu" or into the "Start Menu\Programs" menu. It also registers itself into the Control Panel to allow a quick and full Remove.

Removing GRBack.

From the "Control Panel" - "Add/Remove Programs" you can quickly remove the program (completely) from your system how the Windows 95 standard requires.

Backup

This dialog box allows you to define your backup Jobs.

The available tool tips (see [Advanced Options](#)) let you get quick information about all the options in this dialog. When pressing the **Help** button you'll get this help page.

The first time you run GRBack, it automatically insert into the **Jobs** list box a default configuration based on the drives on your system. At any time you can build this default initial jobs list by pressing the **Scan Drives** button.

Add or Edit your Jobs.

You can customize the **Jobs** list box by editing the existing items or adding new items. To edit an inserted job, just double-click it on the list box or press the **Edit Job(s)** button when the Job you want to modify is highlighted. This way you get the [Edit Job](#) dialog box that allows you to modify the currently selected Job. You can also append a new job to the list by pressing the **Add Job** button and filling the [Add Job](#) dialog box. You can also delete the currently selected Jobs (one or more) by pressing the **Kill Job(s)** button when they are highlighted.

The **Select All** button allows you to select all the Jobs with a simple mouse click. This operation is needed before you press the **Start** button to begin the backup on all the listed Jobs. When you press the **Start** button only the selected Jobs will be executed and the [Progress Report](#) dialog box appear to show you how the backup proceed.

Number of Backups before Full.

You can define the **Number of Backups before Full** number. This number allows you to rebuild your backup archives from scratch when the specified number of incremental or differential backups is reached. The **Incremental Backups Counter** shows you how many incremental or differential backups remain before a full backup. This counter starts from the **Number of Backups before Full** number and decrements every time an incremental or differential backup finishes. When the counter value reaches zero a full backup is automatically started and the counter restarted.

Delay to Autostart.

The **Delay to Autostart** edit box allows you to define the Autostart timeout. When GRBack starts with the command line option /A (or /a or /S or /s) or when it is executed from the Microsoft System Agent, the [AutoStart](#) dialog box appears. This dialog box allows you to wait the specified delay seconds before automatically starting the backup of ALL the Jobs in the list or to quit the program. The Autostart feature is useful when you want to skip the backup for the following reasons:

- You have re booted the system and you have already done the backup.
- There aren't any significant things to backup.

Backup method.

This group box allows you to select the kind of backup you want to perform. You have the following options:

Full

This option delete any previous backup archive or file (if you copy only) into the destination directory and recreate a new backup of your source files.

Update (Incremental)

This option will updates the backup archives copying any new or modified file. Into the Zip Compressor dialog you have an option to synchronize your destination archives to the source (deleting any file that no longer exist into the source directory). If the archive doesn't exist, the incremental backup becomes a full backup because all archives must be built from scratch.

Archive bit logic (Differential)

This option will update the backup archive with the source files that have the archive attribute bit on despite of their date. This option is particularly usefull when you want to backup only the new or modified files to a removable drive and you want to save disk space. After you have done a full backup, that can spawn multiple removable disks, you can use a single removable disk to store only the news. To restore this kind of backup you must restore from the full backup disk before to restore from the differential backup archive.

Clear the source file archive attribute.

With this option you can decide if you want to mark all files that have been backed up. For example when you do a full backup and you plan to use the **Archive bit logic (Differential)** backup mode you need to do a full backup and clear all the archive attributes to be able to backup only newer or modified files.

About GRBack.

Pressing this button you will get the program license and version information.

Zip Compressor

This dialog box allows you to set the available ZIP compressor options.

The available tool tips let you get quick information about all the options in this dialog. When pressing the **Help** button you'll get this help page.

Copy only (don't create ZIP archives).

This option disable the internal ZIP compressor at all. In this way you can quickly copy your source files into the destination drive. You can also set the compression level to 0 to don't compress, but in this case the zip archive file will be created with inside you files just copied. Please note that the program already store into the zip archives all file with the following extensions: zip, z, zoo, arc, lzh, ar.

Use Special Path for tmp files.

This check box allows you to select a different temporary directory. When not checked, the tmp directory used is the directory where the destination archive will be stored. If you check this option, the **Path** edit box will be enabled, allowing you to specify the full path you want to set (for example a ram disk).

Compression Level.

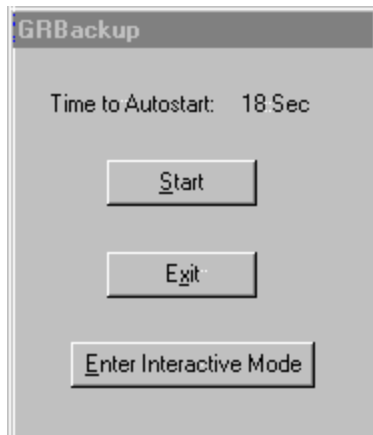
This slider allows you to select the compression level from 10 possible values. The Min value just stores the source files (no compression), while the Max value allows you to minimize the archive size in spite of the program speed. A good value is an intermediate one to satisfy the size and speed needs. (The default value is 6.)

Kill from archive the files that no longer exist (Synchronize).

This option allows you to synchronize your backup archives with your source directories. This can be usefull when you want to make an exact copy of your source killing from the backup archives the files that are no longer needed. This option also works for the directories.

AutoStart

This dialog box appear when the program is run with the command line option /SAGERUN (or the equivalent /A or /S) or when it is executed by the Microsoft System Agent (SAGE).



The available tool tips allows you to get a quick information about all the options in this dialog.

The number you see to the right of the **Time to Autostart** string is a countdown counter that shows how many seconds remain before the program automatically starts and executes all the listed Jobs. If the program is run unattended by any operator after the countdown is terminated, it automatically selects all Jobs and starts. This is the default condition.

In certain cases you may need to change the program configuration before the backup starts because some source conditions are changed. In this case you can press the **Enter Interactive Mode** button and go to the Backup page.

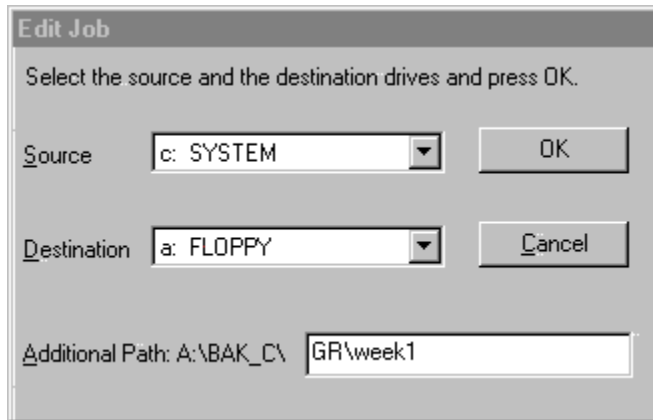
Other times you need to abort the backup because you have already done it, or you have no time to do it now because you want all the computer resources for another task. In these cases you can press the **Exit** button and quit the program.

Other times you are at your keyboard when the system boots and GRBack starts. In this case you can short the backup start time stopping the countdown by pressing the **Start** button.

Edit Job

This dialog box allows you to edit an existing Job.

This is a picture of the dialog layout:



The available tool tips allows you to get quick information about all the options in this dialog.

The **Source** combo box allows you to select the source drive for your backup Job.

The **Destination** combo box allows you to select the destination drive for your backup Job.

The **Additional Path** edit box allows you to enter an optional path name that will be concatenated to the default destination path name (in the figure A:\Bak_C\).

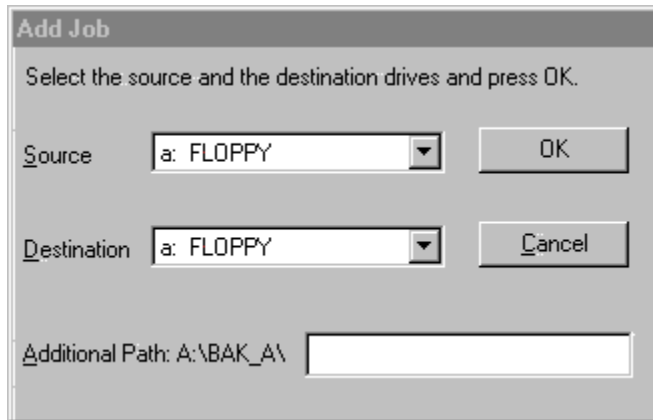
With the **OK** button you can confirm the source and destination and exit, modifying the currently selected Job.

With the **Cancel** button you don't modify the currently selected Job.

Add Job

This dialog box allows you to append a new Job to the current Job list.

This is a picture of the dialog layout:



The available tool tips allows you to get quick information about all the options in this dialog.

The **Source** combo box allows you to select the source drive for your backup Job.

The **Destination** combo box allows you to select the destination drive for your backup Job.

The **Additional Path** edit box allows you to enter an optional path name that will be concatenated to the default destination path name (in the figure A:\Bak_A\).

With the **OK** button you can confirm the source and destination and exit, appending the specified Job to the list.

With the **Cancel** button you don't append any Job to the list.

Progress Report

This dialog box shows you information on how the backup is proceeding.

The **Current Job** string shows you the currently executing Job.

The **Current Path** string shows you the path name under analysis, and the **Elapsed Time** shows you the elapsed time since you pressed the **Start** button to begin the backup Jobs.

The **Updated/Created List** show you which destination archives are created or updated. You can navigate in this list, but when a new item is inserted the focus goes to the last inserted item. The whole contents of this list box is dumped to a file named **GRBack.log** located where the GRBack.exe file is. This way you can view what archives are created or updated after the backup is completed.

Also in this progress report dialog you will find an animated icon that entertains the user while GRBack works.

Advanced Options

This dialog box allows you to set some special options.

The page is divided into three areas:

- Global Backup options.
- Network Drives.
- Other Options.

Global Backup options.

The **Exclude directories** edit box allows you to insert several directory names that you want globally skip during your backup. These names are not full path names, but simply directory names separated by a ';'.
You can find the option **Automatically exclude the directories:**

Bak*;Tmp;Temp;Recycled;Recycle useful in that it automatically exclude common directories names. You can check this box and add your own directories into the **Exclude directories** edit box as you need.

The **Make exclude directory case insensistive** option allows you to decide if you want that the exclude directory compare is case insensitive or not.

The **Include files** edit box lets you to define some file extension that you want to backup. You can separate multiple definition with a ';' character. You can use wild characters into this edit box (like * and ?). When this edit box string is empty GRBack safely assume that you want to include all files (*.*). See [Backup configuration files](#) for more details.

The **Exclude files** edit box lets you specify what are the file extensions you want to exclude from all your backup Jobs. You can separate multiple definition with a ';' character. You can use wild characters into this edit box (like * and ?). When this edit box string is empty GRBack safely assume you want to exclude nothing. See [Backup configuration files](#) for more details.

The **Exclude files before day/month/year** option let you specify to backup only the files that are newer than a specified date.

The **Create a directory list file for each source directory** check box allows you to select if your destination directory tree should contain the \$backup.dir files (checked) or not. The \$backup.dir file contain the list of the source directory contents when the backup was started. This file can be useful to investigate why some files were not included into the backup and what was the original directory content.

The **Include System/Hidden files** check box allows you to archive the System or Hidden files into your archives. This option is very useful when you want to backup vital operating system files in the root directory or in the system directory.

The **Close the progress dialog when finished** let you automatically close the backup progress dialog box when all the Jobs are completed. This option is useful in unattended mode.

Network Drives.

Into the Network Drives group you find two buttons.

The **Connect ...** button allows you to connect a network path to a new local drive.

The **Disconnect ...** button allows you to disconnect a local drive connected with a network path.

WARNING: Be careful when using these options, especially if you are not sure where your backup files will go. Consult your system administrator in order to best configure your backup Jobs.

Other Options.

The **Enable Tool Tips Help** check box allows you to enable (checked) or disable (unchecked) the tool tips help messages that appear every time you move your mouse cursor over an item. The first few times you use the program these messages can be very useful for you -- but after you become an expert, they might seem annoying.

What is GRBack ?

GRBack is a full 32-bit cross-backup utility written for Windows NT/98/95. The purpose of this program is to do a backup of a drive onto another drive. This is known as a CROSS backup.

What's it for?

GRBack allows you to protect your data by making a safe and compressed copy of it onto another drive of your choice.

As the current cost of a hard drives is relatively inexpensive, the best way to protect your data is to install at least two physical hard drives and use GRBack utility to backup selected data from one hard drive to the other. This way, if one of your hard drives die, you have a safe backup on the other.

Another good way is to buy a 100MB Iomega ZIP drive or any other similar removable drive and backup your fixed drives into it. You can do the same using local area networks.

The created backup archive IS NOT a unique BIG file. GRBack will create the exact directory tree as your original source files, plus a single ZIP archive for every source directory. This behavior simplifies your efforts when you want to restore specific files, because you will find the exact source structure of your drives in a subdirectory of the backup destination drive.

The generated archive ZIP files fully support long file names, so GRBack is fully integrated with Windows 98, Windows 95 and Windows NT.

Why use GRBack?

GRBack offers you many advantages over similar utilities, and over the standard Windows functionality. Here are some of these reasons:

- It has an intuitive and easy to use interface.
- It is fully configurable via simple ASCII files placed in the source directory.
- It is fully integrated with the Microsoft Plus! System Agent (SAGE).
- When you want to restore some files, it allows you to skip long backup path lists and go directly to the source directory in the backup tree where you know your file is and get it.
- It compresses the source files with an industry standard format, so that many available shell extensions let you see its contents without having to learn special restore tools.
- It fully supports network and removable drives. This allows you to select the appropriate destination drive for your backup data. You must however note that long file names cannot be copied on network drives that only support short file names.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can be a GRBack backup archive restored in case of a system crash?

A: No. More precisely, GRBack was designed as a DATA backup program. It assumes that the system is up and running, so it's not useful to backup your system files since with Windows 95 the long file name files/directories can't be restored from MS-DOS when Windows 95 isn't up and running.

Q: Why with compression level set to the minimum GRBack continues to create ZIP archive files? Is it still zipping the files?

A: GRBack always creates a ZIP archive file in which it simply store the files when the compression level is set to the minimum. In this way the source files are always packaged together. If you want a simple copy of your files, you must select the **Copy only (don't create ZIP archives)** option (see [Zip Compressor](#) for more details) .

Q: Does GRBack run on Windows NT?

A: The current version was intensively tested under Windows 95. However some test were conducted also under Windows NT 4.0 without any problem.

Q: How can I exclude a whole directory without stopping the subdirectory backup?

A: Simply insert the line "*".*" into a file named \$backup.exc created into the directory you want to exclude.

Q: How can I restore the backup?

A: GRBack does not actually offer a restore option. Instead, you can use any Explorer shell extension that allows you to view your ZIP files to navigate in the destination backup directory. The place where you find your file is the exact path you have always used, prefixed by a backup path. This path can be the standard X:\Bak_Y (where X is the source drive and Y is the destination drive) or a more complex user-specified path. See [Configuring your backup](#) for more details).

Q: Can GRBack backup a file that is opened while it runs?

A: Yes. If you have a file opened for not exclusive write, GRBack will backup your last saved version. Anyway a file opened for write in exclusive mode (as for example the GRBack.log file) cause an error if you does not skip it.

Q: Does GRBack ask me another removable disk media if the first become full ?

A: Yes. You will have the option to insert another disk media and retry the operation that failed. Also you can retry the operation or skip it as you need.

Ing. Roberto Grassi.

I'm a software developer since 1978 (BASIC language) when I received my first degree in Electronics. Then I started working and studying to become an Electronic Engineer in 1985 with full votes. I write programs in 'C' since 1990 and in 'C++' since 1994.

Currently I write embedded applications in C/C++ language and I develop some (what I hope are useful) Windows utilities that I'm marketing via the shareware concept.

Please feel free to contact me if you need a software consultant and/or you want to start a business with me.

How to Register

Why register?

Registering this software provides the following advantages:

- You get one year free updates.
- You are qualified for technical support, notification of upgrades, maintenance releases and information about new products. You will be added to our E-Mail list and alerted when major new releases become available.
- The license agreement (see [License/Copyright](#)) allows the use of registered software both at your home and at your office. This guarantees that you are **NOT** in violation of International Copyright law!
- With your registration you support the development of updates and you may help to refine the program with your suggestions.

What do you get after you register?

In order to transform your shareware product version into a registered one you need a license (or registration) key file. This text file will contain your personal data and it can not be modified in any way otherwise the program will return to be a shareware version. After you had registered this product you will receive your personal license key file that enable you to use the product. It is very important that you will compile the specified order form with your personal data otherwise the license key file can not be prepared.

How to register.

First of all you are guaranteed that your fees will be taken only after your key license file has been delivered to you (via e-mail or snail mail)!

IMPORTANT: I recommend that you register the program ONLY after you have fully tested it on your system. Remember that the shareware version behaves exactly as the registered version.

In order to register, you must complete the form that appears by running the [register.exe](#) application that accompanies the software package. To run this register application, press the **Register Now** button on the **About GRBack ...** dialog box that appear when you run the shareware version.

When you are inside the [register.exe](#) program, perform the following simple steps:

STEP 1: Enter all of your personal data.

Complete the **Register To:**, the **Email** address and the **Postal Address** fields and, give us your comments about this product (they are welcome).

STEP 2: Select the type of software license you want.

Specify now the **Quantity** and the **License** type you want.
You have the option to require a mailed diskette with the latest registered version (if you don't specify this option you will only receive your personal registration key file).
Be sure to check the **Paper Receipt** check box if you need it.

Here are the available License types:

Single user license gives you the right to you to use the program at your home and at your office.

Site license gives you the right to use the program inside a single organization for an area of up to 100 miles (160 kilometers) in radius.

Worldwide license give you the right to use the program inside a single organization all over the world.

STEP 3: Select the payment method.

You have several options: cash to the author (10% discount), check or money order, VISA, Master Card, American Express, Discovery, Dinners Club, First Virtual and Invoice.

STEP 4: Send the form.

If you have an e-mail connection, you can directly send this form to the **Kagi** shareware registration service. Otherwise, you can print the form and surface mail it to the address specified in the lower right of the dialog box.

After you have sent the form to Kagi for processing you will get an Email note from **Kagi** that confirms that your payment has been processed. Also, you will get Email from the **Author** with your personal copy of the **GRBack.key** file (based on your personal data). This key file must be placed in the directory where the program executable resides.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

If you want any information about the program, please contact **only** the author (see [Contact Information](#)). Please, be sure to include all your personal data in the registration form so that we can build your personal program registration key file!

Update/Support

Updates.

As soon as you are registered and until further notice, all updates are free, provided that you get the latest version of the software from an electronic archive.

The important thing to remember, if you are a registered user, is to keep your personal GRBack.key license file. So make a backup copy and place it in a safe place.

Where is the latest Shareware version?

If you do not have access to a modem, we will mail you a diskette with the latest available version when we receive your registration form and license fee.

Otherwise you can check one of the following home pages on the World Wide Web:

<http://www.grsoftware.net>

<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/4866>

<http://www.bsoftware.com/cgi-bin/fetchsan.cgi?AuthorID=499,LocationID=1>

<http://mini.net/cgi-bin/sax?2347>

Reporting Bugs.

If you find a bug in the program, you can report it to one of the addresses listed in the documentation. Please provide the following information:

- An exact description of the bug and how it can be reproduced.
- The program version number. The version number can be obtained by pressing the **About** button.
- Windows version (for example, 4.950). You can get the version number by opening the control panel windows and double clicking the **System** icon. The version number will be displayed on the **General** property sheet.
- Fatal errors: The error address and the contents of the error box displayed by Windows.

Support.

If you have any problems please read [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for a possible solution.



If you still have questions or bug reports, you can reach us at the addresses listed in [Contact Information](#) .



Internet e-mail:
grsoft@kagi.com

I'm checking my email at least twice a week.

Surface mail address:

Roberto Grassi
P.O.Box 48
Leumann (Torino), 10096
ITALY

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IMPORTANT - READ CAREFULLY: by installing and using this software product, you agree to be bound by the terms of this software license. If you do not agree with the terms of this user license, promptly remove this product from your machine.

Shareware Version.

You have a right to test this program for a period of **one month**.

Use of this product after the trial period of one month is in **violation of International Copyright law!** It is also unfair to the author, who has spent hundreds of hours developing this product.

You are allowed to copy this Shareware Version, and **ONLY** the Shareware Version, and give it to any other person, as long as it is not modified in any way. Modification is understood to mean changing, adding or removing any files in this package without the author's written permission.

Registration.

This program is neither freeware nor public domain. Use after the 30-day trial period requires registration. This program is not sold but is licensed for personal/site/worldwide use. See [How to Register](#) for details on registration.

Registered version (Personal license).

The registered version may be installed on a maximum of two computers, so long as it is **ONLY** running on one system at any time: i.e. one installation at home and one installation at the office and used by the licensee. The simultaneous use of this product by multiple personnel requires additional licenses.

The licensee shall not use, copy, rent, lease, sell, modify, decompile, disassemble, reverse engineer, or transfer the licensed program except as provided in this agreement. Any such unauthorized use shall result in immediate termination of this license.

Multiple licenses (Site or Worldwide).

Multiple licenses allow an institution, company or school to install this product on multiple computers or on a server. The institution, company or school must guarantee that the program is not installed and run on machines that are outside the license defined area.

- **Site license** gives you the right to use the program inside a single Organization for an area of up to 100 miles (160 kilometers) in radius.
- **Worldwide license** give you the right to use the program inside a single Organization all over the world.

All licenses will be issued in the name of the institution, company or school.

Each additional license also allows a single user to use the program at home.

The licensee shall not use, copy, rent, lease, sell, modify, decompile, disassemble, reverse engineer, or transfer the licensed program except as provided in this agreement. Any such unauthorized use shall result in immediate termination of this license.

Liability.

We try to keep our software as bug free as possible. However, it is a general rule, Murphy's, that no software is ever error free, and the number of errors increases with the complexity of the program. We cannot guarantee that this software will run in every environment, on any Windows compatible machine, or together with any other application, without producing errors. Any liability for damage of any sort is hereby denied. In any case, the liability is limited to the registration fee (license-price refund).

Please evaluate this program with non-critical data. We cannot guarantee the safety of your data. Should you detect errors before registration, the user accepts the program errors after registration. Any description of software errors will be accepted, but we cannot guarantee that the errors can be corrected.

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The author's legal domicile is Torino, Italy.

Distribution



The distribution of outdated versions of this package is prohibited without written permission of the author. If the software version you have obtained is over twelve (12) months old, please contact the author, see [Contact Information](#) , to ensure that you have the most current software version.

Vendor information.

The Shareware version of this program may be copied and given to anyone so long as it is not modified in any way. Modification is understood to mean the changing, adding or removing of any files of this package without the written permission of the author.

Small additions to the package, such as the introductory comments or an installation batch file used by many shareware disk vendors are authorized.

This program CANNOT be packaged with any commercial program or book.

A distribution fee may be charged for the cost of the diskette, shipping and handling. The distribution fee, per diskette, may not exceed \$8.00 (US) in the U.S. and Canada, or \$12.00 (US) internationally.

Users are encouraged to put this program on as many BBS systems as possible. The distribution on CD-ROM is also permitted, as long as the original files are not changed in any way. Please contact the author (see [Contact Information](#)) if you want to distribute the program with a different installation program, changed files etc.

This package CANNOT be sold as part of some other inclusive package. Also it CANNOT be included in any commercial software packaging offer, without the written consent of the author.

All rights not expressly granted here are reserved to Roberto Grassi.

The author would appreciate copies of any articles written about this software package. Please forward copies of any reviews, articles, catalog descriptions, or other information that is distributed regarding this package.

Thank you for your time and assistance in supporting the shareware marketing concept.

Vendor Update Program.

Most vendors have standard procedures for acquiring new files. They get them from other vendors, BBSs, etc. Most authors cannot afford to mail disks to hundreds or possibly thousands of vendors. However, some vendors prefer to obtain programs directly from the authors. If you would like to automatically obtain programs directly from us, then please help us to cover the cost.

Under our Update Program you can receive updates for an entire year for only \$10 (US) per program.

To receive updates, simply send us a letter, see [Contact Information](#) , with your name, company name, mailing address, the name of the person, the program or programs for which updates are requested, and a check or money order for \$10 (US) for each program.

All vendors participating in our Vendor Update Program will automatically receive any NEW programs which we may release while their Vendor Update Program is in effect.

The Vendor Update Program is only intended to help cover our expenses in those cases where a vendor desires to obtain the program directly. If you have other means of obtaining our programs, then you may prefer not to use our Vendor Update Program.

Version History

December 1997: Version 2.00.

- added an option to exclude files whose date is before a specified date into the Advanced Options dialog. This option takes priority over all other options for the selection of the files to backup.
- added a new dialog box when the disk full condition is reached. This globally better handle the change of the destination disk.
- added an option to synchronize the content of the backup archive with the source. When you delete a source file/directory and you want to automatically delete the same file/directory from the backup archive you must enable this new option.
- added a test to verify if the destination disk is ready. Added a dialog box to ask for a disk before to start instead of quit the program.
- added the copy of the directories attributes on the destination disk.
- added a new backup mode: differential. This mode is based upon the archive attribute bit and stores all the files that have the archive attribute bit on.
- improvement: if the destination disk does not support the long file names GRBack now creates the destination directories using the alias short name. Also it automatically forces the creation of the \$backup.dir files and store inside them the long file name and the ali as file name so that restoring with the right name will be more easy.
- improvement: more diagnostic messages on the log file.
- fixed a bug handling filenames with special characters like "èòà" in the name.
- fixed a bug when compression is disabled and the source files are only copied.
- fixed a b ug for the option **Include System/Hidden Files** that was not correctly saved/restored.
- fixed a bug adding a task into the windows 95 SAGE task list.
- fixed a bug if the specified compressor temporary path end with the characters '\ or '/'.
- fixed a date/time bug inside the \$backup.dir files.
- fixed the **Scan Drives** button so that it does no more add the floppy drives into the job list.
- moved the **Archive mode** group box from the Zip Compressor dialog to the Backup dialog renaming it as **Backup method**.
- moved the option **clear the source archive attribute** from the Advanced Options dialog to the Backup dialog.
- moved the option **Include System/Hidden Files** from the Zip Compressor dialog to the Advanced Options dialog.
- while handling the disk full condition is now possible to clean up the destination disk before to continue the backup.

May 1997 : Version 1.90.

- Fixed some internal bugs.
- Fixed bug when zipping filenames with special characters.
- In the Zip Compressor dialog the option **Include System/Hidden files** has been moved outside the **Zip Options** group box. In this way you can include system and hidden files also when copying.
- The GRBack settings are no more stored into the system registry but into a simple GRBack.ini file that reside into the same directory where you have placed GRBack.exe. This allows the NT users to schedule GRBack to run in unattended mode without any user logged in. As consequence when you run the first time this new version you must configure again the program settings before to start.

- As on some systems the behavior was not well defined, the about dialog box has been simplified and does no more shown the evaluation days. Also the shareware version is now full functional and has only the initial nag screen.
- The Log file has been expanded with more details. In particular a more detailed error diagnostic has been added.
- When pressing the **Scan Drives** button on the Backup dialog the floppy drives are no more inserted into the Job list.
- The automatically skipped directories: **BAK*** and **RECYCLED** has been internally removed. Now the user must specify them on the Advanced Options dialog into the **Exclude directories** edit box. Also it is possible to append the character '*' to a directory name to skip all directories that start with a prefixed string. If the '*' is not present only directories that fully match will be skipped.

December 1996 : Version 1.80.

- The backup configuration files \$backup.* are now automatically included into the zip archive.
- An option to enable the creation of the \$backup.dir file (previously always generated) was added.
- A new backup configuration file: **\$backup.skp** can substitute an empty \$backup.hlt file i.e. stop the backup of the directory and all its subdirectories that contain this backup configuration file. This configuration file take precedence over the \$backup.hlt.
- An option to completely disable the compression was added to the Advanced Options dialog box. In this way a simply file copy is performed.
- Added into the Advanced Options dialog box an edit box to specify the files to include. The default value, when this edit is empty, is *.*. This options has a global validity i.e. it is valid for all Jobs.
- Added into the Advanced Options dialog box an edit box to specify the files to exclude. This options has a global validity i.e. it is valid for all Jobs.
- A more correct handling of the destination disk full condition was implemented. There is now a special dialog box to signal the user that the disk is full or the drive is not ready with a **Retry** option.
- Fixed a BUG on handling file names with special characters (ASCII code greater then 128) into the generated zip archives.
- Fixed a BUG in the Edit Job and Add Job dialog boxes when the **Additional path** edit box string start with the '\' character.
- Fixed a BUG in the Edit Job and Add Job dialog boxes when the Source combo box contains a CD-ROM drive.
- This version avoid to create empty directories i.e. directories that doesn't not contain any zip archive.
- Modified the shareware program version. It does not stop the program from running after the 30 days trial period but only shows you how many days you are evaluating the program. It is up to you to stop from using the program if you are not a registered user.
- Some other minor fixes.

November 1996 : Version 1.71.

- Added a CD-ROM option as a possible backup source.
- Fixed a bug in the shareware version's expiration time calculation that prevented shareware version 1.70 of the program to run after November 3, 1996.
- Expanded the payment methods to allow an easier and automated registration of the registration of the program (see How to Register).

October 1996 : Version 1.70.

- Minors user interface refinements were made.
- Added to the [Advanced Options](#) property sheet page an option to clear the source file archive attribute when it is inserted into the backup archive (i.e. to mark it as already backed up).
- Added an **About ...** button on the [Backup](#) property sheet page to get more immediately the program information(version, contact etc...).
- Added an animated icon to the [Progress Report](#) dialog box to entertain the user while GRBack works.

September 1996 : Version 1.61.

- Fixed some minor bugs.
- Added network drives support.
- Added SUBs drives support.
- Added removable drives support.
- Added an [Advanced Options](#) property sheet page to the main property sheet dialog. It allows the user to map a network drive, to enable/disable the tool tips messages and to define global backup exclude path names.
- Added a user specified path name for every Job (see [Backup](#)). This path will be appended to the default destination path X:\Bak_Y.
- Enhanced the grback.log file. Now the information is appended on every incremental backup with a date/time stamp in order to have a complete backup history. When you make a full backup the log file will be restarted.

August 1996 : Version 1.50.

- This is the first distributed shareware release.

GRBack exists now in English only. If you would like me to provide translation of GRBack or the documentation in another language, please contact me (see [Contact Information](#)).

Other Programs

GRDuw. (For Windows 95 only)

GRDuw is a 32-bit program that you can quickly duplicate diskettes. **GRDuw** has an easy and intuitive user interface and allows very quick operation. **GRDuw** performs a physical track by track copy. **GRDuw** can also format your diskettes or hard disks in an optimized mode and repair them should they fail. **GRDuw** includes a special feature to check your boot sector to verify if it is consistent and virus free. **GRDuw** can save and load diskette file images in binary form so that you can store your distribution diskettes on your hard drive for a fast diskette generation. **GRDuw** also accept a file name into the command line and also register the .dim extension into the explorer registry. Also you can create a desktop shortcut icon and drop on it a .dim diskette image file to run **GRDuw** and directly load the .dim file.

GRDuw is a MUST HAVE utility that enhances the power of your Windows 95 PC.

GRBackPro.

GRBack Professional is a big enhancement of GRBack. The program is designed with a completely new user interface and has the many options that a professional user usually ask for.

The program do all what GRBack do with the following improvements:

- has a more complete user interface.
- it is possible to select a single folder or even a single file to backup.
- has an integrated restore facility.
- has an integrated scheduler.
- has a report dialog to easy view and extract of your backup activities.
- it run in background and is accessible from your tray icon bar.

Visit the GRSoftware WEB site: <http://www.grsoftware.net> to get the last beta versions or the last released version of these utilities.

Configuring your backup

Include or exclude some files from your backup archive.

You can easily configure your backup Jobs by means of simple text files that you must place on your source directories. These files contain a list of file names that you want included or excluded from your backup archive. These file name can have the normal MS-DOS wild characters (* and ?).

See [Backup configuration files](#) for more details.

To better explain how these files works, suppose you want to backup your Windows 95 user files but discard all the others files. You must create in your Windows directory (usually c:\windows) the file \$backup.inc with the following contents:

*.ini	that mean: any application configuration file
*.pif	that mean: any MS-DOS application configuration file
*.dat	that mean: your Windows registry
*.sys	that mean: any driver

For Windows 95 this same technique can be applied to your root directory where your system configuration files reside. You must create the file \$backup.inc with the following contents:

```
autoexec.bat
autoexec.dos
config.sys
config.dos
```

The destination backup ZIP archive.

The created backup archive isn't a unique BIG file. The program will create an exact directory tree as your original source files and a single ZIP-compatible archive for every source directory. In the destination drive you will find a root subdirectory named Bak_? where the symbol '?' is replaced with the drive letter of the source disk. You can also specify a path in every Job that will be added to this default Bak_? folder. You can use this to make different copies of your source at different times.

For example, if you want to backup the drive C: into the drive D: with the user specified path = User Name\Week1, the backup directory tree will start from the following directory: D:\Bak_C\User Name\Week1.

For every source directory GRBack will create a ZIP file named \$backup.zip and a \$backup.dir. The \$backup.zip file is your backup archive. The \$backup.dir is a text file with a listing of all the files in the source directory at the time the backup was executed. This file allows you to verify if your backup archive contains the correct files. Also, if your source directory has a \$backup.inc or \$backup.exc or \$backup.hlt file it will be copied to the destination drive to give you evidence of the reason why some files present in the \$backup.dir are not into the archive or vice versa are present.

Why the destination directory must start with Bak_ ?

This root directory is needed to known from which source drive this backup archive come from and also to have a well defined mean to identify that all backup archives lie into a

folder whose name start with the prefix 'Bak_'. This constrains also comes from the cross backup concept. If you backup one drive into another and vice versa when the second backup start it will backup also the directory created by the first backup run. In this mode you waste useful disk space. GRBack will allow you to automatically skip all the directories that start with the string "Bak" or "bak" (case insensitive). To do this it will suffice that you enable the check box **Automatically exclude the directories: Bak*;Tmp;Temp;Recycled;Recycle** that you find in the Advanced Options dialog. Previous versions of GRBack did all this stuff transparently to the user giving to it no way to include these directory in their backup. This version does nothing implicit and leave to the user the best choice of the directories to skip. Also the skip directory match can be case sensitive or not depending from the option: **Make exclude directory case insensitive**.

A Simple Example.

To better explain how the program works, let's take a look at this simple example: Suppose you have two drives -- drive C: and D:. And, suppose you have the following directory structure:

```
c:\win
c:\win\system
c:\win\system\ymm32
```

```
d:\works
d:\works\project1
d:\works\project1\res
```

Suppose that you don't create any \$backup.??? file in any source directory. Also suppose that your specified Jobs doesn't have any user destination path to add to the standard one (Bak_). You have inserted the following Jobs:

```
c:\ ----> d:\,
d:\ ----> c:\
```

GRBack will cross-backup all files in all directories. It will create the following destination directories:

```
c:\bak_d
d:\bak_c
```

Inside each of these directories you will find the exact disk structure of the respective source drives:

```
c:\bak_d\works
c:\bak_d\works\project1
c:\bak_d\works\project1\res
```

```
d:\bak_c\win
d:\bak_c\win\system
d:\bak_c\win\system\ymm32
```

In each of these directories you will find two files:

```
$backup.dir --> contain the complete source directory list.
$backup.zip --> contain the compressed files.
```


Backup configuration files

The following are the configuration files that the program can handle if it find one of them into the source directory:

\$backup.inc --> If a directory contains this file, all the files listed in it (wild characters are allowed) will be inserted into the directory ZIP file.

\$backup.exc -> If a directory contains this file, all the files listed in it (wild characters are allowed) will NOT be inserted into the directory ZIP file.

\$backup.hlt -> If a directory contains this file, you have two possibilities. If the file is of zero length, then the program does not backup this directory and all its subdirectories (this option is here only for compatibility with older versions. New users must use the \$backup.skp file). If the file has a length different from zero (It doesn't matter what its contents are), then the program will backup only the current directory as specified by the files \$backup.inc and \$backup.exc if they are present and will skip all subdirectories.

\$backup.skp -> If a directory contains this file the program does not backup this directory and all its subdirectories.

Include files Precedence.

Follows the include file precedence. The item 1. has the highest priority.

1. The edit box into the Advanced Options dialog box.
2. The \$backup.inc file, if exist, into the source directory.

All files are included by default (i.e. if nothing is specified).

Exclude files Precedence.

Follows the exclude file precedence. The item 1. has the highest priority.

1. The edit box into the Advanced Options dialog box.
2. The \$backup.exc if exist into the source directory.

No files are excluded by default.

Backup stop / skip Precedence.

This is the stop/skip precedence. The item 1. has the highest priority.

1. The \$backup.skp if exist into the source directory.
2. The \$backup.hlt if exist into the source directory.

None is skipped/stopped by default.

Read carefully Configuring your backup for a better understanding of the backup philosophy.

The shareware principle

Shareware distribution gives users a chance to try software before buying it. If you try a Shareware program and continue using it after a reasonable and specified evaluation period, you are expected to register. This product, for example, requires that you register after a 30 days trial period. With registration you get anything, from the simple right to continue using the software to an updated program with printed manual. A licensed version of this product includes the permanent right to use the product for an unlimited time. The licensed version also disables the register instructions reminder.

Copyright laws apply to both Shareware and commercial software, and the copyright holder retains all rights, with a few specific exceptions as stated below. Shareware authors are accomplished programmers, just like commercial authors, and the programs are of comparable quality. (In both cases, there are good programs and bad ones!) The main difference is in the method of distribution. The author specifically grants the right to copy and distribute the software, either to all and sundry or to a specific group. For example, some authors require written permission before a commercial disk vendor may copy their Shareware.

Shareware is a distribution method, not a type of software. You should find software that suits your needs and pocketbook, whether it's commercial or Shareware. The Shareware system makes fitting your needs easier, because you can try before you buy. And because the overhead is low, prices are low also. Shareware has the ultimate money-back guarantee -- if you don't use the product, you don't pay for it.

Informazioni

In questa pagina sono riassunte le informazioni generali del programma in lingua italiana. In attesa della traduzione completa delle istruzioni in italiano sono quì descritte le informazioni generali di immediata necessità.

Supporto.

Per qualunque problema riguardante l'uso del programma fate riferimento ai nostri indirizzi: [Contact Information](#) .

Registrazione.

E' possibile registrare la vostra copia del programma in diversi modi aggiuntivi rispetto a quelli standard previsti; vedi [How to Register](#) .

Il prezzo del programma è fissato in Lire 50000 ed i modi per registrarsi sono :

- Contrassegno (aggiungere Lire 9000 per le spese postali).
- Vaglia postale.
- Assegno non trasferibile.
- Contanti.

Affichè sia possibile compilare la vostra licenza d'uso occorre che voi inseriate nella busta (o vaglia) i vostri dati personali. In tal modo sarà possibile generare il vostro file di registrazione personale. Tale file vi verrà inviato via internet e-mail, se possedete un modem ed un abbonamento ad internet, oppure insieme all'ultima versione del programma su dischetto (ovviamente in questo caso dovrete aspettare molto più tempo).

I dati necessari sono:

- Nome Cognome
- Indirizzo postale
- Numero di telefono (opzionale)
- Indirizzo di posta elettronico (es. mio.nome@provider.it)

Distribuzione.

Potete divulgare la versione shareware del programma a chi volete purchè il pacchetto rimanga integro (cioè non siano sottratti dei file o aggiunti degli altri o modificati).

Ovviamente gli utenti registrati non devono divulgare il loro file di registrazione personale ed il fatto che esso contiene i dati personali dell'utente dovrebbe disincentivare questo tipo di divulgazione.

