

Administrator's Guide for

# Active Backup for Business

## Linux



Based on

**Active Backup for Business 2.2.0**



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# Introduction

## Active Backup for Business

Active Backup for Business (ABB) is a centrally managed, comprehensive office backup solution for Synology NAS.

ABB allows administrators to create different backup templates and automatically apply them to groups of Windows and Linux PCs, servers, and file servers, as well as virtual machines running on Microsoft Hyper-V and VMware vSphere platforms.

Advanced features of ABB include: forever incremental backup, agentless backup, Instant Restore physical and virtual devices to virtual machines, and a powerful deduplication mechanism that helps cut back on storage use. These features come with each installation of ABB, which is free for Synology NAS users.

ABB also offers users a wide range of backup options and restoration tools, as well as a number of optional technical and safety features.

Users who wish to make full use of the possibilities in ABB will benefit from the information in this Administrator's Guide.

## Requirements

Full specifications for Active Backup for Business can be found [here](#).

### NAS System requirements

Item	Requirements
Operating system	DSM 7.0 and above (ABB 2.2.0 and above) DSM 6.2 and above (ABB 2.1.0 and above) DSM 6.1.7 and above (ABB 2.0.4 and above)
CPU architecture	64-bit x86 (x64)
System memory	4 GB RAM recommended for ideal backup performance
File system	Btrfs

## Supported systems

Backup type	System / version
PC	Windows 10 Creators Update (all editions), Windows 10 (all editions), Windows 8.1 (all editions), Windows 7 SP1 (all editions)
Physical Server	<p><b>Windows:</b> Windows 10 Creators Update (all editions), Windows 10 (all editions), Windows 8.1 (all editions), Windows 7 SP1 (all editions), Windows Server 2019, Windows Server 2016, Windows Server 2012 R2, Windows Server 2012, Windows Server 2008 R2</p> <p><b>Linux:</b> CentOS (versions 6.10, 7.8, and 8.1), RHEL (versions 6.10, 7.8, and 8.1), Ubuntu (versions 16.04, 18.04, and 20.04), Fedora (versions 30, 31, and 32), Debian (versions 8.0 to 10)</p>
Virtual Machine	VMware free ESXi, VMware vSphere Essentials, VMware vSphere Essentials Plus, VMware vSphere Standard, VMware vSphere Advanced, VMware vSphere Enterprise, VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus (versions 5.0, 5.1, 5.5, 6.0, 6.5, 6.7, and 7.0); Windows Server Hyper-V 2019, Windows Server Hyper-V 2016
File Server	SMB protocol; rsync 3.0 and above

For a full list of requirements for backups and restorations, refer to the [Requirements and Limitations](#) section of the Active Backup for Business Help page.

## Backup types

The following sections provide information on the types of backups that you can perform using ABB.

### PC Backups

- Back up full Windows devices with features that help keep workstations, laptops, and personal devices protected, including a **Backup by event** option that backs up computers when users lock their screen, sign out, or start up their device.
- Create recovery media for bare-metal restorations or restore individual files and folders via the Active Backup for Business Portal.
- Backup restorations can only be performed by the **admin** account, users belonging to the **administrators** group, or the account owner that is logged into **Active Backup for Business Agent**. Privileges to perform restorations are not configurable.
- **Active Backup for Business Agent** can perform [Application-aware backup](#) on Windows PC's with the help of Microsoft's **Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS)**.

### Physical Server Backups

- Back up Windows and Linux devices with scheduled and manual backup options.
- Create recovery media for bare-metal restorations, restore individual files and folders using the **Active Backup for Business Portal**, or instantly restore your physical device to a virtual machine in **Synology Virtual Machine Manager**, **Hyper-V**, or **VMware**.
- Privileges to perform restorations can be assigned by the **admin** account (if enabled), as well as by all other DSM users or groups.
- Active Backup for Business Agent can perform **Application-aware backup** on Windows servers with the help of Microsoft's **Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS)**.

### File Server Backups

- Back up files and folders from Windows and Linux devices using SMB and rsync file transfer protocols.
- Select a backup mode as needed:
  - **Multi-versioned:** Each time the task runs, a new version with the changes made on the source will be copied entirely to a new folder on the destination
  - **Mirroring:** Each time the task runs, any changes made in the source folder will be copied to the destination and overwrite the existing file, making the destination folder a complete mirror-copy of the source.
  - **Incremental:** Each time the task runs, newly added and modified source files will be copied to the destination, overwriting the previous version of the file.
- Set up and fully control backups from one central console.
- No need to install a backup agent or enter sensitive DSM login details on source devices.

### Virtual Machine Backups

- Safely back up virtual machines directly from VMware and Hyper-V.
- Enable **Application-aware backup** on Virtual Machines to ensure data consistency with the help of Microsoft's Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS).
- Fully restore your entire virtual machines to VMware or Hyper-V.
- Use **Instant Restore** to restore your virtual machine to Synology's native hypervisor, **Synology Virtual Machine Manager**, as well as directly to **VMware** or **Hyper-V**.
- Perform a **Guest OS Files (Windows / Linux) Restore** via **Active Backup for Business Portal** to restore specific files on your virtual machine instead of an entire virtual machine.

## Backup tools

### Active Backup for Business Agent

**Active Backup for Business Agent** must be installed on the client device before backing up your data in order to carry out backup tasks and store the back up data. Administrative privileges are required to install, update, or uninstall Synology Active Backup for Business Agent.

This tool is available for download in the [Download Center](#). Refer to [this article](#) for installation details and other information.

### Active Backup for Business Portal

The **Active Backup for Business Portal** is the affiliated restore portal dedicated to restoration use. This portal allows administrators and end-users appointed by an administrator to access, browse, download, and restore backed-up data.

This tool is automatically installed during the installation of Active Backup for Business. Refer to [this article](#) to learn more about how to navigate the portal, perform restores, and other settings.

### Active Backup for Business Recovery Media Creator

Synology **Active Backup for Business Recovery Media Creator** is a desktop tool that can be used with Active Backup for Business. This tool is designed for administrators to [create recovery media](#) for bare-metal or volume-level restores. Administrators can use this tool if the device intended to create the recovery media is running a 64-bit version of Windows and has the same language and region settings, as well as the same Windows versions and drivers as the device intended to be restored.

Follow the instructions in the [Active Backup for Business Recovery Media Guide](#) to learn how to create recovery media for your device.

# Technical Overview

## Application-aware backup

Enabling **application-aware backup** helps to ensure that your application data is consistent. Backups with application-aware backup enabled make it easier for application data to be restored in the future by creating a snapshot of the application data when the backup is performed.

This feature uses VMware Tools and Microsoft's **Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS)** to make sure that the backed up data of virtual machines remain consistent and to prevent data inconsistencies from occurring when backing up actively used data.

## Forever-incremental backup

Synology recommends that users enable **Forever-incremental backup** to maximize the number of available backup versions and minimize the storage used for backup retention. When this policy is enabled, a full backup is only executed the first time that a task is performed. After that point, Active Backup for Business tracks changes and backs up only modified or new data.

**Forever-incremental backup** significantly reduces the amount of data transferred for each backup, as well as the amount of duplicated data stored to your backup destinations. This saves time and bandwidth on the source device. ABB relies on technologies native to Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Hyper-V, and VMware vSphere to perform incremental backup.

**Full backup** (bandwidth and storage intensive) is available if you cannot or do not wish to enable change-tracking technologies, or if you prefer to store full sets of data each time a backup is performed.

To enable **Forever-incremental backup**, you must first enable the following, depending on what type of device you are using:

- For PC's or physical servers: **Microsoft Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS)**
- For VMware virtual machines: **vSphere Changed Block Tracking (CBT)**
- For Hyper-V virtual machines: **Hyper-V Resilient Change Tracking (RCT)**

## Personal computer and physical server

The CBT technology adopted in Active Backup for Business uses VSS to take snapshots for devices and identify changed blocks between snapshots. Make sure that Microsoft Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS) on each protected device has been turned on to ensure that CBT is functioning properly. After the first full backup, CBT technology allows each device to transfer only changed blocks to your NAS, helping save bandwidth and speeding up the backup process.

## Virtual machine

**Changed Block Tracking (CBT)** and **Resilient Change Tracking (RCT)** are VMware vSphere's and Microsoft Hyper-V's native technology that track the blocks of a virtual machine disk that have been changed since a certain point in time. With VMware vSphere CBT and Microsoft Hyper-V RCT enabled, the amount of data transferred after the first full backup will be greatly reduced, speeding up the backup process.

To enable CBT for a virtual machine, refer to the instructions [this article](#).

## Data deduplication

Active Backup for Business detects and removes any data that are identical between different files, versions, or devices when storing backups to Synology NAS. Built-in deduplication technology can help to cut back on storage use, especially when the devices share similar operating systems, software applications, or files.

To best benefit from ABB deduplication technology, you should back up similar computers or virtual machines to the same Active Backup for Business host.

## Native hypervisor

The integration of ABB with Synology's native hypervisor, **Synology Virtual Machine Manager (VMM)**, powers two distinctive features of Active Backup for Business that make for a more efficient recovery after a server crash: **Backup Verification** and **Instant Restore** to virtual machines for physical or virtual servers.

If you want to use **Backup Verification** or **Instant Restore**, you must be using the **Physical Server** or **Virtual Machine** backup functionality in ABB. To switch devices from **PC backup** to **Physical Server** or **Virtual Machine backup** mode in ABB, go to **PC**, select a device, and then click **More > Change device type**.



## **Backup Verification**

If **Backup Verification** is enabled, a scheduled trial run of the restoration will be performed in VMM for a configured number of seconds. This process will be recorded into a video for your reference, allowing you to confirm that the backup can be successfully restored in case of sudden failure.

## **Instant Restore**

**Instant Restore** allows users to instantly run servers and virtual machines backed up with ABB as virtual machines in Synology VMM. Users can use this feature to implement rapid recoveries while continuing to use services in case of system crashes.

# Backup Configuration

The following sections provide instructions on connecting new devices to Synology NAS, creating backup tasks for connected devices, restoring backed up data, and managing connected devices.

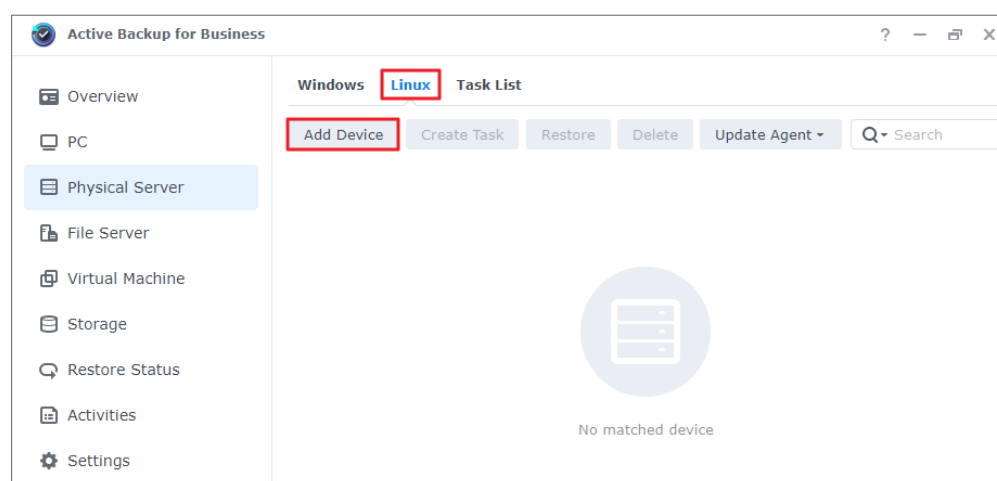
Before you start, make sure that Synology **Active Backup for Business Agent** is installed on the target Linux device.

## Linux backup

Before creating a backup task for your device, you need to connect your device to Synology NAS with Synology Active Backup for Business Agent. This section will guide you through the process of creating a backup task for a Linux physical server.

### Add a device

1. Check the following information to download the installer with the compatible file type from [Download Center](#) or **Active Backup for Business > Physical Server > Linux > Add Device** on your target device.



2. Download and extract the appropriate file to your target Linux devices.

### How to Add Linux Devices to the List

An agent and a driver are required on the Linux device you wish to protect:

1. Download and extract the file to your target Linux devices [\(deb\\_x64 / rpm\\_x64\)](#)

3. After extracting the downloaded file, follow the steps in the README file and execute `sudo ./install.run` to install the snapshot driver and agent on your Linux device.

### Notes:

- Active Backup for Business allows you to set up a template of backup task, helping you apply the same backup settings to multiple devices in mass deployment. Go to **Settings > Template > Create** to make a new template, or select the default template and click **Edit**.

## Create a backup task

Once the agent is installed on the physical server connected to your NAS, a backup task will be created according to the matched **template**. You can also create more than one backup task for each device.

1. Do either of the following to start the backup creation wizard:
  - Go to **Physical Server > Linux**, select a device you want to back up, and click **Create Task**.
  - Go to **Physical Server > Task List > Create** and select **Linux task**.
2. **Select Target Device** only appears if no device is selected before you click **Create**. A list of physical servers already connected to the server will be displayed in this step.

## Task Settings

- Users can enable data transfer compression and data transfer encryption.
- Compression and encryption can be enabled for the backup destination.
- When performing **physical server** backups, users can select **Backup Verification** to implement scheduled trial runs of the restoration, which will be performed in **Virtual Machine Manager**. The entire process will be recorded as a video for reference, so that users can confirm that the backup is able to be successfully restored.
- Users can customize pre/post scripts when performing **physical server** backups.

### Notes:

- The compression and encryption settings of a backup destination **cannot** be changed after the first backup task is created. If you wish to use different settings for future tasks, please create a task in a new destination.
- When compression or encryption at backup destination are enabled, you **cannot** perform **Instant Restore to Microsoft Hyper-V, Virtual Machine Manager**, or **Backup Verification** on models with certain package arches: Avoton, Braswell, Bromolow, Cedarview, and Grantley. To find out which package arch your Synology NAS uses, refer to [this article](#).

## Schedule Backup Task

If **Manual backup** is selected, users must start each backup task themselves.

**Scheduled backups** can be set to run on an hourly, daily, or weekly basis.

If you do not want tasks to run when your IT infrastructure is being heavily used, you can select **Configure Backup Windows** and specify time slots for when the backup task is allowed to run.

## Select a Retention Policy

Users can choose to store all versions of their backup, limit the number of stored versions, or keep only certain versions according to a schedule.

You can choose to set rules for keeping backup versions, such as to retain the latest version of each day, week, month, or year. You can edit the retention policy at **Active Backup for Business > Physical Server > Task List > select the task > Edit > Retention > Advanced retention policy > Set Rules**.

Selecting the **Keep only the latest ... versions** option will store a set number of versions regardless of the time intervals set. If more than one backup version exists within a certain time range, only the latest one will be kept. For example, if you set a policy as **Keep the latest version of the day for 1 day** for a backup task that will run every hour, only the version backed up at 23:00 will be kept.

A version can meet more than one retention rule at a time. For example, a version can be retained by the weekly retention rule and daily retention rule at the same time. Advanced retention policy employs the GFS, or Grandfather-Father-Son retention mechanism.

**Set Rules**
✕

Apply the following rules to keep backup versions. One version can meet multiple rules at the same time. [Learn more](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keep all versions for	1	days
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keep the latest version of the day for	7	days
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keep the latest version of the week for	4	weeks
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keep the latest version of the month for	12	months
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keep the latest version of the year for	3	years

The system will ensure a certain number of latest versions are kept before applying the retention rules above.

Number of latest versions to keep	10	versions
-----------------------------------	----	----------

Cancel
OK

## Manage Backup Tasks

All existing tasks are displayed under **Active Backup for Business > Physical Server > Task List**.

### Edit and delete backup tasks

Users can edit tasks individually or several tasks simultaneously by selecting one or several tasks (Ctrl + left click) and clicking **Edit**. The **Backup destination** cannot be changed. **Task settings** and **Source type** can be changed both individually and simultaneously, and the **Task name** can only be changed individually.

To delete backup tasks, select one or more tasks in the corresponding task list. Once you confirm the action, all backed up data will be removed along with the backup task.

### Details

To view information on the **Status** and **Logs** for your task, such as the source, execution time, duration, and log time of the backups, and more, select your task and click **Details**.

### Versions

To view information about the backed up versions, such as the status and time of creation, select your task and click **Version**. You can also click the **folder** icon to browse your backed-up data and the live video of the backup if **Backup Verification** is enabled.

Backup Version Information				
	Time of creation	End Time	Backup Status	Verify backup Status
	04/26/2021 15:47:41	04/26/2021 16:11:44	Successful	

### Update the agent

If your Synology NAS is connected to the internet, go to **Active Backup for Business > Physical Server**. Select the target device that needs an update and click **Update Agent**.

If your Synology NAS is not connected to the internet, but is on a private network:

1. Download the **Active Backup for Business Agent** installer from the [Download Center](#), and upload it to any folder on your Synology NAS using **File Station**. Make a note of the location of the installer.
2. Sign in to DSM with root permissions on your device. Refer to [this article](#) for detailed instructions.

3. Execute the following command to install the agent on your target devices:

```
cp /[volume_where_you_uploaded_the_installer_]/[name_of_the_folder_
where_you_uploaded_installer]/[installer_name]/[volume_where_you_
installed_Active_Backup_for_Business]/\@tmp/
```

For example, if the location of the installer is */volume1/Files/Synology Active Backup for Business Agent-2.2.0-1531-x64-deb* and Active Backup for Business is installed on *volume1*, then the command should be:

```
cp /[volume1]/[Files]/[Synology Active Backup for Business Agent-2.2.0-
1531-x64-deb]/[volume1]/\@tmp/
```

4. After completing the setup, the agent will be successfully updated.



# Restoration Guide

Active Backup for Business offers several methods to restore your Linux device backups. Which method is best for your case depends on if you only want to recover files, or restore an entire device to a previous state. Linux backup tasks also give you the option of using virtual recovery.

## Recovery Options

- **Entire device restore:** Create a bootable ISO image or USB drive and boot your device into the wizard via the **Active Backup for Business Recovery Media for Linux**. You can later restore your full device (bare-metal restoration) or a specific volume over the network via your Synology NAS if necessary.
- **Granular (file or folder-level) restore:** Choose a backup version, select files or folders for recovery in the **Active Backup for Business Portal** and automatically restore them to their original location, or download the data to a different device or location. You can also assign end users restore or download permissions via **Control Panel** in DSM.

**Linux physical server** backup tasks can also be restored to a virtual machine via VMware vSphere, Microsoft Hyper-V, or Synology VMM by using the following methods:

- **Instant Restore:** Convert the Linux device's backed up images to a virtual machine in VMware or Hyper-V. This method can restart a virtual machine directly from a compressed and deduplicated backup file to minimize the downtime of the virtual machine. Instant Restore to VMware or Hyper-V can restart a virtual machine within seconds, but has a limited I/O performance.
- **Full Virtual Machine Restore:** Convert the Linux device's backed up images into a virtual machine in VMware or Hyper-V. This method can restore an entire virtual machine from a backup file to the latest state or a previous point in time if the primary virtual machine fails. This method requires more time and resources, but has full I/O disk performance.
- **Instant Restore to Synology Virtual Machine Manager (VMM):** During urgent cases when tolerance for downtime is limited, mounting the backed-up image of your physical server on **Synology Virtual Machine Manager (VMM)** and power it on to continue your business could be your choice. To mount the backed-up image of your physical server on Synology Virtual Machine Manager, Synology Virtual Machine Manager is required to be installed on the same DSM.

Refer to the table below for a comparison of the different types of recovery methods to virtual machines.

Full Restore	Instant Restore to VMware	Instant Restore to Hyper-V	Instant Restore to VMM
Long RTO	Short RTO	Short RTO	Short RTO
Full disk I/O performance	Limited disk I/O performance	Limited disk I/O performance	Full disk I/O performance (NAS)
Services and backup data are run and stored on the VMware/Hyper-V	Services are run on VMware, and backup data is stored on NAS	Services are run on Hyper-V, and backup data is stored on NAS	Services and backup data are run and stored on NAS
No further action required if it's restoring to the production site	Need to migrate back to the production site to finalize	Need to export and import back to the production site to finalize	Need to migrate back to the production site to finalize

## Restore an entire device

**Synology Active Backup for Business Recovery Media for Linux** is implemented by using ISO images, which can also be burned to your USB. To create recovery media for Linux, go to the [Download Center](#) and download **Synology Active Backup for Business Recovery Media for Linux (Synology-Recovery-Media.iso)**.

For instructions on how to create a bootable USB recovery drive for your Linux device with ISO burning software, Legacy BIOS, and for UEFI, you can refer to [this tutorial](#).

Since the recovery wizard is already embedded in the **Active Backup for Business Recovery Media for Linux (Synology-Recovery-Media.iso)**, it will start up automatically when booting up your Linux device using recovery media.



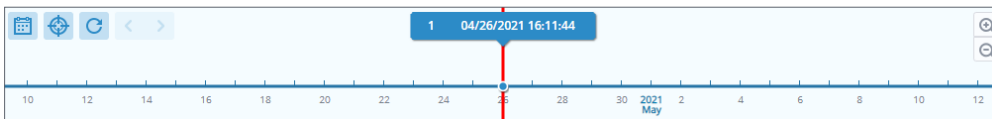
## Recover individual files

Physical server backup supports granular (file- and folder-level) restore through **Active Backup for Business Portal**. Administrators can delegate restore permissions during task creation and task editing. For more information, you can refer to [this article](#).

### Restore files or folders from DSM

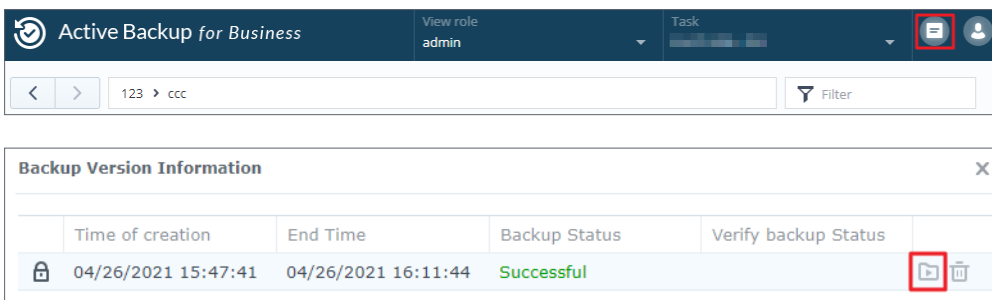
Administrators and accounts administrating Active Backup for Business can access the **Restore Portal** from any device. Follow the steps below to restore files to the original backup source device, or to download them via browser.

1. In DSM, go to the **applications** menu, and select **Active Backup for Business Portal**.
2. Under **View role** at the top of the page, select a user with the appropriate restoration privileges.
3. Under **Task**, select the source device to which or from which you want to restore files.
4. Select the folders or files that you want to restore.
5. Use the slider at the bottom of the page to select a backup version from which you wish to restore folders or files, then click through the folder structure in the file explorer to select the directory or file.



6. Click **Restore**, and in the pop-up window you will need to provide your Linux device's login credentials. In the **For duplicate data field**, you can select whether you want to **Overwrite** or **Skip** files that have the same name in the target directory. Click **Next**.
7. Choose the destination to which you want to restore your files, then click **Apply**.

You can view the progress of the restoration by clicking the **Restore Task** icon in the upper right-hand corner.



You can also download the files via your local browser by selecting the files and clicking **Download**.

## Instantly Restore as a Virtual Machine

With **Instant Restore to VMware** and **Instant Restore to Hyper-V** you can launch the restore wizard to restore a virtual machine to its most recent state or to any available restore point through any of the methods below.

### Launch the Instant Restore Wizard

Go to **Active Backup for Business > Physical Server > Linux**, select the device that you want to restore, and click **Restore** to launch the restore wizard. Select the device and restore points, choose **Restore to VMware vSphere** or **Restore to Microsoft Hyper-V**, and then select **Instant Restore**.

#### Notes:

- Make sure that the hypervisor is authorized to access and mount the iSCSI target on your Synology NAS. When performing **Instant Restore to Hyper-V**, a backup image will be cloned to a temporary iSCSI target on your Synology NAS, and then the hypervisor will mount the iSCSI target.
- **iSCSI Initiator Service** must be enabled on the source server for the system to perform **Instant Restore to Hyper-V**.

### Select restore mode

- **Restore to the original location:** Restore the selected virtual machine to its original location, while keeping its original name and settings and minimizing the chance of input errors by users. This option instantly unregisters and replaces the original virtual machine on the production site.
- **Restore to a new location, or with different settings:** Customize the destination and settings for the restored virtual machine.

### Configure restore settings

If you select **Restore to the original location**, you will be directed to the summary page of the restore wizard.

If you select **Restore to a new location, or with different settings**, you will need to specify the name and select a folder, hypervisor, resource pool, and network to restore the virtual machine. Changes made during **Instant Restore** will be stored on your Synology NAS.

For **Instant Restore to VMware**, you can also select the datastore when executing virtual machine migration.

## Apply and Restore

A summary of the restoration will be shown. Once you have confirmed the information to be restored, click **Done**. You will then be automatically directed to **Restore Status** to monitor the restoration progress.

For **Instant Restore to VMware**, click the **Migrate VM** button to finalize the process.

Enable **Power on VM automatically after restoration** to immediately run the restored virtual machine. If you are performing Instant Restore for testing purposes, it is recommended to keep this option **disabled**, and to manually disconnect the initial virtual machine from the production network to avoid any conflicts.

## Fully Restore as a Virtual Machine

With **Full Virtual Machine Restore**, the backed up images of your Linux device will be converted to a virtual machine in VMware or Hyper-V. The virtual machine can then be restarted in VMware or Hyper-V directly from a compressed and deduplicated physical server backup file to minimize downtime.

### Launch the Full VM Restore Wizard

Go to **Active Backup for Business > Physical Server > Linux**, select the device that you want to restore, and click **Restore** to launch the restore wizard. Select the device and restore point, choose **Restore to VMware vSphere** or **Restore to Microsoft Hyper-V**, then select **Full Virtual Machine Restore**.

### Select restore mode

- **Restore to the original location:** Restore the selected virtual machine to its original location, with the original name and settings. This option minimizes the chance of user input error and will un-register and replace the original virtual machine at the production site.
- **Restore to a new location, or with different settings:** This option allows you to customize the destination and settings of the restored virtual machine.

### Configure restore settings

If you choose **Restore to the original location**, this step will be skipped.

For users who choose **Restore to a new location, or with different settings**, you will need to specify a name, and select a folder, hypervisor, datastore, resource pool, and network to run the restored virtual machine.

## Apply and Restore

A summary of the restoration will be shown. Once you have confirmed the information to be restored, click **Done**. You will then be automatically directed to **Restore Status** to monitor the restoration progress.

Enable **Power on VM automatically after restoration** to immediately run the restored virtual machine. If you are performing Full VM Restore for testing purposes, it is recommended to keep this option **disabled**, and to manually disconnect the initial virtual machine from the production network and connect it to an isolated non-production network to avoid any conflicts.

## Instant Restore to Synology Virtual Machine Manager (VMM)

The integration of **Active Backup for Business** with **Synology Virtual Machine Manager (VMM)** provides users with an alternative solution for disaster recovery, browsing and restoring application data, and upgrading test environments.

In cases where downtime must be limited, you can mount the backed-up image of your Linux physical server on Synology Virtual Machine Manager (VMM) and power it on to continue your business. To do this, Synology Virtual Machine Manager must be installed on the same DSM. This section provides the prerequisites and instructions for instantly restoring your backed up device via Synology VMM.

Refer to the [Synology Virtual Machine Manager product specifications](#) for more information on the limitations, features, and other details of Synology VMM.

### Launch Synology VMM Wizard

Go to **Active Backup for Business > Physical Server > Linux** and select the device that you want to restore, and click **Restore** to launch the restore wizard. Choose the device and restore point, and select **Instant Restore to Synology Virtual Machine Manager (VMM)**.

**Notes:**

- Only one physical server in each backup task can be instantly restored on Synology VMM at a time. You cannot select multiple virtual machines and run them at the same time.

## **Configure virtual machine settings**

Once you have selected a virtual machine and restore point, you will need to configure its settings in the Synology VMM wizard. Refer to [this article](#) for more details.

## **Apply and restore**

After you have configured the settings, click **Done**. The backed up virtual machine will be imported to Synology VMM and you can power on the virtual machine in the Synology VMM console.



# Best Practices

The following sections provide recommendations for how you can protect your backup data against loss, ensure backup task continuity, and deploy our backup agent to many devices at once while keeping your Synology NAS and DSM secure.

## Maintain remote backup copies and relink

Active Backup for Business safely stores backup data from all of your devices on your Synology NAS. However, issues that occur on one device can affect a whole infrastructure.

Natural disaster, theft, or network unavailability can prevent you from retrieving your data or slow down the recovery process. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that you keep remote copies of all of your backups on a different device and in a different location.

It is also important to always maintain three copies of all of your data (the original copy, a backup, and a copy of that backup in a different location). This is also referred to as the 3-2-1 backup strategy. Synology NAS includes software that allows you to execute this strategy.

### Create remote copies

The following two DSM applications can be used to copy your Active Backup for Business data and configurations from Synology NAS to other devices, or to the public cloud.

- **Snapshot Replication:** This option is recommended if you have access to a secondary Synology NAS. You can replicate your ABB data and settings to another Synology NAS and quickly restart all of your ABB tasks on that device directly from the replica.
- **Hyper Backup:** This option allows you to back up your ABB data and settings to more locations, including portable drives, file servers, and public cloud storage. However, recovery requires you to first restore the backup to a functioning Synology NAS before relinking and restarting ABB tasks.

## Relink

- After creating a replication or backup task, it is important to make sure that you know how to successfully restore or relink your existing Active Backup for Business tasks and backup data, whether they exist on a secondary NAS, in public clouds, or other storage media.
- [This tutorial](#) provides detailed instructions on how to back up and relink your Active Backup for Business data using **Snapshot Replication** and **Hyper Backup**. To do this, make sure that your Synology NAS has 64-bit processors, is running DSM 6.1.7 or above, is running Active Backup for Business 2.0.4 or above, and have the necessary packages installed on your Synology NAS. See the **Environment** section in the tutorial for more details.

# Learn more

## Related articles

- [Frequently asked questions about Active Backup for Business](#)
- [How do I select a suitable NAS for running Active Backup for Business?](#)
- [How do I back up and relink Active Backup for Business data to a destination Synology NAS?](#)
- [How can I restore entire device backups from Active Backup for Business in Virtual Machine Manager?](#)
- [I restored my Linux system with Active Backup for Business, but it fails to boot. What can I do?](#)
- [How many devices can I back up concurrently with Active Backup for Business?](#)

## Software specs

Refer to the Active Backup for Business [software specifications](#) to learn more about the package's features, components, and limitations.

## Other resources

For more step-by-step tutorials and visual information, feel free to also check out [Synology's YouTube channel](#). There, you can find related videos by searching for "Active Backup for Business".

You can also find admin guides, brochures, technical specifications, user guides, whitepapers and more for Active Backup for Business in [Synology Documentation](#).





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