



## User's Guide

# Acronis® True Image 11.0 *Home*

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# Chapter 1. Introduction

## 1.1 What is Acronis® True Image Home?

Acronis True Image Home is an integrated software suite that ensures security of all information on your PC. It can backup the operating system, applications, settings and all of your data, while also securely destroying any confidential data you no longer need. With this software, you can back up selected files and folders, Windows applications settings, settings and messages of Microsoft e-mail clients — or even the entire disk drive or selected partitions. Should your disk drive become damaged or your system attacked by a virus or malware, you can restore the back-up data quickly and easily, eliminating hours or days of work trying to rebuild your disk drive's data and applications from scratch.

Acronis True Image Home provides you with all the essential tools you need to recover your computer system should a disaster occur, such as losing data, accidentally deleting critical files or folders, or a complete hard disk crash. If failures occur that block access to information or affect system operation, you will be able to restore the system and the lost data easily.

The unique technology developed by Acronis and implemented in Acronis True Image Home allows you to perform exact, sector-by-sector disk backups, including all operating systems, applications and configuration files, software updates, personal settings, and data.

Acronis True Image Home now helps you protect your identity as well. Simply deleting old data will not remove it permanently from your computer. Acronis True Image now includes Acronis DriveCleanser, an application that permanently destroys files and wipes personal information from partitions and/or entire disks, as well as a wizard that cleans up your Windows system of all traces of user activity.

You can store backups on almost any PC storage device: internal or external hard drives, network drives or a variety of IDE, SCSI, FireWire (IEEE-1394), USB (1.0, 1.1 and 2.0) and PC Card (formerly called PCMCIA) removable media drives, as well as CD-R/RW, DVD-R/RW, DVD+R/RW, magneto-optical, Iomega Zip and Jaz drives.

When performing scheduled backup tasks, Acronis True Image Home automatically selects a backup mode (full, incremental, differential) in accordance with the backup policy set by the user.

If you are going to install a new hard disk drive, Acronis True Image Home will help you to transfer information from the old one in minutes, including operating systems, applications, documents, and personal settings. After migrating to the new hard disk you can destroy all confidential information on the old one securely. This is the recommended procedure if you intend to donate, throw away, or sell the old hard disk drive.

Wizards and a Windows XP-style interface will make your work easier. Just answer a few simple questions and let Acronis True Image Home take care of everything else! The Traffic Light bar makes it easier monitoring the system backup state. When a system problem occurs, the software will get you up and running in no time.

## 1.2 New in Acronis True Image 11 Home

- **Try&Decide utility** – This feature allows you to create a temporary copy of your hard disk. Using this copy, you can perform changes on the system that otherwise might not be advisable, such as installing new software, downloading files from the Internet, or opening e-mail attachments. If the operations on the virtual version of your system are

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successful, you can apply those changes to the real system or discard the changes as you wish. If, during these operations, the system crashes or is infected by a virus, you can delete the temporary duplicate and restore your system to a known, healthy condition. A simple reboot will restore your original hard disk and any changes, including the virus or other unwanted changes, will be gone.

- **DriveCleanser, File Shredder, and System Clean-up** - Securely wipe data stored on an entire hard disk, individual partitions or in individual files and eliminate traces of user system activities. You have the option to delete files or erase a whole disk using any of eight standardized data destruction methods or custom, user-defined methods. This capability comes from the inclusion of Acronis DriveCleanser, a former stand-alone product that also was a component of the Acronis Privacy Expert Suite. As a stand-alone product, Acronis DriveCleanser won several Editors' Choice Awards.
- **Flexible and powerful scheduler with more settings** – A new scheduler allows you to schedule tasks for backups and validations with more flexibility. Additional settings greatly enhance usage options. New settings include: set schedule on logon/logoff, Windows start up, when added or deleted data exceeds a specified amount, or after a specified amount of time. Also you can setup to start a backup if computer is in an idle state, so the backup will be performed without affecting your productivity.
- **More user-friendly** – Many interface improvements and usability enhancements make Acronis True Image Home easier to use than ever before. Acronis True Image Home is packaged as a suite of smaller, simpler, independent utilities working together and it is ready to protect the computer right after installation, no reboot is necessary.
- **Sector-by-sector images** – You can create an exact sector-by-sector disk image. This feature is very useful when you need to backup corrupted disk drives or to make an image of a partition on which an important file has been deleted. This option lets you copy used and unused hard disk sectors.
- **Ignore bad sectors** – This option lets you run a backup even if there are bad sectors on the hard disk. This feature is also useful during unattended backups when you cannot control the backup process. If you enable this option, the backup will be performed regardless of read and/or write errors that could occur on the bad sectors.
- **Silent Mode** – You can configure the program to ignore errors during backup/restore operations. In this mode, no notifications will be displayed if errors occur while backup or restore task is running. Instead, you can view the detailed log of all operations after task is complete.
- **Searching for file in an image** – You can search for files in an image by name or a part of the name and then restore individual files easily and quickly.
- **Browsing all backup locations with file search and drill-down to the file level** – You can search for file through multiple archives and backup locations by name or by a part of the name and then restore individual files easily and quickly.
- **Restoring files and folders without restoring absolute path** – You can select an option of restoring files without restoring the absolute path so the restored items will be saved to the destination folder without creating multiple additional folders.
- **Shell extension for archive validation** – You can easily validate any archive right from the Windows Explorer context menu. Simply find a backup archive, right-click on it and select "Validate Backup Archive".

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## 1.3 System requirements and supported media

### 1.3.1 Minimum system requirements

Acronis True Image Home requires the following hardware:

- Pentium processor or higher
- 128 MB RAM
- FDD or CD-RW drive for bootable media creation
- Mouse (recommended).

### 1.3.2 Supported operating systems

- Windows® 2000 Professional SP 4
- Windows XP SP 2
- Windows XP Professional x64 Edition
- Windows Vista (all editions)

Acronis True Image Home also enables the creation of a bootable diskette or CD-R/W that can back up and restore a disk/partition on a computer running any Intel- or AMD- based PC operating system, including Linux®. The only exception is the Intel-based Apple Macintosh, which is not supported in native mode at this time.

### 1.3.3 Supported file systems

- FAT16/32
- NTFS
- Ext2/Ext3
- ReiserFS
- Linux SWAP

If a file system is not supported or is corrupted, Acronis True Image Home can copy data using a sector-by-sector approach.



The Ext2/Ext3, ReiserFS, and Linux SWAP file systems are supported only for disk or partition backup/restore operations. You cannot use Acronis True Image Home for file-level operations with these file systems (file backup, restore, search, as well as image mounting and file restoring from image), as well as for backups to disks or partitions with these file systems.

### 1.3.4 Supported storage media

- Hard disk drives
- Networked storage devices
- FTP servers\*
- CD-R/RW, DVD-R/RW, DVD+R (including double-layer DVD+R), DVD+RW, DVD-RAM\*\*
- USB 1.0 / 2.0, FireWire (IEEE-1394) and PC card storage devices
- Floppy disks, ZIP®, Jaz® and other removable media

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\* An FTP server must allow for passive mode file transfers. Data recovery directly from FTP server requires the archive to consist of files of no more than 2GB each. It is recommended that you change the source computer firewall settings to open Ports 20 and 21 for both TCP and UDP protocols and disable the **Routing and Remote Access** Windows service.

\*\* Burned write-once discs cannot be read in Windows NT 4 without third-party software. Burned rewritable discs cannot be read in Linux without kernel patch.

## 1.4 Technical support

As part of your purchase of this product, you are entitled to receive unlimited electronic support and the minor releases of the product. For example, when you purchase version 11.0 of the product you can register the product and when "patch" releases (e.g., 11.01, 11.02, 11.03 etc) are made available you can download them at no additional charge. When we issue the next major release, e.g., Version 12 you would need to purchase an upgrade to get this release.

While you are using this product, please register the product on our website at [www.acronis.com/homecomputing/my/products/registration/](http://www.acronis.com/homecomputing/my/products/registration/). Then when you require support you can log onto <http://www.acronis.com/homecomputing/support/> to receive electronic support.

If you need immediate support or detailed, complex questions about the product you can purchase per-incident support

Buy Per-incident Support

[http://www.acronis.com/promo/buy/product1411753/SupportHome/http%3A/shop.acronis.com/dr/v2/ec\\_Main.Entry17c?V1=1411753&PID=&PN=1&SP=10034&SID=44905&CUR=840&CID=0](http://www.acronis.com/promo/buy/product1411753/SupportHome/http%3A/shop.acronis.com/dr/v2/ec_Main.Entry17c?V1=1411753&PID=&PN=1&SP=10034&SID=44905&CUR=840&CID=0)

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# Chapter 2. Acronis True Image Home installation and startup

## 2.1 Installing Acronis True Image Home

To install Acronis True Image Home:

- Run the Acronis True Image Home setup file.
- In the Install Menu, select the program to install: Acronis True Image Home.
- Follow the install wizard instructions on the screen.



**Typical**, **Custom** and **Complete** installation is available. Having pressed **Custom**, you can choose to install, besides Acronis True Image Home, **Rescue Media Builder**.

With **Rescue Media Builder** you can create bootable rescue disks (see details in *Chapter 11. Creating bootable media*). You might not need this tool if you purchased a boxed product that contains a bootable CD. Installing the **Bootable Rescue Media Builder** will allow you to create bootable media or its ISO image at any time from the main program window or running **Bootable Rescue Media Builder** on its own.



When installed, Acronis True Image Home creates a new device in the Device Manager list (**Control Panel -> System -> Hardware -> Device Manager -> Acronis Devices -> Acronis TrueImage Backup Archive Explorer**). Do not disable or uninstall this device, as it is necessary for connecting image archives as virtual disks (see *Chapter 13. Exploring archives and mounting images*).



If you have the trial version of Acronis True Image 11 Home installed on your system, you must uninstall it before installing the commercial version of the product.

## 2.2 Extracting Acronis True Image Home

When installing Acronis True Image Home, you can save the setup (.msi) file on a local or network drive. This will help when modifying or recovering the existing component installation.

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To save the setup file:

- Run the Acronis True Image Home setup file.
- In the Install Menu, right-click on the program name and select **Extract**.
- Select a location for the setup file and click **Save**.

## 2.3 Running Acronis True Image Home

You can run Acronis True Image Home in Windows by selecting **Start -> Programs -> Acronis -> Acronis True Image Home -> Acronis True Image Home** or clicking on the appropriate shortcut on the desktop.

If your operating system does not load for some reason, you can run Acronis Startup Recovery Manager. However, this must be activated prior to use; see *3.4 Acronis Startup Recovery Manager* to learn more about this procedure. To run the program, press F11 during bootup when you see a corresponding message that tells you to press that key. Acronis True Image Home will be run in the standalone mode, allowing you to recover the damaged partitions.

If your disk data is totally corrupted and the operating system cannot boot (or if you have not activated Acronis Startup Recovery Manager), load the standalone Acronis True Image Home version from the bootable media, supplied with the retail box or created by you using Rescue Media Builder. This boot disk will allow you to restore your disk from a previously created image.

## 2.4 Upgrading Acronis True Image Home

If you already have Acronis True Image Home installed, the new version will simply update it; there is no need to remove the old version and reinstall the software.

Please keep in mind that the backups created by the later program version may be incompatible with the previous program versions, so if you roll back Acronis True Image Home to an older version, you likely will have to re-create the archives using the older version. We strongly recommend that you create new bootable media after each Acronis True Image Home upgrade.

## 2.5 Removing Acronis True Image Home

Select **Start -> Settings -> Control panel -> Add or remove programs -> <Acronis True Image Home> -> Remove**. Then follow instructions on the screen. You may have to reboot your computer afterwards to complete the task.

If you use Windows Vista, select **Start -> Control panel -> Programs and Features -> <Acronis True Image Home> -> Remove**. Then follow instructions on the screen. You may have to reboot your computer afterwards to complete the task.

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# Chapter 3. General information and proprietary Acronis technologies

## 3.1 The difference between file archives and disk/partition images

A backup archive is a file or a group of files (also called “backups” in this guide), that contains a copy of selected file/folder data or a copy of all information stored on selected disks/partitions.

When you back up files and folders, only the data, along with the folder tree, is compressed and stored.

Backing up disks and partitions is performed in a different way: Acronis True Image Home stores a sector-by-sector snapshot of the disk, which includes the operating system, registry, drivers, software applications and data files, as well as system areas hidden from the user. This procedure is called “creating a disk image,” and the resulting backup archive is often called a disk/partition image.



By default, Acronis True Image Home stores only those hard disk parts that contain data (for supported file systems). Further, it does not back up swap file information (pagefile.sys under Windows NT/2000/XP/Vista) and hiberfil.sys (a file that keeps RAM contents when the computer goes into hibernation). This reduces image size and speeds up image creation and restoration. However, you might use the **Create an image using the sector-by-sector approach** option that lets you include all of the sectors of a hard disk in an image.



A partition image includes all files and folders. This includes all attributes (including hidden and system files), boot record, and FAT (file allocation table); as well as files in the root directory and the zero track of the hard disk with master boot record (MBR).



A disk image includes images of all disk partitions as well as the zero track with master boot record (MBR).

By default, files in all Acronis True Image Home archives have a “.tib” extension. Do not change this file extension.

It is important to note that you can restore files and folders not only from file archives, but from disk/partition images too. To do so, mount the image as a virtual disk (see *Chapter 13. Exploring archives and mounting images*) or start the image restoration and select **Restore specified files or folders**.

## 3.2 Full, incremental and differential backups

Acronis True Image Home can create full, incremental and differential backups.

A **full backup** contains all data at the moment of backup creation. It forms a base for further incremental or differential backup or is used as a standalone archive. A full backup has the shortest restore time as compared to incremental or differential ones.

An **incremental backup** file only contains data changed since the last full or incremental backup creation. Therefore, it is smaller and takes less time to create, but as it doesn't contain all data; all the previous incremental backups and the initial full backup are required for restoration. To restore an incremental image, the incremental image and full image must be in the same folder.



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Unlike incremental backup, when every backup procedure creates the next file in a “chain,” a **differential backup** creates an independent file, containing all changes since the last full backup. Generally, a differential backup will be restored faster than an incremental one, as it does not have to process through a long chain of previous backups.

A standalone full backup might be an optimal solution if you often roll back the system to the initial state or if you do not like to manage multiple files. Remember, you need to keep all of the incremental or differential backups in the same folder as the full backup image. If you create a new full backup, you’ll need to keep its incremental and differential images in the same folder as this full backup.

If you are interested in saving only the last data state to be able to restore it in case of system failure, consider the differential backup. It is particularly effective if your data changes tend to be few as compared to the full data volume.

The same is true for incremental backup. These are most useful when you need frequent backups and ability to roll back to a specific point in time. Having created a full backup once, if you then create an incremental backup each day of a month, you will get the same result as if you created full backups every day. Incremental images are considerably smaller than full or differential images.



An incremental or differential backup created after a disk is defragmented might be considerably larger than usual. This is because the defragmentation program changes file locations on disk and the backups reflect these changes. Therefore, it is recommended that you re-create a full backup after disk defragmentation.

### 3.3 Acronis Secure Zone™

The Acronis Secure Zone is a special, hidden partition for storing backups on the computer system itself. For archive security purposes, ordinary applications cannot access it. In the Acronis True Image Home wizards’ windows, the zone is listed along with all partitions available for storing archives. The Acronis Secure Zone is necessary if you plan to use the Acronis Startup Recovery Manager, Acronis Active Restore, or Acronis Try&Decide features (see below).

The Acronis Secure Zone is available as a location to store backup files as long as there is free space in the Zone. If there is not enough space, older backups will be deleted to create free space.

Acronis True Image Home uses the following approach to clean up Acronis Secure Zone:

- If there is not enough free space in the zone to create a backup, the program deletes the oldest full backup with all subsequent incremental/differential backups.
- If there is only one full backup (with subsequent incremental/differential backups) left and a full backup is in progress, then the old full backup and incremental/differential backups are deleted.
- If you are in the process of creating an image and there is not enough free space, you will get an error message. In that case, you will have to increase the size of the Acronis Secure Zone and then run the backup operation again.

You can back up data automatically on a schedule (see *Chapter 9. Scheduling tasks*), and not worry about zone overflow issues. However, if you keep long chains of incremental backups, it will be a good practice to periodically check the zone free space, indicated on the second screen of the **Manage Acronis Secure Zone** wizard.

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For information on how to create, resize or delete Acronis Secure Zone using this wizard, see in *Chapter 10. Managing Acronis Secure Zone*.

## 3.4 Acronis Startup Recovery Manager

### 3.4.1 How it works

The Acronis Startup Recovery Manager lets you start Acronis True Image Home without loading the operating system. With this feature, you can run Acronis True Image Home by itself to restore damaged partitions even if the operating system won't load for some reason. As opposed to booting from Acronis removable media, you will not need a separate media or network connection to start Acronis True Image Home.

### 3.4.2 How to use

To be able to use Acronis Startup Recovery Manager at boot time, prepare as follows:

1. Install Acronis True Image Home.
2. Create Acronis Secure Zone on the hard disk (see *Chapter 10. Managing Acronis Secure Zone*).
3. Activate Acronis Startup Recovery Manager. To do so, click **Activate Acronis Startup Recovery Manager** and follow the wizard's instructions.

If you try to activate Acronis Startup Recovery Manager before you created an Acronis Secure Zone, you will be prompted to create the zone; then the Acronis Startup Recovery Manager will be activated. If the Acronis Secure Zone already exists, the Acronis Startup Recovery Manager will be activated immediately.



When Acronis Startup Recovery Manager is activated, it overwrites the master boot record (MBR) with its own boot code. If you have any third-party boot managers installed, you will have to reactivate them after activating the Startup Recovery Manager. For Linux loaders (e.g. LiLo and GRUB), you might consider installing them to a Linux root (or boot) partition boot record instead of MBR before activating Acronis Startup Recovery Manager.

If a failure occurs, turn on the computer and press F11 when you see the "Press F11 for Acronis Startup Recovery Manager" message. This will run a standalone version of Acronis True Image Home that differs only slightly from the complete version. For information on restoring damaged partitions, see *Chapter 6. Restoring the backup data*.



Be careful! Drive letters in standalone Acronis True Image Home might sometimes differ from the way Windows identifies drives. For example, the D: drive identified in the standalone Acronis True Image Home might correspond to the E: drive in Windows.

## 3.5 Acronis backup locations

The performance, capacity and cost of modern hard disk drives make them a convenient and reliable place for storing backup archives. External and networked drives have become the most popular storage locations. Backing up a computer drive to another internal drive is another common solution. One can organize a storage area on an FTP server and access it via the Internet. A hard drive, whether local, external or networked, provides plenty of space and is always available for unattended scheduled backup.

Another problem is that as operating systems, applications, and user files, such as music or videos, become ever larger, archive files eat up a lot of disk space. Therefore, it becomes important to get rid of old backups, at the same time preserving as many up-to-date

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backups as possible. You might spend hours exploring multiple files in your backup archives trying to guess which of the outdated backups can be deleted without losing important data.

To save you from annoying search and analytic tasks, Acronis offers a new approach to backup strategy by providing automatic management of your archives, stored in local or network folders called *backup locations*.

A backup location will have the following attributes:

- flexible in size
- allows its behavior to be customized and its contents to be displayed
- located in a common folder on a local, external or networked drive or FTP server instead of a separate protected partition, such as the Acronis Secure Zone

The main principles of backup location organization are:

- automatic naming of backup files
- addressing to a backup location as to a whole folder
- automatic selection of backup mode (full, incremental, differential) in accordance with the backup policy set by the user for the scheduled backup tasks
- automatic consolidation or deletion of outdated backup files in accordance with the rules set by the user

### Setting rules for backup locations

A user can organize one or more backup locations and set the overall limitations to size/storage time for each. These include:

- maximum storage space
- maximum number of backups
- maximum storage period for the archives

After creating a backup in a backup location, the program checks the location for quota violations, such as exceeding a pre-set maximum number of gigabytes set aside for backups and, if any limitation is exceeded, consolidates the oldest backups. For example, if you've pre-set your backup location to store 50GB of backup files and your backups reach 55GB, you have exceeded a quota and the system will respond automatically based on rules and policies that you've already set.

This operation creates a temporary file and thus requires disk space. Consider also that the quota must be violated so that the program could detect the fact of violation. Therefore, to be able to consolidate the files, the program needs some space on the disk in excess of the location quota. The extra space amount can be estimated as the size of the largest backup in the location.



When creating a backup task, be sure to select the backup location from the **Backup Locations** list, near the top of the directory tree. Doing so will enable the above processing of backups. If you select a backup location as a normal folder, the processing will not be performed.

### Managing backup locations

A user can delete backup locations or edit backup rules for any location.

Changes to the rules will be applied at the next backup. As a result, the contents of the location will conform to the new rules.

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## 3.6 Acronis Active Restore®

Acronis Active Restore allows you to boot the OS on a crashed computer before the system is completely restored from an image and start work seconds after the restoration is launched. The restoration will continue in the background.

### 3.6.1 Limitations in using Acronis Active Restore

1. Acronis Active Restore is currently available for images located in the Acronis Secure Zone only.
2. Acronis Active Restore does not support images of Windows Vista. If any Vista edition is detected in an image, the Active Restore option will not appear.
3. Naturally, Acronis Active Restore cannot be used if the image contains no operating system (a logical partition or disk image) or when restoring file archives.

### 3.6.2 How it works

When the restoration procedure is started, Acronis True Image Home:

1. Finds the sectors in the image that contain system files, and restores these sectors first. Thus, the OS is restored and can be started in a very short time. Having started the OS, the user sees the folder tree with files, though file contents are not recovered yet. Nevertheless, the user can start working.
2. Writes on the hard disk its own drivers, which intercept system queries to the files. When the user opens files or launches applications, the drivers receive the system queries and restore the sectors that are necessary for the current operation.
3. At the same time, Acronis True Image Home proceeds with the complete sector-by-sector image restoration in the background. However, the system-requested sectors have the highest priority.

Finally, the image will be fully restored even if the user performs no actions at all. But if you need to start working as soon as possible after the system failure, you will gain at least several minutes, considering that restoration of a 10-20GB image (most common image size) takes about 10 minutes. The larger the image size, the more time you save.

### 3.6.3 How to use

To be able to use Acronis Active Restore in case of a system crash, prepare as follows:

1. Install Acronis True Image Home.
2. Create Acronis Secure Zone on the hard disk (see *Chapter 10. Managing Acronis Secure Zone*).
3. Activate Acronis Startup Recovery Manager (see *3.4 Acronis Startup Recovery Manager*) and create bootable media with Acronis True Image Home (see *Chapter 11. Creating bootable media*).
4. Back up (image) the system disk to Acronis Secure Zone (see *5.2.1 My Computer backup*). You can back up other disks/partitions as well, but the system disk image is mandatory.



When performing Active Restore, the current Acronis True Image Home version always restores the entire system disk. Therefore, if your system disk consists of several partitions, all of them must be included in the image. Any partitions that are missing from the image will be lost.

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If failure occurs, boot the computer from the bootable media or using F11. Start the recovery procedure (see *6.3 Restoring disks/partitions or files from images*), select the system disk image from Acronis Secure Zone, choose **Use Active Restore** and in the next window, click **Proceed**. In a few seconds, the computer will reboot to the restored system. Log in and start work – no more reboots or other actions are required.

You can perform Active Restore running Acronis True Image Home in the supported Windows operating systems as well. However, it is mandatory to have bootable media in case Windows cannot boot.

### 3.7 Viewing disk and partition information

You can change the way data is represented in all schemes you see in various wizards.

To the right are three icons: **Arrange Icons by**, **Choose Details** and **i (Display the properties of the selected item)**, the last duplicated in the context menu opened by right-clicking objects.

To sort messages by a particular column, click the header (another click will switch the messages to the opposite order) or **Arrange Icons by** button and select the column.

To select columns to view, right-click the headers line or left-click the **Choose Columns** button. Then flag the columns you want to display. When left-clicking the **Choose Columns** button, you can also change the order of columns display using **Move Up** and **Move Down** buttons.

If you click the **i (Display the properties of the selected item)** button, you will see the selected partition or disk properties window.

This window contains two panels. The left panel contains the properties tree and the right describes the selected property in detail. The disk information includes its physical parameters (connection type, device type, size, etc.); partition information includes both physical (sectors, location, etc.), and logical (file system, free space, assigned letter, etc.) parameters.

You can change the width of a column by dragging its borders with the mouse.

### 3.8 Try&Decide

The Acronis True Image Home's Try&Decide feature allows you perform potentially dangerous operations such as software installation or e-mail attachment opening without putting your PC at risk. It does this by creating essentially a controlled, secure, temporary workspace that is insulated from the rest of your computer. If the system crashes or your computer stops responding during these operations, you should restart the system and it will be reverted to the previous state by Acronis True Image Home. If operations are successful, you have a choice of applying the changes to the real system or discarding them. (For more details see *Chapter 7 Try&Decide*.)

### 3.9 DriveCleanser<sup>®</sup>, File Shredder, and System Clean-up

Acronis True Image Home contains utilities for secure destruction of data on an entire hard disk drive, individual partitions, as well as for erasing individual files and eliminating user system activity traces. When replacing your old hard drive with a new, higher-capacity one, you may unwittingly leave on the old disk lots of important and confidential information that can be recovered, even if you have reformatted it. The DriveCleanser application, included in Acronis True Image Home, used to be sold as a standalone product from Acronis. It provides for the destruction of confidential information on hard disk drives and/or partitions with the

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help of techniques that meet or exceed most national and state standards. You can select an appropriate data destruction method depending on the importance of your confidential information. The File Shredder provides the same capabilities for individual files and folders. Finally, the System Clean-up wizard ensures elimination of all your activity traces; while working with a PC, you leave thousands of bytes of evidence showing your actions (records in various system files) that you don't even know about. This could include user names and passwords, as well as other personal information that could be used to steal your identity if it fell into the wrong hands. This utility wipes them completely from the disk drive.

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# Chapter 4. Using Acronis True Image Home

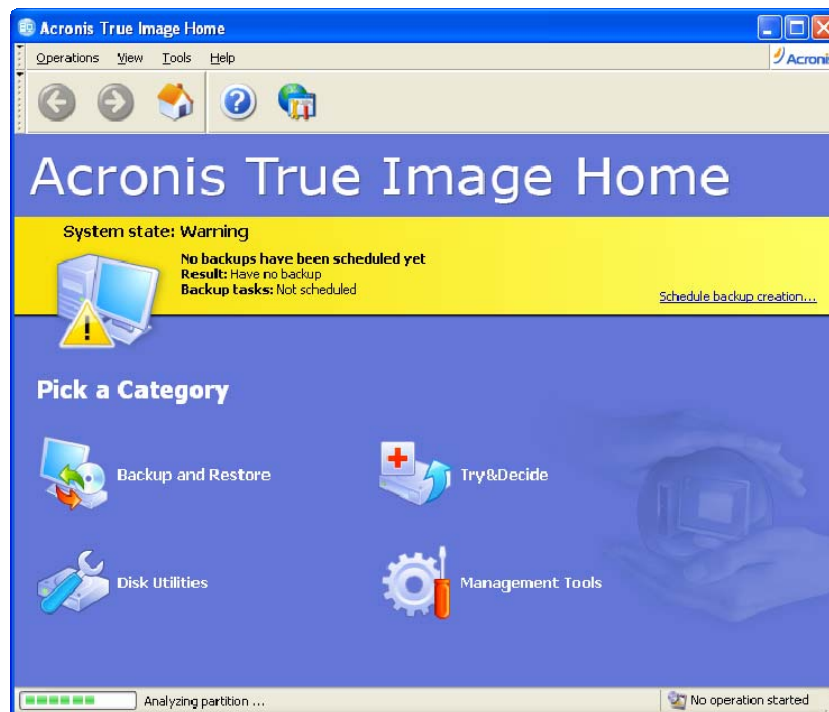
## 4.1 Program workspace

Often the first thing that strikes the eye after launching Acronis True Image Home is a wide colored bar in the main program window. This is called the "Traffic Light" bar.

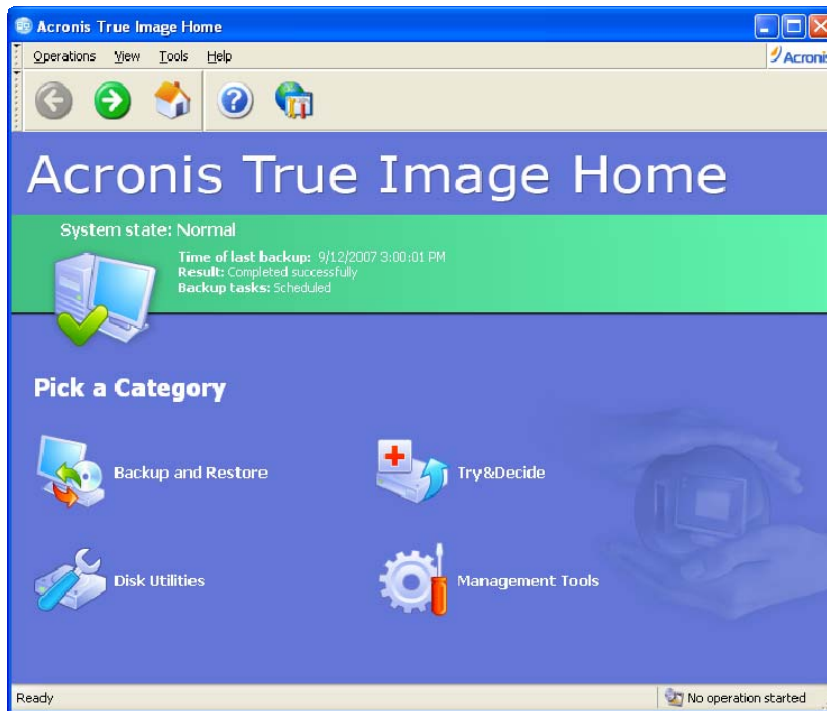
The Traffic light bar lets you see at a glance the current state of your system with regard to backups. It also displays information on the date and time of the last backup and this backup's result, as well as whether backup tasks are scheduled or not.

The system state and Traffic light change as follows:

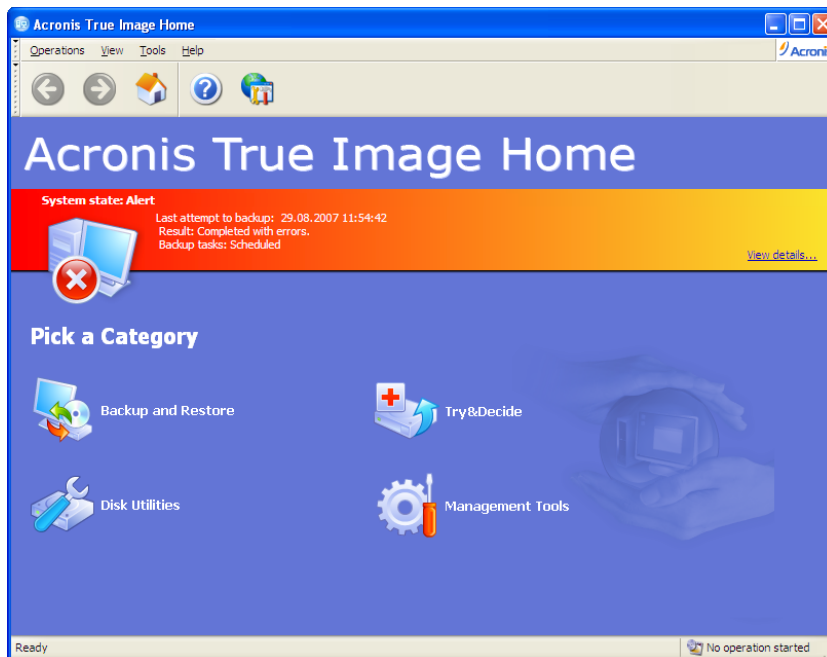
- When you have not performed any scheduled backups yet or the last scheduled backup was more than a week ago, the bar is yellow and the system is in the Warning state. In this case the bar will display the "Schedule backup creation..." link to the Schedule Task Wizard offering you to schedule a backup task right away.



- When you scheduled a backup and it has been completed successfully, the system state changes to "Normal", the Traffic light turns green and remains green for a week; then it turns yellow again if no scheduled tasks ran during that time.



- If a scheduled backup has failed due to any reason, the system state changes to "Alert" and the Traffic light turns red.



Only running the scheduled backups affects the Traffic light color and system state. If you launch the Create Backup Wizard manually and perform an unscheduled backup, the Traffic light color and system state will not change. The color will not change if you schedule a "One time only" backup task.

The main program window contains a menu, a browser-like toolbar, a main area and a status bar. The main area contains the Category icons in addition to the Traffic light bar described above.

The Category icons are as follows.



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- **Backup and Restore** – Create a backup archive or restore data from a previously created archive
  - **Try&Decide** – Make changes in a temporary copy of your system and then decide whether you want to apply the changes to the actual system
  - **Disk Utilities** – Clone and add hard disk, wipe disks, securely destroy files, and clean up the system.
  - **Management Tools** – Manage backup locations, archives, scheduled tasks, and view logs.

### Program menu

The program menu bar features the **Operations, View, Tools,** and **Help** items.

The **Operations** menu contains a list of the available operations:

- **Backup** – Backup the desired data.
- **Recovery** – Restore the desired data.
- **Try&Decide** – Turn on the Try mode or make a decision.
- **Create new task** – Schedule a new task.
- **Validate backup archive** – Validate a backup archive of your choice.
- **Explore backup archive** – Explore a backup archive of your choice.
- **Mount image** – Create a virtual disk by mounting an image archive.
- **Unmount image** – Unmount the image you mounted.
- **Exit** – Exit Acronis True Image Home.

The **View** menu contains items for managing the program window look:

- **Toolbars** – Contains commands that control toolbar icons size, enable/disable the Navigation and Help toolbars, as well as enable/disable text labels of the toolbar icons.
- **Status Bar** – Enables/disables the status bar

The **Tools** menu contains the following items:

- **Activate Acronis Startup Recovery Manager** – Activate the boot restoration manager (F11 key)
- **Create Bootable Rescue Media** – Run the bootable media creation procedure
- **Management -> Manage Backup locations and Archives** – Create, edit, delete, and explore backup locations; search files in backup locations for restoration
- **Management -> Manage Acronis Secure Zone** – Create, delete and resize a special hidden partition for storing archives (Acronis Secure Zone)
- **Management -> Manage Tasks** – Create, edit, delete scheduled tasks, change task schedules, and start tasks manually
- **Clone Disk** – Transfer the system to a new hard disk
- **Add New Disk** – Create partitions on an additional hard disk installed in the computer
- **Acronis DriveCleanser** – Securely wipe personal data from a hard disk drive
- **File Shredder** – Securely destroy confidential files you do not need anymore
- **System Clean-up** – Clean up your Windows activity traces

- 
- **Show Log** – Open the Log Viewer window
  - **Options** – Open a window for editing default backup/restore options, setting text appearance (fonts), configuring e-mail/Winpopup notifications, and other capabilities

The **Help** menu is used to display help and obtain information about Acronis True Image Home.


### Status bar

At the bottom of the main window, there is a status bar that is divided into two parts. The left side briefly describes the selected operation; the right side indicates operation progress and results. If you double-click on the operation results, you will see the logs window.

### Taskbar notification area icon

During most of the operations, a special indicator icon appears in the Windows taskbar notification area (the right portion of the status bar with the clock). If you mouse over the icon, you will see a tool tip indicating the operation's progress. Right-clicking on the icon invokes a context menu where you can change process priority or cancel the operation if necessary. When the Try mode is turned on, right-clicking on the icon invokes a context menu for the Try&Decide feature. This icon doesn't depend on the main program window being open. It is present for background execution of scheduled tasks as well.



You can change the appearance of text (fonts and their size) in the program's user interface and menu items. To do so, select **Tools** -> **Options** -> **Appearance** -> **Fonts**. Click the  button to preview the results of text appearance changes.

## 4.2 Available operations

You can perform the following operations on the computer.

- **Back up data, including system disks/partitions**

Select **Operations** -> **Backup** or click **Backup and Restore** category in the main window, select **Backup** in the **Backup and Restore** window, then follow the wizard's instructions. See details in *Chapter 5. Creating backup archives*.

- **Restore data, including system disks/partitions**

Select **Operations** -> **Recovery** or click **Backup and Restore** category in the main window, select **Restore** in the **Backup and Restore** window, then follow the wizard's instructions. See details in *Chapter 6. Restoring the backup data*.

- **Schedule backup or validation operations**

Select **Operations** -> **Create New Task** or click **Management Tools** category in the main window, then select **Manage Tasks** in the **Main** group, and finally click **Create New Task** on the sidebar, then follow the wizard's instructions. See details in *Chapter 9. Scheduling tasks*.

- **Browse logs of Acronis True Image Home operation**

Select **Tools** -> **Show Log** or select **Show Log** on the sidebar to navigate to the Event Log window. See details in *12.3 Viewing logs*.

- **Set up backup/restore options, such as backup process priority or files overwriting mode**

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Select **Tools -> Options -> Default backup options** or **Default restoration options** and make settings. See details in *5.3 Setting backup options* and *6.4 Setting restore options*.

- **Set up sending notifications about Acronis True Image Home operation**

Select **Tools -> Options -> Notifications** and make settings. See details in *12.2 Operation results notification*.

- **Create backup locations**

Create a folder with special properties for storing backup archives. Click **Management Tools** category in the main window, select **Manage Backup Locations and Archives** in the **Main** group, and finally click **Create Backup Location** in **Backup Location** category on the sidebar, then follow the wizard's instructions. See details in *Chapter 8. Backup location management* and *3.5 Acronis backup locations*.

- **Edit backup locations**

Edit the backup location properties. Click **Management Tools** category in the main window, select **Manage Backup Locations and Archives** in the **Main** group, and finally click **Edit Backup Location** in **Backup Location** category on the sidebar, then follow the wizard's instructions. See details in *Chapter 8. Backup location management* and *3.5 Acronis backup locations*.

- **Delete backup locations**

Delete the backup storage folder with special properties. Click **Management Tools** category in the main window, select **Manage Backup Locations and Archives** in the **Main** group, and finally click **Delete Backup Location** in **Backup Location** category on the sidebar, then follow the wizard's instructions. See details in *Chapter 8. Backup location management* and *3.5 Acronis backup locations*.

- **Manage Acronis Secure Zone (create, delete, resize, remove or change password)**

Select **Tools -> Management -> Manage Acronis Secure Zone**, and then follow the wizard's instructions. You can also access this wizard by clicking **Manage Acronis Secure Zone** in the **Backup Location** group on the sidebar, when it is shown. See details in *Chapter 10. Managing Acronis Secure Zone*.

- **Validate backup archives wherever they reside, be it on a local or network drive, or on removable media**

Select **Operations -> Validate Backup Archive** and follow the wizard's instructions. See details in *12.1 Validating backup archives*. You can also launch the wizard from Windows Explorer by right-clicking the archive and selecting **Validate Backup Archive** in the context menu.

- **Activate Acronis Startup Recovery Manager**

Select **Tools -> Activate Acronis Startup Recovery Manager**, then follow the wizard's instructions. See details in *3.4 Acronis Startup Recovery Manager*.

- **Explore any archive's contents and restore individual files from any archive**

Select **Operations -> Explore Backup Archive** and then select an archive for exploring on the directory tree in the left pane. See details in *13.1 Searching files in archives*. You can also explore archives by right-clicking the archive and selecting **Explore** in the context menu of Windows Explorer.

- 
- **Mount partitions' images to explore and modify their contents, or to restore individual files**

Select **Operations -> Mount Image** and follow the wizard's instructions. See details in *13.2 Mounting an image*. Images can also be mounted through the Windows Explorer by right-clicking on an image archive and selecting **Mount** in the context menu.

- **Unmount previously mounted partition images**

Select **Operations -> Unmount Image** and follow the wizard's instructions. See details in *13.3 Unmounting an image*. You can also do this in Windows Explorer by right-clicking on the virtual disk icon and selecting **Unmount**.

- **Transfer the system to a new hard disk**

Select **Tools -> Clone Disk** or select **Disk Utilities** category in the main window and click **Clone Disk** in the **Hard Disk Utilities** group, then follow the wizard's instructions. See *Chapter 14. Transferring the system to a new disk*.

- **Format partitions on a new hard disk**

Select **Tools -> Add New Disk** or select **Disk Utilities** category in the main window and click **Add New Disk** in the **Hard Disk Utilities** group, then follow the wizard's instructions. See *Chapter 15. Adding a new hard disk*.

- **Securely destroy personal information on partitions and disks**

Select **Tools -> Acronis DriveCleanser** or select **Disk Utilities** category in the main window and click **Acronis DriveCleanser** in the **System Clean-up** group, then follow the wizard's instructions. See *Chapter 16. Security and Privacy Tools*.

- **Securely erase confidential files**

Select **Tools -> File Shredder** or select **Disk Utilities** category in the main window and click **File Shredder** in the **System Clean-up** group, then follow the wizard's instructions. See *Chapter 16. Security and Privacy Tools*.

- **Clean up all your Windows activity traces**

Select **Tools -> System Clean-up** or select **Disk Utilities** category in the main window and click **System Clean-up** in the **System Clean-up** group, then follow the wizard's instructions. See *Chapter 16. Security and Privacy Tools*.

- **Try to make changes in the system using a virtual mode and then decide whether to keep them or not**

Click **Try&Decide** category in the main window or select **Operations -> Try&Decide** in the main menu, then click **Start Try Mode** button in the **Try Mode Starting** window. See details in *Chapter 7 Try&Decide*.

- **Create bootable rescue media or its ISO image**

Select **Tools -> Create Bootable Rescue Media** and then follow the wizard's instructions. See *Chapter 11. Creating bootable media*.

---

# Chapter 5. Creating backup archives

To be able to restore lost data or roll back your system to a certain known-good state, you should first create a data or entire system backup file.

## 5.1 What data to back up?

If you plan to keep specific data protected, such as a current project, but are less concerned with restoring your operating system and settings, select the file-level backup. This will reduce the archive size, thus saving disk space and possibly reducing removable media costs.

Backing up the entire system disk (creating a disk image) takes more disk space but enables you to restore the system in minutes in case of a system crash or hardware failure. Moreover, the imaging procedure is much faster than copying files and could speed up the backup process significantly when it comes to backing up large volumes of data (see details in *3.1 The difference between file archives and disk/partition images*).

Here are some recommendations you can use to plan your backups. You should store your system drive image in the Acronis Secure Zone or, better still, on a hard disk other than your primary hard disk C. This gives additional guarantee that you will be able to recover your system if your primary hard disk drive fails. You should also keep your personal data separate from your operating system and applications, for example, on the D drive. This allows speeding up the creation of data drive (or partition) images and reduces the amount of information you will need to restore.

Acronis True Image Home offers you backup of the following data categories:

**My Computer** (image backup of any set of disks/partitions)

**My Data** (file-level backup of any set of files, folders, or an entire file category)

**My Application Settings** (file-level backup of Windows applications settings)

**My E-mail** (file-level backup of Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft Outlook Express, and Windows Mail settings and messages).



File-level backup operations are supported only for the FAT and NTFS file systems.

## 5.2 The backup procedure

### 5.2.1 My Computer backup

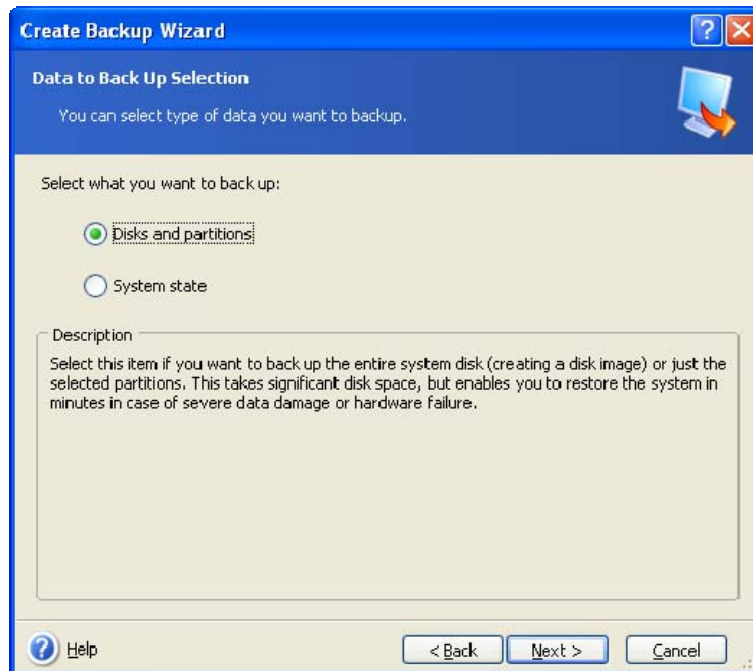
Create a backup image of any set of your computer's hard disks and partitions or back up the system state.

1. Invoke the **Create Backup Wizard** by selecting **Operations -> Backup** in the main program menu, and then select **My computer**.

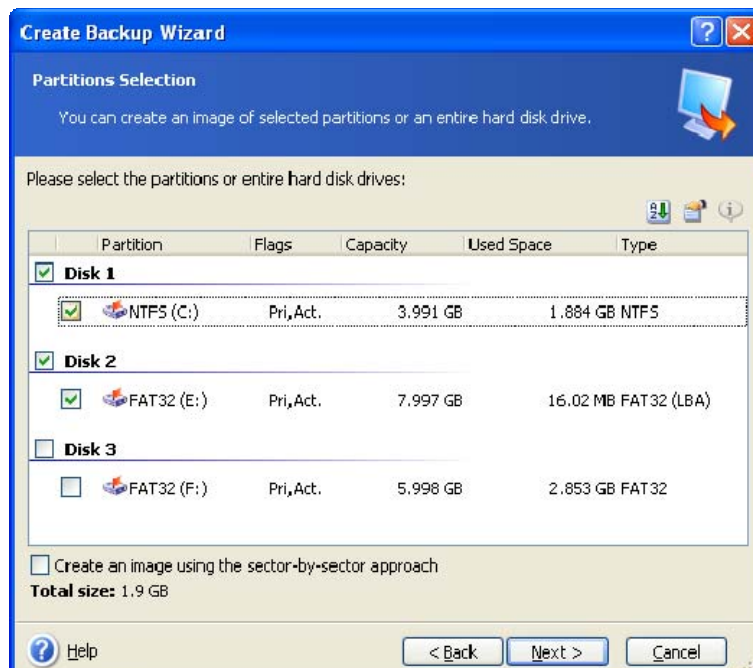
You can also launch the wizard directly from the Windows Explorer window. To do so, right-click on a disk icon and select **Backup** in the context menu. In this case the program will automatically set **My Computer** mode.

2. Select the data to backup in the next window. You can backup either disks and partitions or the system state that comprises the boot files, registry, protected Windows files, and COM+ CLASS registration database. Backing up the **System state** allows you to restore the

system files, drivers, etc., but not the data files and folders you use in your work. To be able to restore the data files and folders, select the **Disks and partitions**. If such is the case, select disks or partitions to back up. You can select a random set of disks and partitions.

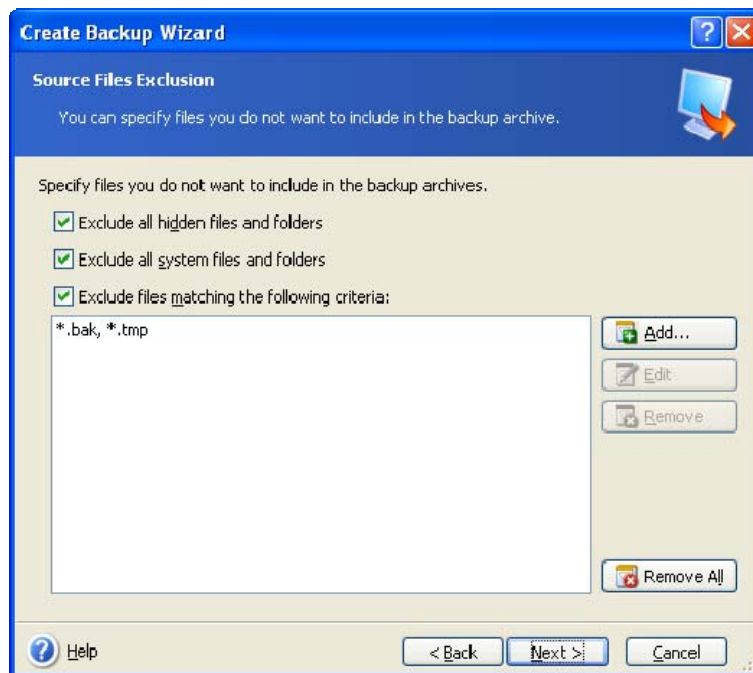


By default the program copies only the hard disk sectors that contain data. However, sometimes it might be useful to make a full sector-by-sector backup. For example, perhaps you deleted some files by mistake and want to make a disk image before trying to undelete them because sometimes un-deleting may create havoc in the file system. To make a sector-by-sector backup, check the **Create an image using the sector-by-sector approach** box. Please note that this mode increases processing time and usually results in a larger image file because it copies used and unused hard disk sectors.



3. If you backing up disks and/or partitions, select the files you want to exclude from backup (if any) using the checkboxes in the next window. You can exclude hidden or system files

and folders or files matching the criteria you specify. While adding criteria, you can use the common Windows wildcard characters. For example, to exclude all files with extension .tmp, add **\*.tmp**.



4. Go to *5.2.5 Selecting the backup destination*.

## 5.2.2 My Data backup

Back up categories of files: documents, finance, images, music, video. Each default category represents all files of associated types found on the computer's hard drives.

You can add any number of custom categories containing files and folders. The new categories will be remembered and displayed along with the above.

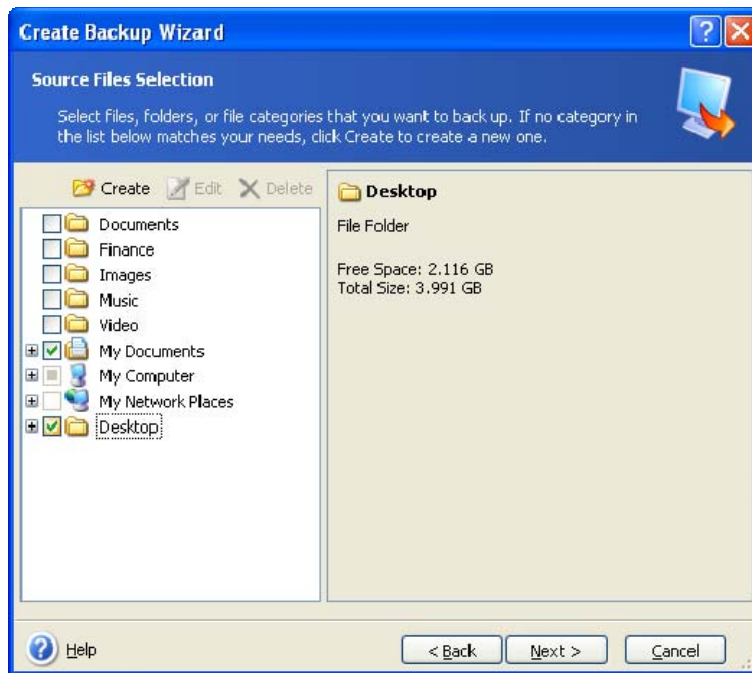
You can change contents of any custom or default file category (edit the category) or delete it. The default file categories cannot be deleted.

If you do not want to keep custom contents of the current backup, simply select files and folders without creating a category.

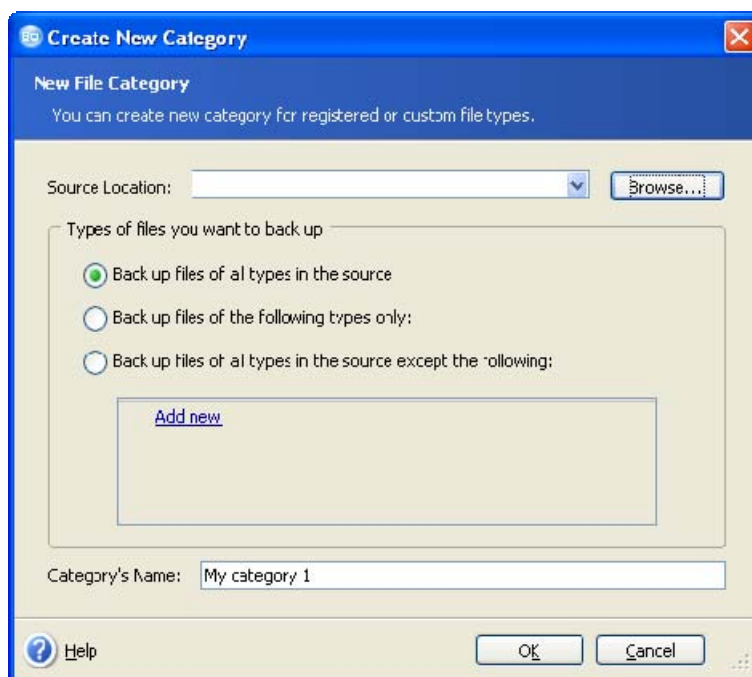
1. Launch the **Create Backup Wizard** by selecting **Operations -> Backup** in the main program menu, and then select **My Data**.

You also can launch the wizard directly from the Windows Explorer window. To do so, right-click on a file or folder icon and select **Backup** in the context menu. In this case, the program will automatically set **My Data** mode and mark the selected file or folder for backup.

2. Select the data category to back up: **documents, finance, images, music, and video**. Each category represents all files of associated types found on the computer's hard drives.

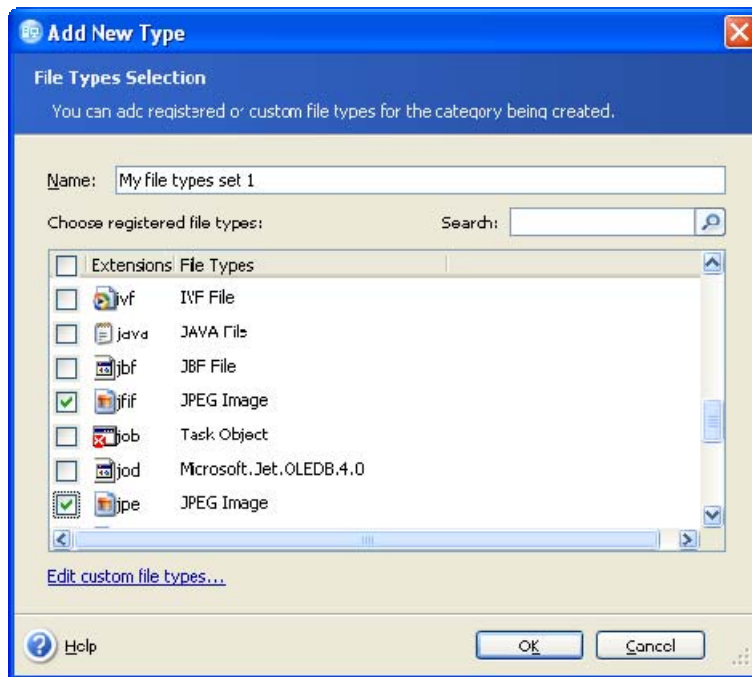


To add a custom data category, click **Create**, select the folder (data source) and provide a name for the category. You can include in the category all files in the selected folder or apply filters to select the specific types of files that you wish or do not wish to back up.



To set a filter, select its type: **Back up files of the following types only** or **Back up files of all types in the source except the following**. Then click **Add new** and select the desired file types in the window that appears.

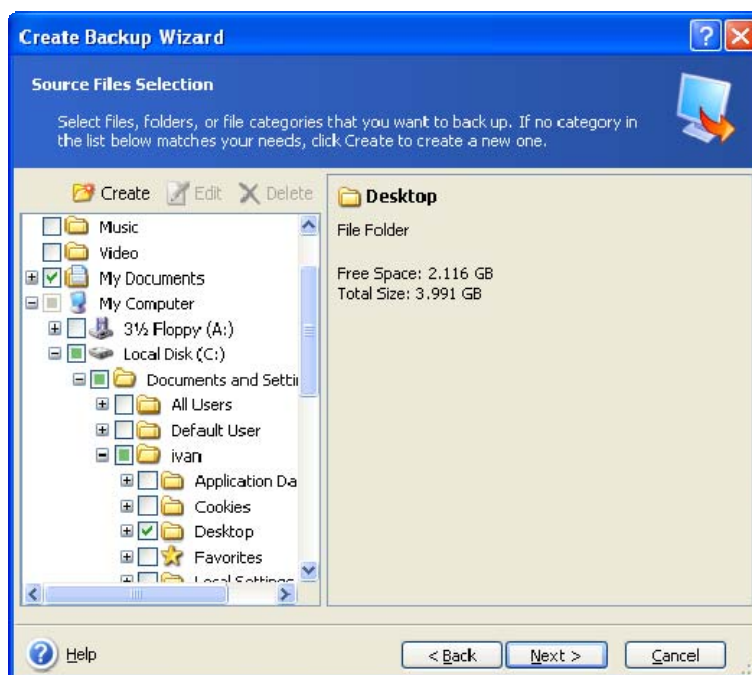




You can select file types as follows:

1. By name. Enter the file name in the upper **Name** field. You can use the common Windows wildcard characters. For example, **My???.exe** will select all .exe files with names consisting of five symbols and starting with "my".
2. By type. Tick off the desired file types in the list. You can also search desired registered file types by entering their extension or description in the **Search** field.
3. By extension. Click the **Edit custom file types...** link and enter the extensions (semicolon separated) in the **File extensions** field.

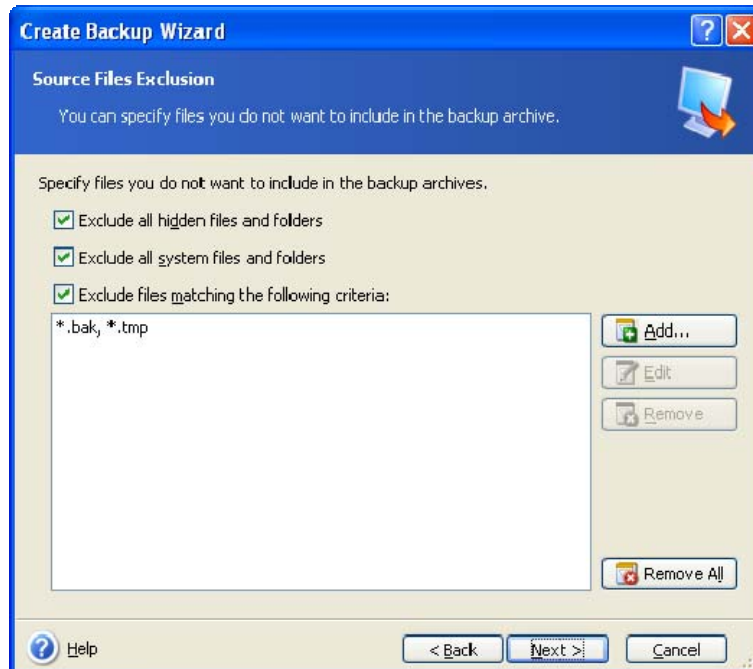
If you do not want to keep custom contents of the current backup, simply select the files/folders from the tree. This set will be effective only for the current backup task.



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File filtering can be applied to manually added folders as well. For example, you may want hidden and system files and folders, as well as files with **.~**, **.tmp** and **.bak** extensions, not to be stored in the archive.

You can apply custom filters, using the common Windows wildcard characters. For example, to exclude all files with extension **.bmp**, add **\*.bmp** mask.



These filter settings will take effect for the current task. For information on how to set the default filters that will be called each time you select folders to back up, see *5.3.2 Source files exclusion*.

If you just want to exclude from backup some file types without creating custom categories, they can be specified in the next window. You can exclude hidden or system files and folders, as well as files matching the criteria you specify. While adding criteria, you can use the common Windows wildcard characters. For example, to exclude all files with extension **.tmp**, add **\*.tmp**.

3. Go to *5.2.5 Selecting the backup destination*.

### 5.2.3 My Application Settings backup

Back up custom settings of Windows applications. This is a subset of file-level backup that backs up predefined folders and requires minimum user selections. The program displays a list of supported applications that has been found on the computer, sorted by categories. You can select a random set of categories and applications.



It is important to note that the program backs up only your settings, but not the application executable files. If an application seems to malfunction or ceases to run, reinstall it using the last updates and then recover your settings from the backup.

To select for backing up all the supported applications found on the computer, check the Installed Applications box.

For instant messenger applications, the program will back up both the settings and history.

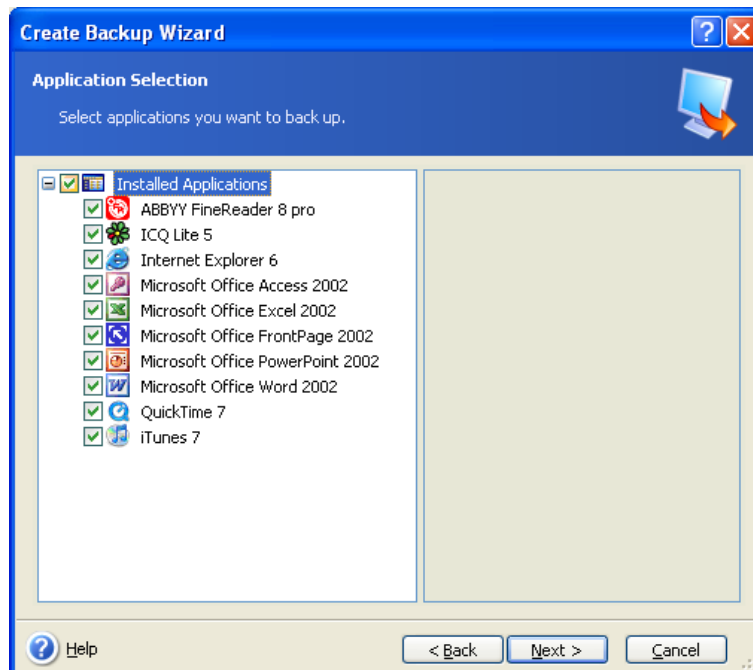
The list of supported applications will be expanded gradually. Updates will be available with new program builds or via the Internet.

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1. Launch the **Create Backup Wizard** by selecting **Operations -> Backup** in the main program menu, and then select **My Application Settings**.

You can also launch the wizard directly from the desktop. To do so, right-click on the application label and select **Backup** in the context menu. In this case, the program will automatically set **My Data** mode and mark the application executable file for backup. To back up the application settings, choose **My Application Settings**.

2. Select applications to backup. You can select a random set of categories and applications.



3. Go to [5.2.5 Selecting the backup destination](#).

## 5.2.4 My E-mail backup

Acronis True Image Home offers a straightforward way to back up messages, accounts and settings for Microsoft Outlook 2000, 2002, 2003, Microsoft Outlook Express, and Windows Mail.

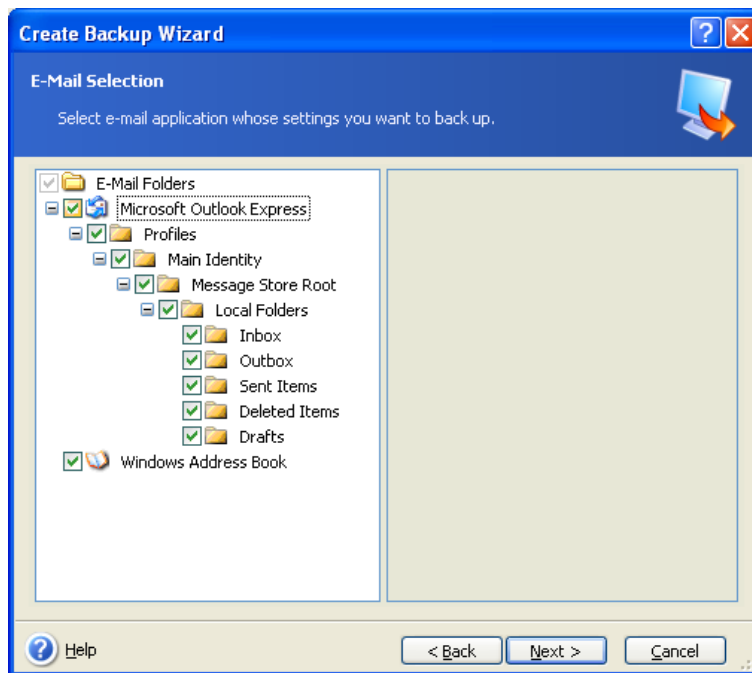
E-mail backup is a subset of file-level backup that backs up predefined folders and requires minimum user selections. However, if need be, you can select Microsoft Outlook components and folders individually.

The list of supported e-mail clients will be gradually built up. Updates will be available with new program builds or via the Internet.

1. Launch the **Create Backup Wizard** by selecting **Operations -> Backup**.

2. Select **My E-mail**.

3. Select the mail client's components and folders to back up.



You can select the following items:

Messages contained in .PST/.DBX Database Files

E-mail accounts

For Microsoft Office Outlook 2000, 2002, 2003

- Mail Folders
- Calendar
- Contacts
- Tasks
- Notes
- Signatures
- News Folders
- User Settings
- Address Book

For Microsoft Outlook Express

- Mail Folders
- Address Book (select Windows Address Book).

Acronis True Image Home provides backup of IMAP (Internet Messages Access Protocol) mail folders for Microsoft Outlook. This means that you can back up folders stored on a mail server. For Microsoft Outlook Express and Windows Mail only local e-mail folders backup is available.

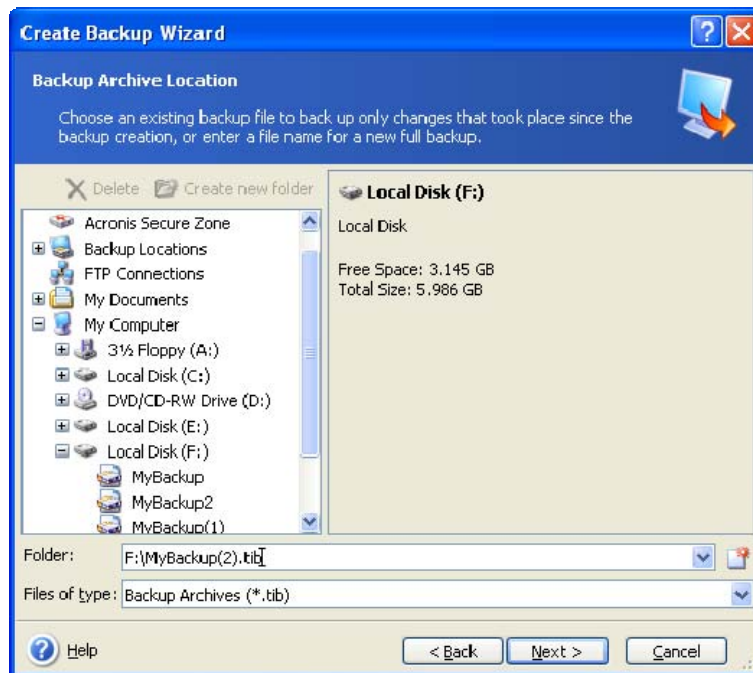
### 5.2.5 Selecting the backup destination

Select the destination location for the backup. If your choice is other than Acronis Secure Zone or a backup location, specify the archive name.

If you are going to create a new archive (i.e. perform a full backup), enter the new file name in the **Folder** line, or use the file name generator (a button to the right of the line). If you select an existing full backup file, it will be overwritten through a prompt. Overwriting a full backup means that you will discard the entire old archive and create a new one. In that

case, all incremental and differential files appended to the old full backup will be unusable. It is recommended that you delete these files.

If you are going to append an incremental or differential file to an existing archive, select any of the target archive files. It doesn't matter which one you select if the files are stored in the same folder, as the program recognizes them as a single archive. If you stored the files on several removable disks, use the latest archive file; otherwise, restoration problems might occur.



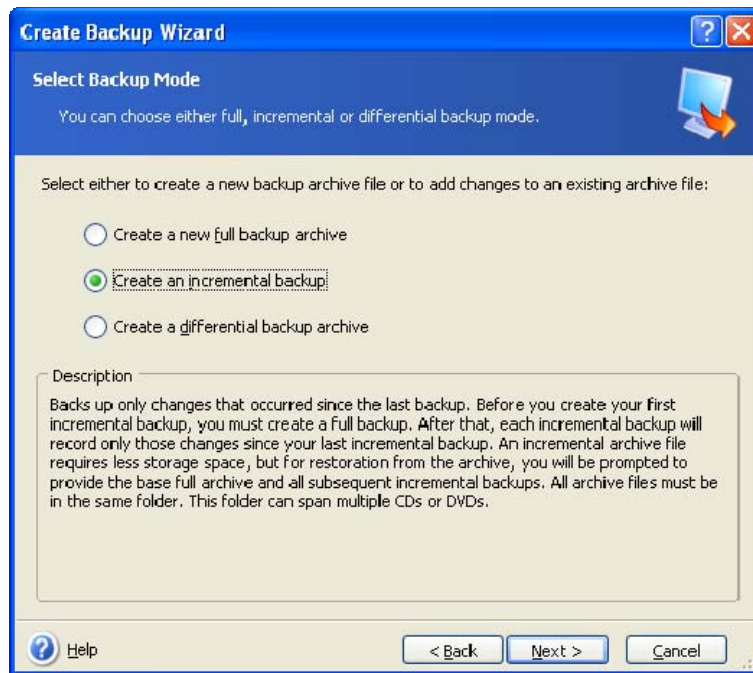
The "farther" you store the archive from the original folders, the safer it will be in case of disaster. For example, saving the archive to another hard disk will protect your data if the primary disk is damaged. Data saved to a network disk, FTP server or removable media will survive even if all your local hard disks are damaged. You can also use the Acronis Secure Zone (see details in *3.3 Acronis Secure Zone*) or Acronis backup locations (see details in *3.5 Acronis backup locations*) for storing backups. In that case, you need not provide the backup file name.



See notes and recommendations for supporting FTP server in *1.3.4 Supported storage media*.

## 5.2.6 Selecting the backup mode

Select whether you want to create a full, incremental or differential backup. If you have not backed up the selected data yet, or the full archive is old and you want to create a new master backup file, choose full backup. Otherwise it is recommended that you create an incremental or differential backup (see *3.2 Full, incremental and differential backups*).



### 5.2.7 Selecting the backup options

Select the backup options (that is, backup file-splitting, compression level, password protection, etc.). You can **Use default options** or **Set the options manually**. If the latter is the case, the settings will be applied only to the current backup task. Or, you can edit the default options from the current screen. Then your settings will be saved as the defaults. See *5.3 Setting backup options* for more information.

### 5.2.8 Providing a comment

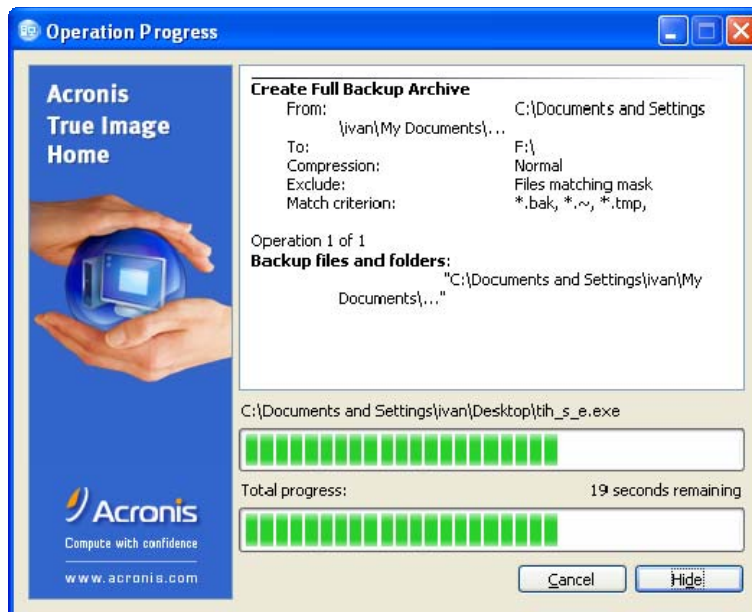
Provide a comment for the archive. This can help identify the backup and prevent you from restoring the wrong data. However, you can choose not to make any notes. The backup file size and creation date are automatically appended to the description, so you do not need to enter this information.

### 5.2.9 The operation summary and the backup process

At the final step, the backup task summary is displayed. Up to this point, you can click **Back** to make changes in the created task. Clicking **Proceed** will launch the task execution.

The task progress will be shown in a special window. You can stop the procedure by clicking **Cancel**.

You can also close the progress window by clicking **Hide**. The backup creation will continue, but you will be able to start another operation or close the main program window. In the latter case, the program will continue working in the background and will automatically close once the backup archive is ready. If you prepare some more backup operations, they will be queued after the current one.



You may want to adjust the backup process priority. To do so, click on the process icon in the System Tray and select Low, Normal, or High priority from the menu that appears. For information on how to set the default priority, see 5.3.5 *Backup performance*



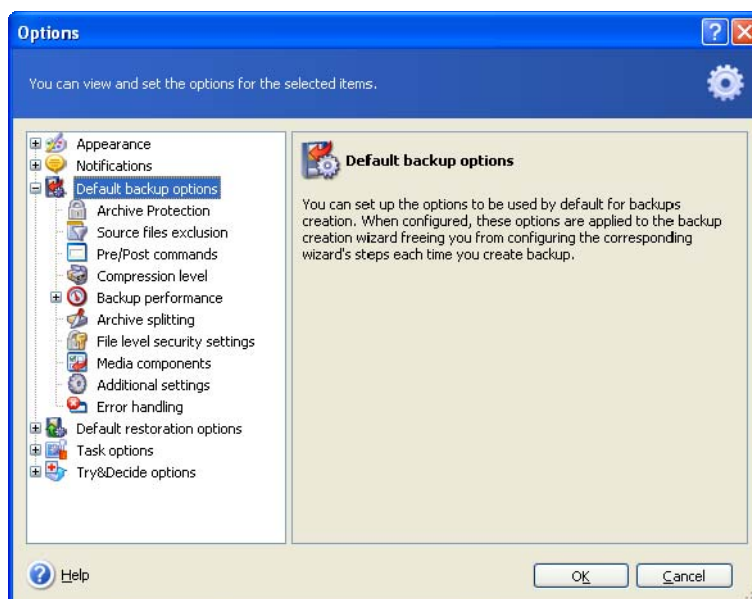
If you burn an archive to several removable media, be sure to number them, since you will have to insert them in order during restoration.

You might want to see the log when the task is completed. To view the log, select **Tools -> Show Log** in the main program menu.

### 5.3 Setting backup options

To view or edit the default backup options, select **Tools -> Options -> Default Backup Options** from the main program menu.

You can edit the default (or set the temporary) backup options while creating a backup task as well.



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### 5.3.1 Archive protection

The preset is **no password**.

An archive can be protected with a password. To protect the archive from being restored by anybody except you, enter a password and its confirmation in the text fields. A password should consist of at least eight symbols and contain both letters (upper and lower case, preferably) and numbers to make it more difficult to guess.

If you try to restore data from a password-protected archive, or append an incremental/differential backup to such an archive, Acronis True Image Home will ask for the password in a special window, allowing access only to authorized users.

### 5.3.2 Source files exclusion

By default, **all files from the selected folders will be included in the archive**.

You can set default filters for the specific types of files you do not wish to back up. For example, you may want hidden and system files and folders, as well as files with **.~**, **.tmp** and **.bak** extensions, not to be stored in the archives.

You can apply filters, using the common Windows wildcard characters. For example, to exclude all files with extension **.exe**, add **\*.exe** designation. **My???.exe** will exclude all **.exe** files with names consisting of five symbols and starting with "my".

This option affects real folders selected at **My Data** backup. Backup of a file category uses file filters preset at creation of the category (see 5.2.2 *My Data backup*). **My Application Settings** or **My E-mail** backup implies dedicated lists of files that must not be filtered.

### 5.3.3 Pre/post commands

You can specify commands or batch files to be executed automatically before and after the *backup procedure*. For example, you may want to remove some tmp files from the disk before starting backup or configure a third-party antivirus product to be started each time before the backup starts. Click **Edit** to open the **Edit Command** window where you can easily input the command, its arguments and working directory or browse folders to find a batch file.

Please, do not try to execute interactive commands, i.e. commands that require user input (for example, "pause"). These are not supported.

Unchecking the **Do not perform operations until the command's execution is complete** box, checked by default, will permit the backup process to run concurrently with your commands execution.

If you want the backup to be performed even if your command fails, uncheck the **Abort the operation if the user command fails** box (checked by default).

You can test execution of the command you created by clicking the **Test command** button.

### 5.3.4 Compression level

The preset is **Normal**.

If you select **None**, the data will be copied without any compression, which may significantly increase the backup file size. However, if you select **Maximum** compression, the backup operation will take significantly longer.



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The optimal data compression level depends on the type of files stored in the archive. For example, even maximum compression will not significantly reduce the archive size if the archive contains essentially compressed files like .jpg, .pdf or .mp3.

Generally, it is recommended that you use the default **Normal** compression level. You might want to select **Maximum** compression for removable media to reduce the number of blank disks required.

### 5.3.5 Backup performance

The three options below might have a more or less noticeable effect on the backup process speed. This depends on overall system configuration and physical characteristics of devices.

#### 1. Backup process priority

The preset is **Low**.

The priority of any process running in a system determines the amount of CPU usage and system resources allocated to that process. Decreasing the backup priority will free more resources for other CPU tasks. Increasing the backup priority might speed up the backup process due to taking resources from the other currently running processes. The effect will depend on total CPU usage and other factors.

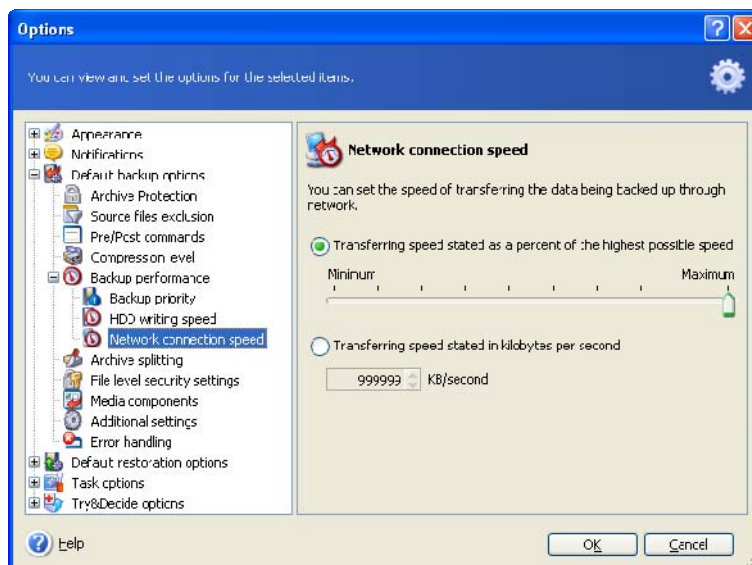
#### 2. HDD writing speed

The preset is **Maximum**.

Backing up in the background to an internal hard disk (for example, to Acronis Secure Zone) may slow other programs' performance because of the large amounts of data transferred to the disk. You can limit the hard disk usage by Acronis True Image Home to a desired level. To set the desired HDD writing speed for data being backed up, drag the slider or enter the writing speed in kilobytes per second.

#### 3. Network connection speed

The preset is **Maximum**.



If you frequently backup data to network drives, think of limiting the network bandwidth used by Acronis True Image Home. To set the desired data transfer speed, drag the slider or enter the bandwidth limit for transferring backup data in kilobytes per second.

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### 5.3.6 Archive splitting

Sizeable backups can be split into several files that together make the original backup. A backup file can be split for burning to removable media or saving on an FTP server (data recovery directly from an FTP server requires the archive to be split into files of no more than 2GB). A backup destined for a backup location or Acronis Secure Zone cannot be split.

The preset is **Automatic**. With this setting, Acronis True Image Home will act as follows.

*When backing up to a hard disk:* If the selected disk has enough space and its file system allows the estimated file size, the program will create a single archive file.

If the storage disk has enough space, but its file system does not allow the estimated file size, Acronis True Image Home will automatically split the backup into several files.



FAT16 and FAT32 file systems have a 4GB file size limit, but a hard drive's capacity is limited to 2TB. Therefore, an archive file might easily exceed this limit, if you are going to back up the entire disk.

If you do not have enough space to store the image on your hard disk, the program will warn you and wait for your decision as to how you plan to fix the problem. You can try to free some additional space and continue or click **Back** and select another disk.

*When backing up to a diskette, CD-R/RW or DVD±R/RW:* Acronis True Image Home will ask you to insert a new disk when the previous one is full.

Or, you can select **Fixed size** and enter the desired file size or select it from the drop-down list. The backup will then be split into multiple files of the specified size. That comes in handy when backing up to a hard disk with a view to burning the archive to CD-R/RW or DVD±R/RW later on.



Creating images directly on CD-R/RW or DVD±R/RW might take considerably more time than it would on a hard disk.

### 5.3.7 File-level security settings

#### Preserve file security settings in archives

By default, files and folders are saved in the archive with their original Windows security settings (i.e. permissions for read, write, execute and so on for each user or user group, set in file **Properties -> Security**). If you restore a secured file/folder on a computer without the user specified in the permissions, you may not be able to read or modify this file.

To eliminate this kind of problem, you can disable preserving file security settings in archives. Then the restored files/folders will always inherit the permissions from the folder to which they are restored (parent folder or disk, if restored to the root).

Or, you can disable file security settings during restoration, even if they are available in the archive (see 6.4.5 *File-level security settings* below). The result will be the same.

#### In archives, store encrypted files in decrypted state

The preset is **disabled**.

If you do not use the encryption feature available in Windows XP and Windows Vista operating systems, simply ignore this option. (Files/folders encryption is set in **Properties -> General -> Advanced Attributes -> Encrypt contents to secure data**).

Check the option if there are encrypted files in the backup and you want them to be accessed by any user after restore. Otherwise, only the user who encrypted the files/folders

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will be able to read them. Decryption may also be useful if you are going to restore encrypted files on another computer.

These options relate only to file/folder backup.

### 5.3.8 Media components

The preset is **disabled**.

When backing up to removable media, you can make this media bootable and will not need a separate rescue disk.

The **Acronis One-Click Restore** is a minimal addition to your rescue media, allowing one-click data recovery from an image archive stored on this media. This means that at booting from the media and clicking “restore,” all data will be restored to its original place automatically. No options or selections such as resizing partitions will be available.

If you want more functionality during restoration, write a full standalone version of **Acronis True Image Home** to the rescue media. As a result, you will be able to configure the restore task using Restore Data Wizard.

Under **Advanced** tab you can select Acronis True Image Home (full version) and a standalone version of the Acronis DriveCleanser utility that will allow you to destroy confidential data on your PC disks easily and permanently even if you uninstall Acronis True Image Home. If you have other Acronis products installed on your computer, such as Acronis Disk Director Suite, the bootable versions of these programs’ components will be offered under **Advanced** tab as well.

### 5.3.9 Additional settings

#### 1. Validate backup archive upon operation completion

The preset is **disabled**.

When enabled, the program will check integrity of the just created or supplemented archive immediately after backup. When setting up a backup of critical data or a disk/partition backup, we strongly recommend you to enable the option to ensure that the backup can be used to recover lost data.



To check archive data integrity you must have all incremental and differential backups belonging to the archive and the initial full backup. If any of successive backups is missing, validation is not possible.

#### 2. Ask for first media while creating backup archives on removable media

The preset is **enabled**.

You can choose whether to display the **Insert First Media** prompt when backing up to removable media. With the default setting, backing up to removable media may be not possible if the user is away, because the program will wait for someone to press **OK** in the prompt box. Therefore, you should disable the prompt when scheduling a backup to removable media. Then, if the removable media is available (for example, CD-R/RW inserted) the task can run unattended.

### 5.3.10 Error handling

#### 1. Ignore bad sectors

The preset is **disabled**.

---

This option lets you run a backup even if there are bad sectors on the hard disk. Although most disks do not have bad sectors, the possibility that they might occur increases during the course of the hard disk's lifetime. This feature is also useful during unattended backups when you cannot control the backup process. If you enable this feature, the backup will be performed regardless of read and/or write errors that could occur on the bad sectors.

## **2. Do not show messages and dialogs while processing (silent mode)**

The preset is **disabled**.

You can enable this setting to ignore errors during backup operations. This feature also was mainly designed for unattended backups when you cannot control the backup process. In this mode no notifications will be displayed to you if errors occur during backup. Instead you can view the detailed log of all operations after the task finishes by selecting **Tools -> Show Log**.

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# Chapter 6. Restoring the backup data

## 6.1 Restore under Windows or boot from CD?

As mentioned above (see *2.3 Running Acronis True Image Home*), Acronis True Image Home can be run in several ways. We recommend that you first try to restore data running Acronis True Image Home under Windows, because this method provides more functionality. Boot from the bootable media or use the Startup Recovery Manager (see *3.4 Acronis Startup Recovery Manager*) only if Windows does not load.

The boot CD, from which you loaded the program, does not keep you from using other CDs with backups. Acronis True Image Home is loaded entirely into RAM so you can remove the bootable CD to insert the archive disk.



Be careful! When you use the Acronis True Image Home rescue disk, the product creates disk drive letters that might differ from the way Windows identifies drives. For example, the D: drive identified in the standalone Acronis True Image Home might correspond to the E: drive in Windows. This is not an error with the software.



If a backup image is located on bootable media, you might have the choice of using Acronis One-Click Restore. This operation always restores the entire physical disk. Therefore, if your disk consists of several partitions, all of them must be included in the image. Any partitions missing from the image will be lost. Please make sure that the image contains *all* disk data you plan to restore. For more information on Acronis One-Click Restore, see *5.3.8 Media components*.

### 6.1.1 Network settings in rescue mode

When booted from removable media or by Startup Recovery Manager, Acronis True Image Home might not detect the network. That can happen if there is no DHCP server in your network or your computer address was not identified automatically.

To enable the network connection, specify network settings manually in the window, available at **Tools -> Options -> Network adapters**.

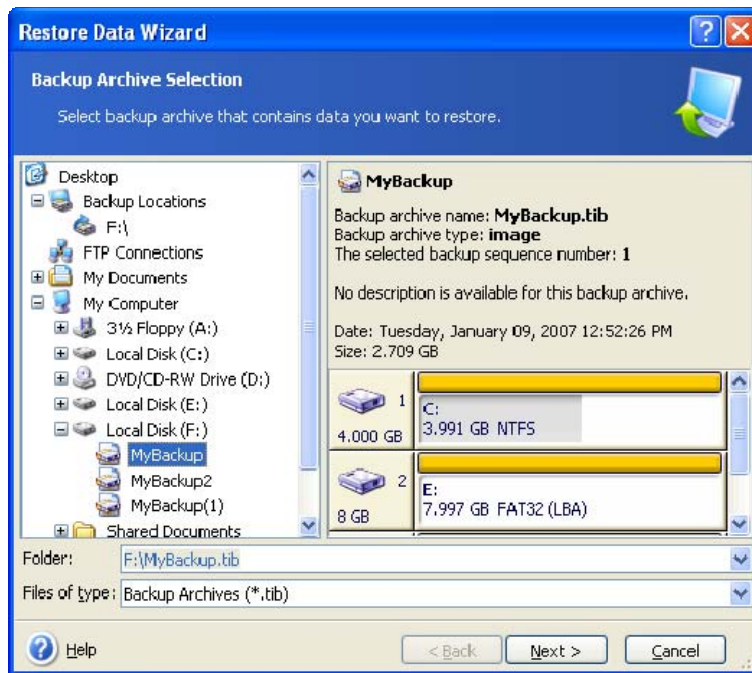
## 6.2 Restoring files and folders from file archives

Here we describe how to restore file and folders from a file backup archive. You can restore the desired files and folders from a disk/partition image as well. To do so, mount the image (see *Chapter 13. Exploring archives and mounting images*) or start the image restoration and select **Restore specified files or folders** (see *6.3 Restoring disks/partitions or files from images*).



File backup archives are supported only for the FAT and NTFS file systems.

1. Launch the **Restore Data Wizard** by selecting **Operations -> Recovery** in the main program menu.
2. Select the archive. If the archive is located in Acronis Secure Zone or in a backup location, select it to choose the archive on the next step.



If the archive is located on removable media, e.g. CD, insert the *last* disk in the series first and then insert disks in reverse order when the Restore Data Wizard prompts you.



Data recovery directly from an FTP server requires the archive to consist of files of no more than 2GB. If you suspect that some of the files are larger, first copy the entire archive (along with the initial full backup) to a local hard disk or a network share disk. See notes and recommendations for supporting FTP servers in *1.3.4 Supported storage media*.



Please note that before restoring Microsoft Outlook mail messages, accounts, contacts, settings, etc. from **My E-mail backup** on a new computer with a newly installed Microsoft Outlook, you should launch the Outlook at least once. If Microsoft Outlook is launched for the first time after restoring the E-mail information, it may malfunction.

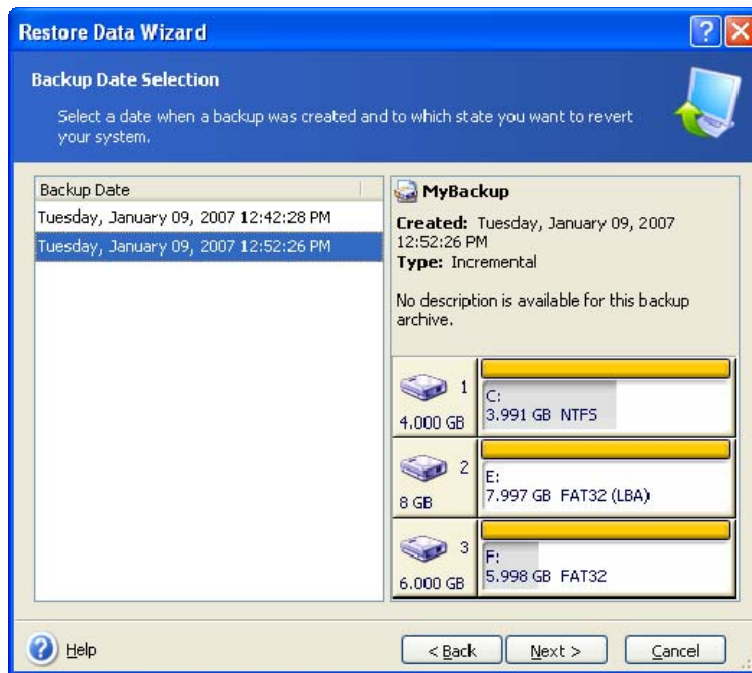
If you added a comment to the archive, it will be displayed to the right of the drives tree. If the archive was protected with a password, Acronis True Image Home will ask for it. The comment and the **Next** button will be unavailable until you enter the correct password.

3. If you are to restore files from an archive containing incremental backups, Acronis True Image Home will suggest that you select one of successive incremental backups by its creation date/time. Thus, you can roll back the files/folders state to a certain date.



To restore data from an incremental backup, you must have all previous incremental backup files and the initial full backup. If any of successive backups is missing, restoration is not possible.

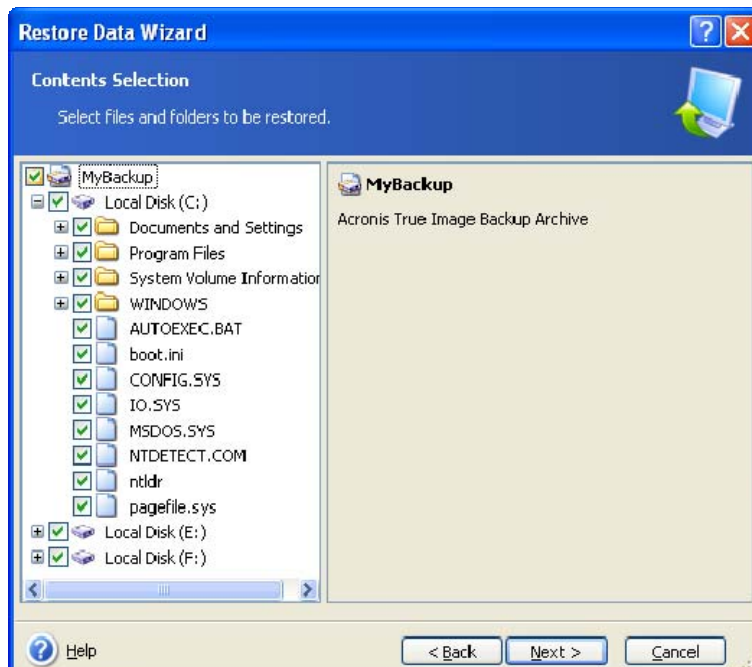
To restore data from a differential backup, you must have the initial full backup as well.



4. Select a folder on your computer where you want to restore selected folders/files (a target folder). You can restore data to its original location or choose a new location, if necessary.

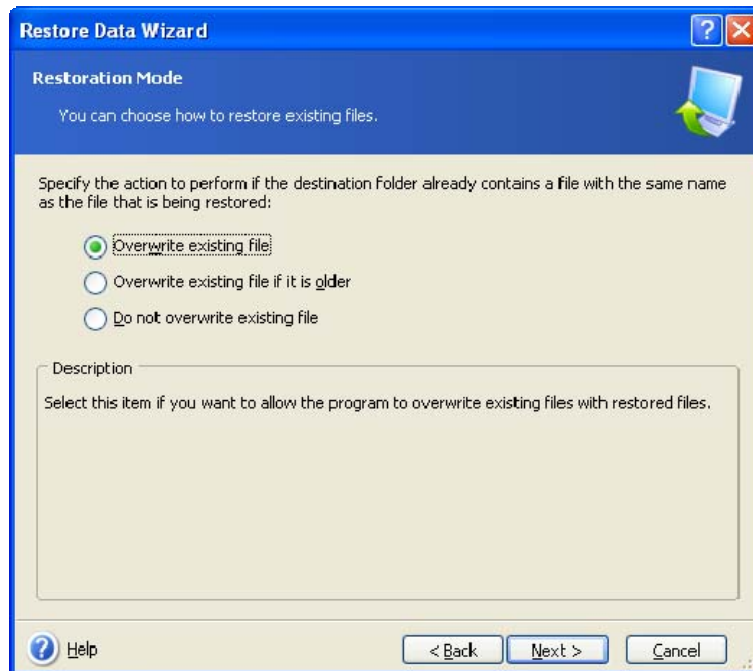
When you choose a new location, the selected items by default will be restored without restoring the original, absolute path. You may also wish to restore the items with their entire folder hierarchy. If such is the case, select **Restore absolute paths**.

5. Select files and folders to restore. You can choose to restore all data or browse the archive contents and select the desired folders or files.



6. Select the options for the restoration process (that is, restoration process priority, file-level security settings, etc.). You can **Use default options** or **Set the options manually**. If the latter is the case, the settings will be applied only to the current restore task. Or, you can edit the default options from the current screen. Then your settings will be saved as default. See *6.4 Setting restore options* for more information.

7. The next selection allows you to keep useful data changes made since the selected backup was created. Choose what to do if the program finds in the target folder a file with the same name as in the archive:



- **Overwrite existing file** – this will give the archived file unconditional priority over the file on the hard disk
- **Overwrite existing file if it is older** – this will give the priority to the most recent file modification, whether it be in the archive or on the disk
- **Do not overwrite existing file** – this will give the file on the hard disk unconditional priority over the archived file

If you select one of the first two options, an additional window appears allowing to specify the files that should not be overwritten in the course of restoration. You can preserve from overwriting the system and hidden files as well as the files meeting the criteria you specify in this window.

8. At the final step, the restoration summary is displayed. Up to this point, you can click **Back** to make changes in the created task. Clicking **Proceed** will launch the task execution.

9. The task progress will be shown in a special window. You can stop the procedure by clicking **Cancel**. Please keep in mind that the aborted procedure still may cause changes in the destination folder.

## 6.3 Restoring disks/partitions or files from images

To restore a partition (disk) from an image, Acronis True Image Home must obtain **exclusive access** to the target partition (disk). This means no other applications can access it at that time. If you receive a message stating that the partition (disk) cannot be locked, close applications that use this partition (disk) and start over. If you cannot determine which applications use the partition (disk), close them all.

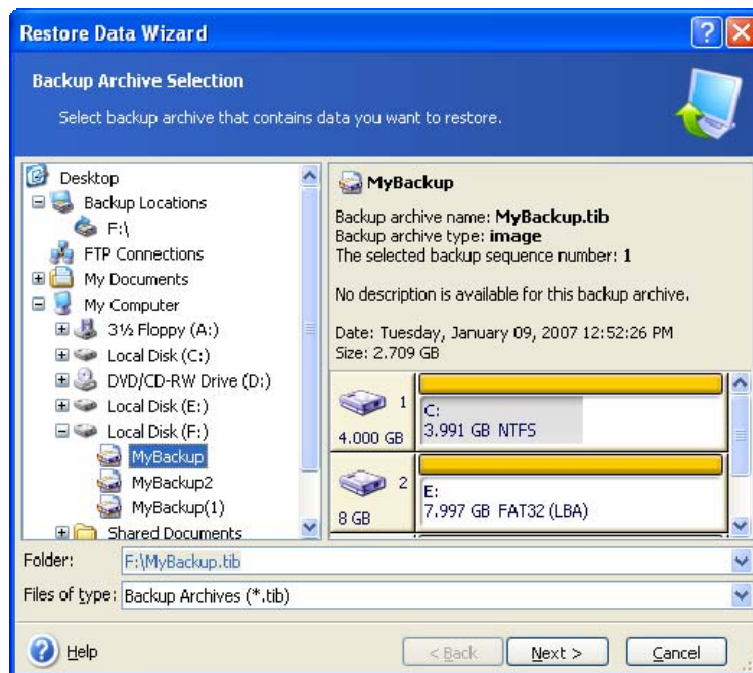
### 6.3.1 Starting the Restore Data Wizard

Launch the **Restore Data Wizard** by selecting **Operations -> Recovery** in the main program menu.



## 6.3.2 Archive selection

1. Select the archive. If the archive is located in Acronis Secure Zone or in a backup location, select it to choose the archive at the next step.



If the archive is located on removable media, e.g. CD, first insert the last CD and then insert disks in reverse order when the Restore Data Wizard prompts you.



Data recovery directly from an FTP server requires the archive to consist of files of no more than 2GB each. If you suspect that some of the files are larger, first copy the entire archive (along with the initial full backup) to a local hard disk or network share disk. See notes and recommendations for supporting FTP servers in *1.3.4 Supported storage media*.

If you added a comment to the archive, it will be displayed to the right of the drives tree. If the archive was protected with a password, Acronis True Image Home will ask for it. The partitions layout, the comment and the **Next** button will be unavailable until you enter the correct password.

2. If you are to restore data from an archive containing incremental backups, Acronis True Image Home will suggest that you select one of successive incremental backups by its creation date/time. Thus, you can roll back the disk/partition state to a certain date.

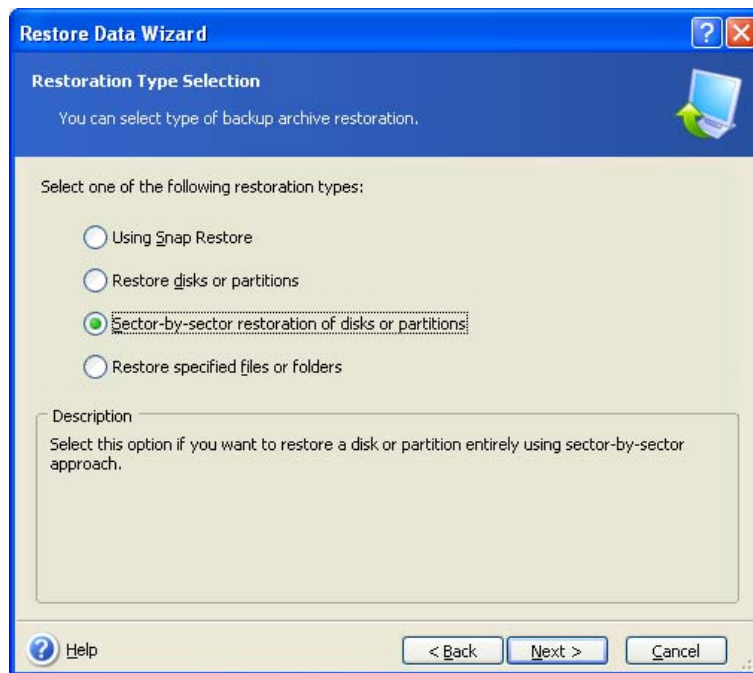


To restore data from an incremental backup, you must have all previous incremental backup files and the initial full backup. If any of successive backups is missing, restoration is not possible.

To restore data from a differential backup, you must have the initial full backup as well.

## 6.3.3 Restoration type selection

Select what you want to restore:



## Using Active Restore

When restoring a system disk/partition image (except for Windows Vista images) from Acronis Secure Zone, you have a choice of using **Acronis Active Restore**. If you choose this option, you will proceed directly to the summary window (*6.3.12 Restoration summary and executing restoration*). A few seconds after pressing **Proceed**, the computer will reboot to the restored system. Log in and start work — no more reboots or other actions are required. For more about Acronis Active Restore, see *3.6 Acronis Active Restore*.



When performing Active Restore, the current Acronis True Image Home version always restores the entire system disk. Therefore, if your system disk consists of several partitions and you are planning to use Acronis Active Restore, all partitions must be included in the image. Any partitions that are missing from the image will be lost.

You can choose a standard way of restoration for that image. This will allow you to make changes to the restored partition that would not be possible when using Acronis Active Restore.

## Restore disks or partitions

Having chosen a disks or partition recovery type, you will now select the settings described below.

### Sector by sector restoration of disks or partitions

The program will restore both used and unused sectors of disks or partitions.

### Restore specified files or folders

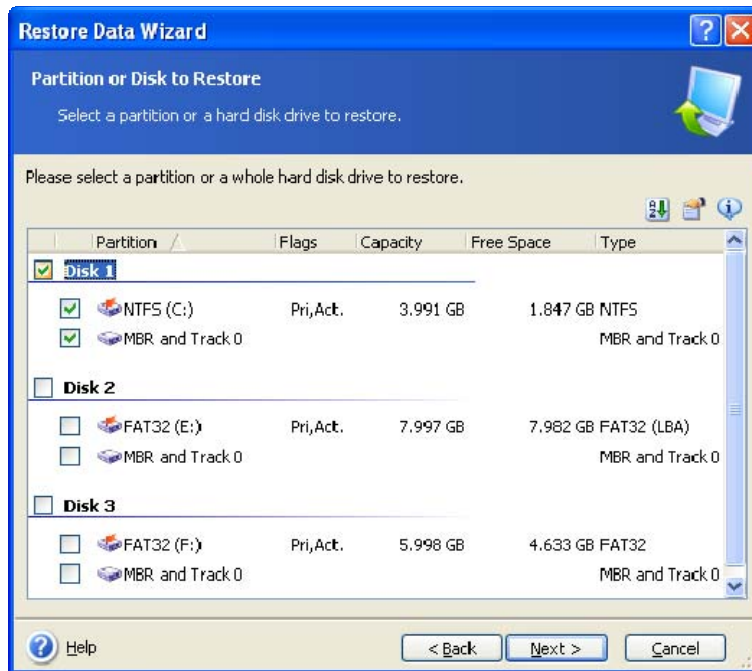
Finally, if you are not going to recover the system, but only want to repair damaged files, select **Restore specified files or folders**. With this selection, you will be further asked to select where to restore selected folders/files (original or new location), choose files/folders to be restored, and so on. These steps look like those in file archive restore. However, watch your selection: if you are to restore files instead of a disk/partition, uncheck the unnecessary folders. Otherwise you will restore a lot of excess files. Then you will be taken directly to Restoration Summary screen (*6.3.12 Restoration summary and executing restoration*).



You can restore files from disk/partition images only if they have the FAT or NTFS file systems.

### 6.3.4 Selecting a disk/partition to restore

The selected archive file can contain images of several partitions or even disks. Select which disk/partition to restore.



Disk and partition images contain a copy of track 0 along with MBR (master boot record). It appears in this window in a separate line. You can choose whether to restore MBR and track 0 by checking the respective box. Restore MBR if it is critical to your system boot.

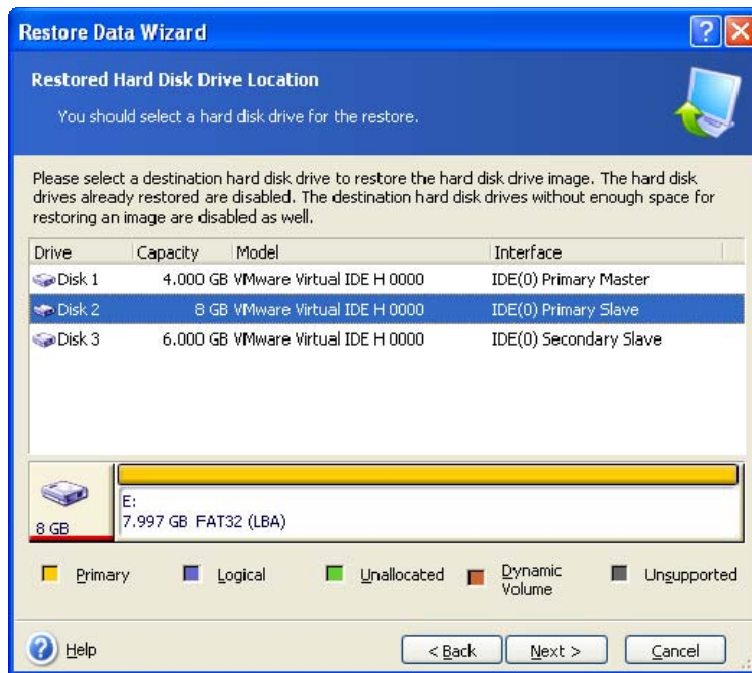
### 6.3.5 Selecting a target disk/partition

1. Select a target disk or partition where you want to restore the selected image. You can restore data to its initial location, to another disk/partition or to an unallocated space. The target partition should be at least the same size as the uncompressed image data.



All the data stored on the target partition will be replaced by the image data, so be careful and watch for non-backed-up data that you might need.

2. When restoring an entire disk, the program will analyze the target disk structure to see whether the disk is free.



If there are partitions on the target disk, you will be prompted by the **Nonempty Destination Hard Disk Drive** window stating that the destination disk contains partitions, perhaps with data.

You will have to select between:

- **Yes, I want to delete all the partitions on the destination hard disk before restoring** – all existing partitions will be deleted and all their data will be lost.
- **No, I do not want to delete partitions** – no existing partition will be deleted, discontinuing the recovery operation. You will then have to cancel the operation or return to select another disk.



Note that no real changes or data destruction will be performed at this time! For now, the program will just map out the procedure. All changes will be implemented only when you click **Proceed** in the wizard's final window.

To continue, select the first choice and click **Next**. You will be taken directly to step *6.3.10 Restoring several disks or partitions at once*.

### 6.3.6 Changing the restored partition type

When restoring a partition, you can change its type, though it is not required in most cases.

To illustrate why you might need to do this, let's imagine that both the operating system and data were stored on the same primary partition on a damaged disk.

If you are restoring a system partition to the new (or the same) disk and want to load the operating system from it, you will select **Active**.

Acronis True Image Home automatically corrects boot information during restore of the system partition to make it bootable even if it was restored to other than original partition (or disk).

If you restore a system partition to another hard disk with its own partitions and OS, most likely you will need only the data. In this case, you can restore the partition as **Logical** to access the data only.

By default, the original partition type is selected.



Selecting **Active** for a partition without an installed operating system could prevent your computer from booting.

### 6.3.7 Changing the restored partition file system

Though seldom required, you can change the partition file system during its restoration. Acronis True Image Home can make the following file system conversions: **FAT 16 -> FAT 32, Ext2 -> Ext3**. For partitions with other native file systems this option is not available.



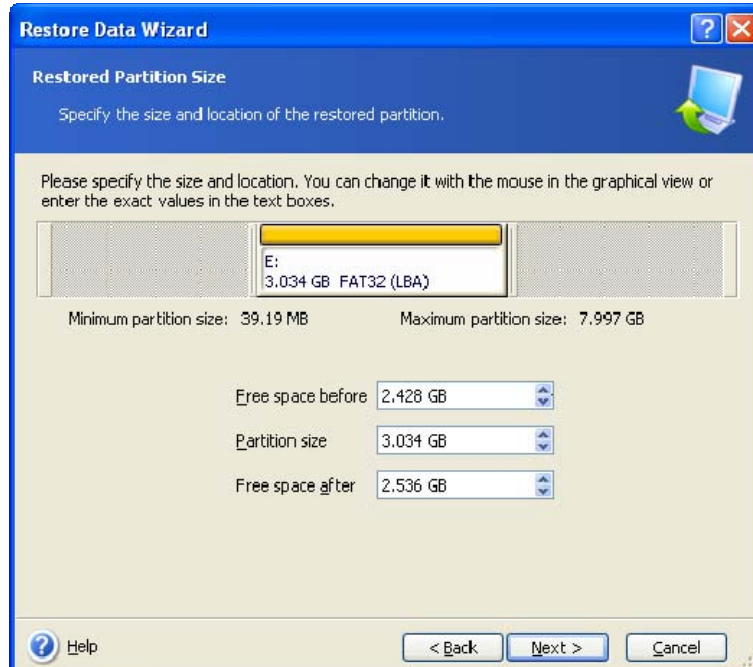
Let's say you want to restore a partition from an old, low-capacity FAT16 disk to a newer disk. FAT16 would not be effective and might not even be available for the high-capacity hard disk. That's because FAT16 supports partitions up to 4GB, so you will not be able to restore a 4GB FAT16 partition to a partition that exceeds that limit without changing the file system. It would make sense here to change the file system from FAT16 to FAT32.

However, keep in mind that not all operating systems support FAT32. MS-DOS, Windows 95 and Windows NT 3.x, 4.x do not support it and will not be operable after you restore a partition and change its file system. These can be normally restored on a FAT16 partition only.

### 6.3.8 Changing the restored partition size and location

You can resize and relocate a partition by dragging it or its borders with a mouse on the horizontal bar on the screen or by entering corresponding values into the appropriate fields.

Using this feature, you can redistribute the disk space among partitions being restored. In this case, you will have to restore the partition to be reduced first.



These changes might be useful if you are to copy your hard disk to a new high-capacity one by creating its image and restoring it to a new disk with larger partitions.

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### 6.3.9 Assigning a letter to the restored partition

Acronis True Image Home will assign an unused letter to a restored partition. You can select the desired letter from a drop-down list. If you set the switch to **No**, no letters will be assigned to the restored partition, hiding it from OS.

You should not assign letters to partitions inaccessible to Windows, such as to those other than FAT and NTFS.

### 6.3.10 Restoring several disks or partitions at once

During a single session, you can restore several partitions or disks, one by one, by selecting one disk and setting its parameters first and then repeating these actions for every partition or disk to be restored.

If you want to restore another disk (partition), select **Yes, I want to restore another partition or hard disk drive**. Then you will return to the partition selection window (6.3.4) and will have to repeat the above steps. Otherwise, don't set this switch.

### 6.3.11 Setting restore options

Select the options for the restoration process (that is, restoration process priority, etc.). You can **Use default options** or **Set the options manually**. If the latter is the case, the settings will be applied only to the current restore task. Or, you can edit the default options from the current screen. Then your settings will be saved as defaults. See *6.4 Setting restore options* for more information.

### 6.3.12 Restoration summary and executing restoration

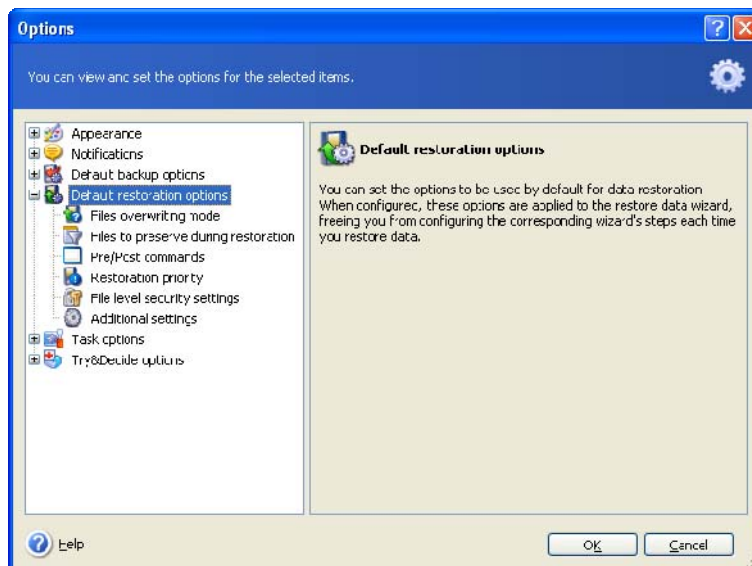
At the final step, the restoration summary is displayed. Up to this point, you can click **Back** to make changes in the created task. If you click **Cancel**, no changes will be made to disk(s). Clicking **Proceed** will launch the task execution.

The task progress will be shown in a special window. You can stop the procedure by clicking **Cancel**. However, it is critical to note that the target partition will be deleted and its space unallocated – the same result you will get if the restoration is unsuccessful. To recover the “lost” partition, you will have to restore it from the image again.

## 6.4 Setting restore options

To view or edit the default restore options, select **Tools -> Options -> Default Restoration Options** from the main program menu.

You can edit the default (or set the temporary) restore options while creating a restore task as well.



### 6.4.1 Files overwriting mode

The option allows you to keep useful data changes made since the backup being restored was done. Choose what to do if the program finds in the target folder a file with the same name as in the archive:

- **Overwrite existing file** – this will give the archived file unconditional priority over the file on the hard disk.
- **Overwrite existing file if it is older** – this will give the priority to the most recent file modification, whether it be in the archive or on the disk.
- **Do not overwrite existing file** – this will give the file on the hard disk unconditional priority over the archived file.

### 6.4.2 Files to preserve during restoration

This option is not applicable to restoration of disks and partitions from images.

By default, **all files will be restored from the archive**.

You can set default filters for the specific types of files you wish to preserve during archive restoration. For example, you may want hidden and system files and folders, as well as files matching selected criteria not to be overwritten by the archive files.

While specifying the criteria, you can use the common Windows wildcard characters. For example, to preserve all files with extension .exe, add **\*.exe**. **My????.exe** will preserve all .exe files with names consisting of five symbols and starting with "my".

### 6.4.3 Pre/post commands

You can specify commands or batch files to be automatically executed before and after the restore procedure. Click **Edit** to open the **Edit Command** window where you can easily input the command, its arguments and working directory or browse folders to find a batch file.

Please note that interactive commands, i.e. commands that require user input, are not supported.

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Unchecking the **Do not perform operations until the commands execution is complete** box, checked by default, will permit the restore procedure to run concurrently with your commands execution.

If you want the restore to be performed even if your command fails, uncheck the **Abort the operation if the user command fails** box (checked by default).

You can test execution of the command you created by clicking the **Test command** button.

#### 6.4.4 Restoration priority

The preset is **Low**.

The priority of any process running in a system determines the amount of CPU usage and system resources allocated to that process. Decreasing the restoration priority will free more resources for other CPU tasks. Raising restoration priority may speed up the restore process as it takes resources from other currently running processes. The effect will depend on total CPU usage and other factors.

#### 6.4.5 File-level security settings

The preset is **Restore files with their security settings**.

If the file security settings were preserved during backup (see *5.3.7 File-level security settings*), you can choose whether to restore them or let the files inherit the security settings of the folder where they will be restored.

This option is effective only when restoring files from file/folder archives.

#### 6.4.6 Additional settings

1. You can choose whether to restore file date and time from the archive or assign the files the current date and time. By default the current date and time will be assigned.

2. Before data is restored from the archive, Acronis True Image Home can check its integrity. If you suspect that the archive might have been corrupted, select **Validate backup archive before restoration**.



You must have all incremental and differential backups belonging to the archive and the initial full backup to check archive data integrity. If any backups are missing, the validation is not possible.

3. Having restored a disk/partition from an image, Acronis True Image Home can check the integrity of the file system. To do so, select **Check file system after restoration**.



Verification of the file system is available only when restoring disk/partitions using FAT16/32 and NTFS file systems.



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## Chapter 7 Try&Decide

The Try&Decide feature allows to create a secure, controlled temporary workspace on your computer without requiring you to install special virtualization software. You can perform various system operations without worrying that you might damage your operating system, programs or data.

After making virtual changes you may apply all of the changes to your original system. You also can select to discard all changes. Note that you cannot select individual changes to keep and others to discard. If you make changes that you want to keep, you might want to commit those changes to the hard disk and then close out of Try&Decide. You can then relaunch the utility to try other functions. Among the functions you might attempt with this feature is to open mail attachments from unknown senders, install and run new software, or visit Web sites that might contain potentially troublesome content.

For example, if you visit a Web site or open an email attachment that puts a virus on your temporary duplicate, you can simply delete the duplicate and no harm done – the virus will not appear on your machine.



It is important to remember that if you download email from a POP mail server or if you create new files while in the TRY mode and then decide to eliminate your changes, those files and mail will no longer exist. If you use POP email, make sure to change the settings in your email to leave your mail on the server *before* you activate the TRY mode. This way, you can always retrieve your email again.

### 7.1 Using Try&Decide

To start the Try mode, proceed as follows:

1. Select **Operations** -> **Try&Decide** in the main program menu or click the **Try&Decide** category in the main program window.
2. When there is no Acronis Secure Zone on the hard disk, the program will offer you to create the Zone and then run the wizard again (see *Chapter 10. Managing Acronis Secure Zone*). To use this feature, you must accept this recommendation; you cannot use Try&Decide without the Acronis Secure Zone. Sometimes there may be too little free space on the Acronis Secure Zone. If such is a case, the program will inform you that it cannot start the Try mode due to lack of free space. To solve this problem, increase the size of the Acronis Secure Zone and then run the Try mode again.



In the Try mode the program may use the free space of the *Acronis Secure Zone* quite intensively, so we recommend creating the Zone with a size of at least 20% of the used space on your system disk or increase the size of the *Acronis Secure Zone* taking into account this recommendation.

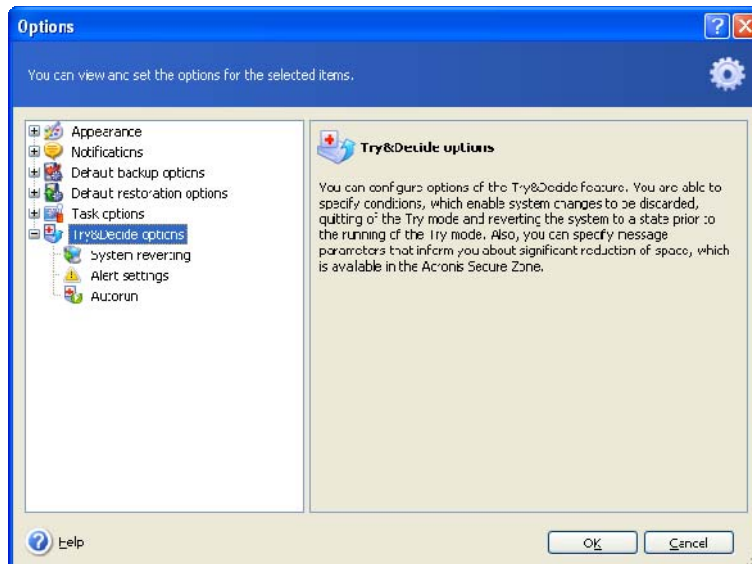


If you already have an image of your hard disk on the Acronis Secure Zone, that image will not be affected or damaged if you launch the Try&Decide utility. Your image will be safe even if you choose not to keep the changes from the Try mode.



We do not recommend creating the Acronis Secure Zone on external media (USB drives, etc.), as in such a case the Try&Decide function will be unavailable.

3. Set up the Try&Decide options:



- **System reverting** - You can make settings determining program's behavior when discarding changes and reverting the system to the previous state. If you would like to have the choice of making a decision on whether to apply changes before system shutdown, leave the **Show decision dialog at system shutdown** box checked. If you uncheck the box, the changes you have made will be discarded automatically at system shutdown or rebooting without you being notified. You might want to limit the time allocated for trying changes. If such is the case, check the **After the mode has been running for...** box and specify the time for running the Try mode.
- **Alert settings** - You can select when to see messages that will warn and alert you about program's inability to track changes in the virtual mode due to expiration of Acronis Secure Zone space. You may specify either the Zone's remaining free space in percents or time in minutes left until the Zone is full estimated on basis of Zone filling rate.
- **Autorun** - You can select whether to run the Try mode automatically each time the computer starts. Set the Autorun mode: On or Off.

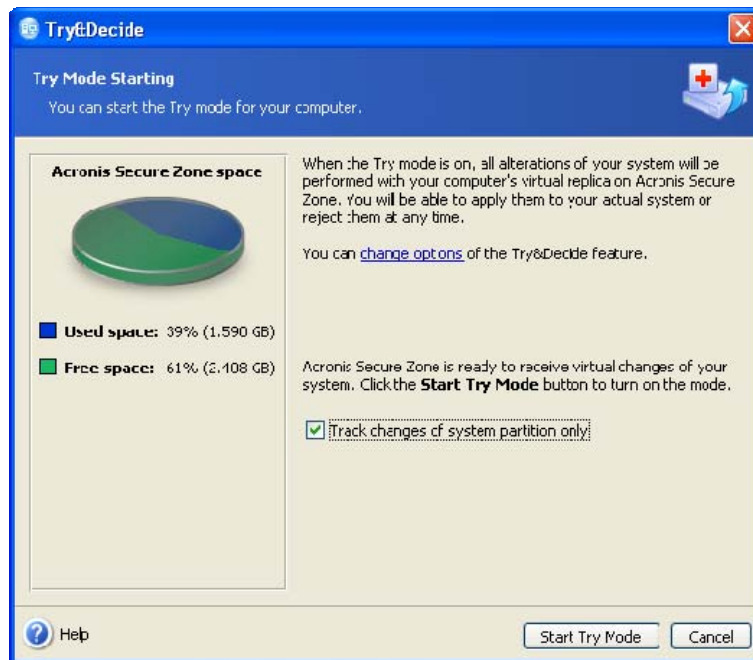


Please note that if, having set Autorun to **On** and then having turned on the Try mode, you will wish to turn Autorun off, you should turn on the Try mode again (if it has been turned off), set Autorun to **Off**, and then select **Apply changes**. This is because if you not apply the change in option setting, it will be discarded along with other changes when you select **Discard changes** or reboot the computer.

If you would like tracking changes on all disks and partitions of the system, uncheck the **Track changes of system partition only** box.

4. Start the **Try** mode by clicking the **Start Try Mode** button. The Acronis True Image Home starts tracking all changes made to the operating system and files and temporarily storing all the changes on a virtual disk, which it creates in the Acronis Secure Zone for this purpose.

5. Having performed all changes you wanted to try, invoke the Try&Decide wizard once more for making your decision. It can be done by clicking the icon in the system tray or running the wizard from the Acronis True Image Home main page.



- If you are satisfied with the results, apply the changes to the real system by selecting **Apply changes** and then clicking the **Decide** button. You can also apply the changes by right-clicking on the program's icon in the system tray and selecting **Make a Decision - > Apply changes** in the context menu.
- If you do not want to apply the changes, select **Discard changes** and then click the **Decide** button. You can also discard the changes by right-clicking on the program's icon in the system tray and selecting **Make a Decision -> Discard changes** in the context menu. The system will reboot returning to the state it was in before activating the Try mode.
- If you think that may be you would like to try some more changes, leave checked **Continue to work in Try mode** (selected by default) and click the **Cancel** button.



It is important to note that the Try&Decide will automatically discard all changes when you reboot the computer, so do not reboot if you are going to apply the changes to the real system.



Acronis True Image Home will be tracking changes until the Acronis Secure Zone is almost full. Then the program will alert you that it cannot track changes anymore and will offer to apply or discard the changes made so far. If you choose to not heed the alert messages, the program will automatically restart the system when the Acronis Secure Zone is full, discarding the changes in the process of rebooting. At that point, all changes will be lost.



If you allocated time for trying changes in the **System Reverting** option, Acronis True Image Home will be tracking changes until the allocated time almost expires. Then it will display message "Your computer will be rebooted in 5 minutes", giving you time to make a decision to apply or discard the changes made so far. If you choose to not heed the message, the program will automatically reboot the system when the allocated time expires, discarding the changes in the process of rebooting. At that point, all changes will be lost.



Please note that while working in the Try mode you will experience slowing down the system performance. Furthermore, the process of applying changes could take considerable time.



Please be aware that the Try&Decide utility cannot track changes in disk partitions, so you will be unable to use the Try mode for virtual operations with partitions such as resizing partitions or changing their layout.



It is important to remember that in the Try mode you will not be able to perform backups (including scheduled ones) on the Acronis Secure Zone and restore data from the Zone because the Try&Decide feature locks the Acronis Secure Zone while running.

## 7.2 Try&Decide usage examples

The Try&Decide utility can help you in a variety of ways; here are some examples:

There are cases when the installation of antivirus software cripples functionality of some applications; in fact, some programs might even refuse to launch after antivirus installation. The Try&Decide utility can help you to avoid such a problem. Here's how:

1. Select an antivirus program and download a trial version.
2. Turn on the Try mode.
3. Install the antivirus software.
4. Try to work with the applications installed on your computer performing your usual tasks.
5. If all works without any snags, you can be reasonably sure that there will be no incompatibility problems and can buy the antivirus software.
6. If you encounter any problems, discard the changes in your system and try antivirus software of another vendor. The new attempt might turn out to be successful.

Here's another example: You have accidentally deleted some files and then emptied the Recycle Bin. Then you have remembered that the deleted files contained important data and now you are going to try to undelete them using an undelete software program. However, sometimes you may do something wrong while trying to recover deleted files, making things worse than before trying to recover them. Here's one way you could try to recover the lost files:

1. Turn on the Try mode.
2. Launch the file undelete utility.
3. After the utility scans your disk in search of the deleted file or folder entries, it will present you the deleted entries it has found (if any) and offer you an opportunity to save whatever it is able to recover. There is always a chance that you might pick the wrong file and while recovering it the utility may overwrite the very file you are trying to recover. If not for the Try&Decide, this error would be fatal and the file would be lost irretrievably.
4. But now you can just discard the changes made in the Try mode and make one more attempt to recover the files after turning on the Try mode again. Such attempts can be repeated until you recover the files or until you are sure that have done your best to recover the files.

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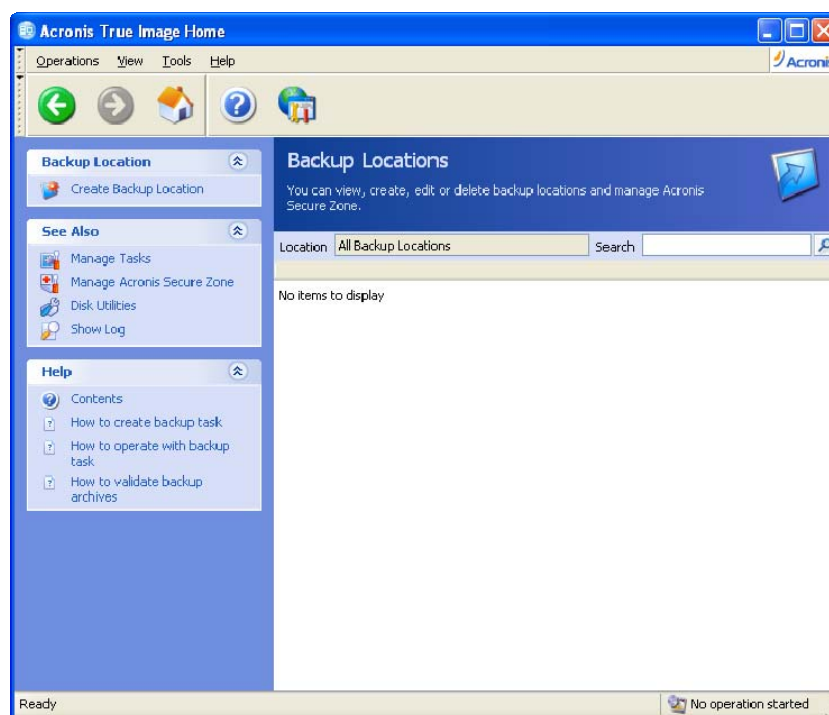
## Chapter 8. Backup location management

This section covers creation and deletion of backup locations, setting rules for backup locations and viewing archives contained in backup locations.

Before you start managing backup locations, be sure to read section 3.5 *Acronis backup locations*, stating their purpose and basic principles.

### 8.1 Creating backup locations

To launch the **Create Backup Location** wizard, select the **Management Tools** category in the main program window and click **Manage Backup Locations and Archives** in the **Main** group or select the **Tools -> Management -> Manage Backup locations and Archives** in the main program menu to navigate to the **Backup Locations** window. Then select **Create Backup Location**.



Creating a location includes the following steps.

#### 8.1.1 Setting a path to the backup location

Backup locations can be organized

- on a local (internal) hard drive
- on an external drive (USB or like)
- on rewritable media (flash card, for example), in case it is recognized by the BIOS as a hard drive and not as removable media
- on a network share
- on an FTP server

Provide the full path to the folder that will become a backup location along with the username and password for the network drive or FTP server access.

You want to avoid backing up to the same disk where your operating system and user data are located. If you have only one disk and cannot store your backups outside the computer, use the Acronis Secure Zone instead of backup locations.

When using removable media, a network share or an FTP server, consider the storage device's free space and availability of that storage in case you need data recovery.

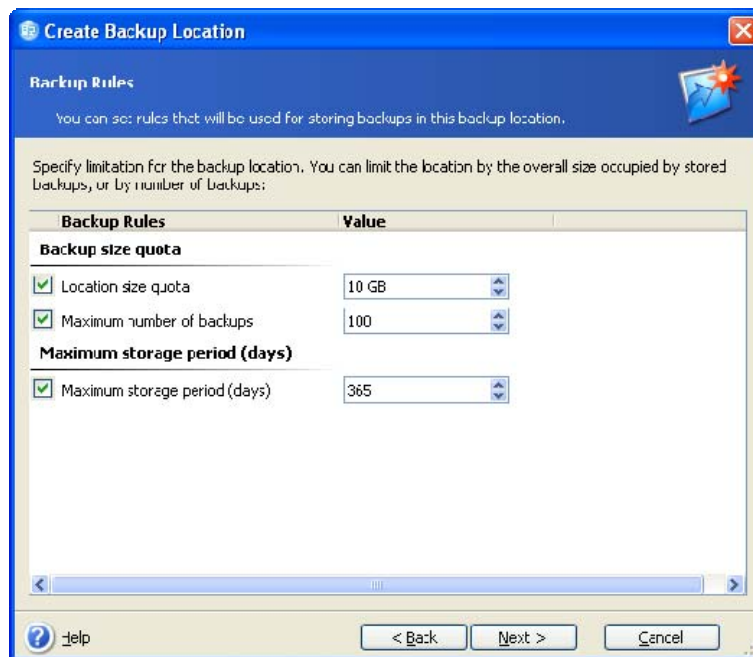
## 8.1.2 Setting the backup rules

The rules include:

1) maximum size

This is the maximum storage space allowed for a backup location.

To estimate the location size, you can start a backup and select all data you are going to copy to the location. At the **Choose Backup Options** step, select **Set the options manually**, then set the compression level. You will see the estimated full backup size (for disk/partition backup) or the approximate compression ratio (for file-level backup) with which you can calculate the estimated full backup size. Multiply this by about 1.5 to be able to create incremental or differential backups (roughly). Also consider the next rule, especially if you are going to create multiple full backups.



2) maximum number of backups

This is the total number of backups allowed for a location

3) maximum storage period for the archives in a backup location

After creating a backup in a backup location, the program checks the location for quota violations and, if any limitation is exceeded, deletes or consolidates the oldest backups.



When creating a backup task, be sure to select the backup location from the **Backup Locations** list, near the top of the directory tree. Doing so will enable the processing of backups. If you select a backup location as a normal folder, the processing will not be performed.

---

## 8.2 Editing backup locations

To launch the **Edit Backup Location** wizard, select the **Management Tools** category in the main program window and click **Manage Backup Locations and Archives** in the **Main** group or select the **Tools -> Management -> Manage Backup locations and Archives** in the main program menu to navigate to the **Backup Locations** window. Then select **Edit Backup Location**.

Select the location and enter the new values for backup rules. The new rules will be applied to the entire location: at the next backup to this location, all its contents will be processed according to the new rules.

## 8.3 Deleting a backup location

To launch the **Delete Backup Location** wizard, select the **Management Tools** category in the main program window and click **Manage Backup Locations and Archives** in the **Main** group or select the **Tools -> Management -> Manage Backup locations and Archives** in the main program menu to navigate to the **Backup Locations** window. Then select **Delete Backup Location**.

Select a location. Expanding it in the folder tree will display the location contents. If you want to delete all archives stored there, check **Remove Archive Contents**. Otherwise the location will become a common folder and you will be able to access the archives using any file manager.

Then click **Next** and the wizard will display the contents of the location you are going to delete. Select **Next**, read the summary and click **Proceed**. The operation will be performed without a prompt.

## 8.4 Exploring a backup location

To explore a backup location, select the **Management Tools** category in the main program window and click **Manage Backup Locations and Archives** in the **Main** group or select the **Tools -> Management -> Manage Backup locations and Archives** in the main program menu to navigate to the **Backup Locations** window.

The window will show a list of your backup locations, if any. Then select a location to explore and click **Explore Backup Location** on the left side of the screen; this is the *sidebar*. If the location contains backup archives protected with a password, Acronis True Image Home will ask for it. Then the list of location contents grouped by archive types will be displayed. Select the archive you want to explore and click **Show Backup Content** on the sidebar. The window will display the archive contents. Select folders and/or files you want to restore (if any) and click **Restore Selected Items** in the **Backup Content Selection** group on the sidebar. This will launch **Restore Data Wizard**, which will guide you through the process of restoring the selected items.



If a location contains backups protected by different passwords, only the backups protected by the password you entered will be displayed. The backups protected by the other passwords will be invisible. To display them, select the same backup location again, click **Explore Backup Location**, and enter the next password, etc.

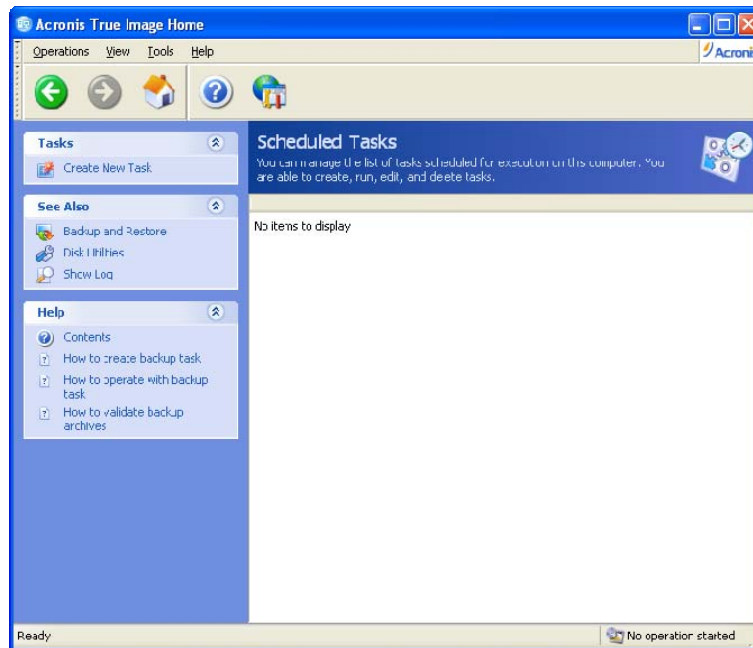
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## Chapter 9. Scheduling tasks

Acronis True Image Home allows you to schedule periodic backup and validation tasks. Doing so will give you peace of mind, knowing that your data is safe.

You can create more than one independently scheduled task. For example, you can back up your current project daily and back up the application disk once a week.

All the scheduled tasks appear in the **Scheduled Tasks** window, where you can create, edit, delete, rename, change their schedules, as well as start and stop them.



To navigate to the **Scheduled Tasks** window, click **Management Tools** in the main window, then select **Manage Tasks** in the **Main** group or select **Tools -> Management -> Manage Tasks** in the main program menu. You can also select the **Manage Tasks** on the sidebar when this item is shown on the sidebar.

### 9.1 Creating scheduled tasks

1. To launch the **Schedule Task Wizard**, select **Operations -> Create New Task** from the main program menu. You can also click **Management Tools** category in the main window, then select **Manage Tasks** in the **Main** group to navigate to the **Scheduled Tasks** window. Then click the **Create New Task** on the sidebar.

2. Select the type of a task you want to schedule: **Backup** or **Validate**. If you choose **Validate**, select the backup archive to validate in the **Backup Archive Selection** window, then go to step 7.



If the backup archive you want to validate is protected with a password, Acronis True Image Home will ask for it.



If you choose a backup location or the Acronis Secure Zone, Acronis True Image Home will validate all backups stored there. When any backup stored in the backup location is protected with a password, the program will ask for it.

3. If you choose **Backup**, select the data to back up. (See 5.2.1 - 5.2.4)



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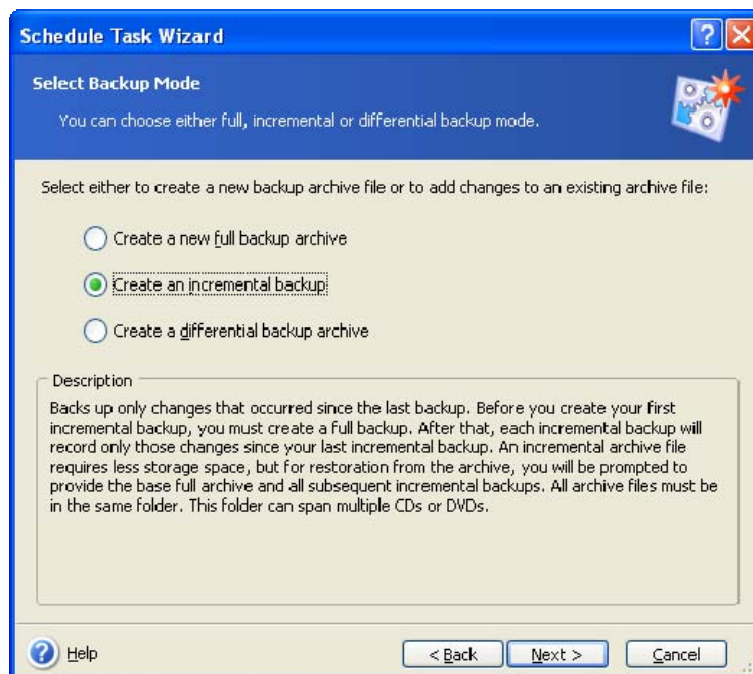
4. Select the destination for the backups that will be created on a schedule. If you choose to create the backup archive on a network drive, you will have to enter a user name and a password for network access.

5. If the archive destination is other than a backup location, select the backup mode (full, incremental, differential). See details in *5.2.6 Selecting the backup mode*. For definitions and basic information about full, incremental and differential backup modes see *3.2 Full, incremental and differential backups*.

If you chose to store backups in a backup location, set the backup policy for the backup task.

Acronis True Image Home offers three types of backup policies:

- 1) create full backups only
- 2) create full backups with specified number of incremental backups
- 3) create full backups with specified number of differential backups (recommended)



When the first backup on a schedule is executed, a full backup will be created. If the choice was (2) or (3), the next backups will be incremental (or differential) until the specified number of incremental (differential) backups is reached. After the selected number of incremental or differential backups is made, the next time a new full backup and a set of subsequent incremental (differential) backups will be created; this process will then continue until you decide to change it.

Using incremental backup mode, you can maximize the number of stored data incidents given the restricted storage space. However, archives with very long incremental "chains" are less reliable since the corruption of any backup in a chain makes data recovery from the later backups impossible.

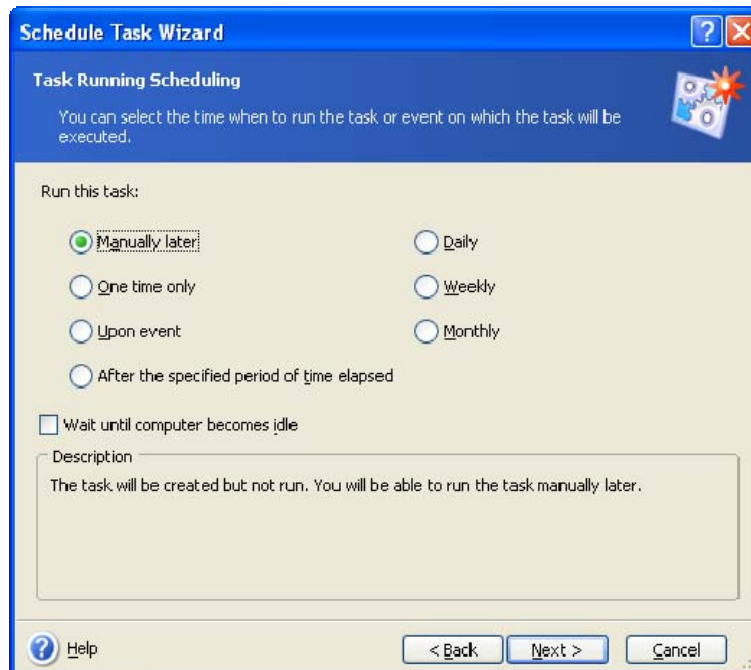
Storing only full backups could be regarded as the most reliable and the most space-consuming way.

Differential backups are almost as reliable as full ones since they do not depend on each other, but only on the initial full backup. No matter how many differential backups you

create, to recover data from each of them, you will additionally use only the base full backup.

6. Complete configuring the backup task in the usual way (see 5.2.7 *Selecting the backup options* and 5.2.8 *Providing a comment*).

7. Perform task running scheduling.



- **Manually later** – the task will be saved, but not launched automatically. You will be able to launch it later by clicking the Start Task icon on the sidebar in the Scheduled Tasks window
- **One time only** – the task will be executed once at the specified time and day
- **Upon event** – the task will be executed on an event to be selected in the Task Execution by Event window:
  - **At system startup** – the task will be executed at every OS startup
  - **At system shutdown** – the task will be executed before every system shutdown or reboot
  - **At user logon** – the task will be executed each time the current user logs on to the OS
  - **At user logoff** – the task will be executed each time the current user logs off of the OS.
  - **When free disk space changes** – the task will be executed each time the free disk space decreases or increases by a value specified in the below field.



If you want to run a task only at the first occurrence of the event on the current day, check the **Run the task once a day only** box.

- **After the specified period of time elapsed** – the task will be executed periodically with a frequency to be specified in the **Frequency of Task Execution** window, where you specify the time between runs for the task being scheduled.

- **Daily** – the task will be executed once a day or once in several days
- **Weekly** – the task will be executed once a week or once in several weeks on the selected day
- **Monthly** – the task will be executed once a month on the selected day

To postpone a scheduled task until the next time when computer is idle, check the **Wait until computer becomes idle** box. The task will automatically start when the computer is idle for the number of minutes specified in the **Wait** setting of the screen saver or when you log off. Once the task has started, it will be completed because task execution cannot be interrupted by user. However, you can work on the computer while the task is running.



Some of these options might be disabled depending on the operating system.

8. Specify the task start time and other schedule parameters, according to the selected periodicity (see 9.1.1 - 9.1.4).

9. Next you will have to specify the name of the user who owns the task to be executed; otherwise no scheduled execution will be available.

**Schedule Task Wizard**

**Credentials**

Specify user name and password to be used for running the task.

Enter the name and password of a user. The task will run as if it was started by that user. Please note that the domain name must be specified if the user is a member of a domain.

Enter the user name:

Enter the password:

Confirm password:

If credentials are not entered, the scheduled tasks might not run.

Help << Back Next >> Cancel

In the upper field, enter the user name. Enter the password twice in the fields below.

10. At the final step, the task configuration is displayed. Up to this point, you can click **Back** to make changes in the created task. If you click **Cancel**, all settings will be lost. Click **Finish** to save the task.

11. The task schedule and default name appear in the Scheduled Tasks window. You can rename the task right off or may choose to do it later.

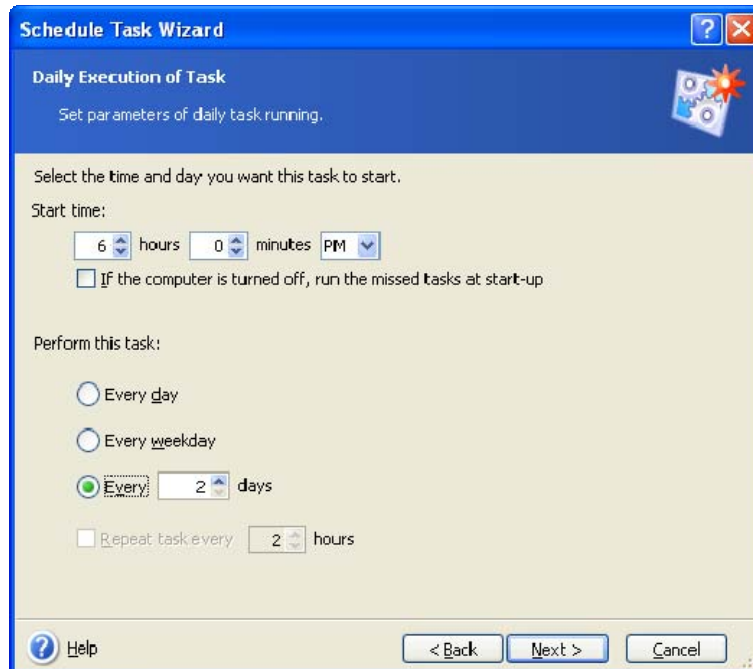
### 9.1.1 Setting up daily execution

If you select daily execution, set the **Start time** and days on which you want to execute the task:

- **Every day**

- **Weekdays**
- **Every x days** – once in several days (specify the interval).

If you want the task to be repeated several times per day, check **Repeat task every x hours** box and specify the interval in hours.



If the computer is off when the scheduled time comes, the task won't be performed, but you can force the missed task to run at the next system startup by checking a box under the **Start time** fields.

### 9.1.2 Setting up weekly execution

If you select weekly execution, set the **Start time**, specify the task execution periodicity in the **Every x weeks** box (every week, every two weeks, etc.) and check the days on which to execute the task.

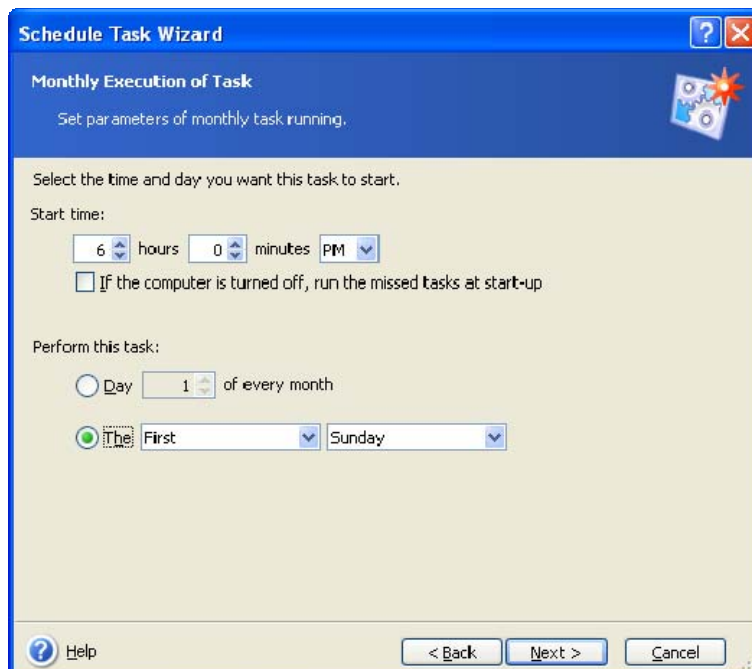


If the computer is off when the scheduled time comes, the task won't be performed, but you can force the missed task to run at the next system startup by checking a box under the **Start time** fields.

### 9.1.3 Setting up monthly execution

If you select monthly execution, set the **Start time** and days on which to execute the task:

- **Day** – on the specified date
- **The <specify a day>** – on the specified day (e.g. on second Tuesday or fourth Friday); select this from the drop-down lists.

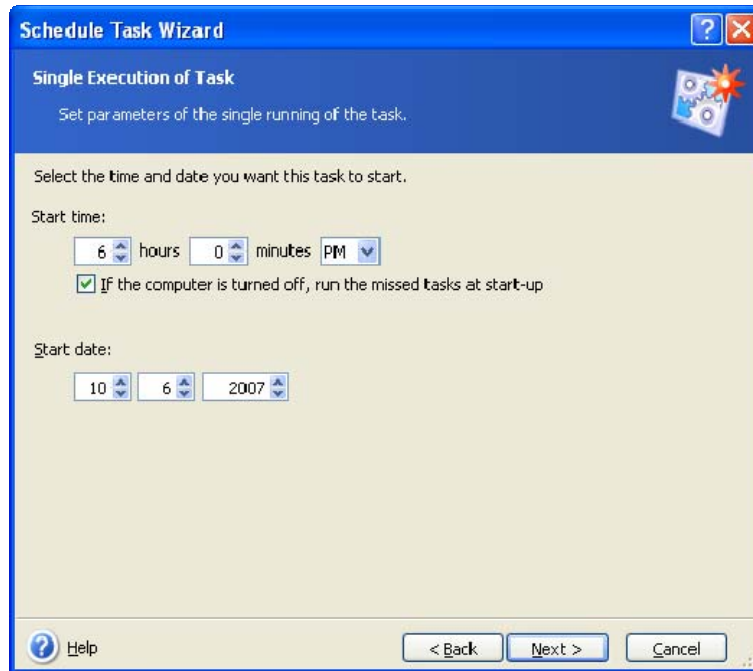


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If the computer is off when the scheduled time comes, the task won't be performed, but you can force the missed task to run at the next system startup by checking a box under the **Start time** fields.

### 9.1.4 Setting up one-time execution

If you select the one-time only execution, set the **Start time** and date on which to execute the task:



If the computer is off when the scheduled time comes, the task won't be performed, but you can force the missed task to run at the next system startup by checking a box under the **Start time** fields.

## 9.2 Managing scheduled tasks

To navigate to the **Scheduled Tasks** window, click **Management Tools** in the main window, then select **Manage Tasks** in the **Main** group. You can also select **Tools -> Management -> Manage Tasks** in the main menu or click **Manage Tasks** on the sidebar when this item is shown on the sidebar. The **Scheduled tasks** window displays all scheduled tasks along with their Status, Schedule, Last Run Time, Last Result, and Owner. To view the other task details, mouse over their names.

By default you see only your own tasks, but you have an option to view or manage tasks of other users. To do so, select **Tools -> Options -> Tasks** from the main program menu. Then select **Task Filter** and uncheck **Show only tasks created by a current user** box.

There are two ways of changing the task parameters. One is by editing. This is performed in the same way as creation, however, the earlier selected options will be set, so you have to enter only the changes. To edit a task, select it and click **Edit Task** on the sidebar.

If you want to change only periodicity and/or start time, click **Change Task Schedule** on the sidebar. Then you will have to perform only scheduling steps, leaving the other task settings the same.

To delete a task with confirmation, select it and click **Delete Task** on the sidebar.

To rename a task, select it, click **Rename** on the sidebar and enter the new task name.

---

# Chapter 10. Managing Acronis Secure Zone

The Acronis Secure Zone is a special partition for storing archives on the same computer that created the archive. The Acronis Secure Zone is a required component for using the Acronis Startup Recovery Manager and the Try&Decide feature. For more information about these functions, see *3.3 Acronis Secure Zone*, *3.4 Acronis Startup Recovery Manager*, and *3.8 Try&Decide*

When you select **Tools -> Manage Acronis Secure Zone** in the main menu, the program searches for the zone on all local drives. If a zone is found, the wizard will offer to manage it (resize or change the password) or remove. If there is no zone, you'll be prompted to create it.

If the Acronis Secure Zone is password-protected, the proper password must be entered before any operation can take place.

## 10.1 Creating the Acronis Secure Zone

Acronis Secure Zone can be located on any internal disk. It is created using unallocated space, if available, or at the expense of free space on a partition. Partition resizing may require a reboot.

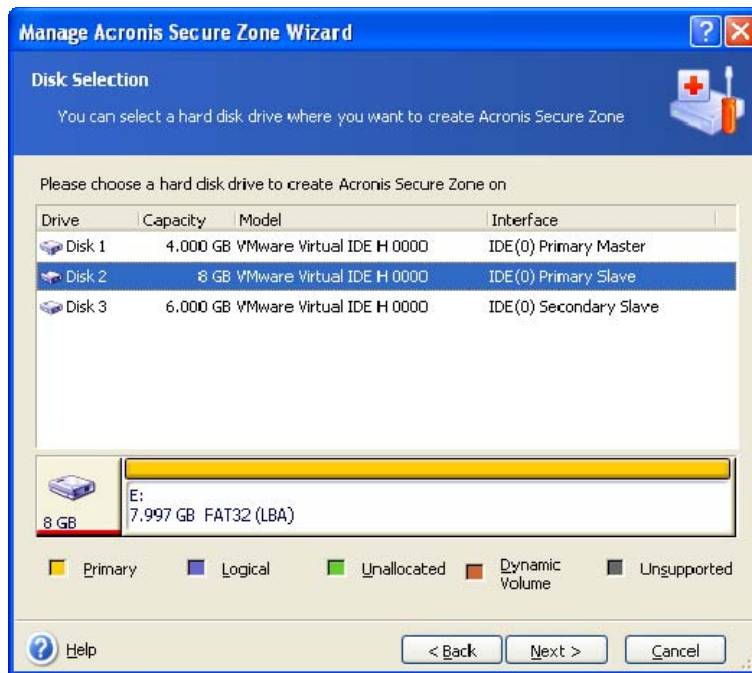


We do not recommend creating the Acronis Secure Zone on external media (USB drives, etc.), because this may lead to problems with computer booting if this external storage is disconnected. Furthermore, in this case the Try&Decide feature may not work properly.

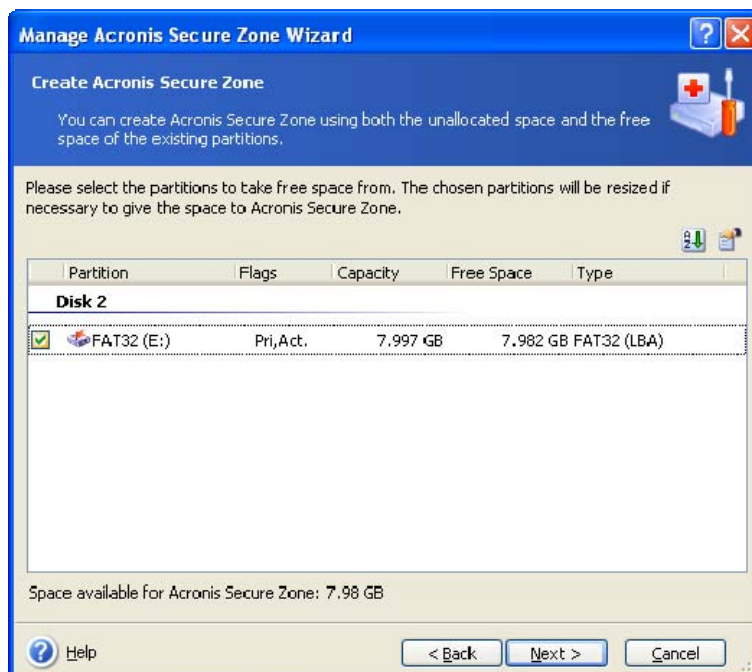
A computer can have only one secure zone. To create a zone on another disk, you must first delete the existing zone.

1. Before creating a zone, you need to estimate its size. To do so, start a backup and select all data you are going to copy into it. At the **Choose Backup Options** step, select **Set the options manually**, then set the compression level. You will see the estimated full backup size (for disk/partition backup) or the approximate compression ratio (for file-level backup) with which you can calculate the estimated full backup size. Multiply this by 1.5 to be able to create incremental or differential backups. Remember that the *average* compression rate is 2:1, so you can use this as a guide as well to create a zone. Let's say you have a hard disk with 10GBs of programs and data. Under normal conditions, that will compress down to approximately 5GB. As a result, you might want to make the total size 7.5GB.

2. If there are several disks installed, select one on which to create Acronis Secure Zone.

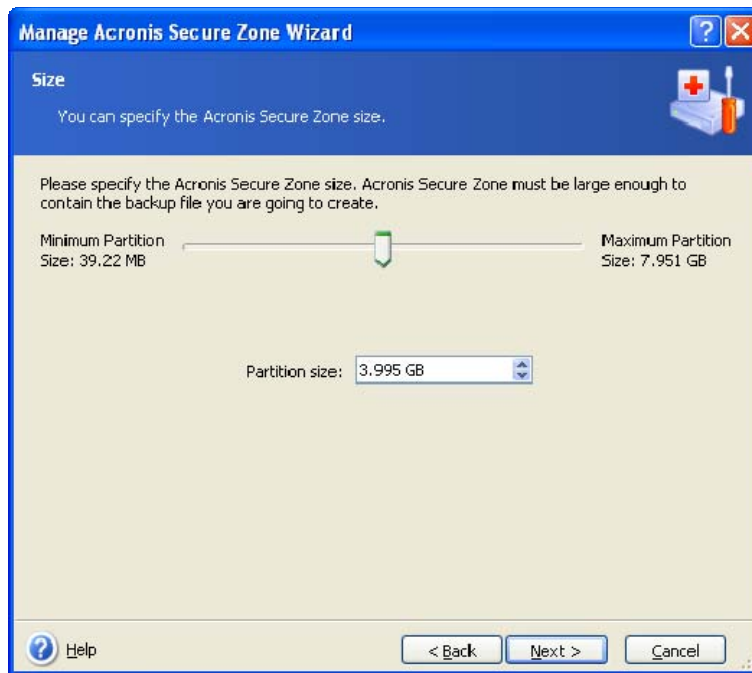


3. Select the partitions from which space will be used to create the zone.



4. In the next window, enter the Acronis Secure Zone size or drag the slider to select any size between the minimum and maximum ones.





The minimum size is about 35 MB, depending on the geometry of the hard disk. The maximum size is equal to the disk's unallocated space plus the total free space on all partitions selected at the previous step.

When creating the zone, the program will first use the unallocated space. If there is not enough unallocated space, the selected partitions will be decreased. Partition resizing may require a reboot.



Reducing a system partition to the minimum size might prevent your operating system from booting.

5. You can set a password to restrict access to the zone. The program will ask for the password at any operation relating to it, such as data backup and recovery, mounting images or validating archives on the zone, rescue boot with the F11 key, resizing and deleting the zone.



Acronis True Image Home repair or update will not affect the password. However, if the program is removed and then installed again while keeping the Acronis Secure Zone on the disk, the password to the zone will be reset.

6. After this, you will be prompted to activate Acronis Recovery Manager, which will enable you to start Acronis True Image Home at boot time by pressing the F11 key. Or, you can activate this feature later from the main program window.

7. Then you will see a list of operations to be performed on partitions (disks).

After you click **Proceed**, Acronis True Image Home will start creating the zone. Progress will be reflected in a special window. If necessary, you can stop zone creation by clicking **Cancel**. However, the procedure will be canceled only after the current operation is finished.

Acronis Secure Zone creation might take several minutes or more. Please wait until the whole procedure is finished.

## 10.2 Resizing Acronis Secure Zone

1. When prompted by the wizard, select **Manage Acronis Secure Zone**.

2. Select to increase or decrease the zone. You might need to increase it to provide more space for archives. The opposite situation might arise if any partition lacks free space.
3. Select partitions from which free space will be used to increase Acronis Secure Zone or that will receive free space after the zone is reduced.
4. Enter the new size of the zone or drag the slider to select the size.

When increasing the Acronis Secure Zone, the program will first use unallocated space. If there is not enough unallocated space, the selected partitions will be decreased. Resizing of the partitions may require a reboot.

When reducing the zone, any unallocated space, if the hard disk has it, will be allocated to the selected partitions along with the space freed from the zone. Thus, no unallocated space will remain on the disk.

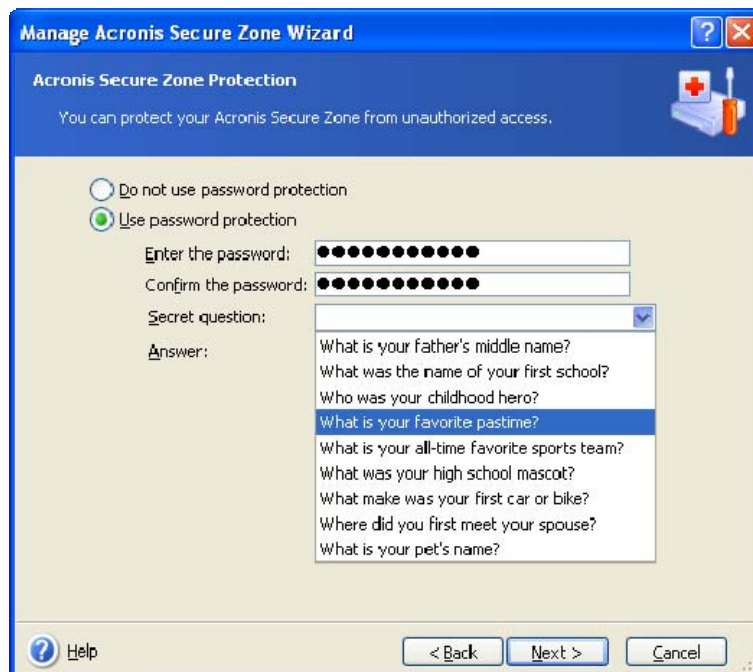
5. Next you will see a list of briefly described operations to be performed on partitions (disks).

After you click **Proceed**, Acronis True Image Home will start resizing the zone. Progress will be reflected in a special window. If necessary, you can stop the procedure by clicking **Cancel**. However, the procedure will be canceled only after the current operation is finished.

Zone resizing can take several minutes or longer. Please wait until the whole procedure is finished.

### 10.3 Changing the password for Acronis Secure Zone

1. When prompted by the wizard, select **Manage Acronis Secure Zone**.
2. Select **Change password**.



3. Enter the new password and confirm it or select **Do not use password protection**. You can also select a secret question that will be asked in case you forget the password.
4. To perform the password change operation, click **Proceed** in the final wizard window.

---

## 10.4 Deleting Acronis Secure Zone

1. When prompted by the wizard, select **Remove Acronis Secure Zone**.
2. Select the partitions to which you want to add the space freed from the zone. If you select several partitions, the space will be distributed proportionally to each partition.
3. Next, you will see a list of briefly described operations to be performed on partitions (disks).

After you click **Proceed**, Acronis True Image Home will start deleting the zone. Progress will be reflected in the opened window. If necessary, you can stop the procedure by clicking **Cancel**. However, the procedure will be canceled only after the current operation is finished.

Zone deletion might take several minutes or more. Please wait until the whole procedure is finished.



Acronis Secure Zone deletion will automatically destroy all backups stored in the zone and disable the Acronis Startup Recovery Manager.

---

# Chapter 11. Creating bootable media

You can run Acronis True Image Home from an emergency boot disk on a bare-metal system or a crashed computer that cannot boot. You can even back up disks on a non-Windows computer, copying all its data into the backup archive by imaging the disk one sector at a time. To do so, you will need bootable media that has a copy of the standalone Acronis True Image Home version installed on it.

If you purchased the boxed product, you already have a bootable CD, because the installation CD itself is bootable in addition to serving as the program installation disk.

If you purchased Acronis True Image Home on the Web or as a download from a retailer, you can create bootable media using the Bootable Media Builder. For this, you will need a CD-R/RW blank, DVD±R/RW blank, several formatted diskettes (the wizard will tell you the exact number), or any other media from which your computer can boot, such as a Zip drive.

Acronis True Image Home also provides the ability to create an ISO image of a bootable disk on the hard disk.

If you have other Acronis products installed on your computer, such as Acronis Disk Director Suite, you can include standalone versions of these programs on the same bootable disk as well.

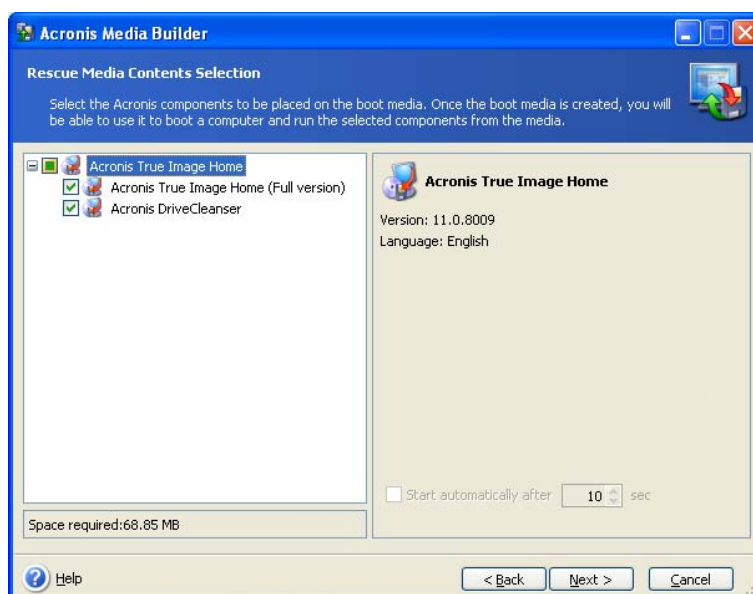


If you have chosen not to install the Bootable Media Builder during Acronis True Image Home installation, you will not be able to use this feature.



When booting from the Rescue Media, you cannot perform backups to disks or partitions with Ext2/Ext3, ReiserFS, and Linux SWAP file systems.

1. Click **Create Bootable Rescue Media** on the sidebar, or select **Create Bootable Rescue Media** from the **Tools** menu. You can also run the Bootable Rescue Media Builder without loading Acronis True Image Home by selecting **Programs -> Acronis -> Acronis True Image Home -> Bootable Rescue Media Builder** from the **Start** menu.
2. Select which components of Acronis programs you want to place on the bootable media.



Acronis True Image Home offers the following components:

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- **Acronis True Image Home full version**

Includes support of USB, PC Card (formerly PCMCIA) and SCSI interfaces along with the storage devices connected via them, and therefore is strongly recommended.

- **Acronis DriveCleanser**

This is a standalone version of the Acronis DriveCleanser utility that will allow you to destroy confidential data on your PC disks easily and permanently even if you uninstall Acronis True Image Home.

In the next window you can set Bootable Media Startup Parameters in order to configure rescue media boot options for better compatibility with different hardware. Several options are available (*nousb*, *nomouse*, *noapic*, etc.). All the available startup parameters are listed in *Appendix D. Startup Parameters*. These parameters are provided for advanced users. If you encounter any hardware compatibility problem while testing boot from the rescue media, it may be the best to contact Acronis Technical Support.

You may also wish to add **Acronis True Image Home safe version** when creating your bootable rescue media. This version does not include USB, PC Card, or SCSI drivers. Recommended for use on rare occasions where problems running the full version occur. To add this version, you should download the appropriate installation file from Acronis web-site and then perform installation. After installation the **Acronis True Image Home** safe version will appear as one of the components to be offered by **Acronis Media Builder** for placing on the bootable media.



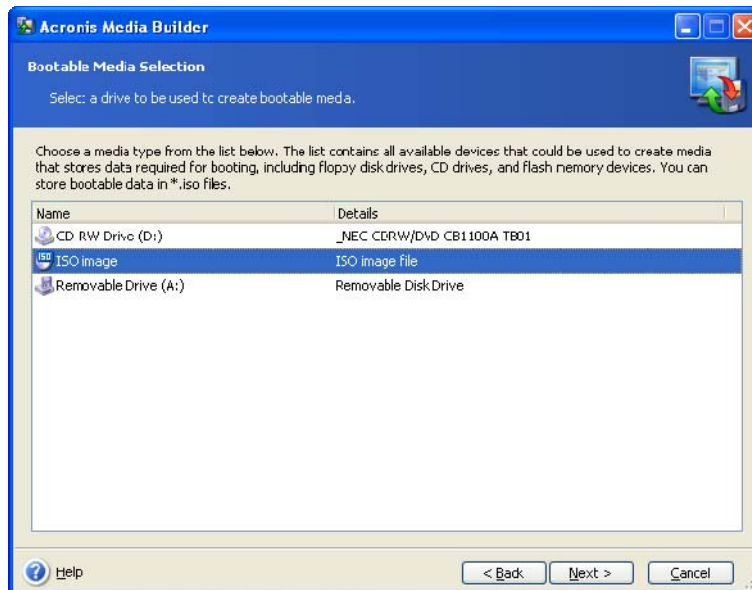
After installation the **Acronis True Image Home** safe version will also appear in the Default backup options (Media components) allowing you to place it on a removable media along with the data being backed up if you backup to the removable media.

By the way, you can also download an Acronis True Image Home plug-in for the well-known **Bart PE** utility that is used for booting into a Windows-like environment from CD. Applications are installed into Bart PE in the form of plug-ins. Downloading the plug-in provides ability to include Acronis True Image Home into a Bart PE plug-in tab.

3. Select the type of bootable media (CD-R/RW, DVD±R/RW or 3.5" diskettes) to create. If your BIOS has this feature, you can create other bootable media such as removable USB flash drives. You can also choose to create a bootable disk ISO image.



When using 3.5" diskettes, you will be able to write on a diskette (or a set of diskettes) only one component at a time (for example, Acronis True Image Home). To write another component, start Bootable Media Builder again.



4. If you are creating a CD, DVD or any removable media, insert a blank disk so the program can determine its capacity. If you choose to create a bootable disk ISO image, specify the ISO file name and the folder in which to place it.

5. Next, the program will estimate how many blank disks are required (in case you have not chosen ISO or CD) and give you time to prepare them. When you are finished, click **Proceed**.

After you create a boot disk, mark it and keep it in a safe place.

Please keep in mind that the backups created by the later program version may be incompatible with the previous program versions. Due to this reason, we strongly recommend that you create a new bootable media after each Acronis True Image Home upgrade.

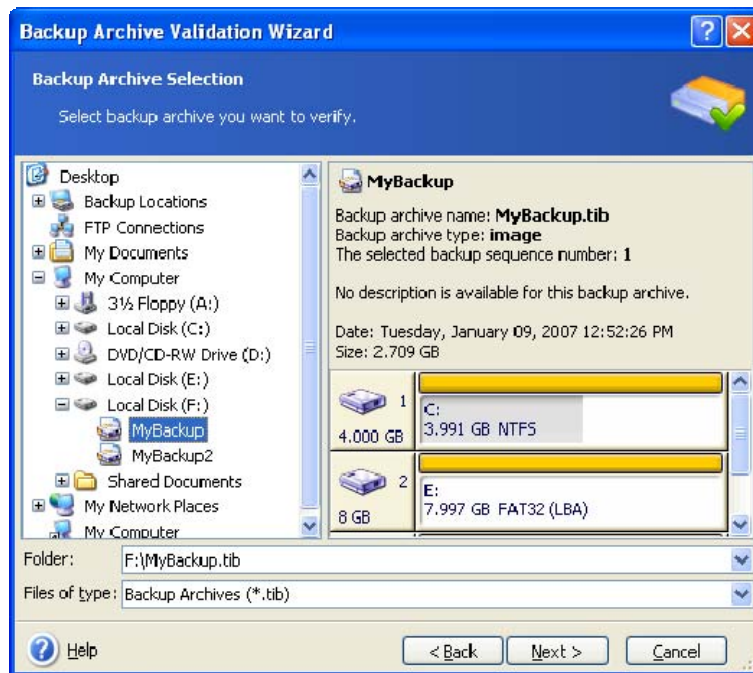
# Chapter 12. Other operations

## 12.1 Validating backup archives

You can check the integrity of your backup images to be certain that your archives are not damaged. You may perform such validations on a schedule (see *Chapter 9. Scheduling tasks*) or by launching the **Backup Archive Validation Wizard**.

1. To launch the **Backup Archive Validation Wizard**, select **Operations -> Validate Backup Archive** from the main program menu.

2. Select the archive to validate. The Acronis Secure Zone and backup locations can be selected only as a whole because all their contents are viewed by the program as a single archive. You can validate individual archives in backup locations using Windows Explorer. To do so, open a backup location as a common folder, then select the archive to validate, right-click the archive and select **Validate Backup Archive** in the context menu. The **Backup Archive Validation Wizard** will be launched with this archive selected. Click **Next** to continue.



3. Clicking **Proceed** in the summary window will launch the validation procedure. After the validation is complete, you will see the results window. You can cancel validation by clicking **Cancel**.



To check archive data integrity you must have all incremental and differential backups belonging to the archive and the initial full backup in the same folder. If any of successive backups is missing, validation is not possible.

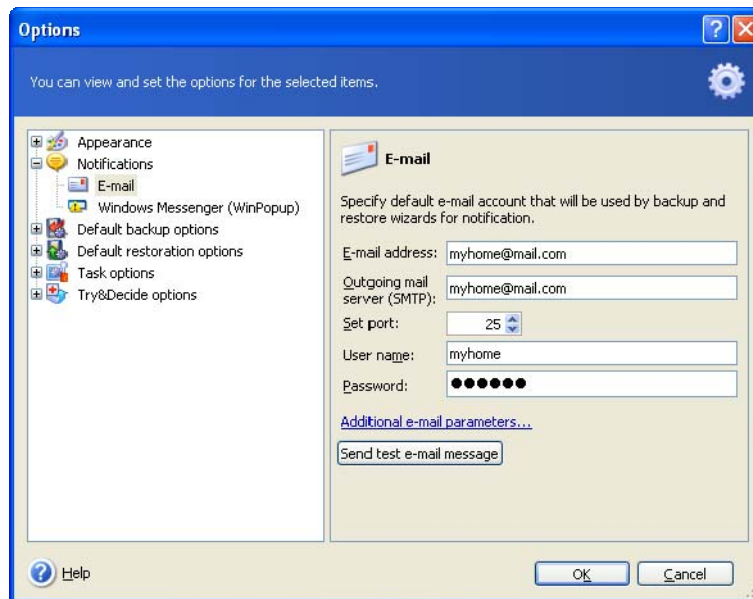
## 12.2 Operation results notification

Sometimes a backup or restore procedure can last for 30 minutes or more. Acronis True Image Home can notify you when it is finished using the WinPopup service or via e-mail. The program can also duplicate messages issued during the operation or send you the full operation log after operation completion.

By default all notifications are **disabled**.

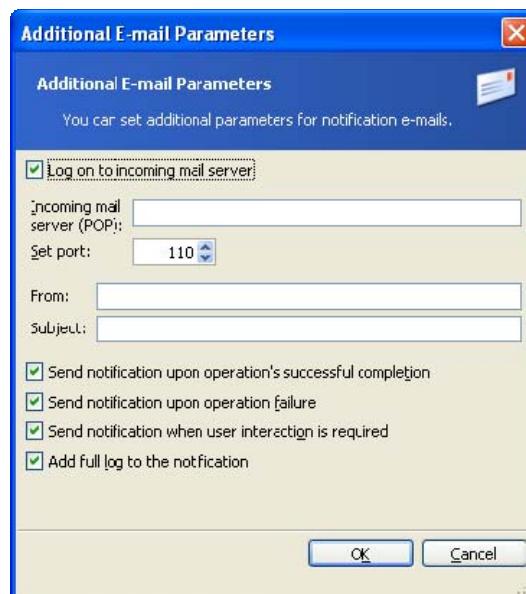
## 12.2.1 Email notification

To set up e-mail notification, select **Tools -> Options -> Notifications -> E-mail**:



Provide the email address to which notifications will be sent as well as the outgoing SMTP server name and port. A user name and a password might also be needed if the SMTP server requires user authentication.

To set up the additional e-mail parameters, click **Additional e-mail parameters...**



If the outgoing SMTP server requires logging on to incoming mail server before it allows sending outgoing messages, enter the necessary information for the incoming mail server.

At the bottom of this window you can choose whether you want to get notifications:

- when the operation is completed successfully (check **Add full log to the notification** to add the full operation log to the message)

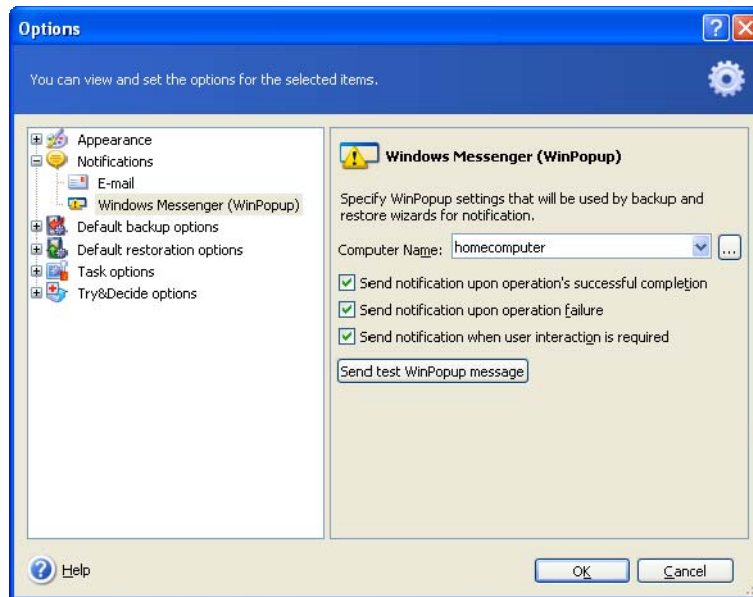


- if the operation failed (check **Add full log to the notification** to add the full operation log to the message)
- during the operation when user interaction is required

After setting up e-mail notifications, you can send a test mail message by clicking the appropriate button.

## 12.2.2 WinPopup notification

To set up WinPopup notification, select **Tools -> Options -> Notifications -> Windows Messenger (WinPopup)**:



Provide the name of the computer to which notifications will be sent.

At the bottom of this window you can choose whether you want to get notifications:

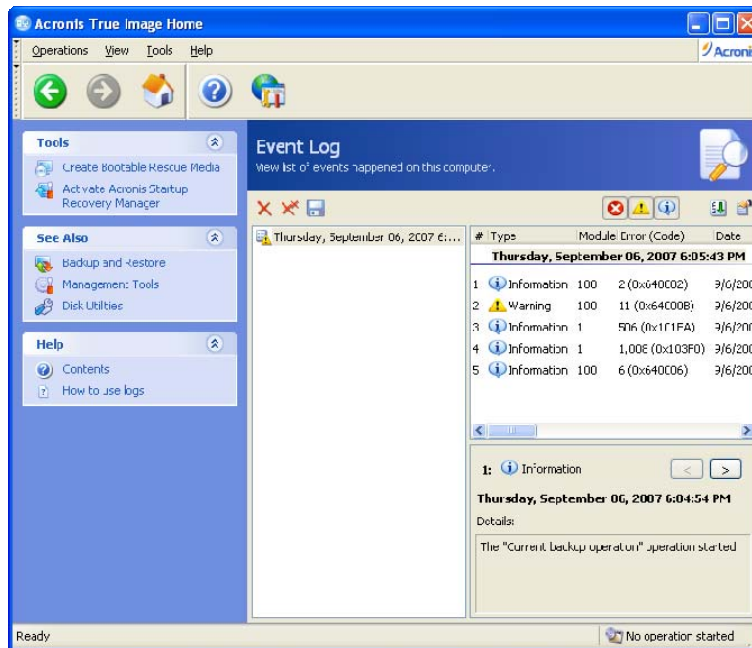
- when the operation is completed successfully
- when the operation failed
- during the operation when user interaction is required

## 12.3 Viewing logs

Acronis True Image Home allows you to view its working logs. They can provide information about scheduled backup task results, including reasons for failure, if any.

To open the log window, select **Show Log** from the **Tools** menu or click **Show Log** on the sidebar.

The log browsing window contains two panes: the left one features the log list, while the right one shows selected log contents.



The left pane can contain up to 50 log entries. If there are more, you can browse the list using the buttons with the left and right arrows.

To delete a log entry, select it and click the **Delete** icon. To delete all log entries click the **Delete all log entries** icon. You can also save a log entry to file by clicking the appropriate icon.

If any step was terminated by an error, the corresponding log will be marked with a red circle with a white cross inside.

The right window features the list of steps contained in the selected log. The three buttons to the right control message filters: the white cross in the red circle filters error messages, the exclamation sign in a yellow triangle filters warnings, and the "i" in the blue circle filters information messages.

To select columns (step parameters) to display, right-click the headers line or left-click the **Choose Columns** button. Then check the desired parameters.

To sort messages by a particular parameter, click its header (click again to reverse order) or the **Arrange Icons by** button (the second from the right) and select the desired parameter.

You can also change column width by dragging the borders with a mouse.

---

# Chapter 13. Exploring archives and mounting images

Acronis True Image Home offers two kinds of archive contents management: mounting for images and exploring for both images and file-level archives.

**Exploring images and file-level archives** lets you view their contents and copy the selected files to the hard disk.

**Mounting images as virtual drives** lets you access them as though they were physical drives. This means that:

- a new disk with its own letter will appear in the drives list
- using Windows Explorer and other file managers, you can view the image contents as if they were located on a physical disk or partition
- you will be able to use the virtual disk in the same way as the real one: open, save, copy, move, create, delete files or folders. If necessary, the image can be mounted in read-only mode



The operations described in this Chapter are supported only for the FAT and NTFS file systems.

Please keep in mind that, though both file archives and disk/partition images have a default ".tib" extension, only **images** can be mounted. If you want to view file archive contents, use the Explore operation. Images residing in backup locations cannot be mounted if the Mount Image Wizard is launched from the main menu. However, such images can be mounted through the Windows Explorer by right-clicking on an image archive and selecting the **Mount** item in the context menu. The following is a brief summary of the Explore vs Mount operation:

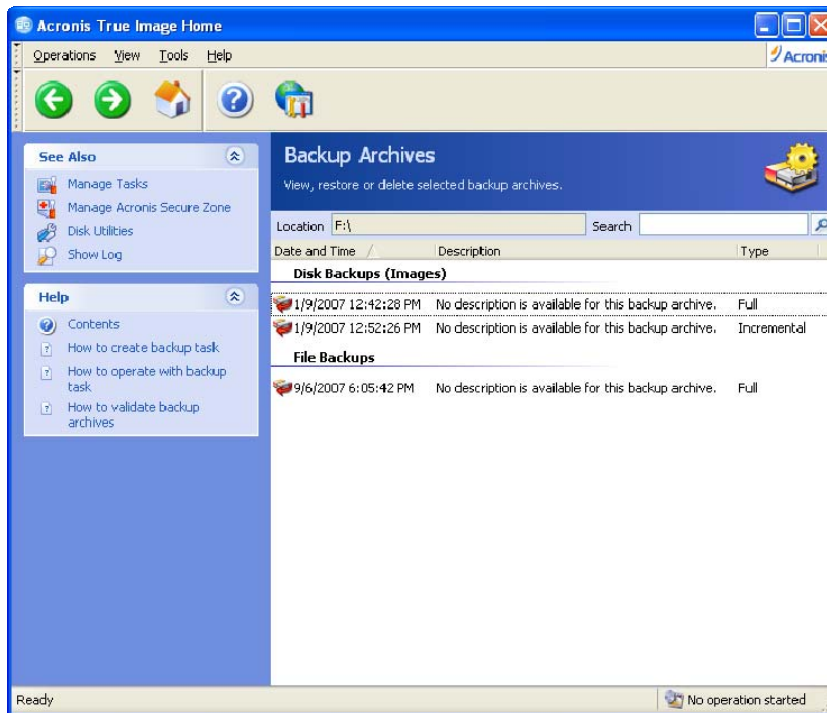
	<b>Explore</b>	<b>Mount</b>
Archive type	File-level, disk or partition image	Partition image
Assigning a letter	No	Yes
Archive modification	No	Yes (in R/W mode)
Files extraction	Yes	Yes
Backup locations support	Yes	No



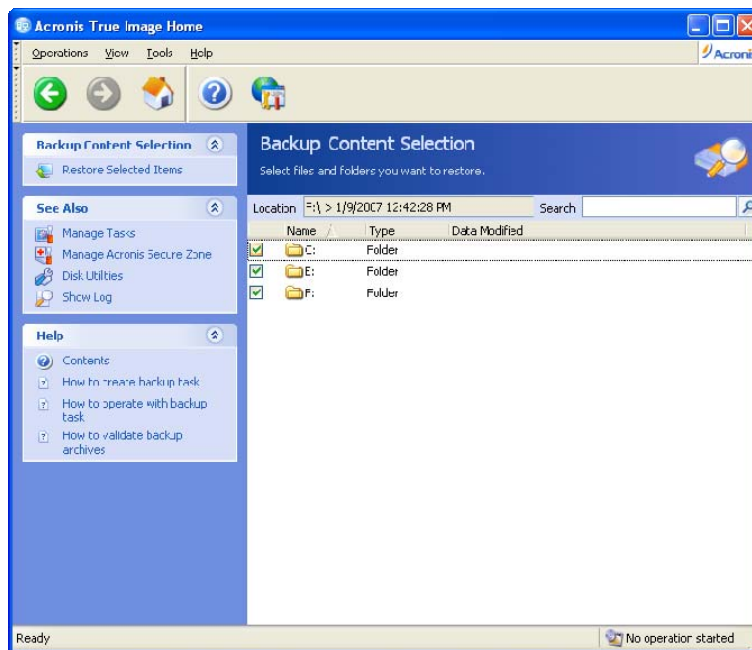
The current version of Acronis True Image Home can mount or explore an image archive only if all its volumes reside in the same directory. If your archive spans several CD-R/RW discs and you wish to mount the image, you should copy all volumes to a hard disk drive or network drive.

## 13.1 Searching files in archives

1. Select **Tools -> Management -> Manage Backup Locations and Archives** in the main program menu to navigate to the **Backup Locations** window. Or choose the **Management Tools** category in the main program window and then click **Manage Backup Locations and Archives** in the **Main** group.
2. Select a backup location in the **Backup Locations** window and click **Explore Backup Location** on the sidebar or double-click on the selected backup location.



3. The program opens **Backup Archives** window displaying the backup location contents. The backup archives are grouped by backup types. You can view the contents of a selected archive by clicking **Show Backup Content** on the sidebar or by double-clicking on the selected archive.



4. The program shows the contents of the selected archive. You can select any number of files or folders from the archive being explored and restore them.



To restore data from an incremental backup, you must have all previous incremental backups and the initial full backup. If any of successive backups is missing, restoration is not possible.

To restore data from a differential backup, you must have the initial full backup as well.

You can also search individual files for recovery the following way:

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1. Select **Tools -> Management -> Manage Backup Locations and Archives** in the main program menu to open the **Backup Locations** window.

2. If you want to search a file in all the backup locations you have (including ones created on FTP servers and network share disks), type the filename in the **Search** field and click the Search button (with the magnifying glass icon).

You can enter a part of filename. For example, entering "report" will result in searching all files whose name contains the "report" string.

After the search has started, a new "cross" icon appears in the Search area. You can stop the search any moment by clicking this icon. The **Search Results** window will display the files found so far.



You can only select one Search Results item at a time. Mouse hovering over an item shows the full path to the location that stores the file.

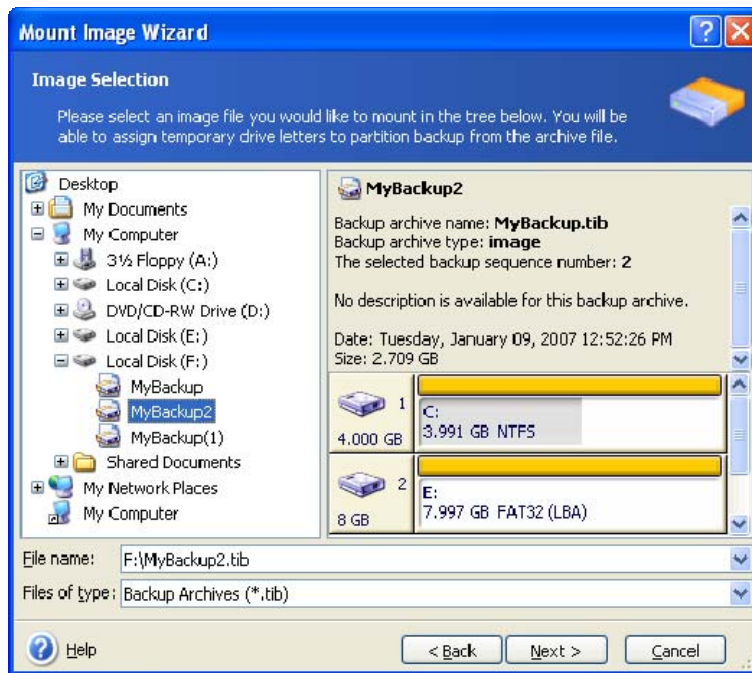
Then you can restore the selected file. To do this, click **Open Containing Backup** on the sidebar or double-click on the selected file. The program opens the **Backup Content Selection** window showing the contents of the backup containing this file with the file marked. To restore the file, click **Restore Selected Items** in the **Backup Content Selection** group.

There is one more way of restoring an older version of a file if need be. Right-click on the file in Windows Explorer and select **Search in Backup Archive** in the context menu. Acronis True Image Home will search saved versions of the file in backup locations and then will display the files it has found in the **Search Results** window. You will be able to select the desired version by its backup date and restore the selected file by clicking on the sidebar first **Open Containing Backup** and then **Restore Selected Items**.

## 13.2 Mounting an image

1. Launch the **Mount Image Wizard** by selecting **Operations -> Mount Image** in the main program menu or by right-clicking on an image archive and selecting **Mount** in the Windows Explorer's context menu.

2. Select the archive from the drives tree. If the archive is located in Acronis Secure Zone, select it to choose the archive at the next step. The mount operation does not support backup locations, so they are not displayed in the tree. However, if an image is stored in a backup location, you can select this location in the tree as a normal folder and then select the image for mounting.



If you added a comment to the archive, it will be displayed to the right of the drives tree. If the archive was protected with a password, Acronis True Image Home will ask for it. Neither the partitions layout, nor the **Next** button will be enabled until you enter the correct password.

3. If you selected an archive containing incremental images, Acronis True Image Home will suggest that you select one of the successive incremental images (also called “slices”) by its creation date/time. Thus, you can explore the data state at a certain moment.

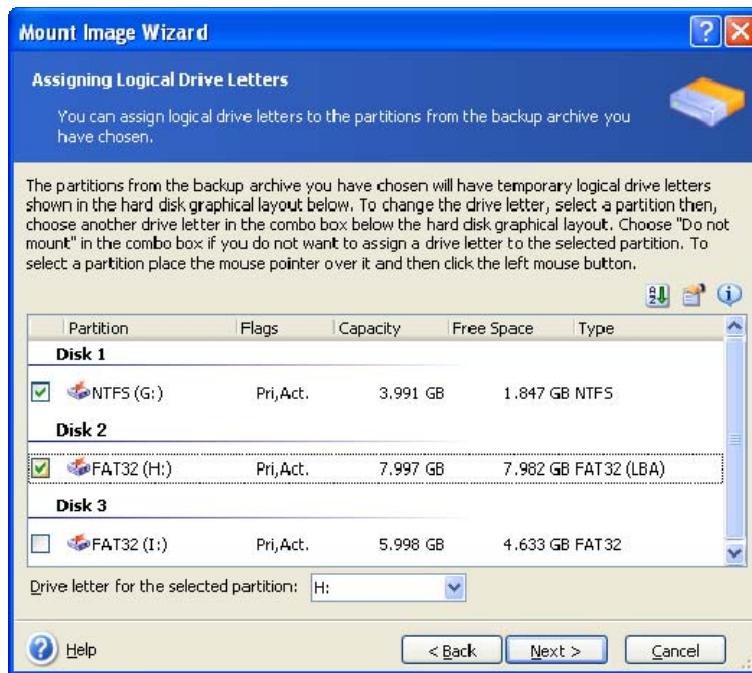


To mount an incremental image, you must have all previous incremental images and the initial full image. If any of the successive images are missing, mounting is not possible.

To mount a differential image, you must have the initial full image and the differential image in the same folder as well.

4. Select a partition to mount as a virtual disk. (Note that you cannot mount an image of the entire disk except in the case when the disk consists of one partition).

You can also select a letter to be assigned to the virtual disk from the **Drive letter** drop-down list. If you do not want to mount the virtual drive, select **Do not mount** in the list.



5. Select whether you want to mount image in **Read-only** or **Read/Write** mode.
6. If you select **Read/Write** mode, the program assumes that the connected image will be modified and creates an incremental archive file to capture the changes. It is strongly recommended that you list the forthcoming changes in the Comment section to this file.
7. The program displays a summary containing a single operation. Click **Proceed** to connect the selected partition image as a virtual disk.
8. After the image is connected, the program will run Windows Explorer, showing its contents. Now you can work with files or folders as if they were located on a real disk.

You can connect multiple partition images. If you want to connect another partition image, repeat the procedure.

### 13.3 Unmounting an image

We recommend that you unmount the virtual disk after all necessary operations are finished, as keeping up virtual disks takes considerable system resources. If you do not unmount the disk, it will disappear after your computer is turned off.

To disconnect the virtual disk, click **Unmount Image** and select the disk to unmount. You can also do this in Windows Explorer by right-clicking on the disk icon and selecting **Unmount**.

---

# Chapter 14. Transferring the system to a new disk

## 14.1 General information

Sooner or later, most computer users find that their hard disk is too small. If you just don't have space for more data, you can add another disk just for data storage as described in the following chapter.

However, you might find that your hard disk does not have enough space for the operating system and installed applications, preventing you from updating your software or installing new applications. In this case, you have to transfer the system to a higher-capacity hard disk.

To transfer the system, you must first install the disk in the computer (see details in the *Appendix B. Hard disks and BIOS setup*). If your computer doesn't have a bay for another hard disk, you can temporarily install it in place of your CD drive or use a USB 2.0 connection to the external target disk. If that is not possible, you can clone a hard disk by creating a disk image and restoring it to a new hard disk with larger partitions.

There are two transfer modes available: automatic and manual.

In the automatic mode, you will only have to take a few simple actions to transfer all the data, including partitions, folders and files, to a new disk, making it bootable if the original disk was bootable.

There will be only one difference between these disks – partitions on the newer disk will be larger. Everything else, including the installed operating systems, data, disk labels, settings, software and everything else on the disk, will remain the same.



This is the only result available in the automatic mode. The program can only duplicate the original disk layout to the new one. To obtain a different result, you will have to answer additional questions about cloning parameters.

The manual mode will provide more data transfer flexibility.

1. You will be able to select the method of partition and data transfer:

- as is
- new disk space is proportionally distributed between the old disk partitions
- new disk space is distributed manually

2. You will also be able to select operations to perform on the old disk:

- leave partitions (and data!) on the old disk
- remove all information from the old disk
- create new partitions on the old disk (and remove all the old information)



On program screens, damaged partitions are marked with a red circle and a white cross inside in the upper left corner. Before you start cloning, you should check such disks for errors using the appropriate operating system tools.



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## 14.2 Security

Please note the following: if the power goes out or you accidentally press **RESET** during the transfer, the procedure will be incomplete and you will have to partition and format or clone the hard disk again.

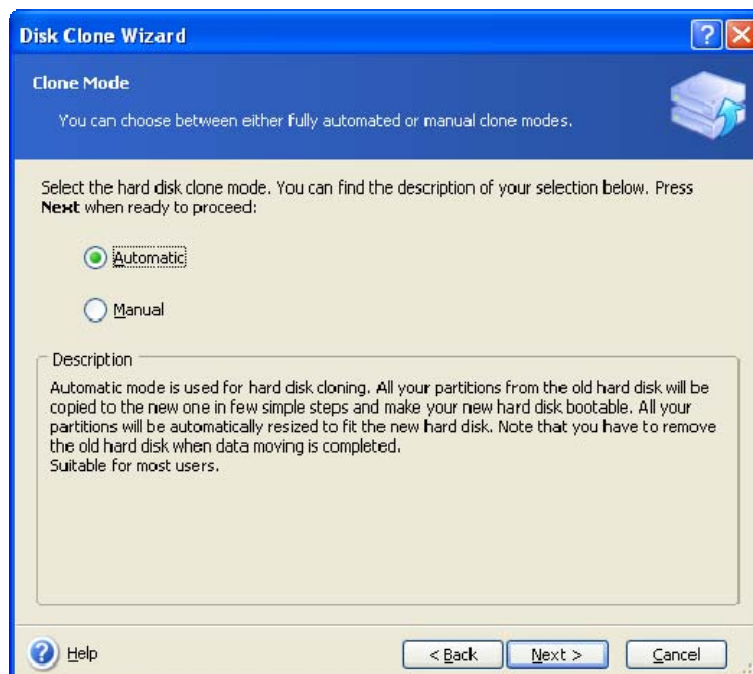
No data will be lost because the original disk is only being read (no partitions are changed or resized) until data transfer is completed.

Nevertheless, we do not recommend that you delete data from the old disk until you are sure it is correctly transferred to the new disk, the computer boots up from it and all applications work.

## 14.3 Executing transfers

### 14.3.1 Selecting Clone mode

You will see the **Clone mode** window just after the welcome window.

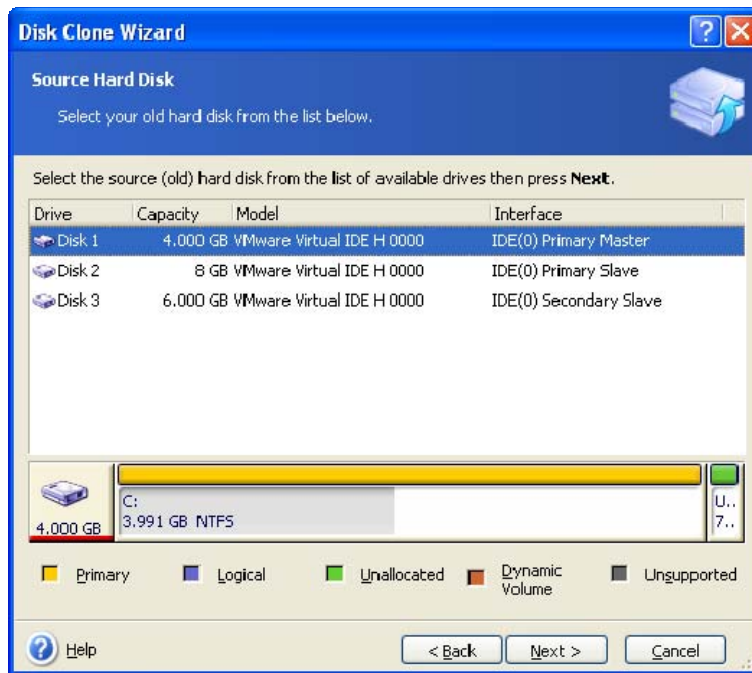


We recommend using automatic mode in most cases. The manual mode can be useful if you need to change the disk partition layout.

If the program finds two disks, one partitioned and another unpartitioned, it will automatically recognize the partitioned disk as the source disk and the unpartitioned disk as the destination disk. In such a case, the next two steps will be bypassed.

### 14.3.2 Selecting source disk

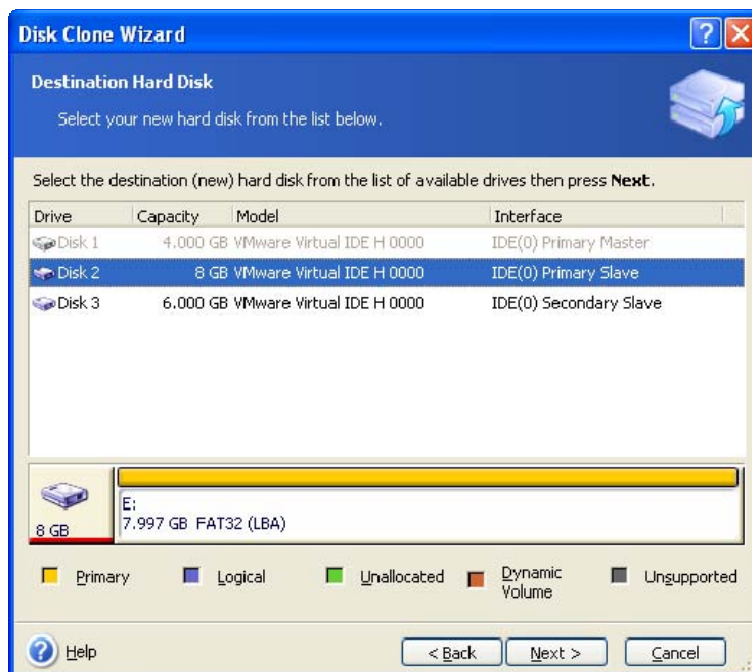
If the program finds several partitioned disks, it will ask you which one is the source (i.e. the older data disk).



You can determine the source and destination using the information provided in this window (disk number, capacity, label, partition, and file system information).

### 14.3.3 Selecting destination disk

After you select the source disk, you have to select the destination where the disk information will be copied.



The previously selected source becomes grayed-out and disabled for selection.

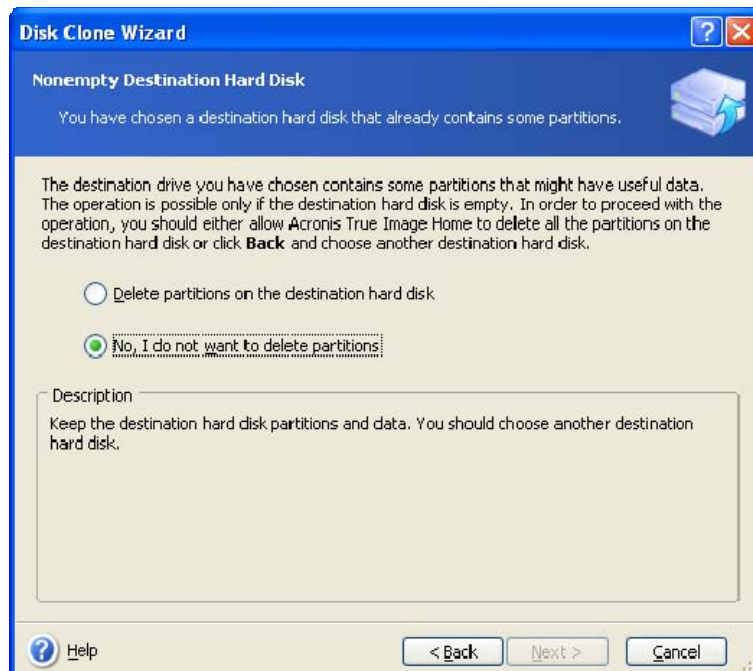


If any disk is unpartitioned, the program will automatically recognize it as the destination and bypass this step.

---

### 14.3.4 Partitioned destination disk

At this point, the program checks to see if the destination disk is free. If not, you will be prompted by the **Nonempty Destination Hard Disk** window stating that the destination disk contains partitions, perhaps with data.



You will have to select between:

- **Delete partitions on the destination hard disk** – all existing partitions will be deleted during cloning and all their data will be lost.
- **No, I do not want to delete partitions** – no existing partition will be deleted, discontinuing the cloning operation. You will have to cancel this operation and return to select another disk.

To continue, select the first choice and click **Next**.



Note that no real changes or data destruction will be performed at this time! For now, the program will just map out cloning. All changes will be implemented only when you click **Proceed**.

### 14.3.5 Old and new disk partition layout

If you selected the automatic mode, the program will not ask you anything else. You will see the window graphically illustrating information (as rectangles) about the source disk (partitions and unallocated space) and the destination disk layout.

Along with the disk number, some additional information is provided: disk capacity, label, partition and file system information. Partition types — primary, logical and unallocated space — are marked with different colors.

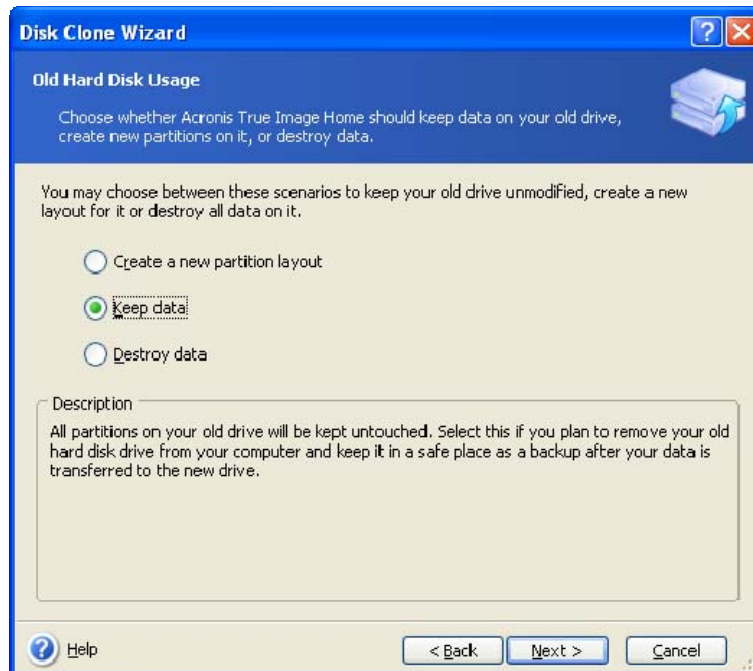
Next you will see the cloning summary.

### 14.3.6 Old disk data

If you selected the manual mode, the program will ask you what to do with the old disk:

- **Create a new partition layout** – All existing partitions and their data will be deleted (but they will also be cloned to the new disk, so you won't lose them)

- **Keep data** – leave the old disk partitions and data intact
- **Destroy data** – destroy all data on the old disk



If you are going to sell or give away your old disk, we recommend that you make sure you destroy the data on it.

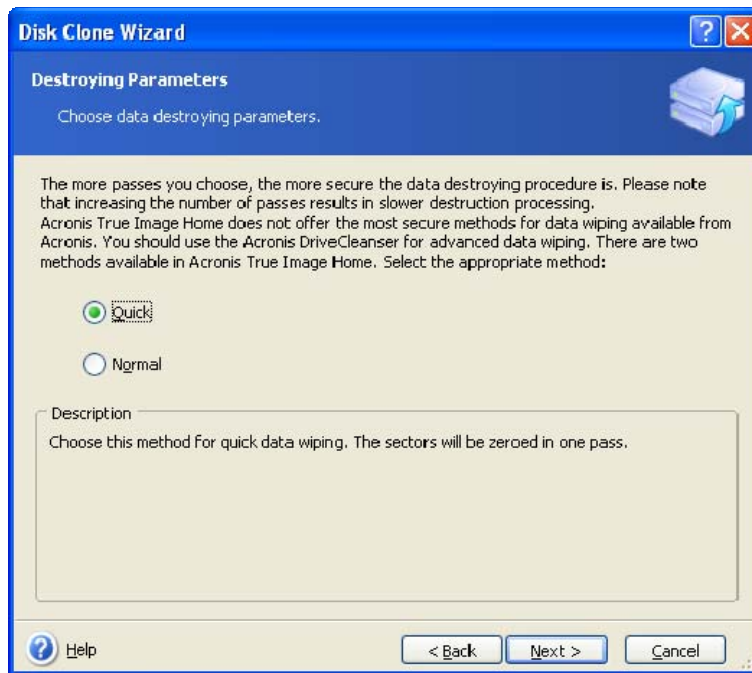
If you are going to keep it for data storage, you can create a new partition layout on it. In this case, the disk will be ready right after cloning is complete.

To protect yourself from unforeseen consequences, it is recommended that you leave the old disk data intact and delete it later, once you know the cloning process was successful.

### 14.3.7 Destroying the old disk data

If you elected to destroy the old disk data in the previous step, you will have to select the destruction method now:

- **Quick** – quick one-pass destruction
- **Normal** – multipass destruction



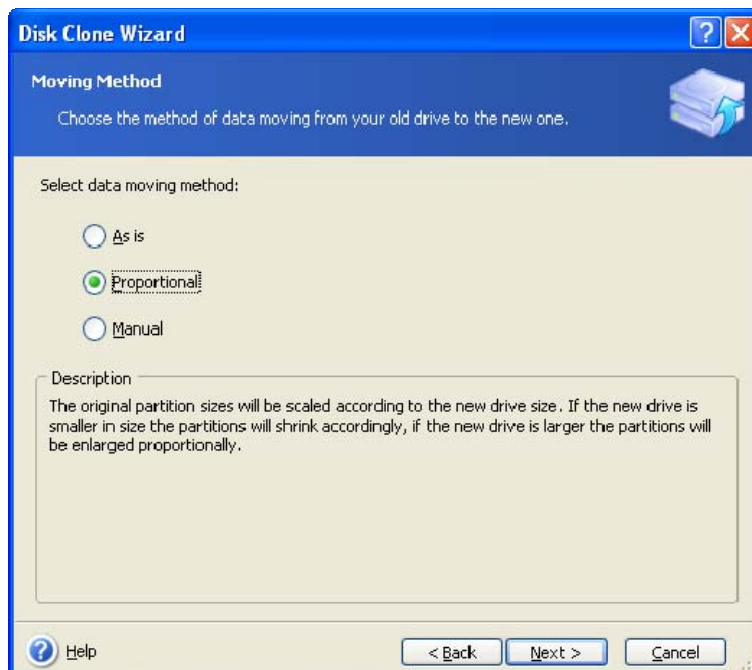
The second method takes more time, but makes it impossible to recover data afterwards, even with special equipment.

The first method is less secure, but is still suitable for most cases.

### 14.3.8 Selecting partition transfer method

Acronis True Image Home will offer you the following data transfer methods:

- **As is**
- **Proportional** – the new disk space will be proportionally distributed among cloned partitions
- **Manual** – you will specify the new size and other parameters yourself



If you elect to transfer information "as is," a new partition will be created for every old one with the same size and type, file system and label. The unused space will become unallocated. Afterwards, you will be able to use the unallocated space to create new partitions or to enlarge the existing partitions with special tools, such as Acronis Disk Director Suite.

As a rule, "as is" transfers are not recommended as they leave much unallocated space on the new disk. Using the "as is" method, Acronis True Image Home transfers unsupported and damaged file systems.

If you transfer data proportionally, each partition will be enlarged, according to the proportion of the old and new disk capacities.

FAT16 partitions are enlarged less than others, as they have a 4 GB size limit.

Depending on the selected combination, you will proceed to either the old disk partitioning window, or the disk partition layout window (see below).

### 14.3.9 Partitioning the old disk

If you selected **Create a new partition layout** earlier in the process, it is now time to repartition your old disk.

During this step, you will see the current disk partition layout. Initially, the disk has unallocated space only. This will change when you create new partitions.

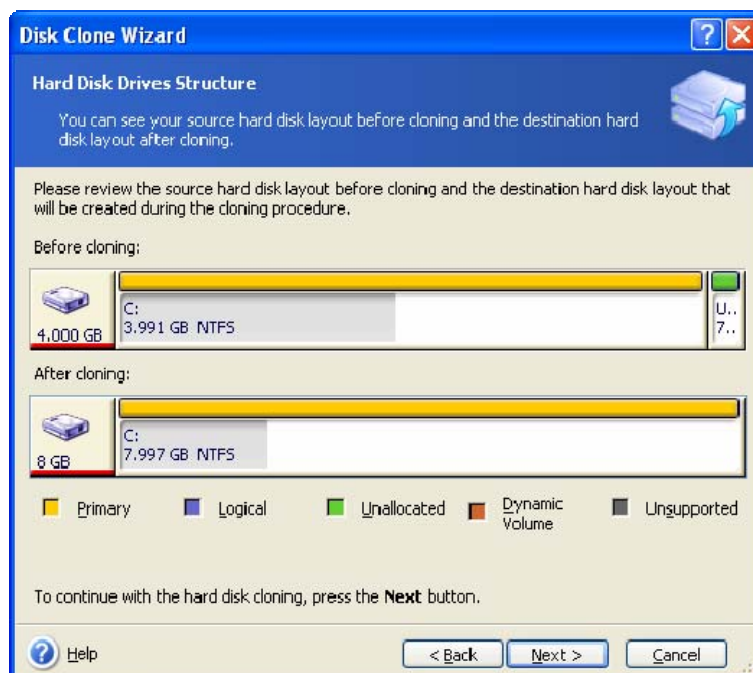
Having completed the required steps, you will add a new partition. To create another one, simply repeat those steps.

If you make a mistake, click **Back** to redo.

After you create the necessary partitions, uncheck the **Create new partition in unallocated space** box and click **Next**.

### 14.3.10 Old and new disk partition layouts

In the next window, you will see rectangles indicating the source hard disk, including its partitions and unallocated space, as well as the new disk layout.



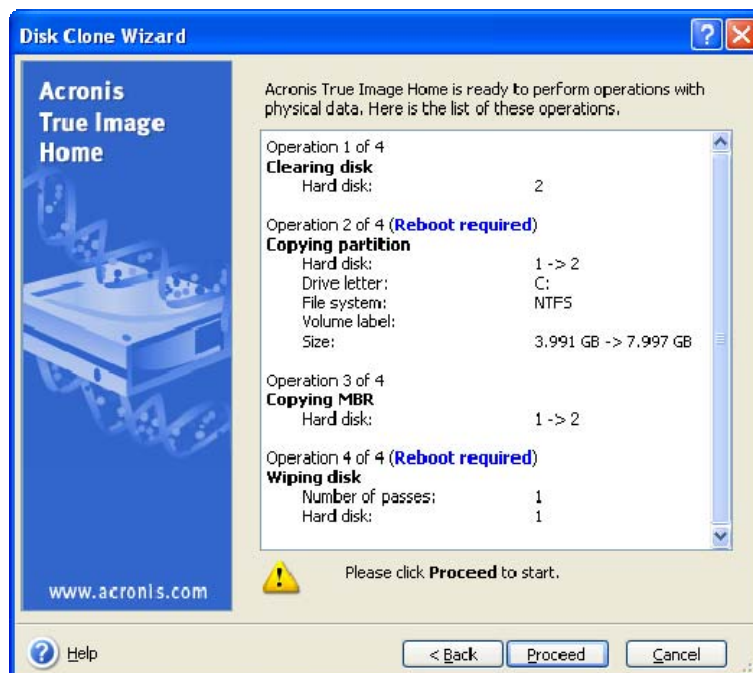
Along with the hard disk number, you will see disk capacity, label, partition, and file system information. Different partition types, including primary, logical, and unallocated space are marked with different colors.



If you selected manual partition creation earlier, the partition layout will look different. This partitioning method is described below.

### 14.3.11 Cloning summary

In the next window, you will see a list of briefly described operations to be performed on the disks.



Cloning a disk containing the currently active operating system will require a reboot. In that case, after clicking **Proceed** you will be asked to confirm the reboot. Canceling the reboot will cancel the entire procedure. After the clone process finishes you will be offered an option to shut down the computer by pressing any key. This enables you to change the position of master/slave jumpers and remove one of the hard drives.

Cloning a non-system disk or a disk containing an operating system, but one that is not currently active, will proceed without reboot. After you click **Proceed**, Acronis True Image Home will start cloning the old disk to the new disk, indicating the progress in a special window. You can stop this procedure by clicking **Cancel**. In that case, you will have to repartition and format the new disk or repeat the cloning procedure. After the cloning operation is complete, you will see the results message.

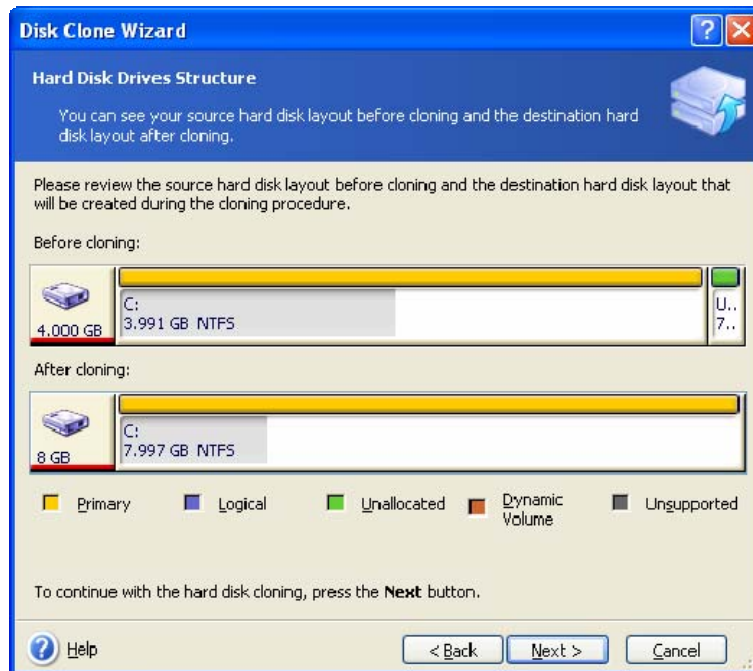
## 14.4 Cloning with manual partitioning

### 14.4.1 Old and new disk partition layouts

The manual transfer method enables you to resize partitions on the new disk. By default, the program resizes them proportionally.

In the next window, you will see rectangles indicating the source hard disk, including its partitions and unallocated space, as well as the new disk layout.

Along with the hard disk number, you will see disk capacity, label, partition, and file system information. Different partition types, including primary, logical, and unallocated space are marked with different colors.



To resize any partition, check the **Proceed layout** box. If you are satisfied with the partition layout shown, uncheck this box (if checked). Clicking **Next**, you will proceed to the cloning summary window.



Be careful! Clicking **Back** in this window will reset all size and location changes that you've selected, so you will have to specify them again.

First, select a partition to resize. It will be underlined in red.

Resize and relocate it on the next step.

You can do this by entering values to **Unallocated space before**, **Partition size**, **Unallocated space after** fields, by dragging partition borders or the partition itself.

If the cursor turns into two vertical lines with left and right arrows, it is pointed at the partition border and you can drag it to enlarge or reduce the partition's size. If the cursor turns into four arrows, it is pointed at the partition, so you can move it to the left or right (if there's unallocated space near it).

Having provided the new location and size, click **Next**. You will be taken two steps back to the partition layout. You might have to perform some more resizing and relocation before you get the layout you need.



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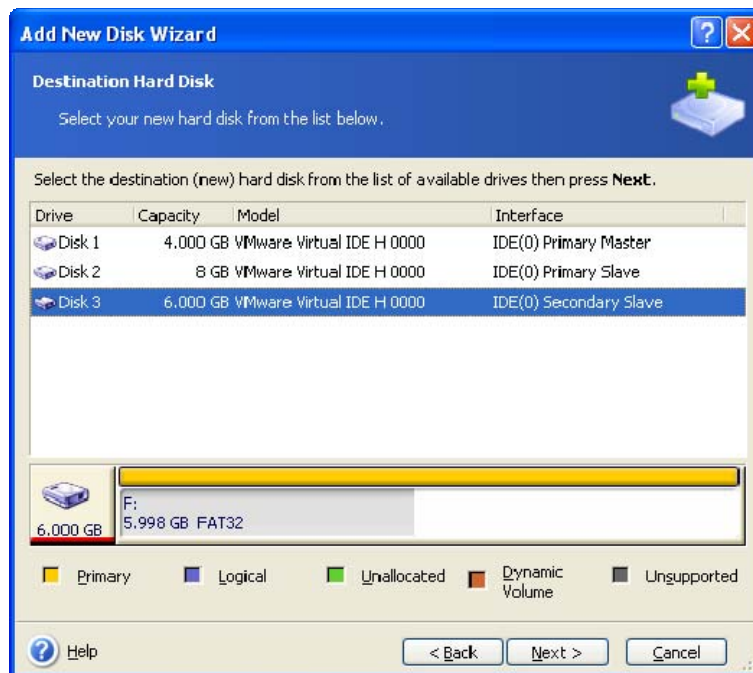
## Chapter 15. Adding a new hard disk

If you don't have enough space for your data, you can either replace the old disk with a new higher-capacity one (data transfers to new disks are described in the previous chapter), or add a new disk only to store data, leaving the system on the old disk. If the computer has a bay for another disk, it would be easier to add a data disk drive than to clone a system one.

To add a new disk, you must first install it in your computer.

### 15.1 Selecting a hard disk

Select the disk that you've added to the computer.



This window might be bypassed if the program detects the new disk itself. In this case, you will immediately proceed to the new partition creation.

If there are any partitions on the new disk, they must be deleted first.

Select **Delete partitions on the destination hard disk** and click **Next** to continue.

### 15.2 Creating new partitions

Next you will see the current partition layout. Initially, all disk space will be unallocated. This will change after you add new partitions.

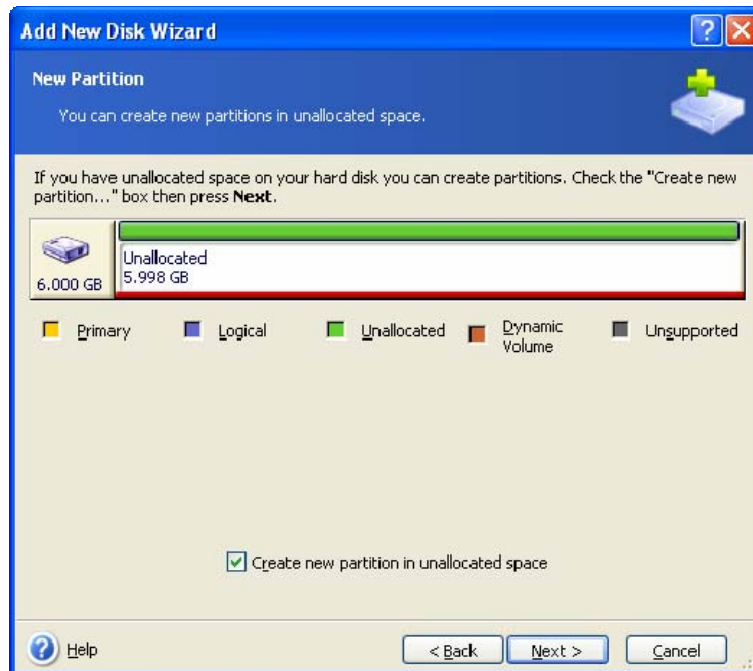
To create a partition, select **Create new partition in unallocated space** and click **Next** to perform steps required by the partition creation wizard.

You will be prompted to set the new partition location and size. You can do this both by entering values to **Unallocated space before, Partition size, Unallocated space after** fields, and by dragging partition borders or the partition itself.

If the cursor turns into two vertical lines with left and right arrows, it is pointed at the partition border and you can drag it to enlarge or reduce the partition size. If the cursor turns into four arrows, it is pointed at the partition, so you can move it to the left or right (if

there is unallocated space near it). Having provided the new partition location and size, you can input a label for the new partition.

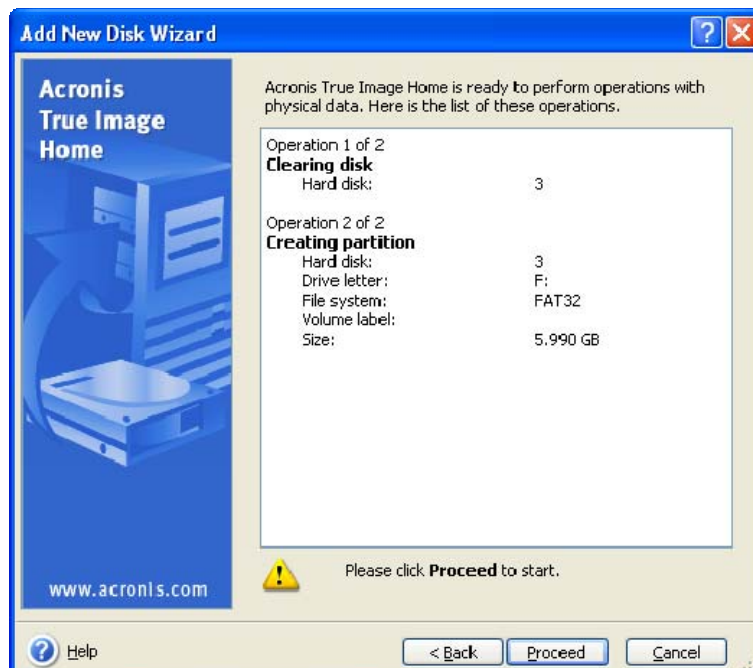
If you make a mistake at partitioning, click **Back** to redo the process.



Finally, you will be taken back to the partition layout screen. Check the resulting partitions layout and start creating another partition or move on by unchecking **Create new partition in unallocated space** and clicking **Next**.

### 15.3 Disk add summary

The disk add summary contains a list of operations to be performed on disks.



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After you click **Proceed**, Acronis True Image Home will start creating new partitions, indicating the progress in a special window. You can stop this procedure by clicking **Cancel**. You will then have to repartition and format the new disk or repeat the disk add procedure.

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# Chapter 16. Security and Privacy Tools

Acronis True Image Home includes utilities for secure destruction of data on an entire hard disk drive, individual partitions, as well as for erasing individual files and eliminating user system activity traces.

These utilities ensure the security of your confidential information, as well as maintain your privacy when you work with a PC, because they clean-up the evidence showing your actions (records in various system files) that you don't even know about. This could include user names and passwords.

If you need to:

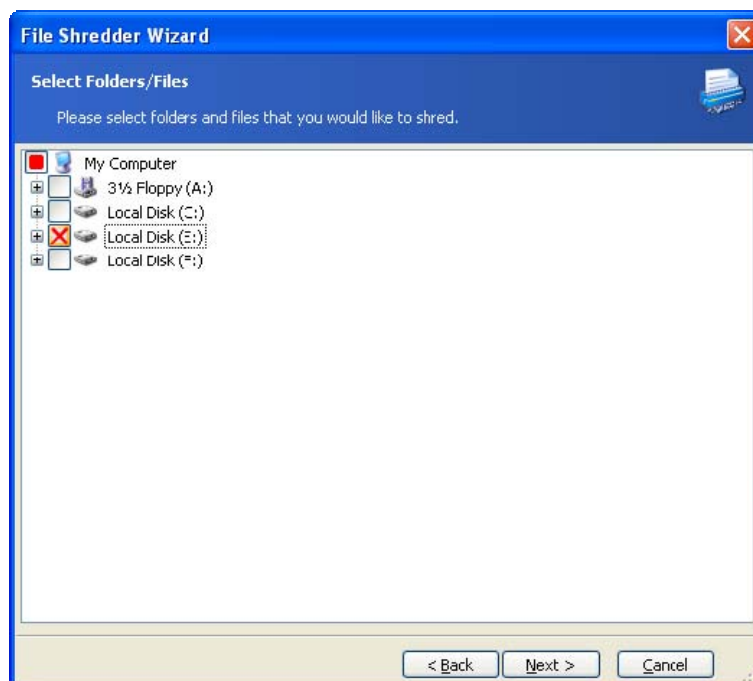
- Securely destroy files or folders you select, run **File Shredder**.
- Securely destroy data on selected partitions and/or disks so it can't be recovered, run Acronis DriveCleanser.
- Clean up Windows components (folders, files, registry sections, etc.) related to general system tasks and capable of retaining user PC activity evidence, run **System Clean-up**.

## 16.1 Using File Shredder

The **File Shredder** enables quick selection of files and folders to destroy them permanently.

To run the folders/files shredder, select the **Disk Utilities** category in the main program window, then click **File Shredder**. This launches **File Shredder Wizard**, which will guide you through the steps required for permanently destroying the selected files and folders.

1. First select the files and/or folders you wish to destroy.



2. On the next wizard's page select the desired data destruction method. If you leave the default setting **Use common method**, the program will use the U.S. Standard, Department of Defense 5220.22-M method. Selecting **Use custom method for this component** allows you to choose one of the preset data destruction methods from the drop-down list.

3. To destroy permanently the selected files using the desired method, click **Proceed** in the next window.

## 16.2 Acronis DriveCleanser

Many operating systems do not provide users with secure data destruction tools, so deleted files can be restored easily by using simple applications. Even a complete disk reformat can't guarantee permanent confidential data destruction.

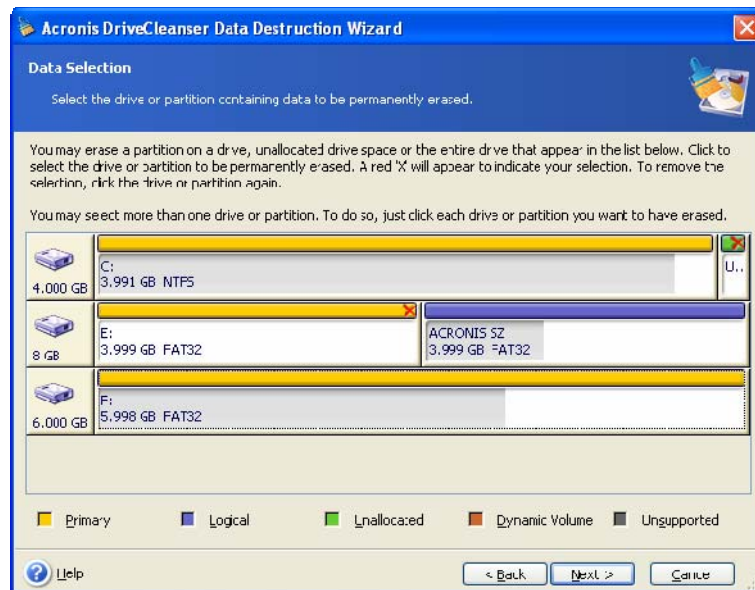
Acronis DriveCleanser solves this problem with guaranteed and permanent data destruction on selected hard disks and/or partitions. It allows you to select from a number of data destruction methods depending on the importance of your confidential information.

To launch Acronis DriveCleanser, select the **Disk Utilities** category in the main program window, then click **Acronis DriveCleanser**. Acronis DriveCleanser allows you to perform the following:

- clean up selected hard disks or partitions using preset methods;
- create and execute custom user methods of hard disk clean-up.

Acronis DriveCleanser is based on a **wizard** that **scripts** all hard disk operations, so no data destruction is performed until you click **Proceed** in the wizard's final window. At any moment, you can return to the previous steps to select other disks, partitions or data destruction methods.

First, you must select the hard disk partitions where you want to destroy data.



To select a partition, click the corresponding rectangle. You will see a red mark in the upper right corner indicating that the partition is selected.

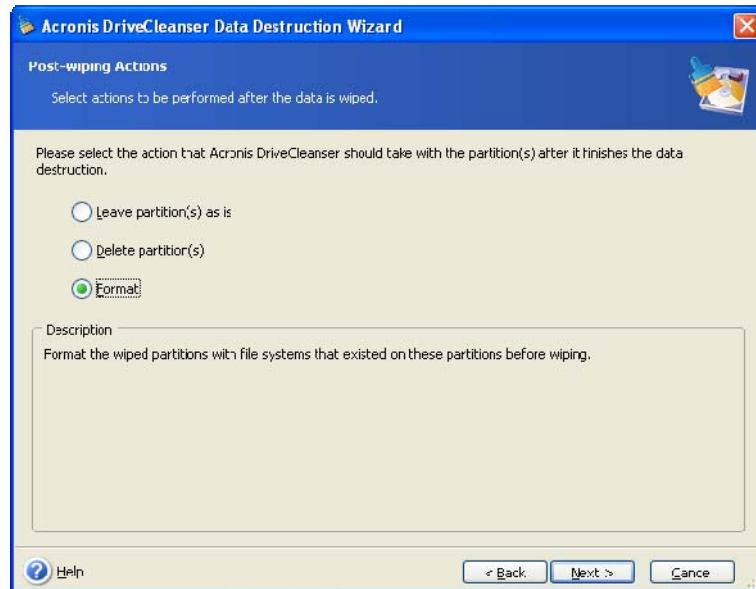
You can select an entire hard disk or several disks for data destruction. To do this, click the rectangle corresponding to the hard disk (with a device icon, disk number and capacity).

You can select at one time several partitions located on different hard disks or on several disks.

Click **Next** to continue.

In the **Post-wiping actions** window you can select actions to be performed on the partitions selected for data destruction. Acronis DriveCleanser offers you three choices:

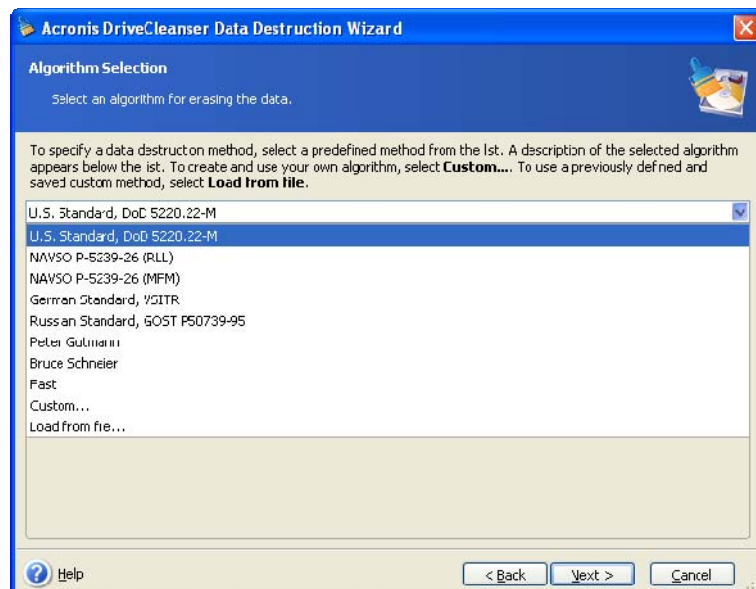
- **Leave partition as is** — just destroy data using the method selected below
- **Delete partition** — destroy data and delete partition
- **Format partition** — destroy data and format partition (default)



In this example, the switch is set to **Format**. This will allow you to see the results of partition and data destruction, along with the reformatting of the partition.

### 16.3 Using preset data destruction methods

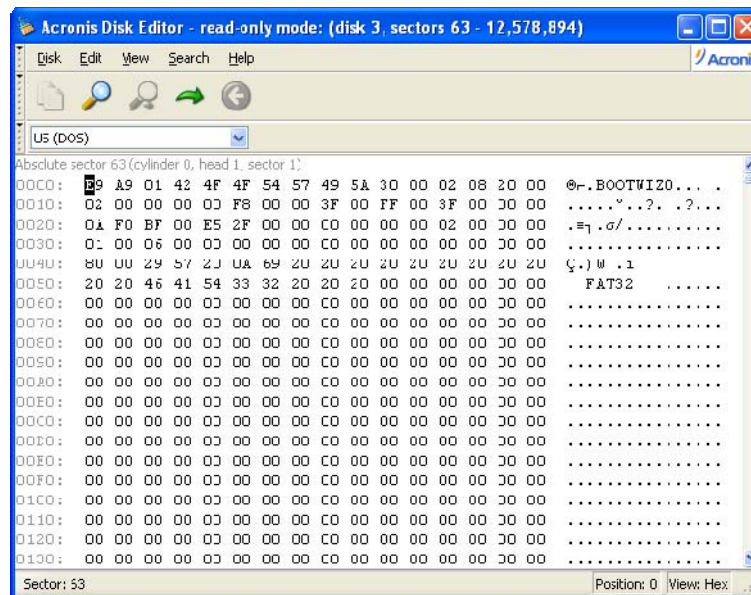
Acronis DriveCleanser utilizes a number of the most popular data destruction methods described in detail in *Appendix C. Hard Disk Wiping methods* of this manual.



After you select a method and click **Next**, Acronis DriveCleanser will display the data destruction task summary. Up to this point, you can click **Back** to make changes in the created task. Clicking **Proceed** will launch the task execution. Acronis DriveCleanser will perform all actions necessary for destroying the contents of the selected partition or disk. After this is done, you will see a message indicating the successful data destruction.

Acronis DriveCleanser offers you another useful capability — to estimate the results of executing a data destruction method on a hard disk or partition. It features an integrated **DiskViewer** hard disk browsing tool.

The aforementioned methods offer various levels of confidential data destruction. Thus the picture you might see on disk or partition depends on the data destruction method. But what you actually see are disk sectors filled with either zeros or random symbols.



## 16.4 Creating custom methods of data destruction

Acronis DriveCleanser gives you an opportunity to create your own methods for wiping hard disks. Although the software includes several levels of data destruction, you can choose to create your own. This is recommended only for advanced users familiar with the principles of data destruction used in secure disk wiping methods.

To create a custom method of hard disk wiping, select the "**Custom...**" item from the drop-down list in the **Method selection** window.

Click the **Next** button to continue. This time the Custom method wizard will be started and you will be able to create a data destruction method matching your security requirements.

Having completed the creation, you can save the method you created. This will be handy if you are going to use it again.

To save your method, you need to give it a filename and show the path to the folder you want to store it in by selecting the folder from the tree shown in the left pane.



Each custom method is stored in a separate file with its own name. If you try to write a new method to an already existing file, the existing file's contents will be erased.

If you created and saved your method for data destruction while working with Acronis DriveCleanser, you can use it later the following way:

In the **Method selection** window, choose **Load from file...** from the drop-down list and select the file with custom data destruction method parameters. By default, such files have \*.alg extension.

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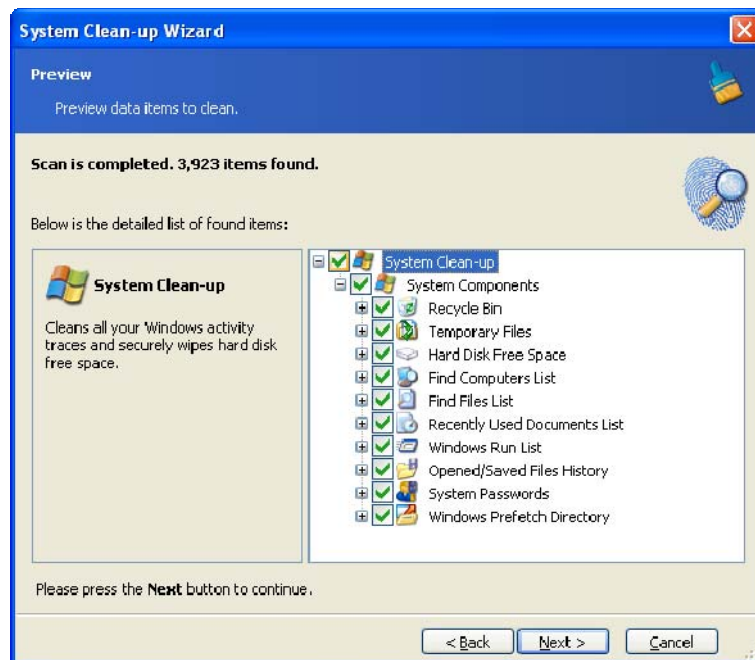
## 16.5 System Clean-up

The **System Clean-up** Wizard enables you to securely remove all traces of your PC actions stored by Windows.

It performs the following:

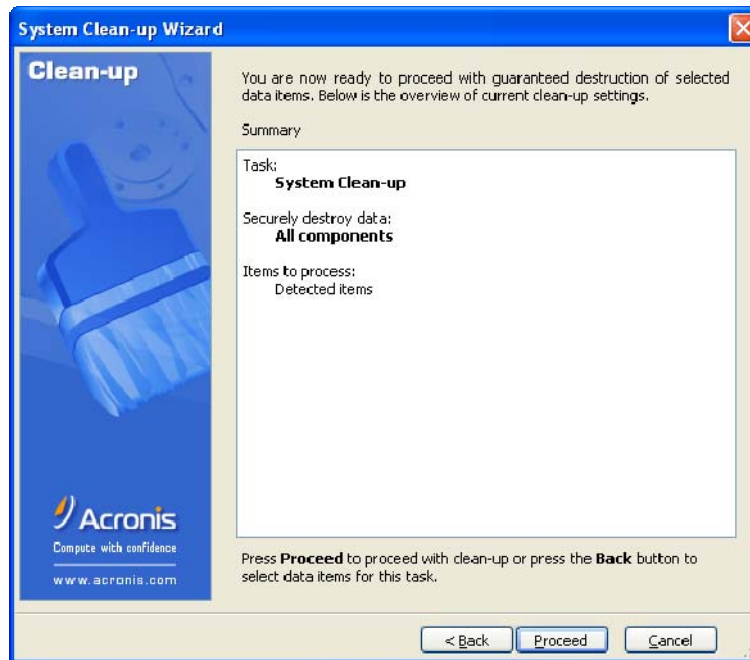
- Removes **temporary files** from respective Windows folders
- Removes **custom folders/files** from any media connected to a PC
- Securely destroys data in the **Windows Recycle Bin**
- Cleans up **free space** of any traces of information previously stored on it
- Cleans up **opened/saved files** history
- Cleans the list of user **system passwords**
- Cleans the **Windows prefetch directory**, where Windows keeps the information about programs you have executed and run recently
- Removes traces of **file searches** on connected disks and computers in the local area network

After you run the **wizard**, it will search for any traces of user actions stored by Windows. The search results will be available in the right-hand part of the **wizard window**.



After the search is finished, you will be able to manually select components to remove.





After selecting the components to remove, you can run the clean-up.

## 16.6 System Clean-up Wizard settings

If you want to change the default system clean-up settings, click the corresponding link in the first window of the System Clean-up Wizard.

To enable or disable any System Clean-up component, check or uncheck its **Enable this component** flag.

In the System Clean-up Wizard **Properties** window you can also set clean-up parameters for each system component. Some of these parameters apply to all components.



You can restore the default system clean-up settings by clicking the **Restore Defaults** button in the **Properties** window.

### 16.6.1 "Data Destruction Method" setting

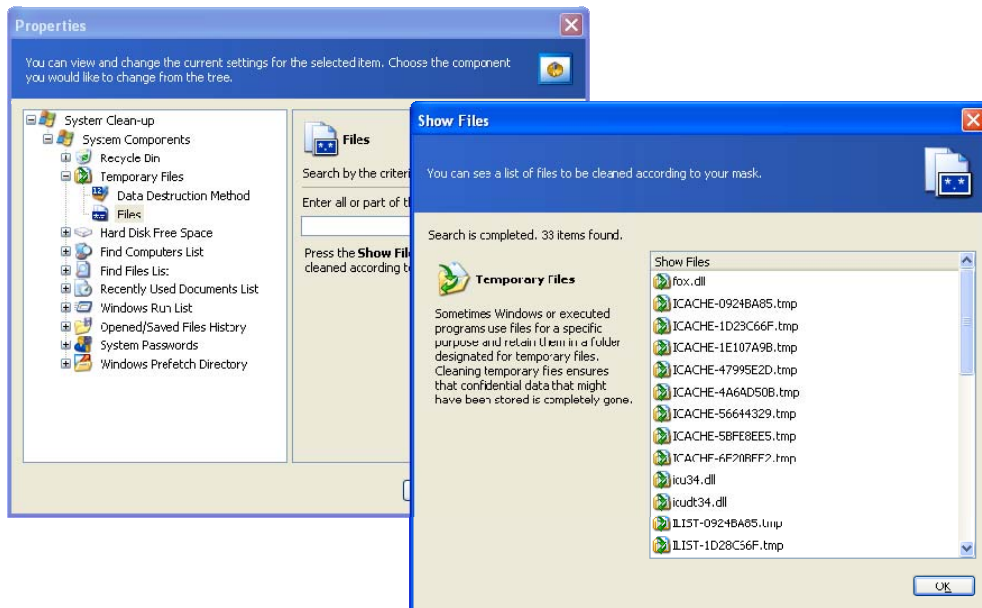
This setting defines the method of guaranteed data destruction to use for cleaning up a given component.

By default, all components that have this setting have it set to **Use common method** (see *Appendix C. Hard Disk Wiping methods*). You can change the common method by clicking the **Click to change this setting...** link and selecting a desired method from the drop-down list.

If you need to set a custom method of data destruction for a component, choose **Use custom method for this component** and then select the one you prefer from the drop-down list (see *Appendix C. Hard Disk Wiping methods*).

### 16.6.2 "Files" settings

The "Files" setting defines the names of files to clean with Acronis System Clean-up and can be used with a search string.



Under the Windows operating system, a search string can represent a full or partial filename. A search string can contain any alphanumeric symbols, including comma and Windows wildcard symbols, and can have values similar to the following:

- **\*.\*** – to delete all files from the Recycle Bin – with any file names and extensions
- **\*.doc** – to delete all files with a specific extension – Microsoft document files in this case
- **read\*.\*** – to delete all files with any extensions, and names beginning with "read"

You can enter several different search strings separated by semicolons; for example:

`*.bak; *.tmp; *.~ ~ ~;`

All files with names corresponding to at least one of the search strings will be deleted.

Upon entering the "Files" setting value, you can browse the files matching the search strings. To do this, click **Show Files**. You will see a window with the names of found files. These files will be cleaned.



The length of a search string with full or partial filenames is almost infinite! You can enter any number of filenames or their parts like `*.tmp, read?.*` separated by semicolons.

### 16.6.3 "Computers" setting

The "Computers" setting cleans up the registry search strings for finding computers in the local network. These strings keep information on what have interested you in the network. These items should also be deleted to maintain confidentiality.

The "Computers" setting is the same as "Files". The "Computers" setting is a string that can contain any number of full or partial computer names separated by semicolons. The deletion of computer search strings is based on a comparison with the "Computers" setting according to Windows rules.

If you simply need to delete all local network computer search strings (suitable in most cases):

1. Select **Find Computer List**.
2. Check the **Enable this component** box for the **Find Computers List**.

3. Select the "**Computers**" setting and leave its default value (\*.).

As a result, all computer search strings will be deleted from the registry.

Upon entering the "Computers" setting value, you can browse the search strings found by Acronis System Clean-up in the registry. To do so, click **Show Computers**. You will see the window with full and partial computer names searched for in the network. These items will be deleted.

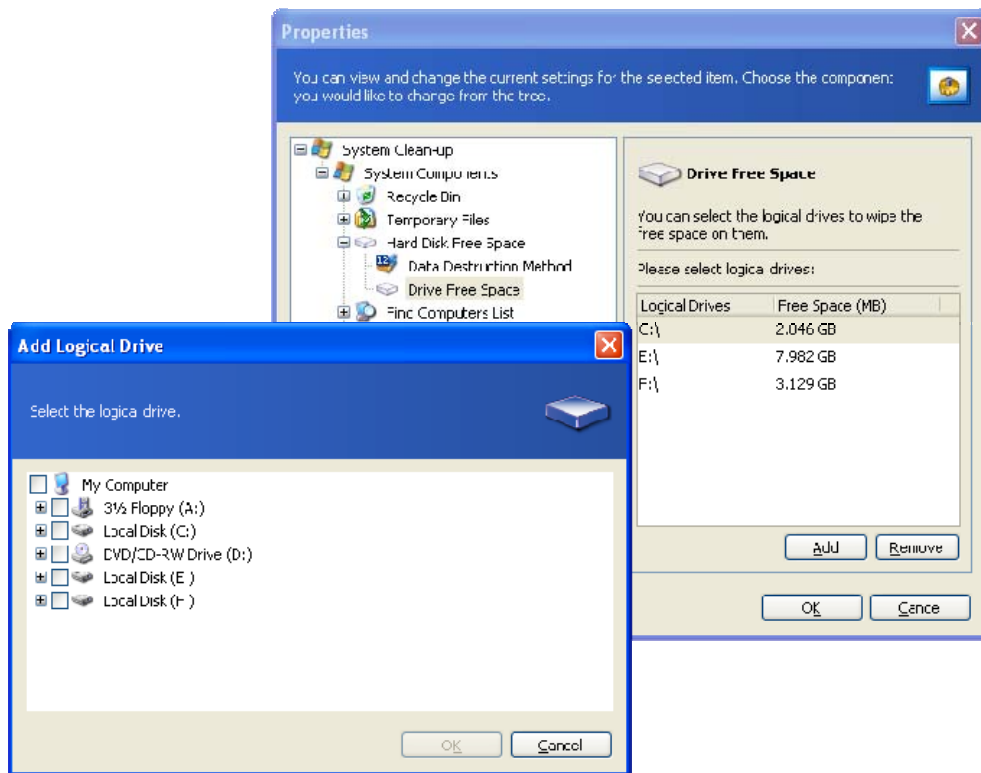
### 16.6.4 "Drive Free Space" setting

Here you can manually specify physical and/or logical drives to clean up free space on.

By default, Acronis System Clean-up cleans up free space on all available drives.

If you want to change the settings of this parameter, you can use the **Remove** button to delete drives you don't need to clean free space on from the list.

If you need to add these drives to the list again, use the **Add** button.



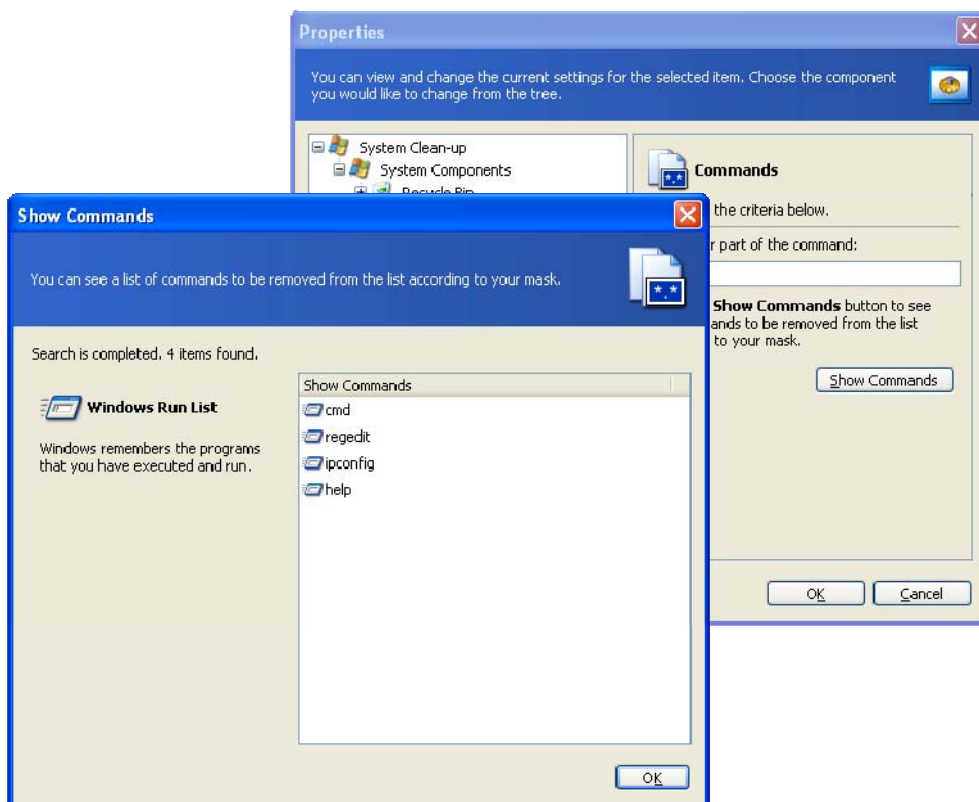
### 16.6.5 "Commands" setting

Here you can select the commands to remove during **Windows Run List** clean-up.

This template can contain any command names or their parts separated by semicolons, e.g.:

\*help; cmd; reg\*

This will result in removing commands with names corresponding to or containing any of the names or parts of names you entered.



### 16.6.6 "System Password Filter" setting

Here you can enter any full or partial passwords values separated by semicolons. You can also use \* and ? wildcards to set this parameter.

To see the passwords to be cleaned according to your filter, click **Show passwords**.

## 16.7 Cleaning up separate system components

If you don't want to clean up all system components, you can clean an individual component separately.

In this case, all global settings of the **System Clean-up Wizard** will be valid for individual components as well.

To clean up individual components, select them in the **System Components** section in the **System Clean-up** window and run the **System Clean-up Wizard**.

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# Appendix A. Partitions and file systems

## A.1 Hard disk partitions

The mechanism that allows you to install several operating systems on a single PC or to carve up a single physical disk drive into multiple “logical” disk drives is called **partitioning**.

Partitioning is performed by special applications. In MS-DOS and Windows, these are FDISK and Disk Administrator.

Partitioning programs perform the following:

- create a primary partition
- create an extended partition that can be split into several logical disks
- set an active partition (applied to a single primary partition only)



Information about partitions on a hard disk is stored in a special disk area – in the 1<sup>st</sup> sector of cylinder 0, head 0, which is called the partition table. This sector is called the master boot record, or MBR.



A physical hard disk might contain up to four partitions. This limit is forced by the partition table that is suitable for four strings only. However, this does not mean you can have only four operating systems on your PC! Applications called disk managers support far more operating systems on disks. For example, Acronis OS Selector, a component of Acronis Disk Director Suite, enables you to install up to 100 operating systems!

## A.2 File systems

An operating system gives user the ability to work with data by supporting some type of **file system** on a partition.

All file systems are made of structures that are necessary to store and manage data. These structures are usually composed of operating system boot sectors, folders and files. File systems perform the following basic functions:

- track occupied and free disk space (and bad sectors, if any)
- support folders and file names
- track physical location of files on disks

Different operating systems use different file systems. Some operating systems are able to work with only one file system while others can use several of them. Here are some of the most widely used file systems:

### A.2.1 FAT16

The FAT16 file system is widely used by DOS (DR-DOS, MS-DOS, PC-DOS, PTS-DOS. and other), Windows 98/Me, and Windows NT/2000/XP/Vista operating systems and is supported by most other systems.

Main features of FAT16 are the file allocation table (FAT) and clusters. FAT is the core of the file system. To increase data safety, it is possible to have several copies of the FAT (there are usually two of them) on a single disk. A cluster is a minimum data storage unit in FAT16 file system. One cluster contains a fixed number of sectors. FAT stores information about what clusters are free, what clusters are bad, and also defines in which clusters files are stored.

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The FAT16 file system has a 2GB limit that permits a maximum 65,507 clusters that are 32KB in size. (Windows NT/2000/XP/Vista support partitions up to 4GB with up to 64KB clusters). Usually the smallest cluster size is used to make the total cluster amount within the 65,507 range. The larger a partition is, the larger its clusters are.



Usually the larger the cluster size, the more disk space is wasted. A single byte of data could use up one cluster, whether the cluster size is 32KB or 64KB.

Like many other file systems, the FAT16 file system has a root folder. Unlike others, however, its root folder is stored in a special place and is limited in size (standard formatting produces a 512-item root folder).

Initially, FAT16 had limitations on file names. They could only be eight characters long, plus a dot, plus three characters of name extension. However, long-name support in Windows 95 and Windows NT bypassed this limitation. The OS/2 operating system also supports long names, but does so in a different way.

### **A.2.2 FAT32**

The FAT32 file system was introduced in Windows 95 OSR2. It is also supported by Windows 98/Me/2000/XP/Vista. FAT32 is an evolved version of FAT16. Its main differences from FAT16 are 28-bit cluster numbers and a more flexible root, whose size is unlimited. The reasons FAT32 appeared are the support of large hard disks (over 8GB in capacity) and the impossibility of implementing any more complex file system into MS-DOS, which is still the basis for Windows 98/Me.

The maximum FAT32 disk size is 2 terabytes (1 terabyte, or TB, is equal to 1024 gigabytes, or GB).

### **A.2.3 NTFS**

NTFS is the main file system for Windows NT/2000/XP/Vista. Its structure is closed, so no other operating system is fully supported. The main structure of NTFS is the MFT (master file table). NTFS stores a copy of the critical part of the MFT to reduce the possibility of data damage and loss. All other NTFS data structures are special files. NTFS stands for NT File System.

Like FAT, NTFS uses clusters to store files, but cluster size does not depend on partition size. NTFS is a 64-bit file system. It uses unicode to store file names. It is also a journaling (failure-protected) file system, and supports compression and encryption.

Files in folders are indexed to speed up file search.

### **A.2.4 Linux Ext2**

Ext2 is one of the main file systems for the Linux operating system. Ext2 is a 32-bit system. Its maximum size is 16TB. The main data structure that describes a file is an i-node. A place to store the table of all i-nodes has to be allocated in advance (during formatting).

### **A.2.5 Linux Ext3**

Officially introduced with its version 7.2 of the Linux operating system, Ext3 is the Red Hat Linux journaling file system. It is forward and backward compatible with Linux ext2. It has multiple journaling modes and broad cross-platform compatibility in both 32- and 64-bit architectures.

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## **A.2.6 Linux ReiserFS**

ReiserFS was officially introduced to Linux in 2001. ReiserFS overcomes many Ext2 disadvantages. It is a 64-bit journaling file system that dynamically allocates space for data substructures.

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## Appendix B. Hard disks and BIOS setup

The appendices below provide you with extra information on the hard disk organization, how information is stored on disks, how disks should be installed in the computer and plugged into the motherboard, configuring disks with BIOS, partitions and file systems, and how operating systems interact with disks.

### B.1 Installing hard disks in computers

#### B.1.1 Installing a hard disk, general scheme

To install a new IDE hard disk, you should do the following (**we will assume you have powered OFF your PC before you start!**):

1. Configure the new hard disk as **slave** by properly installing jumpers on the board of its controller. Disk drives generally have a picture on the drive that shows the correct jumper settings.
2. Open your computer and insert the new hard disk into a 3.5" or 5.25" slot with special holders. Fasten down the disk with screws.
3. Plug the power cable into the hard disk (four-threaded: two black, yellow and red; there is only one way you can plug in this cable).
4. Plug the 40- or 80-thread flat data cable into sockets on the hard disk and on the motherboard (plugging rules are described below). The disk drive will have a designation on the connector or next to it that identifies Pin 1. The cable will have one red wire on an end that is designated for Pin 1. Make sure that you place the cable in the connector correctly. Many cables also are "keyed" so that they can only go in one way.
5. Turn your computer on and enter BIOS setup by pressing the keys that are displayed on the screen while the computer is booting.
6. Configure the installed hard disk by setting the parameters **type**, **cylinder**, **heads**, **sectors** and **mode** (or **translation mode**; these parameters are written on the hard disk case) or by using the IDE autodetection BIOS utility to configure the disk automatically.
7. Set the boot sequence to A:, C:, CD-ROM or some other, depending on where your copy of Acronis True Image Home is located. If you have a boot diskette, set the diskette to be the first; if it is on a CD, make the boot sequence start with CD-ROM.
8. Quit BIOS setup and save changes. Acronis True Image Home will automatically start after reboot.
9. Use Acronis True Image Home to configure hard disks by answering the wizard's questions.
10. After finishing the work, turn off the computer, set the jumper on the disk to the **master** position if you want to make the disk bootable (or leave it in **slave** position if the disk is installed as additional data storage).

#### B.1.2 Motherboard sockets, IDE cable, power cable

There are two slots on the motherboard to which the hard disks can be connected: **primary IDE** and **secondary IDE**.



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Hard disks with an IDE (Integrated Drive Electronics) interface are connected to the motherboard via a 40- or 80-thread flat marked cable: one of the threads of the cable is red.

Two IDE hard disks can be connected to each of the sockets, i.e. there can be up to four hard disks of this type installed in the PC. (There are three plugs on each IDE cable: two for hard disks and one for the motherboard socket.)

As noted, IDE cable plugs are usually designed so that there is only one way to connect them to the sockets. Usually, one of the pinholes is filled on the cable plug, and one of the pins facing the filled hole is removed from the motherboard socket, so it becomes impossible to plug the cable in the wrong way.

In other cases, there is a jut on the plug on the cable, and an indentation in the socket of the hard disk and of the motherboard. This also ensures that there only one way to connect the hard disk and the motherboard.

In the past, this design of plug did not exist, so there was an empirical rule: **the IDE cable is connected to the hard disk socket so that the marked thread is the closest to the power cable**, i.e. the marked thread connected to pin #1 of the socket. A similar rule was used for connecting cables with the motherboard.

Incorrect connection of the cable with either the hard disk or the motherboard does not necessarily damage the electronics of the disk or the motherboard. The hard disk is simply not detected or initialized by BIOS.



There are some models of hard disks, especially the older ones, for which incorrect connection damaged the electronics of the drive.



We will not describe all the types of hard disks. Currently the most widespread are those with IDE or SCSI interfaces. Unlike IDE hard disks, there can be from six to 14 SCSI hard disks installed in your PC. However, you need a special SCSI controller (called a host adapter) to connect them. SCSI hard disks are not usually used in personal computers (workstations), but are found mostly in servers.

Aside from an IDE cable, a four-thread power cable must be connected to the hard disks. There is only one way to plug in this cable.

### B.1.3 Configuring hard disk drives, jumpers

A hard disk drive can be configured in a computer as **master** or as **slave**. The configuring is done using special connectors (called jumpers) on the hard disk drive.

The jumpers are either located on the electronic board of the hard disk or a special socket that provides for the connection of the hard disk and the motherboard.

There is usually a sticker on the drive that explains the markings. Typical markings are **DS**, **SP**, **CS** and **PK**.

Each jumper position corresponds to one hard disk(s) installation mode:

- **DS – master/factory default**
- **SP – slave (or no jumper required)**
- **CS – cable select for master/slave:** the purpose of the hard disk is determined by its physical position with respect to the motherboard
- **PK – jumper parking position:** the position where one can put the jumper if it is not necessary in the existing configuration

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The hard disk with the jumper in **master** position is treated by the basic input/output system (BIOS) as bootable.

The jumpers on hard disks that are connected to the same cable can be in the **select for master/slave** position. In this case, BIOS will deem as "master" the disk that is connected to the IDE cable closer to the motherboard than the other one.



Unfortunately, hard disk markings were never standardized. You might well find that markings on your hard disk differ from the ones described above. Moreover, for the old types of hard disks, their purpose could be defined by two jumpers instead of one. You should study the markings carefully before installing your hard disk in the computer.

It is not enough to physically connect the hard disk to the motherboard and set the jumpers properly for the hard disk to function — hard disks have to be properly configured with the motherboard BIOS.

## B.2 BIOS

When you turn on your computer, you often see a number of short text messages before you see the splash screen of your operating system. These messages are from the POST (power-on self test) program that belongs to BIOS and is executed by the processor.

BIOS, or the basic input/output system, is a program that resides in the permanent memory chip (ROM or flash BIOS) on the motherboard of your computer and is its key element. The version of BIOS that you use "knows" all the peculiarities of all the components of the motherboard: processor, memory, integrated devices. BIOS versions are provided by the manufacturers of motherboards.

Main BIOS functions are:

- POST checking of processor, memory and I/O devices
- initial configuring of all software-manageable parts of the motherboard
- initialization of operating system (OS) booting process

Among numerous components of the computer, initial configuration is necessary for the external memory subsystem that controls hard disk drives, floppy disk drives, CD-ROM drives, DVDs, and other devices.

### B.2.1 Setup utility

BIOS has a built-in setup utility for initial computer configuration. To enter it, you have to press a certain combination of keys (**Del**, **F1**, **Ctrl+Alt+Esc**, **Ctrl+Esc**, or some other, depending on your BIOS) during the POST sequence that starts right after you turn your computer on. Usually the message with the required combination of keys is displayed during the startup testing. Pressing this combination takes you to the menu of the setup utility that is included in your BIOS.

The menu can differ in appearance and sets of items and their names, depending on the BIOS manufacturer. The most widely known BIOS makers for PC motherboards are Award/Phoenix and AMI. Moreover, while items in the standard setup menu are mostly the same for various BIOSes, items of the extended setup heavily depend on computer and BIOS version.

Below we describe the general principles of initial hard disk configuration.



Large PC manufacturers like Dell and Hewlett-Packard produce motherboards themselves, and develop their own BIOS versions. You should always refer to the documentation that came with your computer for instructions on proper BIOS configuration.

## B.2.2 Standard CMOS setup menu

Parameters in the standard CMOS setup menu usually define the geometry of the hard disk. The following parameters (and values) are available for each hard disk installed in your PC:

Parameter	Value	Purpose
Type	1-47, Not Installed, Auto	Type 0 or Not Installed is used when there is no hard disk installed (to uninstall it). Type 47 is reserved for user-defined parameters or for parameters detected by the IDE Auto detection utility.  Auto value allows for automatic detection of IDE disk parameters during the boot sequence.
Cylinder (Cyl)	1-65535	The number of cylinders on a hard disk. For IDE disks, a logical number of cylinders is specified.
Heads (Hd)	1-16	The number of heads on a hard disk. For IDE disks, a logical number of heads is specified.
Sectors (Sec)	1-63	The number of sectors per track of a hard disk. For IDE disks, a logical number of sectors is specified.
Size (Capacity)	MBytes	The capacity of the disk in megabytes. It is calculated according to the following formula:  $\text{Size} = (\text{Cyl} \times \text{Hds} \times \text{Sec} \times 512) / 1024 / 1024.$
Mode (Translation Method)	Normal/ LBA/ Large/Auto	Method of translation of sector addresses.

For example, to demonstrate the main features of Acronis True Image Home, we used a Quantum<sup>TM</sup> Fireball<sup>TM</sup> TM1700A hard disk as one of the disks in our examples. Its parameters have the following values:

Parameter	Value
Type	Auto
Cylinder (Cyl)	827
Heads (Hd)	64
Sectors (Sec)	63
Mode	Auto
CHS	1707 MB
Maximum LBA Capacity	1707 MB

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In BIOS setup, you can set the Type parameter to User Type HDD (user-defined type). In this case, you also have to specify the value of the translation mode parameter, which can be Auto/Normal/LBA/Large.



Translation mode is how sector addresses are translated. This parameter appeared because in BIOS versions, there were limitations to the maximum address capacity of disks, which is 504 MB (1024 cylinders x 16 heads x 63 sectors x 512 bytes). There are two ways to bypass this limitation: (1) switch from physical to logical sector addresses (LBA), (2) use mathematics to reduce the number of addressed sectors (cylinders) and increase the number of heads; this method is called Large Disk (Large). The simplest decision is to set the value of this parameter to Auto.

If there are several hard disks connected to your motherboard, but you do not want to use some of them at the moment, you have to set the Type of these disks to Not Installed.

Parameters of hard disks can be set manually with the help of information provided by the hard disk manufacturer on its case, but it is easier to use the IDE autodetection utility that is usually included in modern BIOS versions.

The utility is sometimes a separate BIOS menu item and sometimes is included in the standard CMOS setup menu.



Please note that in "Appendix B. Hard disks and BIOS setup", we have described the general details of **physical** hard disk structure. Built-in IDE hard disk controls mask the physical disk structure. As a result, the BIOS of the motherboard "sees" **logical** cylinders, heads and sectors. We are not going to elaborate on this issue here, but knowing about this can sometimes be useful.

### B.2.3 Arranging boot sequence, advanced CMOS setup menu

Aside from standard CMOS setup, BIOS menu usually has an **advanced CMOS setup** item. Here you can adjust the **boot sequence**: C:; A:; CD-ROM:.



Please note that **boot sequence** management differs for various BIOS versions, e.g. for AMI BIOS, AWARDBIOS, and brand-name hardware manufacturers.

Several years ago, the operating system boot sequence was hard-coded into the BIOS. An operating system could be booted either from a diskette (drive A:), or from the hard disk C:. That was the sequence in which the BIOS queried external drives: if drive A: was ready, BIOS attempted to boot an operating system from a diskette. If the drive was not ready or there was no system area on diskette, BIOS tried to boot an operating system from hard disk C:.

At present, BIOS allows booting operating systems not only from diskettes or hard disks, but also from CD-ROMs, DVDs, and other devices. If there are several hard disks installed in your computer labeled as C:, D:, E:, and F:, you can adjust the boot sequence so that an operating system is booted from, for example, disk E:. In this case, you have to set the boot sequence to look like E:, CD-ROM:, A:, C:, D:.



This does not mean that booting is done from the first disk in this list; it only means that the **first attempt** to boot an operating system is to boot it from this disk. There may be no operating system on disk E:, or it may be inactive. In this case, BIOS queries the next drive in the list. Errors can happen during booting, see B.2.4 "Hard disk initialization errors".

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The BIOS numbers disks according to the order in which they are connected to IDE controllers (primary master, primary slave, secondary master, secondary slave); next go the SCSI hard disks.

This order is broken if you change the boot sequence in BIOS setup. If, for example, you specify that booting has to be done from hard disk E:, numbering starts with the hard disk that would be the third in usual circumstances (it is usually the secondary master).

After you have installed the hard disk in your computer and have configured it in BIOS, one can say that the PC (or the motherboard) "knows" about its existence and its main parameters. However, it is still not enough for an operating system to work with the hard disk. In addition, you have to create partitions on the new disk and format the partitions using Acronis True Image Home. See *Chapter 15. Adding a new hard disk*.

### **B.2.4 Hard disk initialization errors**

Devices are usually initialized successfully, but sometimes errors can happen. Typical errors related to hard disks are reported by the following messages:

```
PRESS A KEY TO REBOOT
```

This error message is not directly related to errors during hard disk initialization. However, it appears, for example, when the boot program finds no operating system on the hard disk, or when the primary partition of the hard disk is not set as active.

```
DISK BOOT FAILURE,  
INSERT SYSTEM DISK AND  
PRESS ENTER
```

This message appears when the boot program finds no available boot device, be it a floppy or a hard disk, or a CD-ROM.

```
C: DRIVE ERROR  
C: DRIVE FAILURE  
ERROR ENCOUNTERED  
INITIALIZING HARD DRIVE
```

This message appears when it is not possible to access the C: disk. If the disk is known to be functional, the reason for this error message is probably incorrect settings/connections of:

- hard disk parameters in BIOS setup
- jumpers on the controller (master/slave)
- interface cables

It is also possible that the device is out of order, or the hard disk is not formatted.

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## Appendix C. Hard Disk Wiping methods

Information removed from a hard disk drive by non-secure means (for example, by simple Windows delete) can easily be recovered. Utilizing specialized equipment, it is possible to recover even repeatedly overwritten information. Therefore, guaranteed data wiping is more important now than ever before.

The **guaranteed wiping of information** from magnetic media (e.g. a hard disk drive) means it is impossible to recover data by even a qualified specialist with the help of all known tools and recovery methods.

This problem can be explained in the following way: Data is stored on a hard disk as a binary sequence of 1 and 0 (ones and zeros), represented by differently magnetized parts of a disk.

Generally speaking, a 1 written to a hard disk is read as 1 by its controller, and 0 is read as 0. However, if you write 1 over 0, the result is conditionally 0.95 and vice versa – if 1 is written over 1 the result is 1.05. These differences are irrelevant for the controller. However, using special equipment, one can easily read the «underlying» sequence of 1 and 0.

It only requires specialized software and inexpensive hardware to read data «deleted» this way by analyzing magnetization of hard disk sectors, residual magnetization of track sides and/or by using current magnetic microscopes.

Writing to magnetic media leads to subtle effects summarized as follows: every track of a disk stores **an image of every record** ever written to it, but the effect of such records (magnetic layer) becomes more subtle as time passes.

### C.1 Information wiping methods' functioning principles

Physically, the complete wiping of information from a hard disk involves the switching of every elementary magnetic area of the recording material as many times as possible by writing specially selected sequences of logical 1 and 0 (also known as samples).

Using logical data encoding methods in current hard disks, you can select **samples** of symbol (or elementary data bit) sequences to be written to sectors in order to **repeatedly and effectively wipe confidential information**.

Methods offered by national standards provide (single or triple) recording of random symbols to disk sectors that are **straightforward and arbitrary decisions, in general**, but still acceptable in simple situations. The most effective information-wiping method is based on deep analysis of subtle features of recording data to all types of hard disks. This knowledge speaks to the necessity of complex multipass methods to **guarantee** information wiping.

The detailed theory of guaranteed information wiping is described in an article by Peter Gutmann. Please see:

[http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/~pgut001/pubs/secure\\_del.html](http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/~pgut001/pubs/secure_del.html).

### C.2 Information wiping methods used by Acronis

The table below briefly describes information wiping methods used by Acronis. Each description features the number of hard disk sector passes along with the number(s) written to each sector byte.

### The description of built-in information wiping methods

No.	Algorithm (writing method)	Passes	Record
1.	United States Department of Defense 5220.22-M	4	1 <sup>st</sup> pass – randomly selected symbols to each byte of each sector, 2 – complementary to written during the 1 <sup>st</sup> pass; 3 – random symbols again; 4 – writing verification.
2.	United States: NAVSO P-5239-26 (RLL)	4	1 <sup>st</sup> pass – 0x01 to all sectors, 2 – 0x27FFFFFF, 3 – random symbol sequences, 4 – verification.
3.	United States: NAVSO P-5239-26 (MFM)	4	1 <sup>st</sup> pass – 0x01 to all sectors, 2 – 0x7FFFFFFF, 3 – random symbol sequences, 4 – verification.
4.	German: VSITR	7	1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> – alternate sequences of: 0x00 and 0xFF; 7 <sup>th</sup> – 0xAA; i.e. 0x00, 0xFF, 0x00, 0xFF, 0x00, 0xFF, 0xAA.
5.	Russian: GOST P50739-95	1	Logical zeros (0x00 numbers) to each byte of each sector for 6 <sup>th</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> security level systems.  Randomly selected symbols (numbers) to each byte of each sector for 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 1 <sup>st</sup> security level systems.
6.	Peter Gutmann's method	35	Peter Gutmann's method is very sophisticated. It's based on his theory of hard disk information wiping (see <a href="http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/~pgut001/pubs/secure_del.html">http://www.cs.auckland.ac.nz/~pgut001/pubs/secure_del.html</a> ).
7.	Bruce Schneier's method	7	Bruce Schneier offers a seven-pass overwriting method in his Applied Cryptography book. 1 <sup>st</sup> pass – 0xFF, 2 <sup>nd</sup> pass – 0x00, and then five times with a cryptographically secure pseudo-random sequence.
8.	Fast	1	Logical zeros (0x00 numbers) to all sectors to wipe.

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## Appendix D. Startup Parameters

Additional parameters that can be applied prior to booting Linux kernel

### Description

The following parameters can be used to load Linux kernel in a special mode:

- **acpi=off**  
Disables [ACPI](#) and may help with a particular hardware configuration.
- **noapic**  
Disables APIC (Advanced Programmable Interrupt Controller) and may help with a particular hardware configuration.
- **nousb**  
Disables USB modules loading.
- **nousb2**  
Disables USB 2.0 support. USB 1.1 devices still work with this option. This option allows using some USB drives in USB 1.1 mode, if they do not work in USB 2.0 mode.
- **quiet**  
This parameter is enabled by default and the startup messages are not displayed. Deleting it will result in the startup messages being displayed as the Linux kernel is loaded and the command [shell](#) being offered prior to running the very Acronis program.
- **nodma**  
Disables DMA for all IDE disk drives. Prevents kernel from freezing on some hardware.
- **nofw**  
Disables FireWire (IEEE1394) support.
- **nopcmcia**  
Disables PCMCIA hardware detection.
- **nomouse**  
Disables mouse support.
- **[module name]=off**  
Disables the module (e.g. **sata\_sis=off**).



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- **pci=bios**

Forces to use PCI BIOS, not access the hardware device directly. For instance, this parameter may be used if the machine has a non-standard PCI host bridge.

- **pci=nobios**

Disallows use of PCI BIOS; only direct hardware access methods are allowed. For instance, this parameter may be used if you experience crashes upon boot-up, probably caused by the BIOS.

- **pci=biosirq**

Uses PCI BIOS calls to get the interrupt routing table. These calls are known to be buggy on several machines and they hang the machine when used, but on other computers it is the only way to get the interrupt routing table. Try this option, if the kernel is unable to allocate IRQs or discover secondary PCI buses on your motherboard.