

Acronis True Image 10 Home Reviewer's Guide

Introduction

This guide is designed for members of the media who will be evaluating Acronis True Image disk imaging, backup and bare-metal recovery software. We will look at not only the features and benefits of the product, but also some of its underlying technology.

Here you will learn not only the capabilities of the product, but also a bit about how it fits into a corporate disaster recovery and backup framework. You also will learn how some of the key features and capabilities work.

Acronis True Image 10.0 Home

Comprehensive data and system protection solution for desktop PCs and laptops

- Online data and system backups
- Create an exact hard drive image
- Backup and restore individual files and folders
- Bare-metal restore in minutes

Acronis True Image Home family

Supporting	ATI 9	ATI 9 Home	ATI 10 Home
Dynamic Disk Supporting	-	-	-
Windows Drivers	+	+	+
Supported File Systems			
FAT16	+	+	+
FAT32	+	+	+
NTFS	+	+	+
Ext2/3	+	+	+
ReiserFS	+	+	+
Reiser4	-	-	-
XFS	-	-	-
JFS	-	-	-
Supported OS			
WinNT Server	-	-	-
Win2000 Server/Advanced Server	-	-	-
Win2003 Server	-	-	-
Win98	+	+	+
WinME	+	+	+
WinNT	+	+	+
Win2000 Professional	+	+	+
WinXP	+	+	+

Backup Features			
Acronis Drive Snapshot (hot imaging)	+	+	+
Backup System/Opened Files (File-level backup)	+	+	+
Support Database	-	-	-
Using VSS	-	-	-
Including MBR in backup image	-	+	+
Predefined Categories	-	-	+
Finances			
Documents	-	-	+
Pictures	-	-	+
Music	-	-	+
Video	-	-	+
Applications backup	-	-	+
Acronis Software	-	-	+
Audio and Video Applications			
Browsers	-	-	+
Business and Productivity	-	-	+
Design Tools	-	-	+
Desktop Enhancements	-	-	+
Developer Tools	-	-	+
Digital Photography	-	-	+
Home and Education	-	-	+
IM Settings and History	-	-	+
iPod Software	-	-	+
Networking	-	-	+
Security and Spyware Applications	-	-	+
Utilities and Drivers	-	-	+
Windows Settings	-	-	+
MS Outlook 2000-2003 backup	-	-	+
Mail folders	-	-	+
Calendar	-	-	+
Contacts	-	-	+
Tasks	-	-	+
Notes	-	-	+
Signatures	-	-	+
News Folders	-	-	+

e-mail rules	-	-	+
user settings	-	-	+
Outlook Express backup	-	-	+
Mail folders	-	-	+
Address Book	-	-	+
Excluding paging/hibernate files	+	+	+
Excluding files/folders	+	+	+
Common Features			
Wizard View Modes			
Standard	+	+	+
Full Backup	+	+	+
Incremental Backups	+	+	+
Differential Backups	+	+	+
Fast Incremental/Differential Backup	-	-	-
Password Protection for Archive	+	+	+
Password Protection for ASZ	-	-	+
Shell Extensions		+	+
Backup Disk	+	+	+
Recover	+	+	+
Restore	+	+	+
Plug	+	+	+
Explore	-	-	+
Backup File	-	-	+
Archive Splitting	+	+	+
Compression Levels			
None	+	+	+
Normal	+	+	+
High	+	+	+
Maximum	+	+	+
Backup/restore commands, (pre/post commands)	+	+	+
Backup performance settings			
Backup Priority	+	+	+
HDD Writing Speed	-	-	-
Network Connection Speed	-	-	-
Security Settings			
Preserve Security Settings in Archive	-	+	+
Decrypting files before archiving	-	+	+

Backup Scheduling	+	+	+
Event Backup Scheduling			
comp start/shutdown	+	+	+
log on/off	+	+	+
repeatedly	-	-	-
Validate Backup Archive	-	+	+
Partition/disk image integrity check before restoration	+	+	+
Logs viewing	+	+	+
Notification			
e-mail	-	-	+
winpopup	-	-	-
app. log	+	+	+
Event Tracing			
support SNMP	-	-	-
windows event log	-	-	-
Scripting	-	-	-
Command-line	-	-	-
Backup Archive Store Places			
Acronis Secure Zone	+	+	+
Acronis Backup Locations	-	-	+
Backup Rules			
Store time limits	-	-	+
Location size quota	-	-	+
Max number of backups	-	-	+
Manage Backup Location			
Delete backups	-	-	+
Consolidate backups	-	-	+
Mark a backup as not overwritable	-	-	-
Backup Policy			
full only	-	-	+
full + differential	-	-	+
full + incremental	-	-	+
Acronis OEM Zone	-	-	-
HDD	+	+	+
CD/DVD Writing	+	+	+
Network shares	+	+	+
ZIP	+	+	+

P-ATA (IDE)	+	+	+
S-ATA	+	+	+
SCSI	+	+	+
IEEE1394	+	+	+
USB 1.0 / 2.0	+	+	+
PC Cards	+	+	+
Acronis Backup Server	-	-	-
FTP	-	-	+
SFTP	-	-	-
Recovery Features			
Acronis Startup Recovery Manager	+	+	+
Rescue Media Performing			
FD	+	+	+
CD/DVD	+	+	+
Direct CD/DVD writing	-	+	+
ISO (with mkrescue utility)	-	+	+
RIS (PXE)	-	-	-
Safe/Full Versions in Recovery Manager	+	+	+
Acronis Bootable Agent	-	-	-
Bootable Backup Media	-	+	+
BartPE plugin	-	+	+
SnapRestore	+	+	+
Bare-metal Restoring	+	+	+
Partition Operations	+	+	+
File system converting (FAT16<->FAT32, EXT2<->EXT3)	+	+	+
Disks/Partitions Cloning	+	+	+
Individual Files Restoring From Image	+	+	+
Check File System After Restoring	+	+	+
Validate Backup Archive before restoring	+	+	+

New Features are in **RED**

Acronis True Image 10.0 Home

The complete disk imaging, system disk backup, and bare-metal restore solution for home and home office desktop PCs and laptops

Acronis True Image Home provides your home and home office with the most comprehensive, reliable, and cost-effective desktop PC and laptop protection. You can backup an entire hard disk, including all the computer data, the operating system, and applications or backup key files and folders on a system.

After a system crash, Acronis True Image Home allows you to perform a full system restore, a bare-metal restore or just a restore of individual files and folders in minutes. Complete system restoration can be performed to an existing system, to a new system with different hardware or to a virtual machine.

The product offers two unique features that enable users on the road a way to recover their systems and get back to work from their local system. The Acronis Secure Zone™ is a special partition on a system where images can be saved and is completely hidden from the operating system and all applications. The Acronis Recovery Manager™ allows users to initiate recovery by selecting the F11 key. Used together, a user on the road can recover a failed laptop with no network connection and no bootable media — the ultimate self-service!

Based on the exclusive Acronis Drive Snapshot disk imaging technology, an users can backup and protect live, in-use systems with no user disruption.

New Features:

Backup locations – set up local or network backup storage locations with automatic archives management

As operating systems, applications and user files, like music or videos, become more and more sizable, archive files tend to eat a lot of disk space. Therefore, it becomes important to get rid of old backups, at the same time preserving maximum of up-to-date backups possible. Users can spend hours exploring multiple files in their backup archives trying to guess which of outdated backups can be deleted without losing important data.

To save users from annoying search and analytic tasks, Acronis offers a new approach to backup strategy by providing, in addition to automatic scheduled backup, automatic management of user archives, stored in folders with special properties called backup locations.

Backup locations can be organized on a local, external or networked drive, on an FTP server or any rewritable media that is recognized by the BIOS.

The main principles of backup locations organization are:

- Automatic naming of backup files
- Addressing to a backup location as to a whole folder
- Automatic consolidation or deletion of outdated backup files in accordance with the rules set by the user.

The rules include:

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

When a user starts a backup operation to a backup location, the selected location will be checked and, if any space limitation is exceeded, the oldest backups will be consolidated or deleted.

A similar feature in Acronis corporate products is implemented in a dedicated Backup Server application. Now users of Acronis True Image Home version can appreciate a simple and user-friendly version of this feature.

Backup policies – schedule backup tasks that will back up all data, data changes against the previous backup or data changes against the initial backup (i.e. perform full, incremental or differential backup) in a desired order

You need not schedule several backup tasks to realize your regular backup policy. Create a single task that will automatically select the backup mode (full, incremental, differential) in accordance with the backup policy set by the user.

Backup policies are implemented for backup locations only.

Direct backup to FTP servers

The *farther* you store the archive from the original folders, the safer it will be in case of data damage. An FTP server is a safe and spacious storage, especially convenient for traveling users since they can access their backup archives from any location where Internet connection is available.

Windows applications backup – save a copy of your application settings

Roll back the applications to your favorite look after an unsuccessful set-up reconfiguration or reinstallation.

Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express backup – back up messages, user accounts and settings

Correspondence is often the most dynamic data piece on a computer. Backup incoming and outgoing messages, contacts and mailer settings as often as you need without any noticeable effect on system performance. Some features are available for Outlook only, such as user accounts and settings.

Data categories

Backup categories of files: 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 any files and folders. The new categories will be remembered and displayed along with the predefined categories.

Explore archives

Easily search and recover particular files in archives just like in Windows Explorer.

Acronis Secure Zone password protection – restrict unauthorized access to data in your Acronis Secure Zone backups and F11 boot

Keep your laptop disk safe from an unintended recovery by unauthorized persons.

E-mail notifications and alerts confirm backup tasks and results.

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.

Supported operating systems

- XP Professional x64 Edition
- Windows XP Professional
- Windows Me
- Windows 2000 Professional
- Windows NT 4.0 Workstation Service Pack 6
- Windows 98

Acronis True Image 64 Bit Support

What is 64 bit?

Bits

- The bit rating of a processor determines the largest numerical number that a processor can handle. The largest number that can be processed in a single clock cycle will be equivalent to 2 to the power of the bit rating. Thus a 32 bit processor can handle 2^{32} or roughly 4.3 billion. A number greater than this will require more than one clock cycle to process. A 64 bit processor can handle up to 2^{64} or roughly 18.4 quintillion.

Memory

- The bit rating of a processor is affected by memory. 32 bit processors are constrained to a maximum of 4 GB or 2 GB RAM access. While this is more than adequate for many types of applications, it is not optimal for servers running large databases. 64 bit processors do not have these constraints – they can support up to an order of billion gigabytes of RAM.

Operating Systems and Applications

- Full use of a processor is only as good as the software written for it. Running a 64-bit processor with a 32-bit operating system will waste a large amount of the computing potential of the processor – it will still have the same limitations as a 32 bit processor. The same goes for running 32 bit software.

What does Acronis True Image v. 10.0 support?

- Acronis True Image 10.0 products will support both 64-bit hardware and software
- Previously, our home products did not support the drivers for 64-bit Windows
- With the 9.1 version, they now support 64-bit Windows The products also supports 64-bit processors that are X86 based, in addition to 32-bit processors

Why does it matter?

For the high-end computer market that is near the limit of 32-bit processors, 64-bit hardware and software is important because it brings the following benefits:

- Increased productivity – workers can spend more time thinking and producing, rather than waiting for software/hardware to finish processes
- Lowers cost of ownership – each server can support larger number of users and applications, requiring fewer servers
- New application opportunities – new applications can be designed without the 32-bit limit

Who needs 64-bit support?

In a home environment, 64-bit processing makes multitasking easier with less stress on the processors. For example, a processor might be running a database application with one CPU core while also running anti-virus software with the other.

- Anyone using a 64-bit CPU from AMD or Intel and Microsoft Windows x64
- Anyone using a 64-bit CPU from AMD or Intel and any 32-bit Windows operating system
- Gamers using high-performance computers

Acronis True Image Acronis Secure Zone and Recovery Manager

What is the Acronis Secure Zone?

- The Acronis Secure Zone allows users to save backups to a special hidden partition on a hard disk drive
- The partition is completely separate from the operating system and all applications, and thus will not be affected by any software or operating system malfunctions

What is the Acronis Recovery Manager?

- The Acronis Recovery Manager is a unique feature that enables users to boot a failed system and initiate recovery by selecting the F11 key
- It will work, even if the operating system will not boot

Why are these features important?

- Both features enable remote users and traveling users with system protection and recovery that can be initiated from their systems, without access to any outside storage or boot media
- Moreover, because the product is so easy to use, many users will be able to step through a recovery on the road without having to contact their help desk for assistance

How do these features work?

- Setting up self service recovery with the Acronis Secure Zone and the Acronis Recovery Manager for remote or traveling users is easy. Here are the steps:
- Install the Acronis True Image agent on a laptop
- Create an Acronis Secure Zone on the local machine
- Create an image task that saves the image to the Acronis Secure Zone on the local machine
- If a user has an unbootable laptop, they can select the F11 key and recover a local image from their machine *WITHOUT* being connected to the network!

Do our competitors have this feature?

- At the consumer level, no, our competitors do not offer this feature. It is offered at the corporate level
- While Symantec LiveState Recovery has the Lights Out Restore option to remotely restore servers and desktops on the network, this is **NOT** the same feature
- Why? Lights out restore requires that the machine be connected and an IT admin perform a restore from a remote location. It is also an add-on license and a separate installation.
- We have this feature in the 9.1 release with our remote bootable agent which is included in our main license and part of our product installation
- But, the Acronis Secure Zone and the Acronis Recovery Manager *GO FURTHER* than the competition's feature
- Acronis' features enable self service as users can restore a system themselves from their own machine
- Only one competitor offers just part of this type of functionality – Paragon Drive Image. This product offers an equivalent to the Acronis Secure Zone, the Paragon Backup Capsule. However, Paragon does not include F11 (no boot media feature), so users are forced to use bootable media to boot a failed machine
- Acronis Secure Zone offers password protection, so you do not need to be concerned that someone might accidentally restore your old image over your current disk without your permission

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