



IPSWITCH
IMail Server™

Backing Up with
ALTARO BackupFS®

Backing up IMail Server using Altaro Backup FS

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines and procedures for backing up IMail server system data and user data in case of a hardware or system failure. This will cover steps on preparing the IMail system settings for backup, installing and configuring Altaro Backup FS to back up IMail files to an external source.

System Requirements

These are the minimum requirements to run IMail server and Altaro Backup FS:

- Minimum Software Requirements
 - Microsoft Windows® 2003 or 2008 Server
 - Microsoft .NET Framework 4
 - Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS) 6.0 or later
 - Microsoft Data Access Component (MDAC) 2.8 SP1 or later
- Minimum Hardware Requirements
 - TCP/IP enabled NIC with a static IP address
 - A broadband or dial-up connection to the Internet
 - An Intel® Pentium® 4 1 GHz or higher or an equivalent processor
 - 512 MB RAM minimum

Altaro Backup FS requires a minimum of 128 MB of free hard drive space on the IMail server machine to install.

You will need an external storage device to store your backup files on. You may utilize another file server or some type Network Attached Storage (NAS) drive. The size of the external storage will depend on how many users and/or mail traffic your IMail server processes in a day. The minimum would be 500 GB and would need to be adjusted up from there to fit individual needs. An additional consideration if planning on using a NAS drive is to have a second network interface card (NIC) so not to interfere with mail traffic.

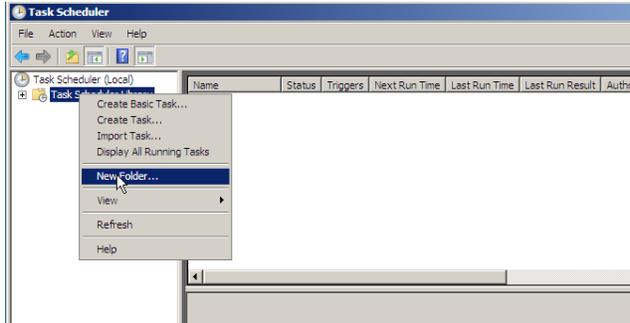
Preparing IMail for backup

Now is a good time to do some house cleaning. You might want to remove no longer used accounts, and their accompanied user files. Clean up the spool of old files and no longer needed log files. The easiest way to clean the spool and logs is to use the [isplcln.exe utility](#).

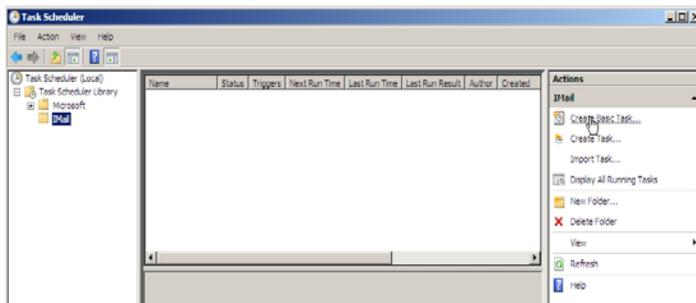
The first step is to configure an automatic back up of the IMail system settings. This will involve setting up a scheduled task to launch the IMail Configuration Export utility (IMailConfigExport.exe) to save the configurations as a file to be backed up. If your version of IMail does not contain the configuration export utility, you can download it from <http://www.imailserver.com/support/utilities/> and save it in

the IMail install directory. In Windows 2003, you will create this in Scheduled Tasks, in Windows 2008; you will use the Task Scheduler as shown below.

Click Start: Administrative Tools: Task Scheduler. When the Task Scheduler window opens, right mouse click on Task Scheduler Library and select New Folder.

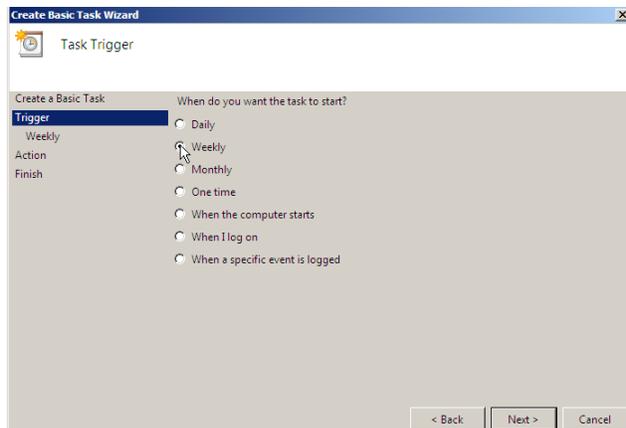


Name the new folder IMail and click ok. Select the IMail folder and then click Create Basic Task

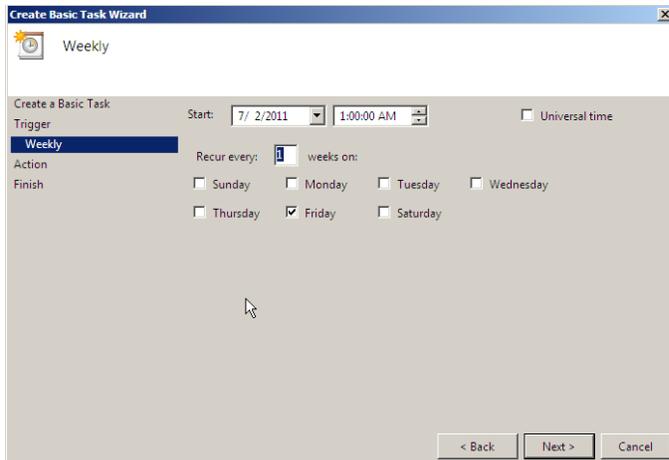


Enter a Name and description then click next.

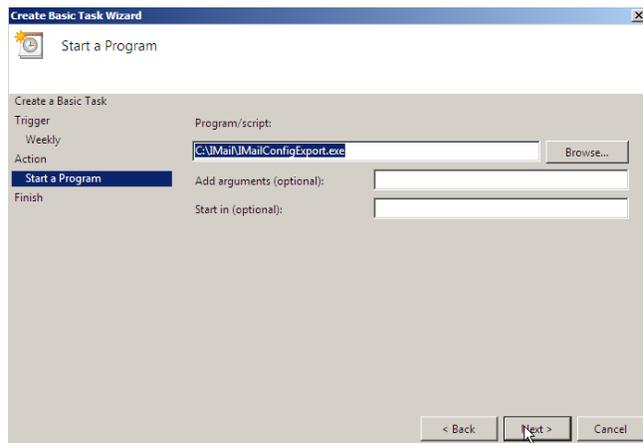
A minimum export sequence would be once a week, unless you wish to do it daily, then click next.



Then select a day and time to launch the configuration export, then next.

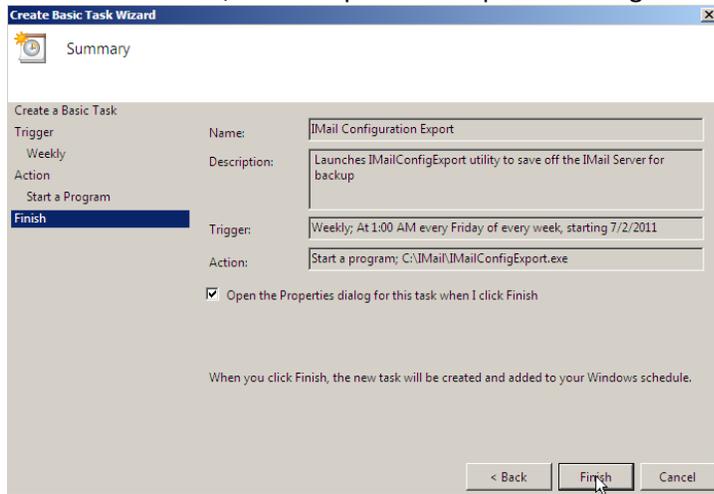


Select the Action of “Start a program” and click next. Click browse, then browse to the directory where IMail is installed to and select the IMailConfigExport.exe. In the example, the IMail install directory is C:\IMail.

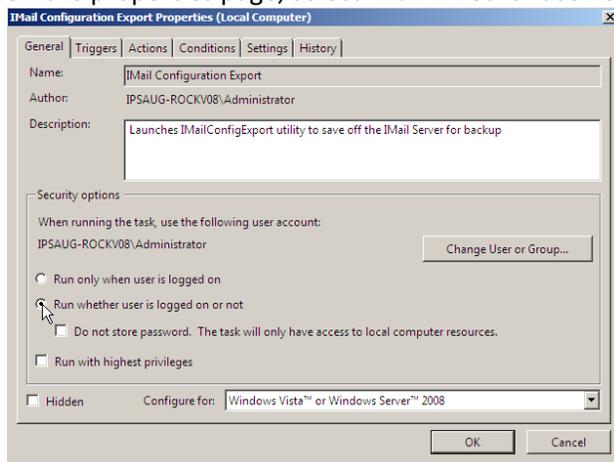


There is an option for adding arguments. The ImailConfigExport.exe has one argument that can be added, which is the path where you want the export file to be created if it will be different from the IMail install directory. This path must exist because the utility will not create this directory. Click next to proceed to the next page.

Review the entries, check “Open the Properties dialog for this task when I click Finish”, then click finish.

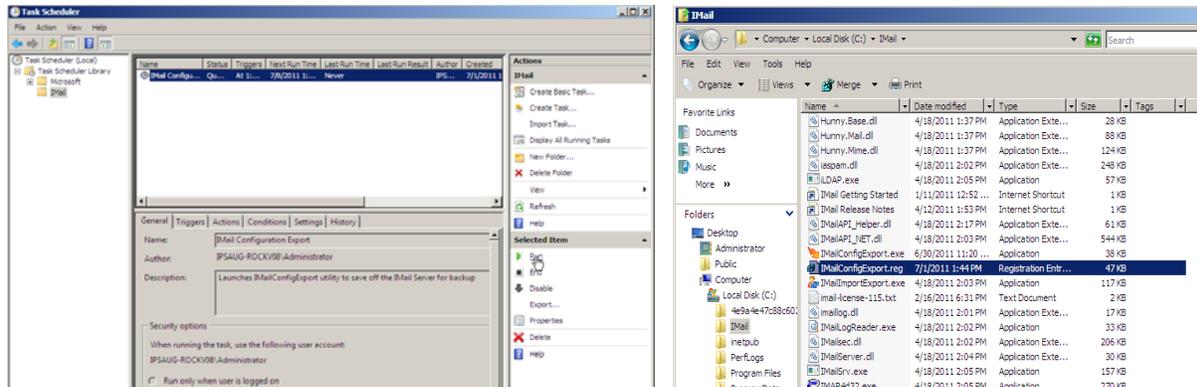


On the properties page, select “Run whether user is logged in or not” and click Ok.



Type in the user’s password and click ok in the password dialog box that opens up.

Test your set up by clicking run, then open up windows explorer and browse to the IMail install directory to see that the ImailConfigExport.reg file was created.

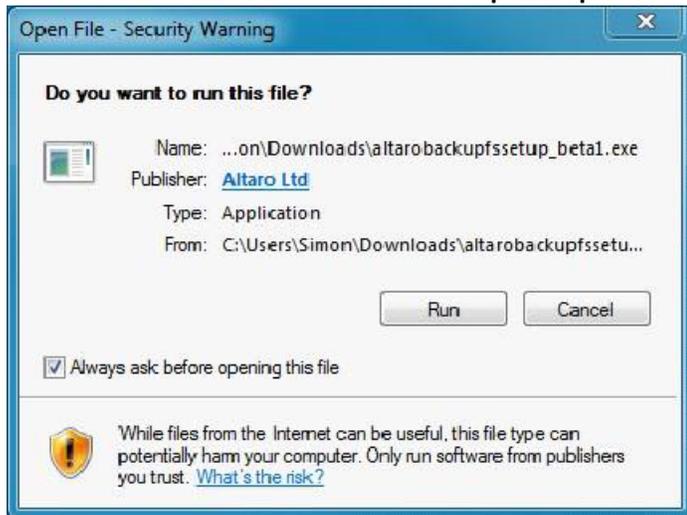


Installing Altaro Backup FS

Before continuing ensure your external hard drive or whatever device you will use for your external storage is set up and running.

Install the program

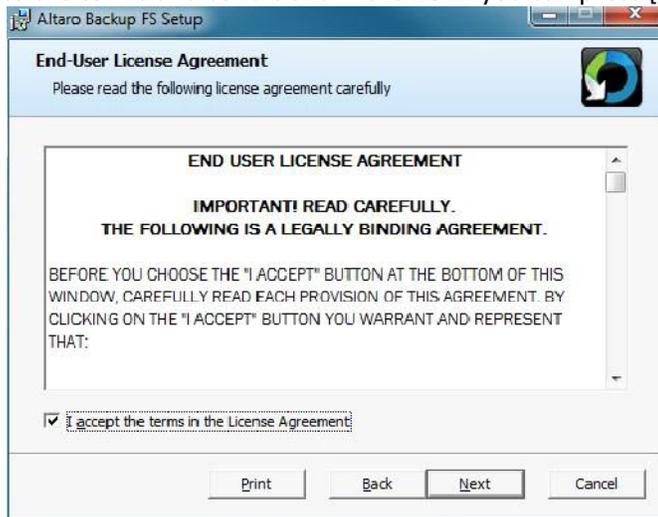
1. Launch the downloaded file: **altarobackupfssetup.exe**.



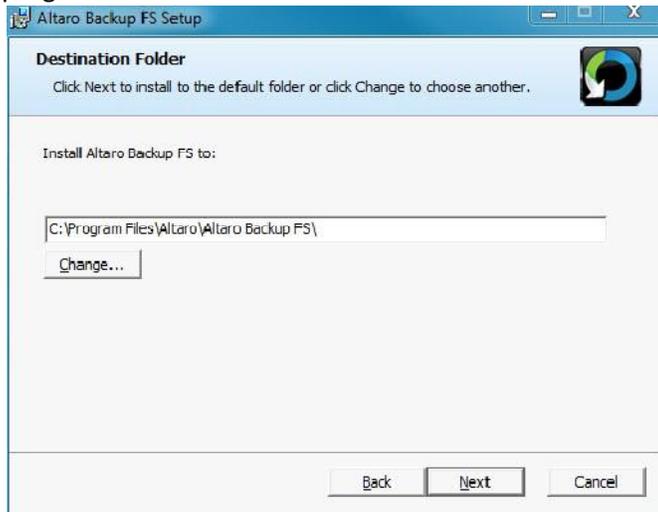
2. Next you will be presented with the welcome screen of the installer. Simply click [Next].



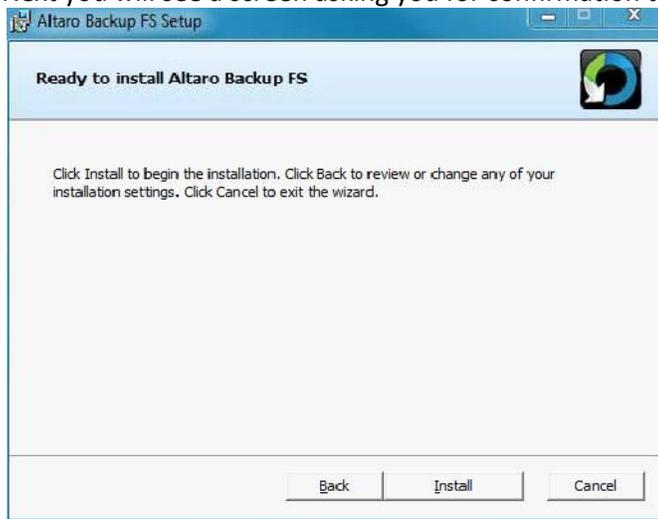
3. You will now see the End User License Agreement into which you will enter with Altaro Ltd. Please read through the agreement and check the "I Accept..." checkbox. Once you have agreed to the terms and conditions in the EULA you can press [NEXT].



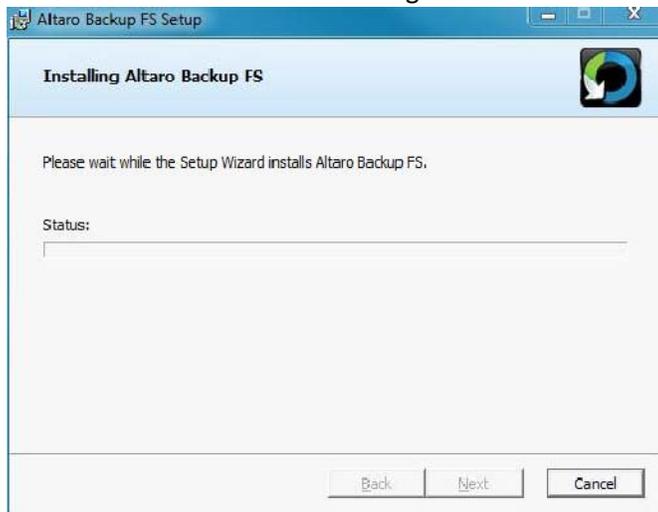
4. At this point you will be prompted for the Destination Folder of the installation. In most normal cases you should leave the installation path as default. Backup FS will be installed within your program files folder.



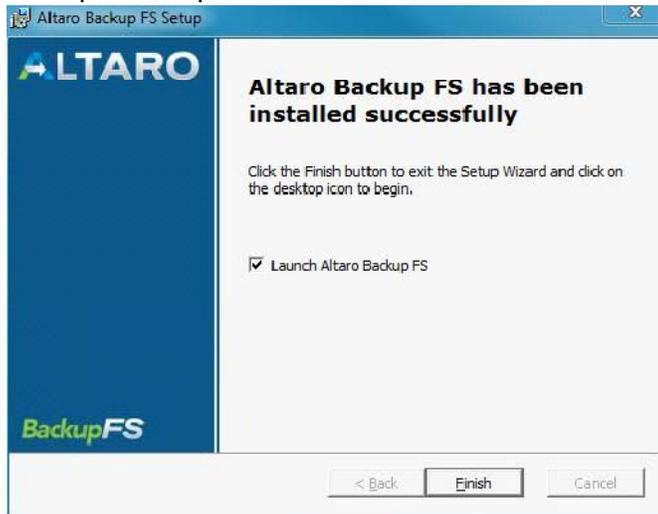
5. Next you will see a screen asking you for confirmation to install. Please press [Install].



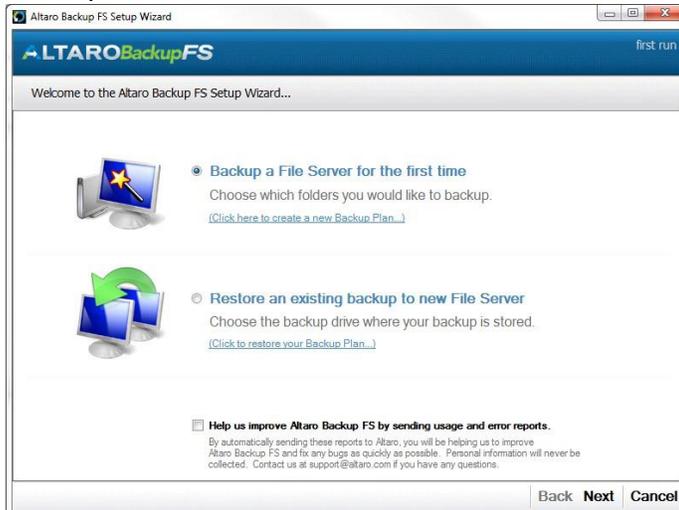
6. At this point the installation will begin. You will be presented with a progress bar updating you with the progress of the installation. Installation should only take a few seconds. **Please note that if you have UAC enabled on the Server then a UAC prompt may be displayed.** Please click allow for the installation to complete. UAC is required for the following reasons:
- Files are being copied to the Program Files Folder.
 - Entries are being made in the registry.
 - A Windows Service is being installed.



7. Once the installation is done you will be presented with the successful installation screen. A checkbox is also present to and checked by default indicating whether the Backup FS Setup Wizard should be launched automatically.



8. After the installation process completes, Altaro Backup FS will launch automatically if you click the "Launch" checkbox in the last screen of the Installation Wizard. Otherwise click "Start" and launch Altaro Backup FS from the Program Menu shortcut.
9. Altaro Backup FS will then launch the Setup Wizard to help you through the configuration of your backup plan. The Wizard may take a few seconds to launch, during which you will see this window:



This will be a fresh backup plan so select the first option, "Backup a File Server for the first time" as shown above.

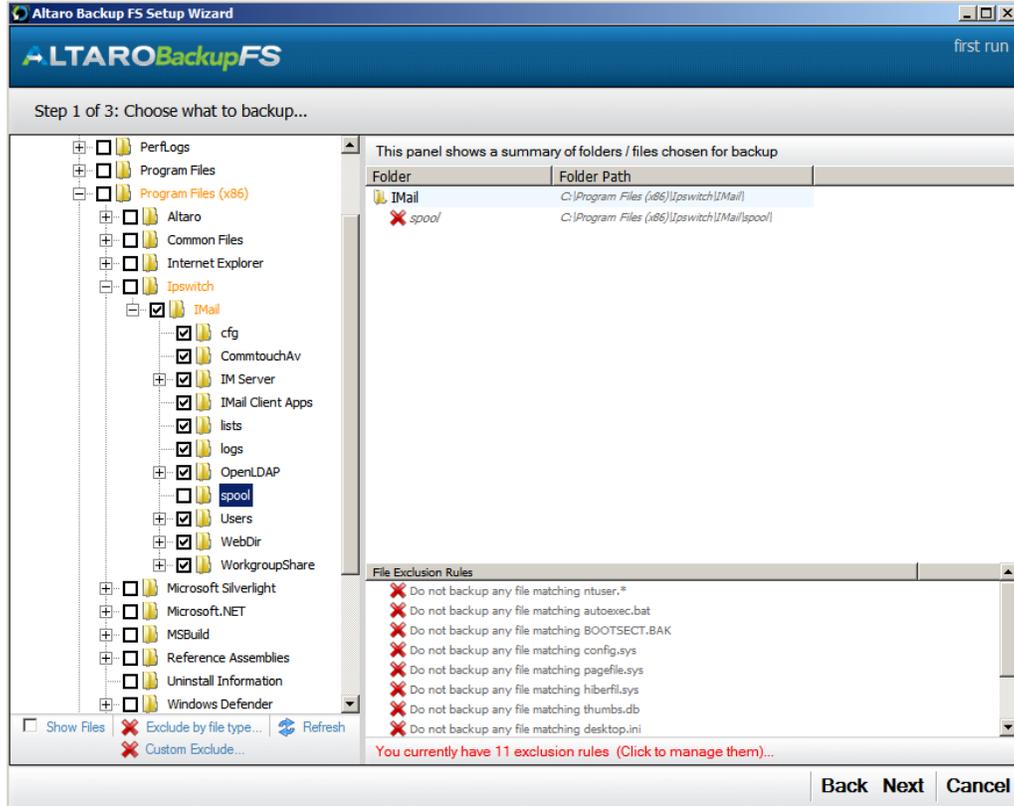
10. The next screen in the wizard shows you a summary of the three steps that need to be performed. These three steps involve choosing the data to back up, choosing a backup destination and finally reviewing and firing up the backup plan:



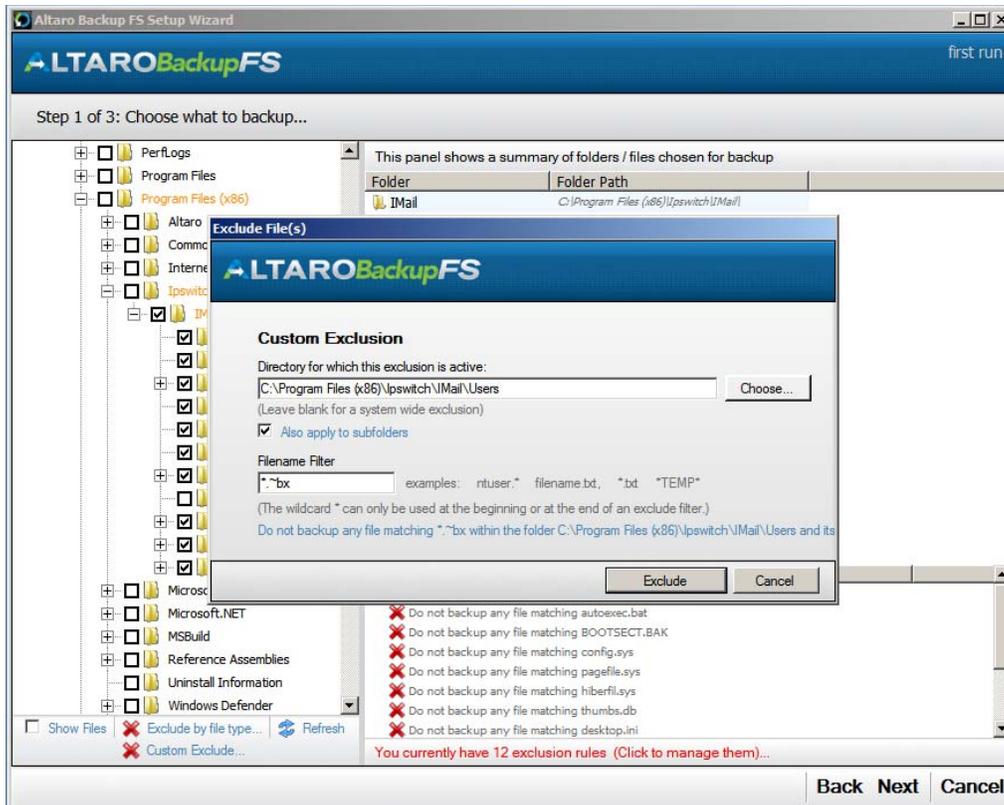
Choosing what data you want to back up.

1. The next screen of the wizard shows you a split view. To the left is a tree view showing you the folder hierarchy on the server. To the right is a panel showing the summary of your selections, which will initially be blank:
2. The tree view to the left is a standard "My Computer" view from which you can expand the different drives and drill down to the folders you want to back up and select the corresponding check boxes.

3. Navigate to the folder where the IMail Server is installed, check 'IMail' folder and uncheck the spool folder as in the screenshot below.



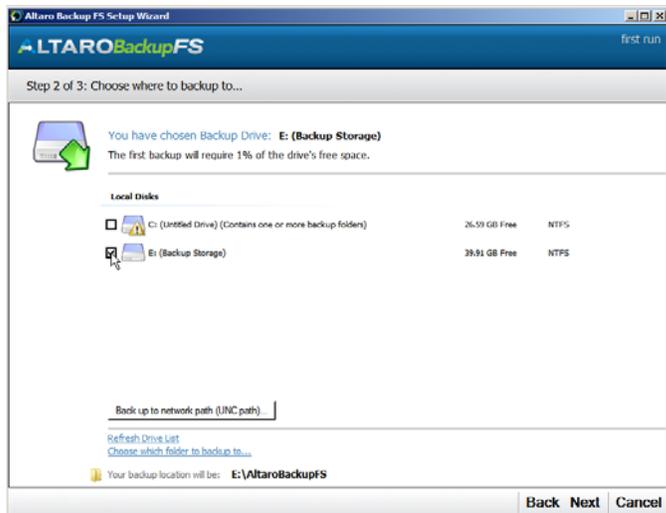
4. Click on the Custom Exclude link.
 - a. In the Exclude File(s) box add the path to your Users folder
 - b. Check the "Also apply to subfolders"
 - c. In the File Name filter box type *.~bx
 - d. Then click Exclude
 - e. Repeat to exclude *.l and *.nbx



5. Click on the "Next" button at the bottom right when you are done.

Selecting a backup destination

1. When you click next, Altaro Backup FS will begin scanning your server for all connected drives. This may take a few seconds until all drives are checked. If you have mapped network drives, this step may take a while.
2. Once the detection process is done, a list of all your drives categorized by type will be shown in the wizard window:

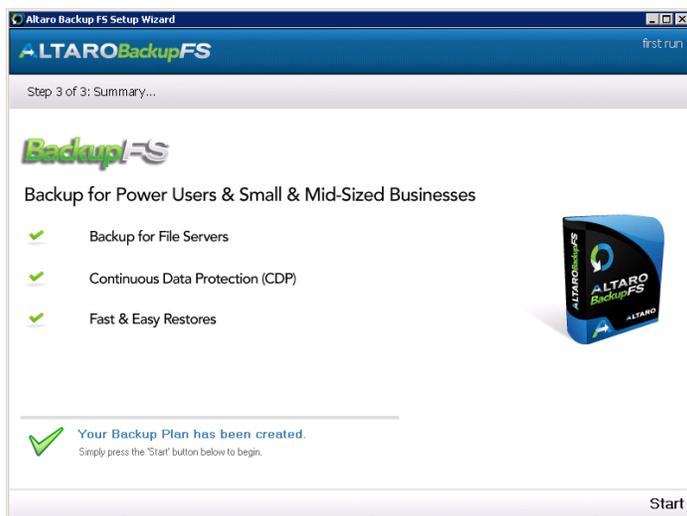


In this example, the E: drive is a NAS drive.

3. Choose the drive where you want to store the backups and press "Next".

Reviewing your selections and starting the backup plan

1. The next screen in the wizard shows a summary of the selections you made in Step 1 and Step 2. Press "Done".
2. The following window will then appear while your backup plan is being set up. That should only take a few seconds.

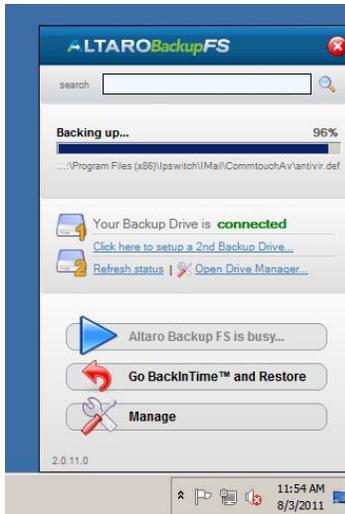


3. Once you see the message "Your Backup Plan has been created" as shown above, you may click the "Start" button, which will immediately start your very first backup.

User Interfaces

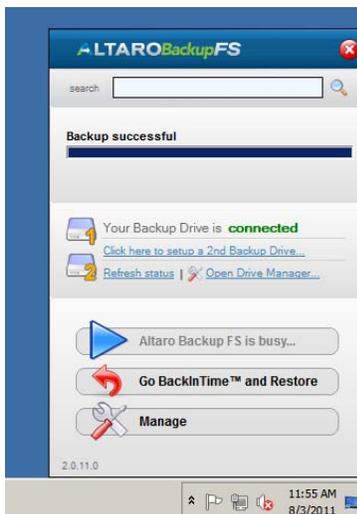
The Quick Launch window, which is a simple window containing shortcuts to the most basic functions in Altaro Backup FS, will appear above the Windows task bar. For details about how to use the Quick Launch window, please see the section entitled "The Quick Launch" in the manual. However you can close the Quick Launch window by clicking the red "X" at the top right and your backup will continue progressing in the background. You may bring up the Quick Launch window at any time by simply clicking once on the "Altaro Backup FS" icon in the system tray.

At this point you should see the progress of the backup at the top of the Quick Launch window:

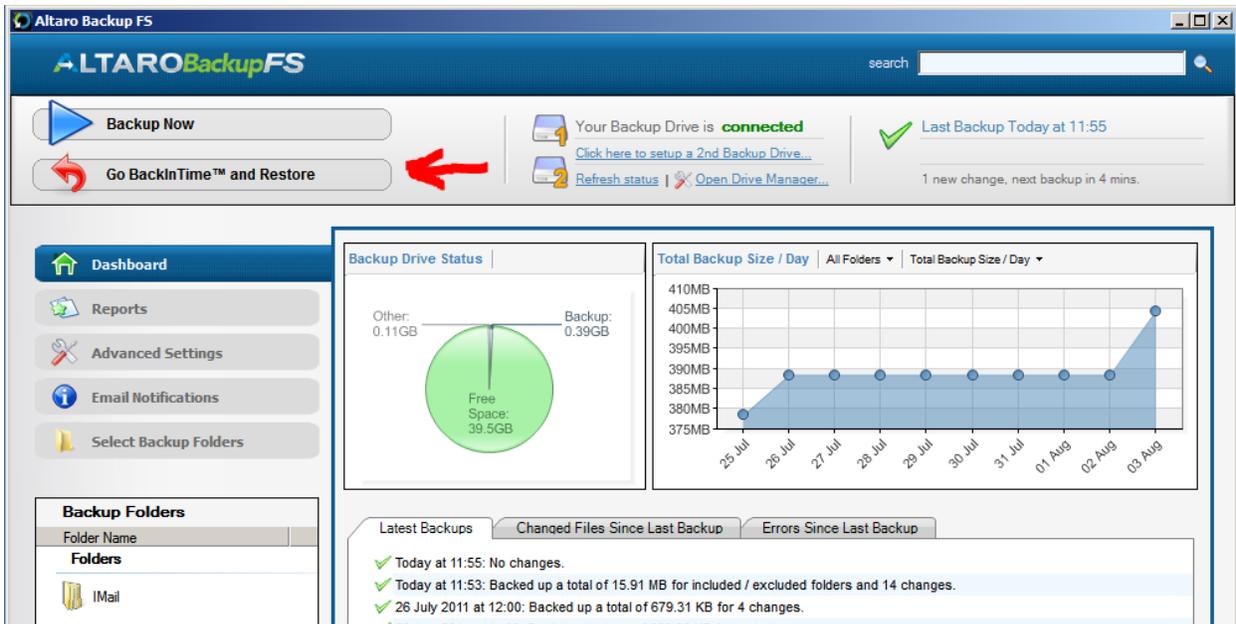


It is important to let the backup finish before changing any more settings or shutting down or rebooting the server.

Once the backup is successful, you will see the following status at the top of the Quick Launch window:

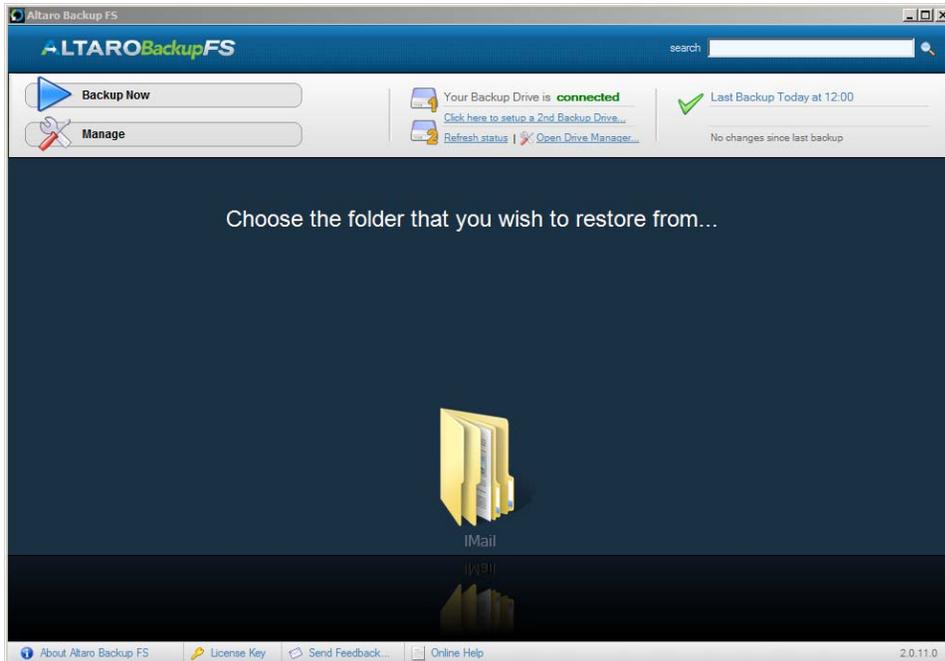


Now open the Manager Window. This can be achieved by right-clicking on the Backup FS system tray icon and choosing [Manage...]. Below is a screenshot of the Manager immediately after the first backup.



To view (or restore) your backups click on the 'Go BackInTime and Restore' option – as in the red arrow in the screenshot above. Once that is done the Altaro Backup FS BackInTime browser will open up.

The BackInTime browser will list the main folders that are being backed up. In the screenshot below you can see the IMail 'Users' folder that is currently being backed up.



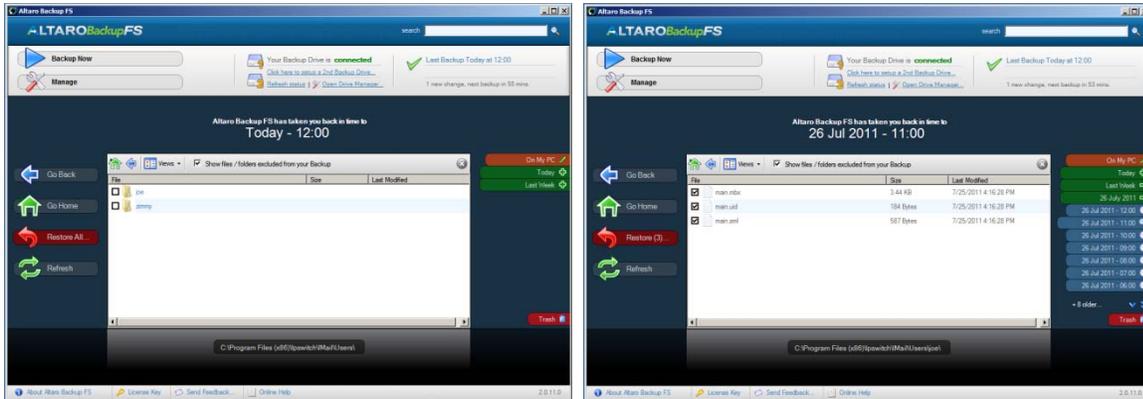
Double click on the 'Users' folder to see the list of mailboxes being backed up.

Use the BackInTime browser in a similar fashion to Windows Explorer.

Click a folder to view the files and sub folders that are being backed up. Find the file / folder that you would like to restore.

Using the Timeline on the right of the BackInTime browser find the version required by expanding a date group and then selecting the actual time. Find the version that you would like to restore and click it.

To restore the file / folder click the Restore File or Restore Folder button on the left of the screen or by right-clicking on a thumbnail and choosing 'Restore...'. You will be presented with a Restore dialog which will allow you to choose where to restore to.



Please note, more configuration options can be found in the Altaro Backup FS manual.