

Virtualmin and Syncthing for automated offsite backups

Virtualmin backups have [many features](#), and here are the current destination options:

- Local folder
- FTP
- SSH
- Webmin
- Amazon S3
- Rackpace
- Download link

We will add native support for [Syncthing](#) in [Virtualmin](#), which will permit things that none of the current options can do.

| Criteria | local folder | FTP | SSH | Webmin | Amazon S3 | Rackpace | Download link | Syncthing (partially developed already) |
|--|--------------|---------|-------------------|--------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Full data control (does not require external service) | yes | yes | yes | yes | no | no | yes | yes |
| Automatic / Unattended | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | no | yes |
| Off-server | no | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes | yes |
| Devices can be behind the firewall, and without a fixed IP address | n/a | no | no | no | n/a | n/a | yes, manually | yes, to your laptop or an Android |
| P2P / multiple (each node can sync with the others, which is different than setting up multiple destinations) | no | no | no | no | depends on provider | depends on provider | no | yes |
| Only send new or modified files | n/a | no | no (unless rsync) | ? | ? | ? | n/a | yes |
| Cold storage / asynchronous (machine can be turned on/off anytime, and it just gets data when machine is online) | n/a | no | no | ? | n/a | n/a | n/a | yes |
| Data is encrypted in transport | n/ a | If FTPS | yes | yes? | yes? | yes? | yes, with Virtualmin HTTPS | yes |
| Throttling: Can set Incoming and Outgoing Rate Limit (KiB/s) | n/ a | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | no | yes |

To be added to the chart

- Syncthing (if configured that way) can also receive data. So it can be a way to send back a backup or other data.
- Protection against crypto-locker attack, as explained [here](#)
- [Syncthing can sync data with an untrusted node by encrypting the data](#). So one of the nodes can be a rented server with a lot of disk space.

Status as of 2023-03-07

- Within the WikiSuite installer, a Syncthing installer is provided.
- Once Syncthing is installed for a Virtual Server, you need to set up automated backups to a directory and use that directory for Syncthing

This all works but we want to make it easier

1. Spin out a Syncthing for Virtualmin app that is totally independant from WikiSuite. So you can install on any Virtualmin instance
2. When the app is installed, add Syncthing as an option directly along SSH, FTP, Amazon S3, etc.

Related

- <https://forum.virtualmin.com/t/planning-to-create-a-syncthing-app-for-virtualmin/119604>
- <https://forum.syncthing.net/t/planning-to-create-a-syncthing-app-for-virtualmin/19896>
- [Tiki Manager and Syncthing for automated offsite backups](#)
- [Syncthing in WikiSuite](#)