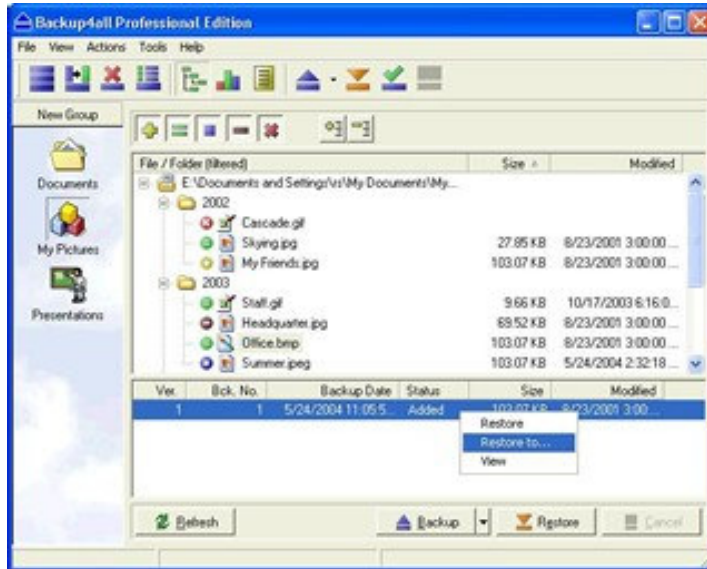


Review: Backup 4 all

Posted by [Jason Chen](#) on 14 December 2004 Rating: 4.9



Backup 4 All

<http://www.backup4all.com>

Price: \$36.00

System Requirements

Windows 9x and up
CDRW/DVDRW

Rating out of 5:



Being a somewhat veteran PC user, I was accustomed to the bi-yearly or yearly [hard drive](#) crash or OS corruption that forced me to spend days or even weeks recovering my system. This resulted in unnecessary work and downtime in productivity. However, I never really felt it was necessary to find a [backup solution](#). This was of course, changed when a few months ago my entire hard drive was corrupted and I lost [access](#) to all my data, movies and music. I started looking around for a good solution.

One of these products was Backup4all Professional Edition.

Installation:

Fast, easy, non intrusive.

First Use:

There was no "hint" screen that usually pops up on first use that gives you little tips on how to use the program. Most of the time those screens are annoying, but in this case I actually missed it. Why? Because there was no in context help to guide me on my first use. All I see when I start it up is a row of buttons on the top and a row of buttons on the side. So I fired up the context help and took a look around. After a quick skim, I knew what to do so I fired up the Backup Wizard.

From this point setting up a drive or directory to backup was easy. You could either back these up to your local hard drive or to CD or DVD. You can even schedule backups for any time interval you wish. So I set it to backup my C:\ drive and scheduled it to perform this at 3am every day on an differential backup basis. Since it's not 3am right now, I had to manually hit backup in order to test it.

Backing up:

Everything seemed okay at first, but then warnings popped up saying files were locked by another process and Backup4all couldn't back these up. I didn't know what to make of this, because if these files weren't backed up the backup would be missing some critical components of windows. Not good. I looked in the context help,

and that didn't offer me any solution either. I was stuck. So I hit "ignore all errors" and plowed ahead.

The backup was finished pretty quickly, and since the backup is stored in ZIP format, any program that can read zip can read the files inside the backup. Nice decision on their part.

Restoring:

Since the program couldn't [back up](#) the locked files in my windows partition, I didn't want to chance restoring an incomplete backup in fear of it messing up my system. So I backed up my music and movie folder and tried restoring that. Everything went off without any problems (since there were no locked files). Backing up and restoring to DVD was also very easy, seeing as backup4all has built in burning capabilities.

Overall:

I would give this program a 7 out of 10. It backs up stuff well, it has a clean interface, and everything is easy to use. However not being able to back up your system files because they were locked knocks their viability as a backup system down a few notches. You could of course reboot to Safe Mode and that would most likely release some of the files, but this doesn't coincide with the ability to schedule backups at 3am when you are sleeping and you leave your machine running.

All in all, this is a good backup program, but mostly only suited in backing up your documents, files, and other non-system data. To back up your OS, you'll have to look for another solution.