

Backup4All



Backup4all Professional Edition is a compact backup program that packs a punch. Backup4all lets you select any image or directory, and create it into one big file. The interface is pretty simple and nicely laid out. The majority of the program is a wizard, which will help you create, edit and name your backup file.

When opening the program for the first time, you'll be greeted with the wizard automatically starting. This could be a problem with some, as their automatically thrown into the backup process when they might not even know what they're doing in the first place. On the other hand, it can be a nice effect as most might be eager to begin. The initial screen of the wizard presents the user with the basic beginning options to customize their backup. You can choose between a default 10 icon images set for your filer, or select one of your own. You can then select the group name your file will go into, set the file name, and give a brief description of the contents.

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After being content with the images and name you've given your file, the next step is choosing the file or directory to backup. A simple screen is presented for you to select whether to add a directory or file, and then lists the ones you've chosen. If you select multiple files or directories, you have the option to remove one, to check all of them for compression, to deselect a file, or to deselect all files.

Once you've chosen your files to compress, you must choose the Destination drive for it to be saved to. Choose the drive, the folder to place the file, a list of other compressions in the folder you've chosen to compress too, and whether you're files are coming from a LAN or Local connection. The ability to burn to CD/DVD is also available. Under Advanced options, you can set the options for CD writing. You can burn using the built-in driver, set write speeds, choose to erase the disk before writing, or use the UDF file system.

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For testing purposes, I choose to compress one directory composing of 1,991, 107 folders, and 1.77 gigs of space. I sent this via LAN to another PC, and total compression time of wireless networking was 23 minutes. That's pretty quick. Overall file size didn't drop by much, only down 100 Megs to 1.67 gigs. Of course, it's not really a purpose of compression, but to keep all your files together as one for easy transportation and decompression later.

The main screen is where it all happens. You're given the basic options to create a new wizard, Create a like (copy), delete, show the properties of the catalog, to explore the catalog, show statistics of the file, give an overall summary of the file, to backup, restore, test, and stop a compression in progress. That may seem like a lot, but they're laid out horizontally by images across the top screen. A group can be displayed to the left hand side of the screen; the default is the samples group. Groups allow you to browse different backup files by type; you may select which group the file is displayed under at time of compression. All of these icons are available under their respectful drop-down menus as well, where a select few extra options are available.

Overall, I really liked this utility. It provided me with a chance to get comfy with backup procedures. Backup4all really made it easy for me to do, and made it easy to organize and categorize for later backups and restorations. I format a lot, and sometimes I really want to keep a good deal of my files handy and not scattered everywhere on random disks in random folders. Personally, I'd recommend this program to anyone who wants to get serious about backing up. Everything seemed so simple to go through. Backup4all is definitely a user friendly program with exceptional abilities.