



Online Backup vs Tape Backup

Assessing the most effective method of protecting your data

To ensure business continuity you will need to consider the following areas and how they are backed up:

- Email
- VAT and supplier data
- Customer data
- Data protection regulations
- Legal requirements
- Regulatory requirement

Solution Comparison Table

	Tape backup:	Online data backup:
Initial costs	High - especially for large amounts of data or complex backup requirements	None - it's free to sign up and there are no setup fees, just a predictable monthly cost; depending on how much you want to back up
Total cost of solution	Moderate - together with hardware maintenance costs there are often unseen "human" costs, changing tapes, taking them offsite etc	Low - No 'human' costs and predictable monthly fees
Maintenance / support	High - IT engineers are required to design, manage and maintain backups and processes, as well as recover data	Low - management of the backup process can be done by the user. UK technical support is provided 24/7 at no extra cost
Scalability	Low - limited flexibility means that when data storage needs increase, the whole backup infrastructure needs to be updated	High - we manage the growth of the infrastructure enabling your data volumes to grow without your concern
Data security	Low - tapes can be lost, stolen or damaged in even the most well managed backup procedures and are often in an un-encrypted format	High - two copies of your data are stored in an encrypted format in multiple high security data centres
Automation	Moderate - even automated tape backup installations require manual intervention to remotely store copies	High - the entire backup process is managed by the client software and storage network
Reliability	Low - tapes are often weakly built and can suffer from reliability issues	High - data is held on servers at dual sites. All are monitored and engineers are on call 24/7
Ease of data restore	Low - time consuming processes are required in order for engineers to restore data. Test data restores need to be done regularly to ensure tapes are recording data correctly	High - individual or multiple files can be restored quickly and easily by the user
Backup window	Long - Large data volumes and longer working hours are continually shortening tape backup windows	Short - backups can take place whilst users are working and incremental backups shorten the backup cycle