

The backups_create_metadata script

For cPanel & WHM version 66

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Overview

The `/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/backups_create_metadata` script allows a user to create [metadata files](#) for all account backup types.

The backups_create_metadata script

To use the `/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/backups_create_metadata` script, run the following command as the `root` user:

```
/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/backups_create_metadata [arguments] [inputs]
```

Arguments and inputs

Use the following arguments for the `/usr/local/cpanel/scripts/backups_create_metadata` script:

Arguments	Description	Input values	Example
<code>--all</code>	Creates metadata files for all backups. <div style="border: 1px solid yellow; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">Note: You cannot combine the <code>--all</code> argument with other arguments.</div>	The backup directory's name.	<code>/scripts/backups_create_metadata --all=/backup</code>
<code>--backup</code>	Creates metadata files for the specified backup file.	The backup file's name.	<code>/scripts/backups_create_metadata --backup=/backup/monthly/2017-03-01</code>
<code>--user=[user]</code>	Combine this argument with the <code>--backup</code> argument to create metadata files for the specified user within the desired backup.	The cPanel account's username.	<code>/scripts/backups_create_metadata --backup=/backup/monthly/2017-03-01 --user=abc1</code>

Metadata for backups version 1.0

Every time cPanel & WHM creates a backup, it also generates a backup metadata file that maps the contents of that backup's directory. The metadata lists files and directories in the backup and stores the information in CSV format. You can also manually generate a backup metadata file with the `backups_create_metadata` script.

Metadata files store indexed information of their related backup. These smaller database entries provide a faster information-retrieval method than their source backup.

Backup metadata format

A backup metadata file, or metafile, has two sections. The first section contains the metafile's meta attributes and appears above a dotted line. The second section provides details of the backup archive's files and appears below the dotted line.

Compressed and uncompressed backups metafile example

A metafile for compressed and uncompressed backups will resemble the following example:

```
server,example.cpanel.net
uid,2183
gid,2186
username,abc1
metaversion,1
date,2017-02-28
epoch,1488261600
archive_size,653824
uncompressed_size,531748
pkgacct_version,10
archive_version,3
file_count,108
-----
720,"2017-01-30
09:16",YWJjMS9jcC9hYmMx,/backup/2017-02-28/accounts/abc1.tar,0,2186
4221,"2017-03-01
09:11",YWJjMS9kbN6b25lcy9hYmMxLnRsZC5kYg==,/backup/2017-02-28/accounts/ab
c1.tar,0,0
1731,"2017-03-01
09:11",YWJjMS9kbN6b25lcy9hZGQxYWJjMS50bGQuZGI=,/backup/2017-02-28/account
s/abc1.tar,0,0
1675,"2017-01-16
07:44",YWJjMS9kb21haW5rZXl3L3ByaXZhdGUvYWJjMS50bGQ=,/backup/2017-02-28/acc
ounts/abc1.tar,0,12
....
```

Incremental backups metafile example

A metafile for incremental backups will resemble the following example:

```

server,example.cpanel.net
uid,2183
gid,2186
username,abc1
metaversion,1
date,2017-03-22
epoch,1490158800
archive_size,836
uncompressed_size,533260
pkgacct_version,10
archive_version,3
file_count,110
-----
39,"2017-03-22
11:54",L2JhY2t1cC8yMDE3LTAzLTlYyL2FjY291bnRzL2FiYzEvdmVyc2l1vbg==,FILE,0,0
11,"2017-03-22
11:54",L2JhY2t1cC8yMDE3LTAzLTlYyL2FjY291bnRzL2FiYzEvaG9tZWZWRpcl9wYXRocw==,FILE,0,0
0,"2017-03-22
11:54",L2JhY2t1cC8yMDE3LTAzLTlYyL2FjY291bnRzL2FiYzEvaGFzX3NzbHN0b3JhZ2U=,FILE,0,0
8,"2017-03-22
11:54",L2JhY2t1cC8yMDE3LTAzLTlYyL2FjY291bnRzL2FiYzEvc3NsZG9tYWlu,FILE,0,0

```

Meta attributes

The meta attributes section displays backup archive values, in CSV format, and uses a attribute name, attribute value convention.

Attribute	Description	Example
server	The server's hostname.	example.cpanel.net
uid	The system user's identification number on the server.	2183
gid	The user's file's group identification number.	2186
username	The system user that owns the backed-up files.	abc1
metaversion	The metafile's format version.	1
date	The date when the system backed up the file.	2017-02-28
epoch	The date in Unix epoch time .	1488261600
archive_size	The archive's size, in bytes. For example, the size of the abc1.tar.gz file.	653824
uncompressed_size	An uncompressed archive's size, in bytes.	531748
pkgacct_version	The package account script's version.	10
	<div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px;"> <p>Note: cPanel & WHM uses the <code>pkgacct</code> script to create the archives.</p> </div>	

archive_version	The program version that the system uses to prepare the backup archive.	3
file_count	The number of files in the backup archive.	108

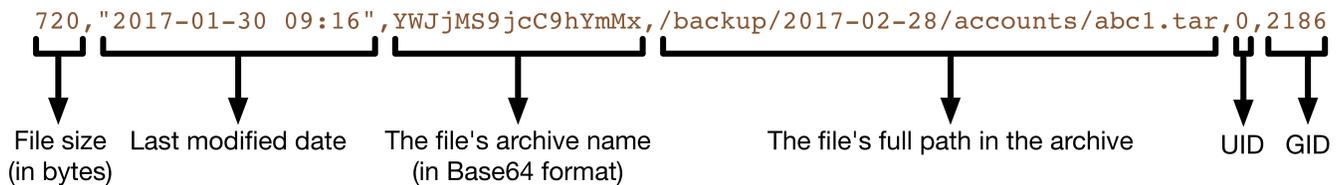
Backup archive files' details

This section displays backup's details in CSV format. The format uses two conventions: one for compressed and uncompressed backup files, and one for incremental backups.

Notes:

- The backup resides on the disk.
- The file details list the full path to the backup. The backup archive contains the backup's entire data.

Compressed and uncompressed backup file details



Part	Description
<i>File size</i>	The backup file's size, in bytes.
<i>Last modified date</i>	The date when the system last modified the file.
<i>The file's archive name</i>	The file's name in the archive, stored in Base64 format.
<i>The file's full path in the archive</i>	The full path to the file in the archive.
<i>UID</i>	The system user's user identification number on the server.
<i>GID</i>	The user's file's group identification number.

Incremental backup details



Part	Description
<i>File size</i>	The backup's size, in bytes.
<i>Last modified date</i>	The date when the system last modified the backup.
<i>The file's archive name</i>	The backup's name in the archive, stored in Base64 format.
<i>The file's full path in the archive</i>	The full path to the backup in the archive.

<i>The archived file's type</i>	One of these archived file types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FILE — A file. • DIR — A directory. • SYMLINK — A symlink.
<i>UID</i>	The system user's identification number.
<i>GID</i>	The user's file's group identification number.

Notes:

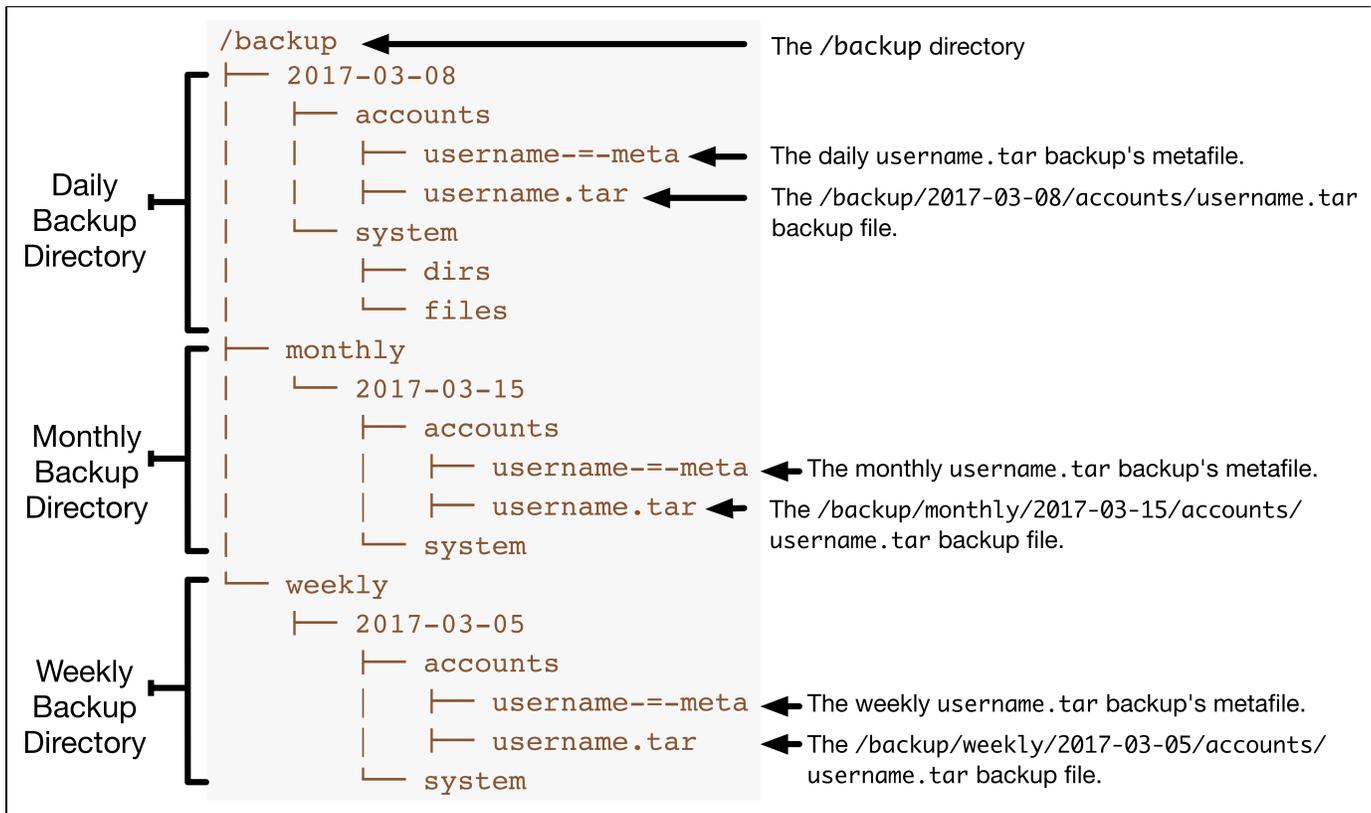
The system can only store the `system` backup (`/backup/.../system`) as a compressed or uncompressed backup file. The system **cannot** store a `system` backup as an incremental backup file. This condition creates a limitation when you configure a remote destination for your backups in the *Additional Destinations* section in WHM's *Backup Configuration* interface (*WHM >> Home >> Backup >> Backup Configuration*). Because the system can only store `system` backup files as compressed or uncompressed files, the system copies the `system` backup file to the destination.

Metafiles and the `/backup` directory structure

The system stores backups inside the `/backup` directory in one of three different formats: compressed, uncompressed, and incremental. Each format uses a different filename extension.

Backup format	Filename extension	Example
compressed	<code>.tar.gz</code>	<code>username.tar.gz</code>
uncompressed	<code>.tar</code>	<code>username.tar</code>
incremental	None	<code>username</code>

The system distinguishes each backup, even if it stores the backup information under the same name, by its filepath. The filepath includes the backup directory where the backup resides. The following example shows the layout and structure of a `/backup` directory. This directory includes daily, monthly, and weekly uncompressed backups. You can distinguish each backup type by its complete filepath. This filepath is the file's full path shown in the metafile's [backup file details](#).



The system also stores metafiles in the /backup directory and distinguished by their filepath. The system stores metafiles inside the /backup directory as username---meta, where username represents the system user's name.

Additional documentation

[Suggested documentation](#) [For cPanel users](#) [For WHM users](#) [For developers](#)

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