

4 Ways To Reduce Network Congestion Resulting From Backup Operations

Unless properly implemented, most backup approaches can rob your network of bandwidth... and create a lot of unhappy users.

There are four solid ways to reduce network congestion resulting from backup operations. Each does its part to keep the troops happy and productive.

1. Distribute backups throughout the day.

If you are running a backup and you initiate a backup across your entire network... whether servers and/or desktops... at that moment you are going to flood the network.

If, however, you can distribute the load during the day... especially in a 24X7 operation... every time an event or a change occurs... a save occurs, you're ahead of the game.

The reason is that when you act on it at that time of the load, you will never bottleneck your network... or at the least, it will be less bottlenecked.



2. Incorporate technology such as faster networks, gigabit networks, faster switches, software that utilizes network throttling whenever possible.
3. Schedule various portions of the jobs throughout the day and instead of trying to run them all at once or rapid succession.

Pick days of week that are slower than other days.

Then pick periodic times throughout the day.

Let's say you can't distribute throughout the day. But you can pick and choose, windows during the day... say between noon and 1:00, 5:00 and 6:00, 8:00 and 9:00 or whatever. These lunchtime breaks... and other normally traditionally slow times during the day... let you distribute the load. More myopically, it distributes it as opposed to planking it across the day.

4. Localize large, frequently used files.

For example, if you have offices in three different regions...and people are accessing those files readily...you don't want them accessing off of the centralized machine.

You want to bring the file into them locally...access it locally...while, at the same time, locking down the files on the other machines...so that only one person has it open at a time.

But say it's a 15 Meg file. You don't want to be drawing that across the VPN between offices.

You want to have that file reside locally and be accessed locally, but stored — when you're done with it— back at a central point.



Obviously, every situation is different. Start by getting an accurate look at your network usage patterns and user behavior. It is important to test possible solutions in your environment before you commit to rolling out a solution.



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