

# Re: OT: Hard disk mirror with Paragon on USB stick?

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  - *Date:* Wed, 17 Dec 2008 17:33:16 +0000
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Joerg <[notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> writes:

John Devereux wrote:

Joerg <[notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> writes:

[...]

Yeah, to a Linux expert probably. But when I looked at an instruction on the web on how to do a mirror archive of a Windows machine using a Knoppix CD in order to dump that back onto a new hard drive that was at least two pages of intricate command line stuff.

You can do it in one line using e.g. ntfscd. That's what I use to image laptops in their pristine state, before giving them to the user. The man page for ntfscd gives the required command line for the most common scenarios (backup, restore, to/from a local file, and to/from the network).

[...]

Thanks, John, that doesn't sound too difficult. I hope it allows to choose the password, else I'd be stuck.

The password is only used when you want to backup to a remote machine via the network, using the ssh protocol. You would also need that remote machine, with a suitable ssh server (like many linux boxes have for remote admin). This scenario is what these command line versions address:

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```
ntfsclone --save-image --output - /dev/hda1 | \\  
gzip -c | ssh host cat > backup.img.gz
```

Restore an NTFS volume from a remote host via ssh. Please note, that ssh may ask for a password!

```
ssh host cat backup.img.gz | gunzip -c | \\  
ntfsclone --restore-image --overwrite /dev/hda1 -
```

What it is doing is setting up a "pipeline" so that data goes:

```
ntfsclone <-> gzip <-> ssh client <-> network <-> ssh server <-> remote file
```

But for it to work you have to have the remote machine setup right too (e.g. with linux, with the ssh daemon running).

But if at all possible I suggest you hook up two drives in parallel, and just copy from one to the other, since it sounds like you would find it easier to configure this. Then you would use the command line:

Clone NTFS on /dev/hda1 to /dev/hdc1:

```
ntfsclone --overwrite /dev/hdc1 /dev/hda1
```

Of course you had better be sure which one is hdc1 and which one is hda1.

Not of this is particularly difficult if you are familiar with linux, but could be a time waster if you are not i'm afraid.

The other issue is whether the HD wakes up one more time. When I wanted to save one last bit of personal information (TB address book) it came back with some obscure "missing string" error.

I'm not sure how well ntfsclone copes with filesystem errors. I have only used it on intact filesystems, to image a working, setup system for later recovery. There are other more basic commands which can literally "clone" a hard disk, errors and all, such as dd.

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John Devereux

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