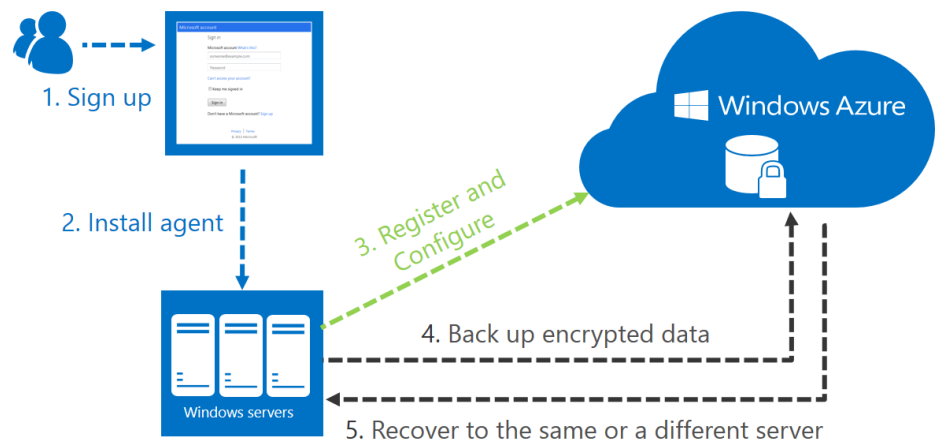**Microsoft**

Windows Azure Backup

Backup and recovery are critical tasks for any organization. Keeping data safe, however, can prove to be a complex procedure. Backup and recovery often requires the installation of additional software, training, the creation and testing of processes, and the purchasing, management, and storage of backup media, often offsite. Offsite storage can help protect media, but can also lengthen time to recovery.

Windows Azure Backup helps protect server data against loss and corruption by enabling backup to offsite cloud storage in Windows Azure. By extending Windows Server Backup and Microsoft System Center Data Protection Manager, Windows Azure Backup enables you to use familiar tools to configure, monitor, and manage backups to the cloud similarly to how you backup to local media.

Simple and reliable backup

For organizations of any size looking for cloud-based backup, Windows Azure Backup provides an easy-to-use solution that's scalable, reliable, and supported by enterprise-class cloud storage. From a single-server organization to enterprises using System Center Data Protection Manager, Windows Azure Backup easily integrates with different infrastructures, reducing the complexity of data backup and eliminating the need for additional training.

Customers can easily sign up in Windows Azure, then install the software agent and configure servers for backup. Recovery, when needed, uses the same familiar tools already in your environment.

1. Sign up
2. Install agent
3. Register and Configure
Windows Azure
4. Back up encrypted data
Windows servers
5. Recover to the same or a different server

Reliable backups start with signing up for a Windows Azure account. On the Windows Azure Management Portal, you can then select the Recovery Services option to add the Windows Azure Backup service to your account.

Windows Azure Backup benefits:

Reliable offsite data protection

Windows Azure Backup encrypts and protects your backups in offsite cloud storage with Windows Azure, adding a layer of protection against data loss or disaster.

- **Convenient offsite protection:** Windows Azure Backup provides convenient, automated offsite data protection — away from your premises — reducing the need to secure and protect onsite or offsite backup media.
- **Safe data:** Data stored in Windows Azure is geo-replicated among Windows Azure datacenters, for additional protection.
- **Encrypted backups:** Windows Azure Backup encrypts your data before it leaves your premises. Your data remains encrypted in Windows Azure — only you have the key.

A simple integrated solution

Because Windows Azure Backup integrates with backup tools in Windows Server or System Center Data Protection Manager, you can easily manage cloud backups using familiar tools and configure, monitor, and recover backups across local disk and cloud storage.

- **Familiar interface:** Small businesses protecting a single server or a few servers can use the familiar in-box Windows Server Backup tool to manually protect data or set a regular, automated schedule. Larger organizations with System Center 2012 or later can use the Data Protection Manager component to centrally manage backups across multiple servers.
- **Windows Azure integration:** Windows Azure Backup fully integrates with the Azure Management Portal for sign-up, billing, and management.

Efficient backup and recovery

Windows Azure Backup minimizes network bandwidth use, provides flexible data retention policies, and provides a cost-effective data protection solution.

- **Efficient use of bandwidth and storage:** Windows Azure Backup conserves WAN bandwidth and Windows Azure storage by sending only changes to files with incremental backups.
- **Flexibility in recovery:** Incremental backups allow point-in-time recovery of multiple versions of the data. Plus, you can recover just what you need with file-level recovery.
- **Flexible configuration:** Configurable data retention policies, data compression, and data transfer throttling provide both flexible backup policies and backup efficiency.
- **Cost-effective:** Windows Azure Backup reduces the need for local storage and offsite media management, while offering simple storage-based pricing with no per-server or data transfer fees.

Pricing

Windows Azure Backup charges by the amount of data stored in the backup service. Businesses have two options, a Pay-As-You-Go Plan or a fixed-length 6- or 12-month plan. Both plans provide 5GB free. Costs per GB after the first 5GB vary by plan. Refer to your local Windows Azure site for specific plan prices. www.windowsazure.com/en-us/pricing/details/backup/

Resources

Windows Azure Recovery Services
www.windowsazure.com/en-us/home/features/recovery-services/

Sign up today

To use Windows Azure Backup, you need a Windows Azure account and recent versions of Windows Server and/or System Center. To create an account, visit www.windowsazure.com