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What is a Backup Good For?

Jörg Brühe

http://www.fromdual.com
Personal Info

Working on SQL DBMS implementation, build and support since 1983:

- MySQL Build Team (2004 – 2012)
- DBA at a property platform (2013 – 2014)
- MySQL Support Engineer (2014 – …)
- Interest in Backup + Archiver integration
Why Backup?

Nobody wants a Backup ...

... but sometimes they demand Recovery
Backup Strategy

- Determine your worst-case recovery needs
- How much does your data change?
- Can you repeat the changes (data available)?
- Do you need point-in-time recovery?
- Get enough backup space on a separate system, avoid a single point of failure.

- KISS = Keep It Simple, Stupid!
Try your Backup

- Get a separate location (machine) for recovery tests
- Test your recovery = Verify that backup is ok
- Automate it all (cron job)

=> Be sure your recovery will work.
Get More From Your Backup

Restore is complete, consistent, and current:

Do you need reports? With high-load SQL?

- Off-load report generation from production to the recovery machine.
Use the Power of SQL

Restore is available in a running MySQL instance:

Do your developers need test data?

Are production data confidential? (company secret, data privacy law)

- Run anonymization on the recovery machine:
  name -> 'John Doe', phone -> '123 - 456 789',
  mail -> concat(md5(mail),'@provider.com'), ...

- mysqldump | gzip > /nfs/dev-files/DATTIME
Summary

- You will run backups, anyways.
- Verify them by restoring!
- Invest in automation!
- Use the recovery test to off-load tasks from production, esp. high load!
- Protect your secrets -> Anonymize test data!
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

Objections?