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Rsync Backup With Windows Step By Step With Video Instructions

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You can backup your documents to the Internet cheaply and easily using Rsync backup.

In this tutorial I show you how to backup documents automatically using the windows scheduler so that your backup startegy is always on and you always have a backup.

Rsync , for those of you who don't know, is one of the best and especially quickest ways to backup your documents to the Internet. Rsync on only backups specific files that have been changed or that are new. Futhermore when updating a file rsync only sends the changed portion of the file thereby minimizing traffic and making a faster backup.

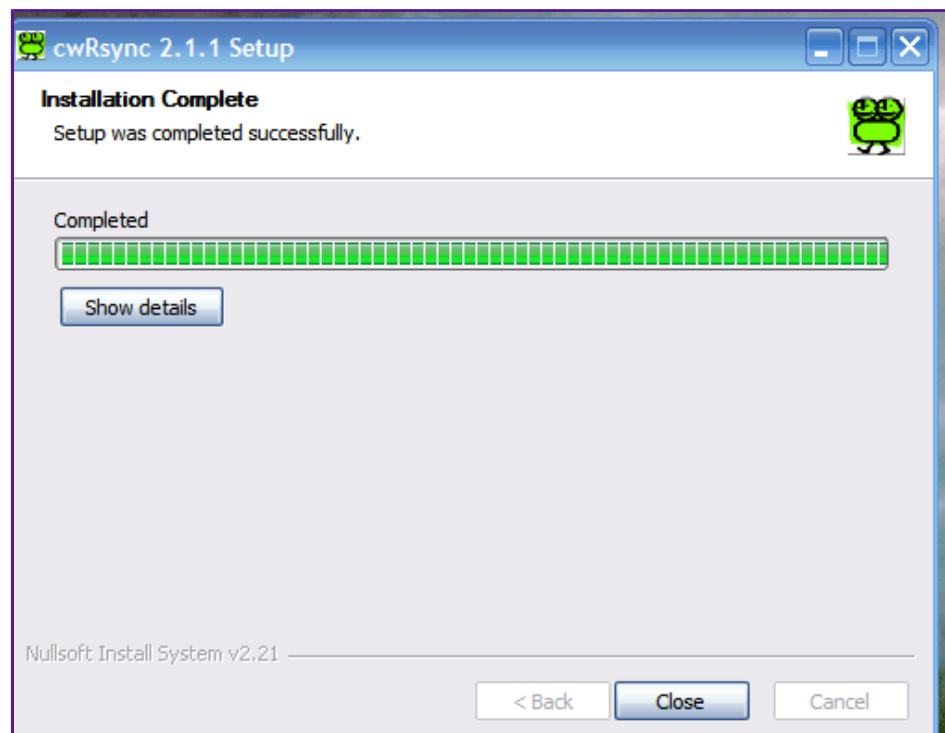
Disclaimer: Many webhosts don't like you backing up all your personal documents to their servers and normally it is typically in terms of service. If you are backing up documents regarding your Internet business then its is a gray area. So I suggest you do not backup your whole mp3 collection for example.

You can read the tutorial, download the pdf or maybe easier just watch the video.

To get started you will need a program called cwrsync.

[Right click here and download cwrsync from sourceforge](#)

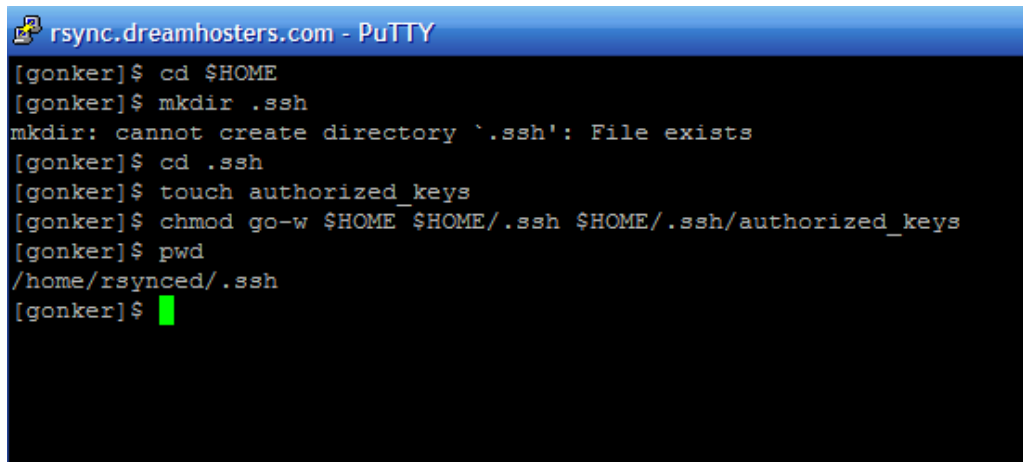
Now install cwRsync (screenshot from install)



Server Configuration

Now lets get the server ready to work with cwRsync. I am using a server here on Dreamhost as an example. Using an SSH client connect to your server and run these commands:

```
cd $HOME
mkdir .ssh
cd .ssh
touch authorized_keys
chmod go-w $HOME $HOME/.ssh $HOME/.ssh/authorized_keys
pwd
```



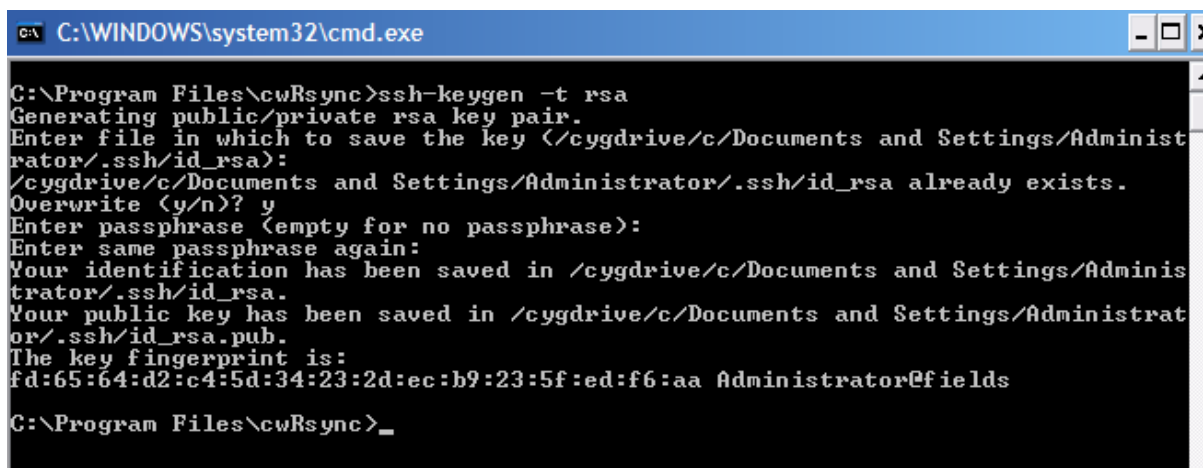
```
rsync.dreamhosters.com - PuTTY
[gonker]$ cd $HOME
[gonker]$ mkdir .ssh
mkdir: cannot create directory `'.ssh': File exists
[gonker]$ cd .ssh
[gonker]$ touch authorized_keys
[gonker]$ chmod go-w $HOME $HOME/.ssh $HOME/.ssh/authorized_keys
[gonker]$ pwd
/home/rsynced/.ssh
[gonker]$
```

Be sure to write down or remember what pwd returns in this case: /home/rsynced/.ssh

Our server is now configured and ready now we need to setup our local computer.

Local Computer Configuration

On your local computer go the cwRsync installation directory and using the dos prompt type:
ssh-keygen -t rsa (hit return several times)



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Program Files\cwRsync>ssh-keygen -t rsa
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (C:\cygdrive/c/Documents and Settings/Administrator/.ssh/id_rsa):
C:\cygdrive/c/Documents and Settings/Administrator/.ssh/id_rsa already exists.
Overwrite (y/n)? y
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in C:\cygdrive/c/Documents and Settings/Administrator/.ssh/id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in C:\cygdrive/c/Documents and Settings/Administrator/.ssh/id_rsa.pub.
The key fingerprint is:
fd:65:64:d2:c4:5d:34:23:2d:ec:b9:23:5f:ed:f6:aa Administrator@fields
C:\Program Files\cwRsync>_
```

Now using the information from pwd command in the previous section and your servername change this command so that it works for you. Change the text in <angle brackets> and modify /home/rsynced/ so that it refers to your home directory.

```
rsync -avrz --progress "/cygdrive/c/Documents and Settings/Administrator/.ssh/id_rsa.pub"
```

```
<username>@<yourserver.dreamhosters.com>:/home/rsynced/.ssh/authorized_keys
```

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Program Files\cwRsync>rsync -avrz --progress "/cygdrive/c/Documents and Settings/Administrator/.ssh/id_rsa.pub" rsynced@rsync.dreamhosters.com:/home/rsynced/.ssh/authorized_keys
The authenticity of host 'rsync.dreamhosters.com (208.97.181.42)' can't be established.
RSA key fingerprint is 90:fe:0c:9c:0e:04:2f:12:a9:37:18:4c:ae:78:57:0f.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no)? yes
Warning: Permanently added 'rsync.dreamhosters.com' (RSA) to the list of known hosts.
rsynced@rsync.dreamhosters.com's password:
building file list ...
1 file to consider
id_rsa.pub
 402 100%  0.00kB/s  0:00:00 <xfer#1, to-check=0/1>
sent 473 bytes received 48 bytes  21.27 bytes/sec
total size is 402 speedup is 0.77
C:\Program Files\cwRsync>
```

Rsync Without A Password

Now rsync should be working automatically without a password.

To verify - try doing the same command again and you should see no password.

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Program Files\cwRsync>rsync -avrz --progress "/cygdrive/c/Documents and Settings/Administrator/.ssh/id_rsa.pub" rsynced@rsync.dreamhosters.com:/home/rsynced/.ssh/authorized_keys
building file list ...
1 file to consider
sent 92 bytes received 20 bytes  20.36 bytes/sec
total size is 402 speedup is 3.59
C:\Program Files\cwRsync>_
```

Now lets try backing up a folder - in this example the lame mp3 encoder located in c:\lame

Here is the command: (you should see how to modify if your own use now)

```
rsync -avrz --progress "/cygdrive/c/lame" rsynced@rsync.dreamhosters.com:/home/rsynced/rsync.dreamhosters.com
```

```

C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe
C:\Program Files\cwRsync>rsync -avrz --progress "/cygdrive/c/lame" r
c.dreamhosters.com:/home/rsynced/rsync.dreamhosters.com
building file list ...
17 files to consider
lame/
lame/LameACM.inf
 3133 100%    0.00kB/s    0:00:00 <xfer#1, to-check=15/17>
lame/basic.html
 4764 100%    4.54MB/s    0:00:00 <xfer#2, to-check=14/17>
lame/contributors.html
 3724 100%    1.78MB/s    0:00:00 <xfer#3, to-check=13/17>
lame/examples.html
 1658 100%    539.71kB/s  0:00:00 <xfer#4, to-check=12/17>
lame/history.html
 75148 100%   5.51MB/s    0:00:00 <xfer#5, to-check=11/17>
lame/id3.html
 7416 100%   517.30kB/s  0:00:00 <xfer#6, to-check=10/17>
lame/index.html
 2164 100%   132.08kB/s  0:00:00 <xfer#7, to-check=9/17>
lame/lame.css
 708 100%    40.67kB/s   0:00:00 <xfer#8, to-check=8/17>
lame/lame.exe
187904 100%   43.23kB/s   0:00:04 <xfer#9, to-check=7/17>
lame/lameACM.acm
200192 100%   22.20kB/s   0:00:08 <xfer#10, to-check=6/17>
lame/lame_acm.xml
 414 100%    67.38kB/s   0:00:00 <xfer#11, to-check=5/17>
lame/lame_enc.dll
166912 100%   14.09kB/s   0:00:09 <xfer#12, to-check=4/17>
lame/modes.html
 2303 100%    1.10MB/s    0:00:00 <xfer#13, to-check=3/17>
lame/node6.html
 6835 100%    1.63MB/s    0:00:00 <xfer#14, to-check=2/17>
lame/presets.html
 3035 100%   592.77kB/s  0:00:00 <xfer#15, to-check=1/17>
lame/switchs.html
 48184 100%   5.74MB/s    0:00:00 <xfer#16, to-check=0/17>

sent 587774 bytes  received 378 bytes  14172.34 bytes/sec
total size is 714494  speedup is 1.21

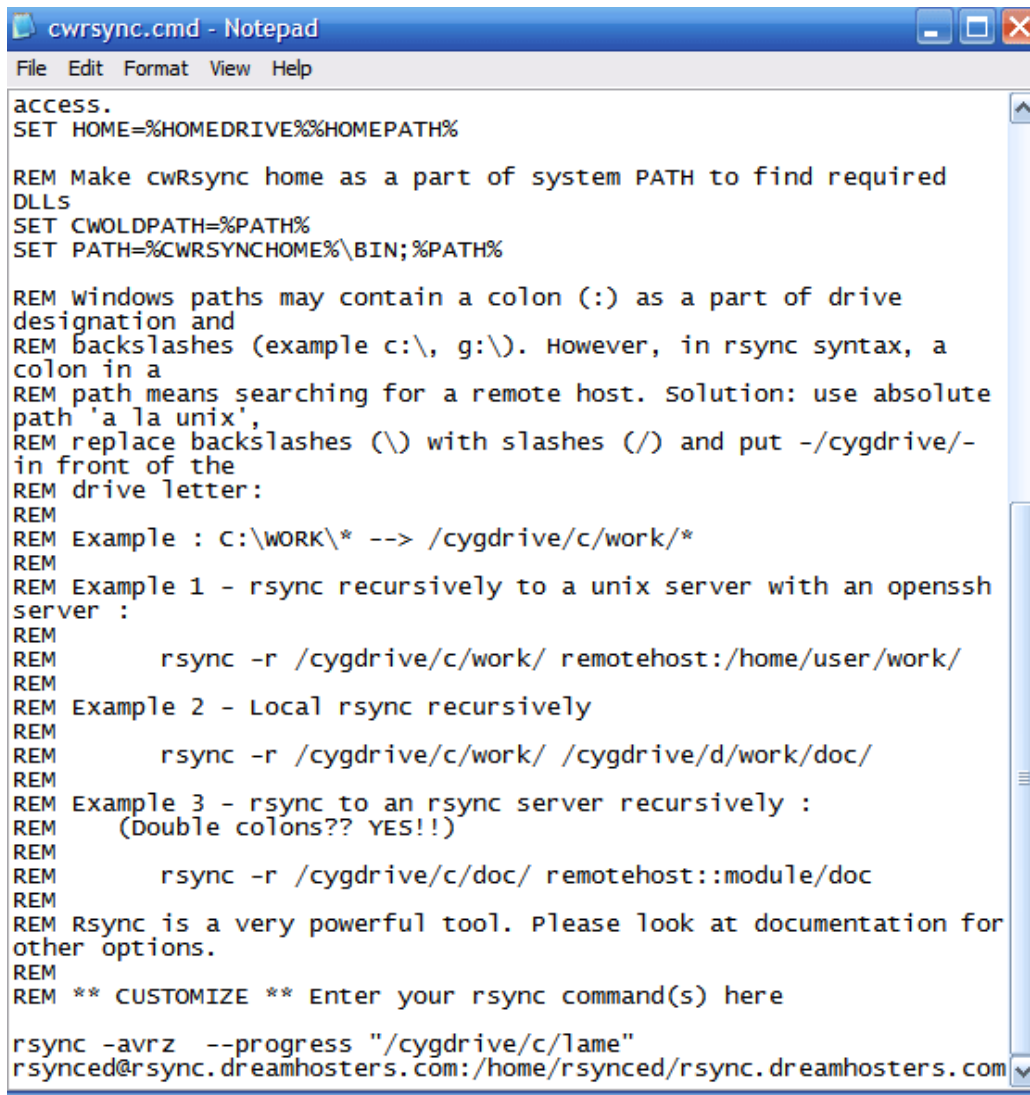
C:\Program Files\cwRsync>

```

Automating Daily Backups

Now to automate this backup so that it happens daily in windows.

First, lets modify the script that comes with cwrsync. Notice how I just follow their instructions and put the command at the end.



```
access.
SET HOME=%HOMEDRIVE%%HOMEPATH%

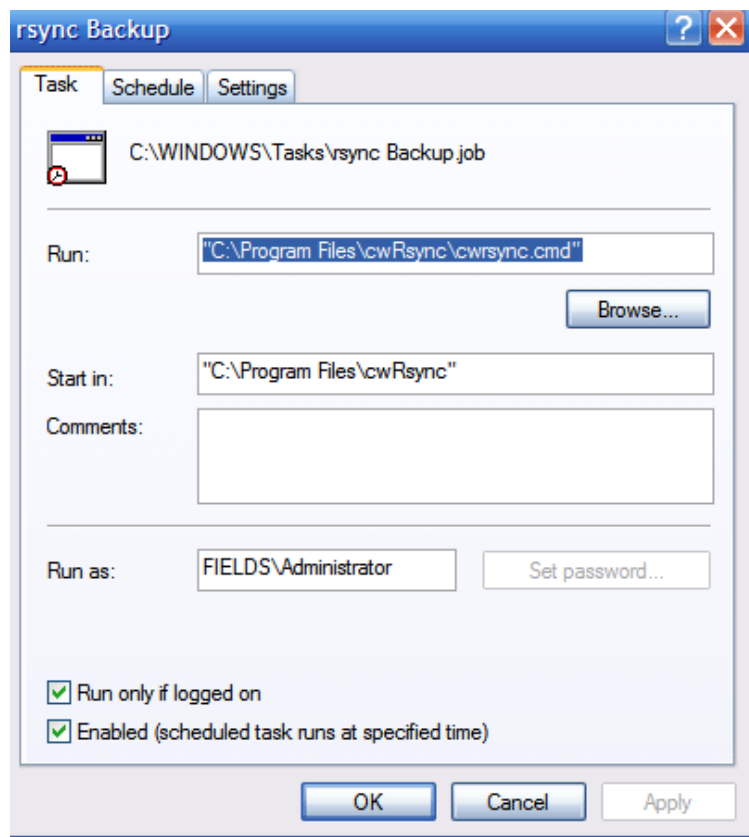
REM Make cwrsrc home as a part of system PATH to find required
DLLS
SET CWOLDPATH=%PATH%
SET PATH=%CWRSSYNCHOME%\BIN;%PATH%

REM windows paths may contain a colon (:) as a part of drive
designation and
REM backslashes (example c:\, g:\). However, in rsync syntax, a
colon in a
REM path means searching for a remote host. solution: use absolute
path 'a la unix',
REM replace backslashes (\) with slashes (/) and put -/cygdrive/-
in front of the
REM drive letter:
REM
REM Example : C:\WORK\* --> /cygdrive/c/work/*
REM
REM Example 1 - rsync recursively to a unix server with an openssh
server :
REM
REM     rsync -r /cygdrive/c/work/ remotehost:/home/user/work/
REM
REM Example 2 - Local rsync recursively
REM
REM     rsync -r /cygdrive/c/work/ /cygdrive/d/work/doc/
REM
REM Example 3 - rsync to an rsync server recursively :
REM (Double colons?? YES!!)
REM
REM     rsync -r /cygdrive/c/doc/ remotehost::module/doc
REM
REM Rsync is a very powerful tool. Please look at documentation for
other options.
REM
REM ** CUSTOMIZE ** Enter your rsync command(s) here

rsync -avrz --progress "/cygdrive/c/lame"
rsynced@rsync.dreamhosters.com:/home/rsynced/rsync.dreamhosters.com
```

Second lets get windows task scheduler to run every day .

Under Accessories > System Tools in Windows there is a Schedule Tasks program. Open this folder and start a new task.



Note: you will need to schedule this as the same user who created the RSA key.

In my case, you would need to schedule this as Administrator.

Remember your initial backup will take a long time but subsequent backups will be rapid as only the changes in a file are sent to the file server.

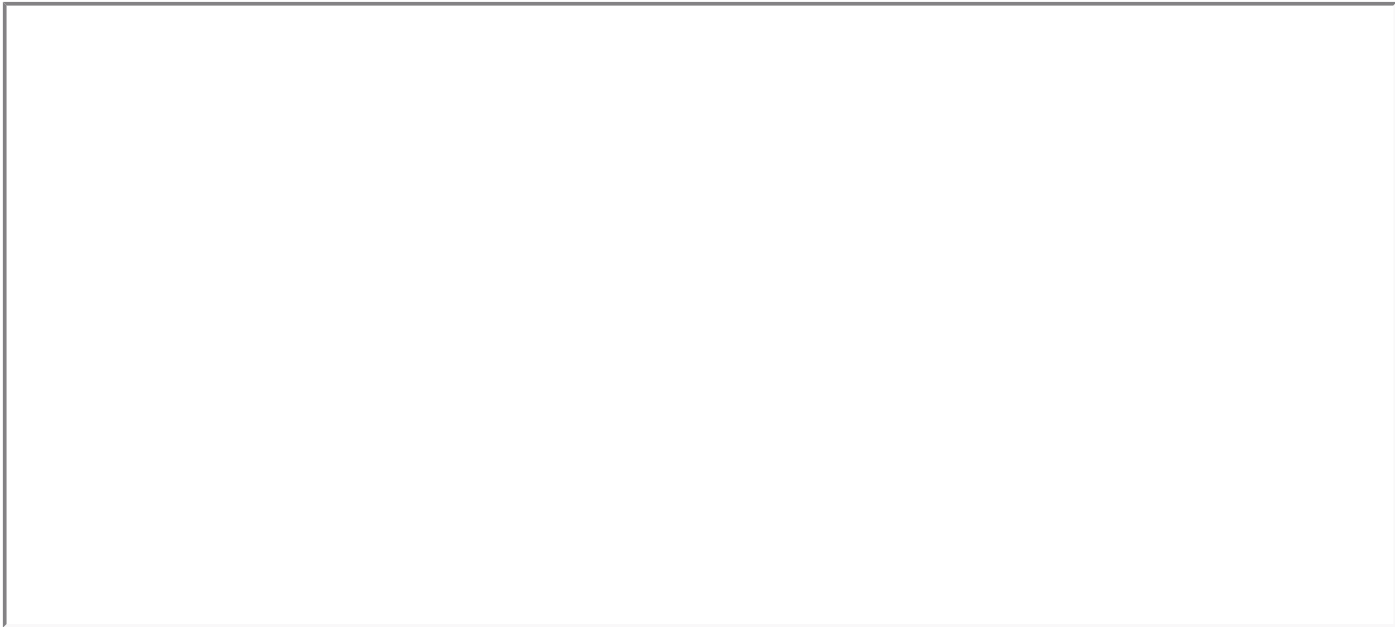
I live in Chile and have a slow internet connection yet I back up everything to dreamhost.

The progress switch `-progress` will show you that it is actually working - the transfer rate and all that

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