

HP Data Protector Notebook Extension

Data sheet



HP Data Protector software Notebook Extension is a new solution that extends formal backup policies to notebook and desktop PCs. The solution provides continuous and automated protection of information stored locally—even when working offline. Benefits include reduced risk of information loss, lower operational cost, and improved productivity.

These days, vast amounts of data are being stored outside corporate networks on PC hard drives. This makes organizations vulnerable to a range of threat scenarios if their backup policies do not cover the client environment. Data loss is an inevitable outcome of incidents such as hard drive failures and accidental file deletions. Although recovery attempts may be largely successful, that success comes at a very high price—with a staggering impact on both IT costs and user productivity reported by many organizations. One study suggests that hard drive-related failures cause 70 percent of data loss incidents with each costing more than US\$2900 on average to resolve.¹ In extreme cases where data cannot be recovered, the organization risks breaches to legal compliance, damage to competitive positioning, and falling customer service standards.

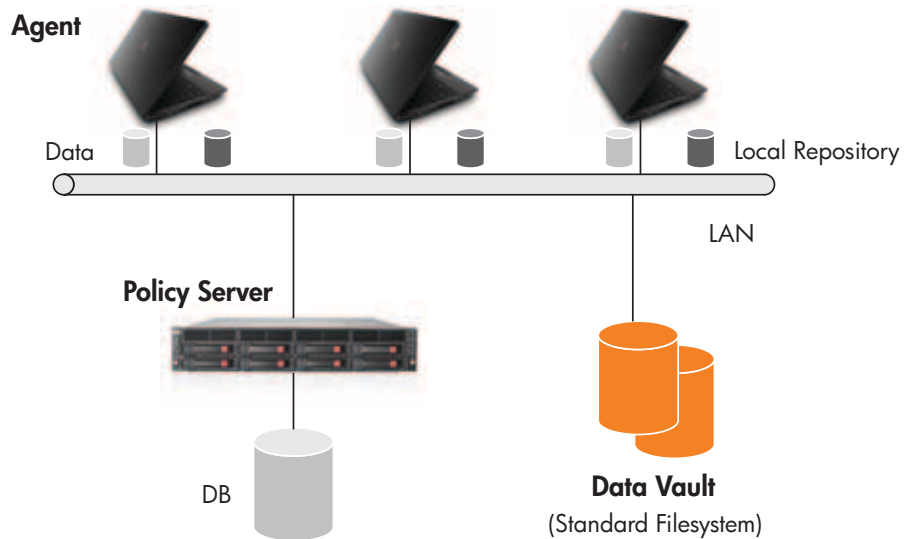
¹ "Data loss and hard drive failure: understanding the causes and costs", David Smith and Michael Williams, Pepperdine University, 2007

Two factors are responsible for the situation in which data lies unprotected on client hard drives rather than securely backed up on the network:

- **The mobility explosion:** The numbers of staff working remotely from networks is increasing, with 25 percent now a typical figure. Shipments of notebooks to the business community have, for the first time, overtaken those of traditional desktop PCs. The obvious risk to information held on client systems—especially notebooks—comes from damage, theft, and failure, and is exacerbated by lengthy periods between network connectivity.
- **Lack of policy enforcement:** Procedures that make remote users responsible for uploading modified files from notebook to network may look efficient, but rarely deliver results. The consequence is that a great deal of valuable information gets "stranded" on client hard disks because backup just doesn't happen or files are lost due to accidental deletion. Additionally, desk-based users often access and save files to local storage despite network proximity and ease of access.



Figure 1: HP Data Protector Notebook Extension Architecture



HP Data Protector software Notebook Extension (DPNE) is a flexible solution that extends backup policies to the client environment to reduce the risk of data loss caused by the mobility explosion and the lack of effective client backup procedures. DPNE provides continuous, transparent, and automated protection for information that is created locally but not saved on the corporate network. It establishes central policies that define backup rules, retention times, and user privileges. The ethos of this new solution can be summarized as:

- **Always:** Backups that are transparent, continuous, and independent of fixed schedules
- **Everywhere:** Backups that are made at office, home, airport, or coffee shop—wherever the client happens to be
- **Immediate:** Backups that occur the instant that files are changed, created, or received

Solution overview

The solution comprises three elements. In each client, an agent establishes a local storage area to hold active files until connection to the network occurs. When this is detected, files are then automatically transferred for backup to a dedicated repository, or Data Vault, that is specific to individual clients. The overall system management is administered by a central Policy Server. With these elements in place, every client is continuously backed up to provide information integrity. As a result, productivity is maintained across the organization because users can recover files rapidly without requiring IT assistance.

Features

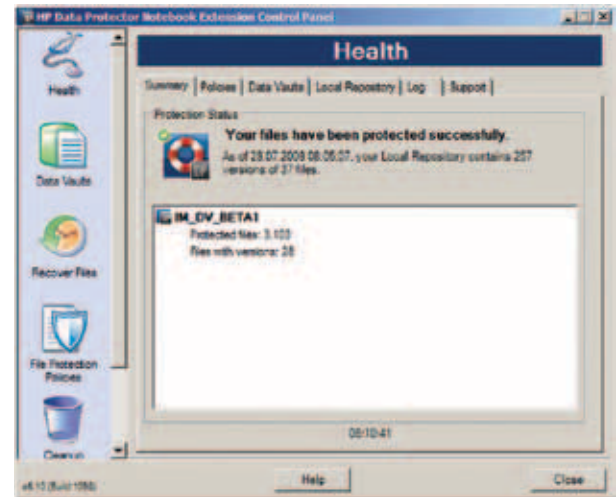
The primary features of HP Data Protector software Notebook Extension are simple to deploy, set up, administer, and operate. The centrally managed policies are rolled-out to all clients and are transparent to users while providing continuous protection in virtually all scenarios.

- **Clear policy definition:** The solution allows administrators to establish default settings for the file types to be protected, minimum retention times, and—for each file type—define one of the two methods of protection. These rules are non-negotiable and are automatically enforced on all the client agents when they are deployed and when policies change (see Figure 2).
- **User customization:** Users can enhance the policies established by the administrator, but never breach the minimum requirements. Certain users can be granted privileges so that they can, for example, add file types to the backup operation. This feature can be useful, for instance, when it is necessary to protect files in .jpeg or MP3 formats that would otherwise be prohibited.
- **Continuous, automated backup:** An agent is installed on each client to implement the policies regarding the applications and file types supported, minimum retention times, and method of protection offered. Every time that a relevant file is modified, downloaded, or created, it is immediately captured, de-duplicated, encrypted, and transferred to the dedicated Data Vault. The user can easily check backup status to confirm that files are protected (see Figure 3).

Figure 2: File protection policy screen



Figure 3: File backup status screen



- **Offline protection:** One of the most significant features is to capture and back up changes made to relevant file types, even when working offline. This is enabled by creating a local repository on the client that acts as a temporary store pending transfer to the network Data Vault. The cache maintains full backup facilities even after the transfer happened to the Data Vault. It can also be accessed to restore files when required.
- **Bandwidth-efficient and secure:** To improve bandwidth efficiency, data is optimized in two ways. First, changes to files are compared with previous versions and only the differences (or deltas) are saved. This is also known as deduplication. Secondly, compression techniques are used to reduce the size of files transferred. To enhance security, all data is encrypted with specific configurations defined by the system administrator during set-up.
- **Flexible file protection:** Two types of file protection are offered by the solution to suit both small and large files. During set-up, the administrator defines which type is allocated to the selected applications:
 - **Continuous:** Standard files such as Microsoft® Word® or PowerPoint® are saved actively by copying into the local cache where they are compared with previous versions. After deduplication, only the changes (deltas) are transferred to the Data Vault and one version is kept in the local repository.
 - **Open:** Larger files (such as PST email files) are also copied into the local repository at the initial copy, but are then split into smaller chunks for transfer to the Data Vault. When write cycles are not detected for a period, the entire file is snapped and the changed blocks since the last snap are copied to the local repository to be transferred to the Data Vault. Open files are not kept in the local repository, and as such, can only be restored from the central Data Vault.
- **Rapid recovery:** The solution allows users to recover rapidly from lost, damaged, or deleted files, from either local or network repositories. This overcomes the effects of, for instance, accidental file deletions or overwrites, hard-drive failure, and even notebook theft. A single mouse-click gives the user the ability to simply download the latest version of specific files or, if required, the entire contents of the Data Vault. Because users can recover files rapidly and without IT assistance, their productivity is not affected and they can return to priority tasks quickly.
- **Quota management:** Data Vaults are assigned to every client, defining an area and size of network storage to use as the backup repository. Routine cleansing and retirement of old data is scheduled to monitor the expansion in Data Vault capacity.

Simple and low cost

The solution is simple to administer and leverages existing investments for high cost-effectiveness. Agents in the client-systems allow users to restore their own files and directories from dedicated Data Vaults without needing the assistance of busy IT staff. File recovery is achieved by right-clicking the file or directory, and selecting from the pop-up menu. Licensing is also straight-forward, with one license for each client protected at a one-off fee. The solution does not require any special hardware assets and the additional bandwidth needed for file backup is kept low by applying deduplication and compression techniques.

Continuous and transparent

Backup of selected files happens as soon as they are modified, created, or downloaded. This is a continuous process that needs no user intervention and avoids the potential problems of voluntary policies where users just "opt out." The solution offers extensive protection for most types of business files and allows access during backup. The user is completely unaware of the solution, and there is no disruption to client performance. Backup occurs even without network connectivity by using limited local disk space.

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