

Backups

Managing backups for PVE or a Linux server

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Create a Backup Job (PVE)

Before You Start

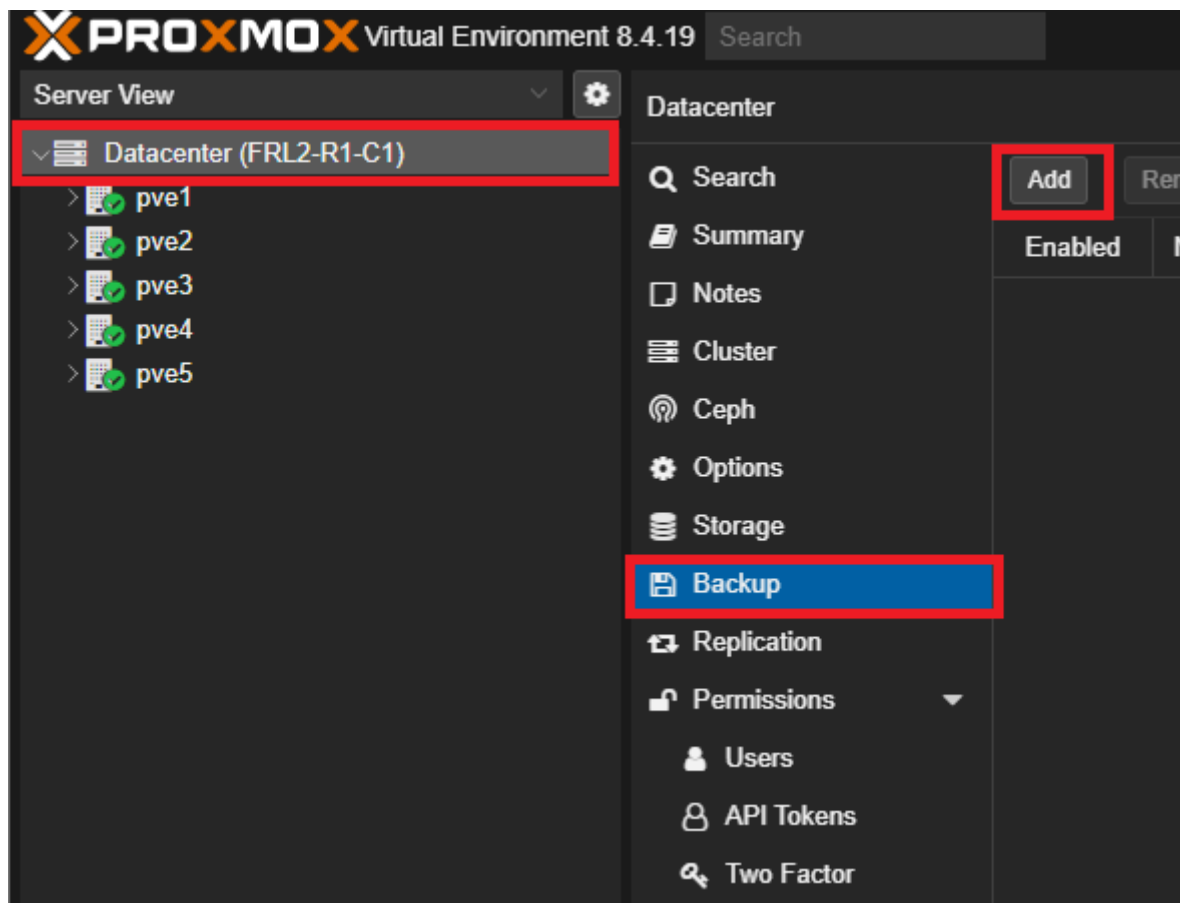
Proxmox Virtual Environment Root/Admin access on web page

Onboarding email with PBS hostname, encryption key, fingerprint, username and password

Steps

If you connected your backup server using the installation script, then you do not need to setup a job unless you would like more than one.

First, login to your Proxmox VE and go to Datacenter > Backup and hit Add.



Under General, choose which nodes you'd like to backup from, the schedule the job should run and which emails the job sends notifications to and any job comments. You can specify which virtual machines/containers get backed up to the Proxmox Backup Server, but you must select at least one to proceed.

Create: Backup Job

General

Retention

Note Template

Advanced

Node:

-- All --

Storage:

dc2-hdd-1

Schedule:

Editable

Selection mode:

Include selected VMs

Notification mode:

Default (Auto)

Send email to:

Send email:

Always

Compression:

ZSTD (fast and good)

Mode:

Snapshot

Enable:

☒

Job Comment:

☐	ID ↑	Node	Status	Name	Type
☐	100	pve1	stopped	gateway.dev.tac.global	Virtual Machine
☐	101	pve2	running	m.dev.tac.global	Virtual Machine
☐	102	pve1	running	radsecproxy.dev.tac.global	LXC Container
☐	103	pve5	running	joypark-akron.unifi	Virtual Machine
☐	104	pve5	running	patterson-park-akron.unifi	Virtual Machine
☐	105	pve4	running	netbox.summitconnects.tac.global	LXC Container
☐	106	pve5	running	northwest-community-akron.unifi	Virtual Machine
☐	107	pve5	running	lawton-akron.unifi	Virtual Machine
☐	108	pve5	running	mason-akron.unifi	Virtual Machine
☐	109	pve5	running	kenmore-community-akron.unifi	Virtual Machine
☐	110	pve5	running	balch-community-akron.unifi	Virtual Machine

Help

Create

Under Retention, you can determine how long backups are kept. The rules stack so backups can be kept if multiple rules are true at once. If you need a guide for retention policies, go [here](#).

The screenshot shows the 'Create: Backup Job' dialog with the 'Retention' tab selected. The dialog has a title bar with a close button. Below the title bar are four tabs: 'General', 'Retention' (highlighted), 'Note Template', and 'Advanced'. In the 'Retention' section, there is a checkbox labeled 'Keep all backups' which is unchecked. Below this are six dropdown menus arranged in two columns: 'Keep Last', 'Keep Daily', 'Keep Monthly' on the left, and 'Keep Hourly', 'Keep Weekly', 'Keep Yearly' on the right. A yellow warning banner at the bottom of the retention section states: 'Without any keep option, the storage's configuration or node's vzdump.conf is used as fallback'. At the bottom of the dialog are two buttons: a 'Help' button with a question mark icon and a 'Create' button.

Under Node Template, you can specify notes for each backup. As seen below, you can use template variables to differentiate between each backup.

The screenshot shows the 'Create: Backup Job' dialog with the 'Note Template' tab selected. The dialog has the same title bar and tabs as the previous screenshot. In the 'Note Template' section, there is a text area labeled 'Backup Notes:' containing the template variable '{{guestname}}'. Below the text area, there is explanatory text: 'The notes are added to each backup created by this job.' and 'Possible template variables are: {{cluster}}, {{guestname}}, {{node}}, {{vmid}}'. At the bottom right of the dialog is a 'Create' button.

Once finished, hit create. Your backup job will run on the schedule chosen and all success/failure notifications will be sent to the email specified.

Create a Backup Job (Linux)

Before You Start

Proxmox Backup Client Installed ([Instructions to Install Proxmox Backup Client](#))

Onboarding email with PBS hostname, encryption key, fingerprint, username and password

Steps

Login to the PBS server to save your credentials for this session. Shared users, the datastore is the same as your username and dedicated users, the datastore is named zpool1.

```
proxmox-backup-client login --repository [username]@pbs@[server]:[datastore]
```

Once entered, you'll be asked for your password.

The commands to run backups are as follows:

Backup Entire System

```
proxmox-backup-client backup root.pxar:/ --repository [username]@pbs@[server]:[datastore]
```

Backup Specific Paths

```
proxmox-backup-client backup root.pxar:[path/to/backup] \  
--repository [username]@pbs@[server]:[datastore]  
--keyfile /path/to/encryption/file.key
```

To run as a scheduled job, you can run the commands as a scheduled cron job. If you would like to exclude any files from being backed up, use the --exclude tag to specify any paths or files.

To confirm the backups were sent, run the following command:

```
proxmox-backup-client snapshot list --repository [username]@pbs@[server]:[datastore]
```

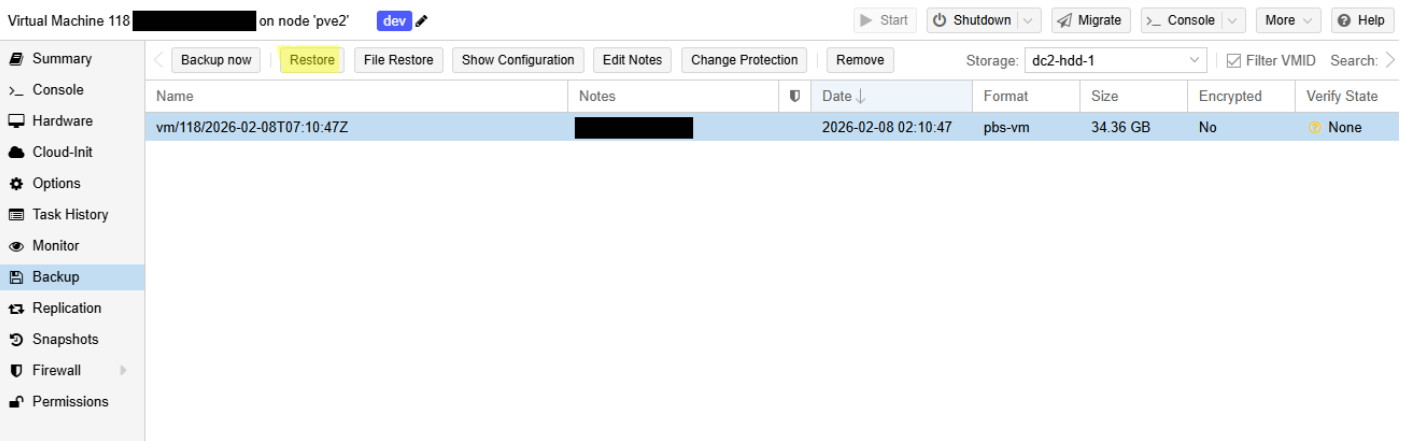
Restoring Your Backups

Restoring a Backup to Proxmox VE

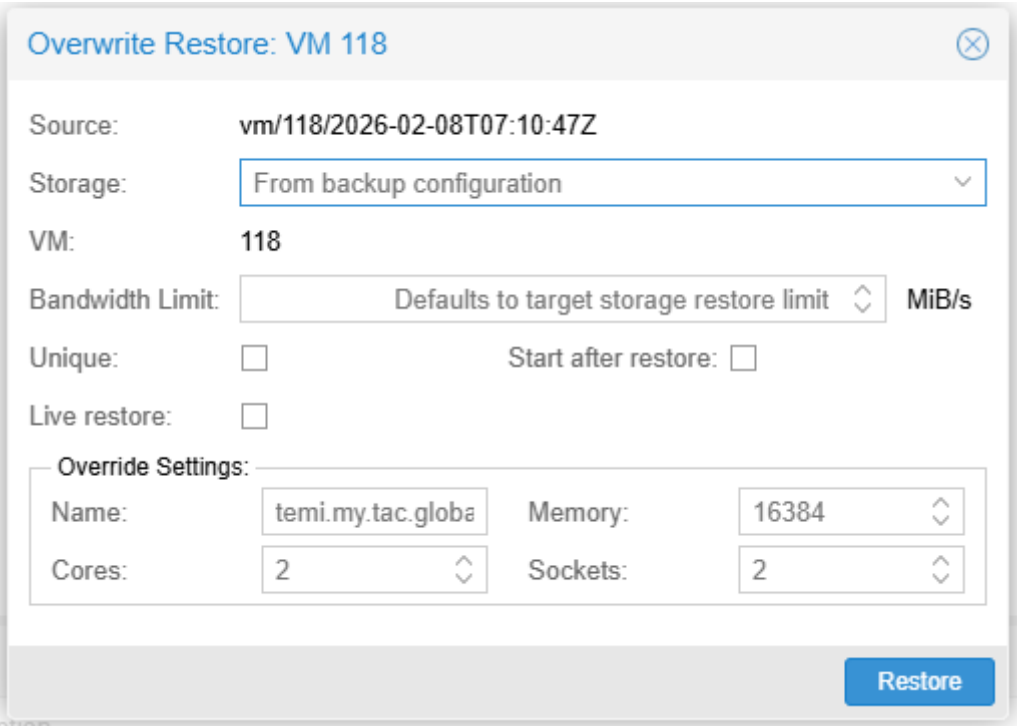
With Proxmox VE, you can restore a full machine/container or specific files on a machine/container. Both methods are listed below.

Full Disk Restore

To restore an entire virtual machine or container, select Restore.

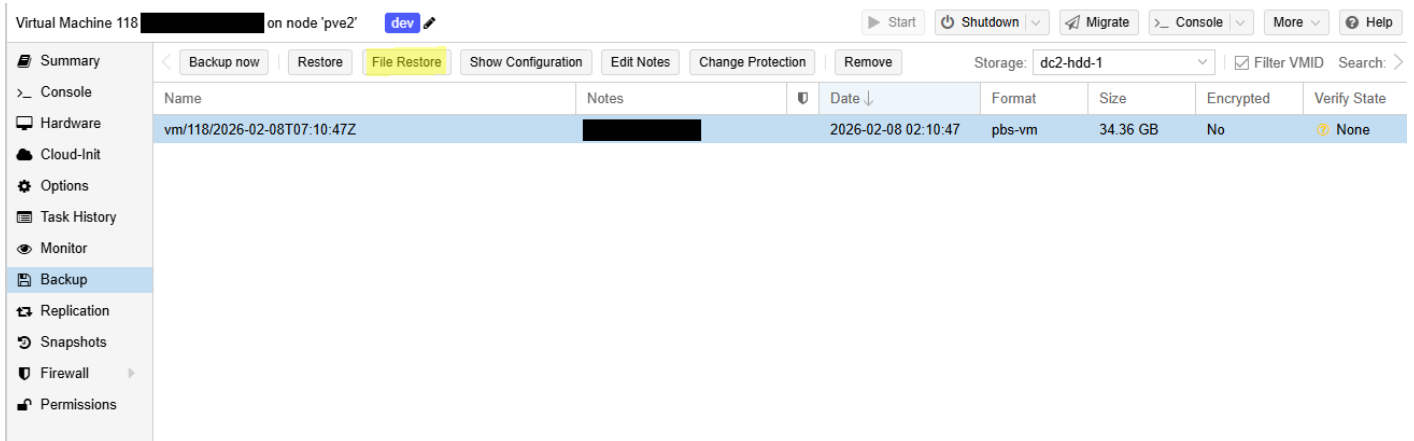


You will be prompted with the following. If there is a virtual machine or container with the same ID it will be overwritten once you select Restore.

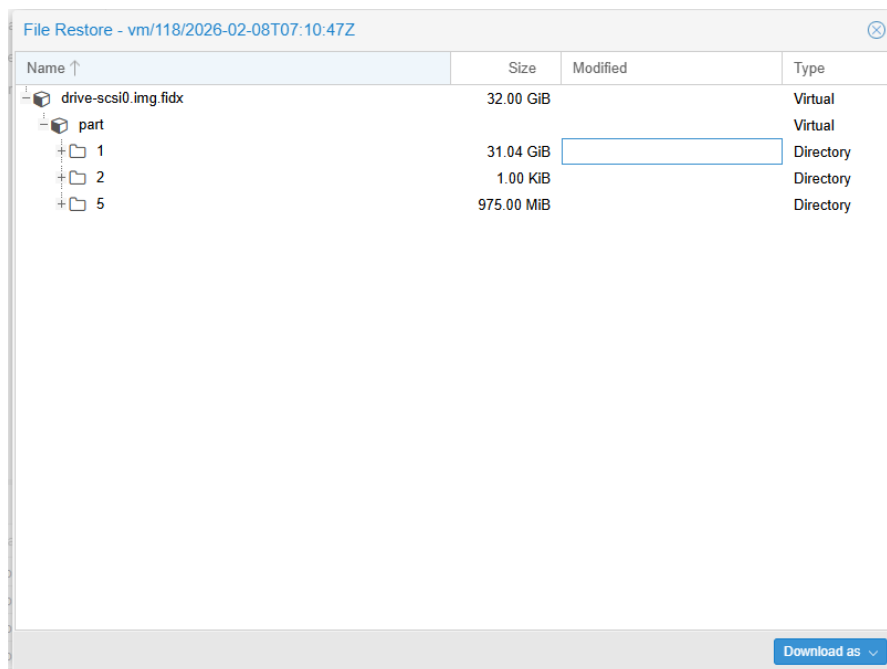


File Restore

To restore a file, select the virtual machine or container you would like and select the Backup tab.
Select File Restore.



Under the backup archive, please select the file(s) you would like to restore. Select Download.



Restore a Backup to a Linux Server

First, ensure that you have the encryption key file ready to go. If you have forgotten it, please check your onboarding email or the dashboard to recover your key.

To connect to the backup server repository, login with the following command. You will be prompted to enter your password.

```
proxmox-backup-client login --repository [username]@pbs@[server]:[datastore]
```

Once you have successfully logged in, run the following command to see your backup snapshots.

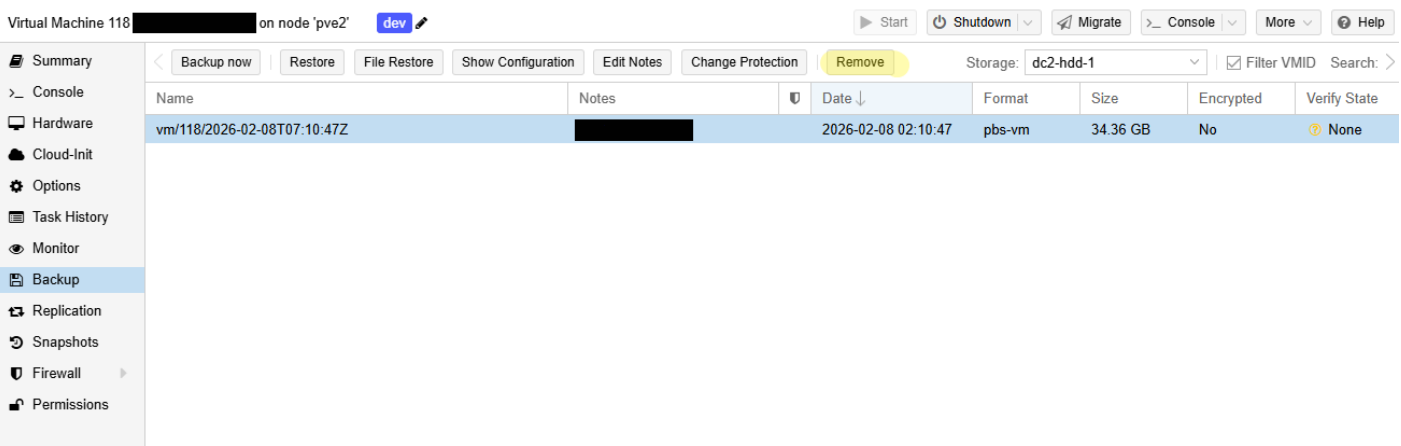
```
proxmox-backup-client snapshot list
```

To restore your selected files you can use the following command

```
proxmox-backup-client restore [host/example/2026-01-30T23:06:35Z] index.json --repository ""  
--keyfile /path/to/keyfile
```

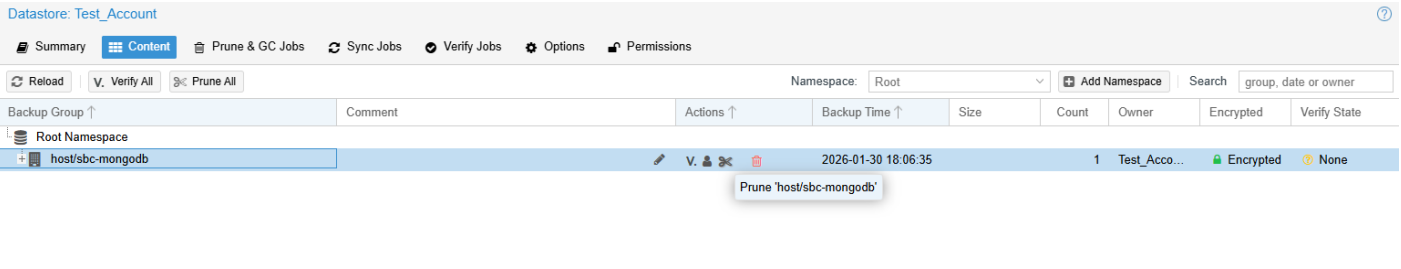
How to Remove Backups

To remove backups from Proxmox VE, navigate to the virtual machine or container you would like to remove. Once you are there, go to the backup tab. You should see the list of backups for your vm.

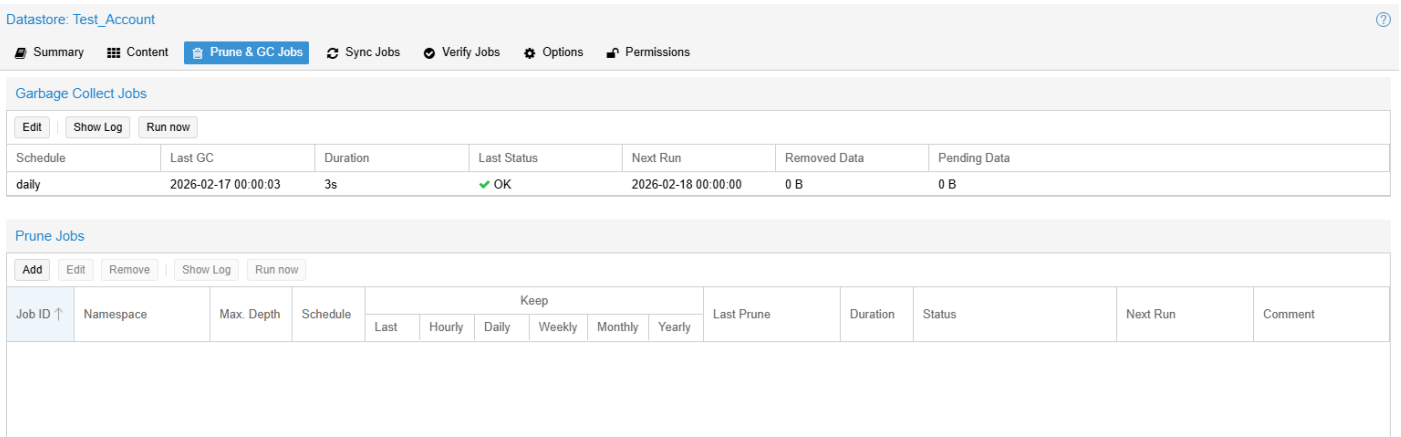


Select the backup you would like to remove and select the remove button.

Pruning allows you to specify which backup snapshots you want to keep and which ones you'd like to remove. To prune a single backup, within your Proxmox backup server account's datastore navigate to the snapshot you'd like to prune. Pruning keeps your backups in a recycle bin, to truly remove it you will have to run garbage collection.



You can schedule pruning jobs under the Prune & GC Jobs under your datastore.



You can add a new prune job, for details on how to set up your prune job, please refer to [Proxmox's Official Documentation](#)

If you'd like to skip the pruning step, you can go ahead and permanently delete the snapshot as well.

Datastore: Test_Account ?

SummaryContentPrune & GC JobsSync JobsVerify JobsOptionsPermissions

ReloadV. Verify AllPrune AllNamespace: RootAdd NamespaceSearchgroup, date or owner

Backup Group ↑	Comment	Actions ↑	Backup Time ↑	Size	Count	Owner	Encrypted	Verify State
Root Namespace								
+ host/sbc-mongodb		V.	2026-01-30 18:06:35		1	Test_Acco...	Encrypted	None

Permanently forget group 'host/sbc-mongodb'