Engineer Platform

Backup automation with an explicit restore method

Implemented restic backup automation with retention, integrity checks and a monthly restore-test workflow; documented storage activation and live-restore verification as separate operational steps.

September 2026

Backup and restore testing are separate workflows

Logical overview of the backup and restore-test implementation. The dated case record describes activation prerequisites and does not record a completed restore run.

1.

Configure the backup repository

Timers require a configured backup repository; the passphrase is read from a protected file.

2.

Create and check snapshots

The backup workflow creates encrypted snapshots, applies retention rules and checks repository integrity.

3.

Test a known-file restore

A separate workflow restores a known file to a scratch location and compares its bytes. Backup and restore have separate success signals.

backup and restore-test automation, with activation distinguished

Situation. Engineer ApS needed a recovery design that covered its own infrastructure beyond a provider snapshot. The work concerned backup automation, storage prerequisites and a way to test restoration.

Task. The implementation needed encrypted off-host snapshots, retention rules, integrity checks and a repeatable restore test. Writing those controls and proving a live recovery are separate deliverables.

Action. An Ansible role installs restic scripts and systemd units. The backup path supports a database dump where configured, snapshot creation, pruning and integrity checks. A separate monthly workflow restores a known file to a scratch location and compares its bytes. Success signals are separate for backup and restore; timers depend on a configured repository. The passphrase is read from a protected file rather than a systemd-parsed environment value.

Result. The repository contains the backup and restore-test implementation and documents its activation prerequisites. The implementation record dated 2026-10-27 says the timers were disabled without a repository and records no completed live restore. That dated evidence supports the automation work, not a claim about current runtime state, successful disaster recovery or a recovery-time commitment.

Bring this experience to your project

Use “Backup automation with an explicit restore method” as a starting point for a similar challenge in your organisation. The services behind this work are available for your project. The whole setup written down as files, so it can be recreated exactly and never lives only in one person's head.

Explore our services Get in touch →

Look behind the result

Read the situation, decisions and result in this example. We can discuss which parts transfer to your constraints and which need another approach. Backup automation with an explicit restore method — backup and restore-test automation, with activation distinguished

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Have you ever tested restoring your backup?

Talk through your project with the engineer responsible for delivery. We agree the scope, price basis and handover in writing before work begins.

Role context: Site Reliability Engineer. It draws on Infrastructure, Automation & CI/CD, Reliability & Backups, Linux & Servers, Security and Documentation. And while you are here, we are rather good at Infrastructure as Code, Site Reliability & Monitoring, Backup & Disaster Recovery and System Administration.

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One piece of **a longer record** — and it is all on this site.

Every entry is written the same way: the situation, the task, what we did and what changed.

See the whole record

Define the improvement you need

Bring the deployment path, the operational risks and the people on call. We can scope a change with checks, a recovery route and clear ownership.

See what it costs Get in touch →

Have you ever tested restoring your backup?

Ask about the decisions behind “Backup automation with an explicit restore method”. You will speak with the people who can explain the work and assess your own project.

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