



Managing Backups in Cisco Vision Director

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Information About Backups

This section includes the following topics:

- [Backup Environment, page 271](#)
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- [When to Run a Backup, page 272](#)

Backup Environment

While you can run a backup for a network environment where there is only a single Cisco Vision Director server, the recommended environment that is described in this document is a redundant environment for either Platform 2 or Platform 3 servers or a virtualized environment. In a redundant environment, you are running Cisco Vision Director on a primary server, with a secondary server connected to the same subnet where the backup data from the primary server is saved.

The backup process can be scheduled and also run manually. When a backup is completed, the CMS is automatically restarted.

What System Data is Backed Up

There are several areas of Cisco Vision Director that need to be backed up. The backup process backs up the following areas of the Cisco Vision Director server:

- Cisco Vision Director Asset Library, the Content Management System (CMS)
- Cisco Vision Director database
- Cisco Vision Director system configuration files
- Content Integration data
- Dynamic Menu Board data

CAUTION: The Proof of Play raw data in the `/var/sv/pofp/raw` directory is *not* backed up.

- Proof of play report data in the `/var/sv/pofp/data` directory

When to Run a Backup

Run a manual backup whenever you change any item in the interfaces such as **Asset Library** content, **Devices**, **Script Management**, **Event Management**, **Designer**, **Configuration**, or **Management Dashboard**.

CAUTION:

1. **Stop any running script before starting a manual backup.**
2. **Do not start a game/event script during a backup.**
3. **Do not operate Cisco Vision Dynamic Signage Director until the backup is complete.**

How to Manage Backups

This section includes the following topics:

- [Prerequisites for Running Backups, page 272](#)
- [Best Practices for Managing Backups, page 272](#)
- [Scheduling a Regular Backup, page 272](#)
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- [Verifying Backup Completion, page 274](#)
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Prerequisites for Running Backups

Note: Configure the primary and secondary servers for backup operation as part of the initial server setup. For more information about configuring the servers for backup, see [Backing Up and Restoring Cisco Vision Dynamic Signage Director Servers, page 63](#) in the [Cisco Vision Administration Guide: Dynamic Signage Director, 6.2](#).

Before you can run backups, meet the following conditions:

- The backup account has been enabled on the secondary server
- The primary server has been set up for automatic backup and restore

Best Practices for Managing Backups

- Perform a manual system backup prior to starting the game script.
- Back up all components (highly recommended).
- Stop the active game/event script from the **Management Dashboard** before starting the manual backup.
- The backup task can run even while an event script is running. As part of this change, the database is no longer optimized or repaired during the backup process—a new TUI option is added to run database maintenance manually if needed.
- Do not operate the Cisco Vision Director **Configuration** or **Management Dashboard** until the backup is complete.

Scheduling a Regular Backup

User Role: Administrator

How to Manage Backups

After you configure the servers to support the backup process, schedule backups using **Management Dashboard** in the Cisco Vision Director software.

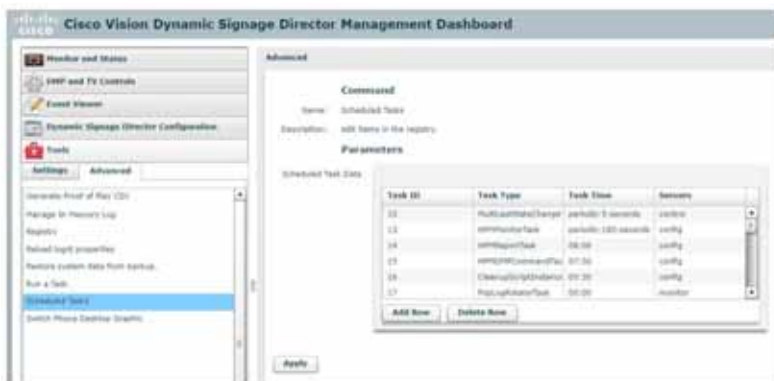
Note: We recommend that you schedule backups while the Cisco Vision Director servers are not actively running scripts or performing other event processing.

To configure a backup to run on a regular schedule:

1. Go to **More > Management Dashboard > Tools drawer > Advanced tab > Scheduled Tasks.**
2. Click **Add Row** and scroll to the new blank line.
3. Click in the Task Type column and type **BackupTask** (Figure 1 on page 273).

Note: Type the name of the task exactly as shown with upper and lowercase characters.

Figure 1 Scheduling a Regular Backup Task



4. Click in the Task Time column and specify the time (in 24:00 format) when you want the backup to run.
5. Click in the Servers column and type **config**.
6. Click **Apply**.

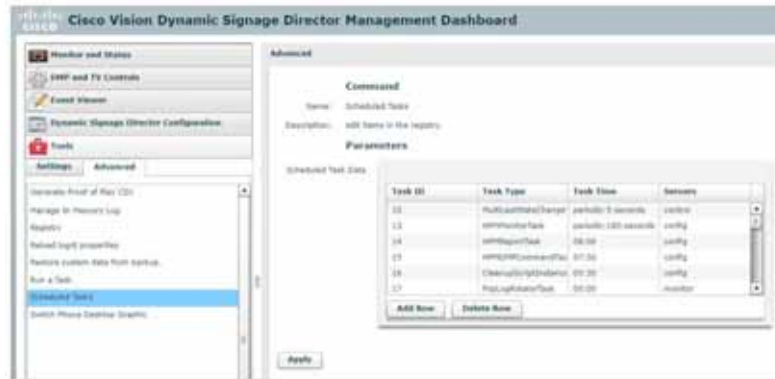
Starting a Backup Manually for Immediate Execution

User Role: Administrator

If you want to start a backup immediately, run a backup process manually.

To start a backup manually for immediate execution:

1. Go to **More > Management Dashboard > Tools drawer > Advanced tab > Run a Task.**
2. In the Tasks to Run box, select the **BackupTask** (Figure 2 on page 274).

Figure 2 Running a Scheduled Backup Task Manually**3. Click Apply.**

The backup begins immediately. When completed, the CMS is automatically restarted.

IMPORTANT: The “success” message that appears means the backup task has started. It does **NOT** mean the backup task has completed.

Verifying Backup Completion

User Role: Administrator

To verify backup completion, confirm that a backup file exists and that no errors appear in the log file.

Verifying That a Backup File Exists

IMPORTANT: Verifying the existence of a backup file only tells you that a backup file was attempted but not necessarily if there were any errors.

To verify that a backup file exists:

1. Go to **More > Management Dashboard > Tools** drawer > **Advanced** tab > **Restore system data from backup**
2. Verify that backup files with dates and times appear.

Finding Backup Errors in the Log File

IMPORTANT: Be aware that the messages “Starting backup” and “Backup completed” will always appear in the log, regardless of success.

You can access log files in the following ways:

- TextUtility Interface (TUI).
- System State Report. Go to **More > System State Report**.
- By running `grep -i backup sv_dev_debug.log` (requires root access). [Figure 3 on page 276](#) shows an example of log output for a successful backup without errors.

To find backup errors in the log file:

1. Open the `/opt/sv/servers/config/logs/sv_dev_debug.log` file.
2. In the `sv_dev_debug.log` file, find messages that include the string “com.cisco.sv.backup.”

These are the backup process messages.

How to Manage Backups

3. Find the “Starting backup” message.
4. After the “Starting backup” message (but before the “Backup completed” message), look for a “com.cisco.sv.backup” message that also includes “ERROR” in the string.

If you find this error, the backup did not complete successfully.

Modifying the Number of Backup Files to Retain

User Role: Installer (Administrator)

To reduce the amount of disk storage required in your system, the default backup retention policy is to keep one backup file. This retention policy can be modified to retain 2, 5, 7, or 10 backup files.

For more information, see the [Backing Up and Restoring Cisco Vision Dynamic Signage Director Servers, page 63](#) module in the [Cisco Vision Administration Guide: Dynamic Signage Director, 6.2](#).

How to Restore From Backup

Once the primary and secondary servers have been configured for automatic backup and restore, the Cisco Vision Director software automatically copies backup files between the primary and secondary servers.

When the restore process starts, the MD5 checksum of the file is verified. If for some reason you need to manually copy files between the servers, be sure that you copy both the .tar and .chksum files because the restore process automatically uses both files to verify the MD5 signature.

Note: If you need to failover to the secondary server and do a restore, follow the procedures in the [Configuring Failover Between Redundant Cisco Vision Dynamic Signage Director Servers, page 75](#) in the [Cisco Vision Administration Guide: Dynamic Signage Director, 6.2](#).

This section includes the following topics:

- [Starting a Restore Manually for Immediate Execution, page 277](#)
- [What to Do Next After Restoring, page 278](#)
- [Restarting Cisco Vision Director Software After a Restore, page 278](#) (Required)

Starting a Restore Manually for Immediate Execution

User Role: Administrator

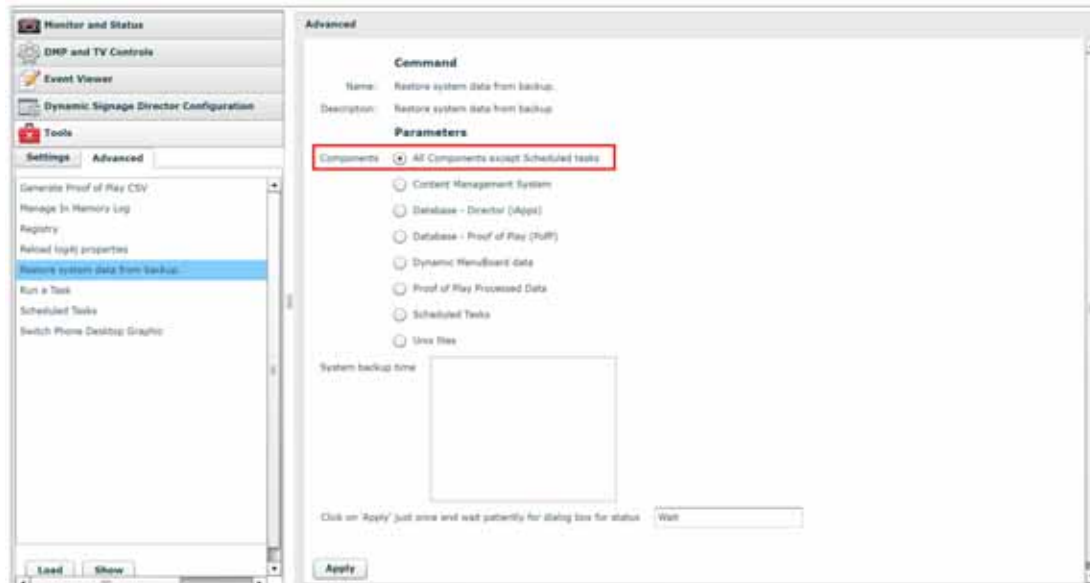
As with backups, you can schedule the restore process or run it manually. When the manual restore screen is displayed, it lists backups from both the backup and restore directories, concatenated together. This allows you to run a manual restore on either the primary or the secondary server.

CAUTION: You cannot run a restore while an event script is running. Also, if your venue was running an event script when the backup took place, then those scripts will be running after the restore.

An automated restore always uses the most recent backup file in the restore directory.

To start a restore manually for immediate execution:

1. Go to **More > Management Dashboard > Tools** drawer > **Advanced** tab > **Restore system data from backup**.
2. For Components, select **All components except Scheduled tasks** ([Figure 4 on page 278](#)).

Figure 4 Running a Restore Task Manually

3. (Optional) If you do not want to restore the latest backup (the default), then in the “System backup time” box, select the date and time of the backup file that you want to restore instead.

4. Click **Apply**. The restore begins immediately.

Note: If you need to also restore the scheduled tasks, you can rerun the **Restore system data from backup** and for Components, select **Scheduled Tasks**.

What to Do Next After Restoring

After the restore completes, restart the Cisco Vision Director software. For more information, see [Restarting Cisco Vision Director Software After a Restore](#), page 278.

Restarting Cisco Vision Director Software After a Restore

User Role: Installer (Administrator)

After you perform any restore on a Cisco Vision Director server, you must restart the Cisco Vision Director software to resume normal operation of the services.

For more information about using the TUI, see the [Cisco Vision Dynamic Signage Director Server Text Utility Interface](#), page 89 module of the [Cisco Vision Administration Guide: Dynamic Signage Director](#), 6.2.

To restart the Cisco Vision Director software:

1. Log into the TUI.
2. Go to **Cisco Vision Server Administration > Restart Dynamic Signage Director software**.