Optimizing Backup Strategy by Scheduling and Triggering Tasks

Any backup adds to security of your data and convenience of your job; however, a properly scheduled or triggered backup sequence can contribute much more than mere a possibility of manual backup. Thus, Handy Backup provides a bunch of scheduling and triggering options for its backup tasks.

Why and When You Attempt Backups

The first step for planning any sensible backup strategy is developing a scheme minimizing both the threat of critical data loss and the time and efforts for taking backups. This scheme takes into account some common reasons and facts such as:

- ✓ What is a frequency of critical renewal for a particular dataset planned for backup?
- ✓ Which perils can threat to this dataset during the common operational mode?
- ✓ How some planned activity such as hardware upgrading can shake this dataset?
- ✓ Is there special conditions needed to attempt an automatized backup for these data?

These and some other questions are typically generate one of the common strategies to trigger backup:

1. Starting a backup task at some exactly defined time.
2. Backing up a dataset repeatedly with a period specified for this particular task.
3. Saving a backup when some event occurred in the system, related to backup.
4. Running a backup task manually.

The first two types of strategy are the methods of scheduling a backup task; the third and fourth types are **triggering** it. Let us explain these methods a bit more deeply.

Scheduling a Task

You can start your backup task at some pre-defined time, or repeat it continuously after a period from minutes to months long. The scheduling strategy is indispensable for creating regular copies of crucial, ever-changing datasets such as projects, databases and dynamic websites.

Note: This technique also allows backing up data in the time exactly convenient for a system administrator and other users, e.g. during holidays or after finishing a workday, to minimize distractions for users and extra load for system components already busy during the normal job.

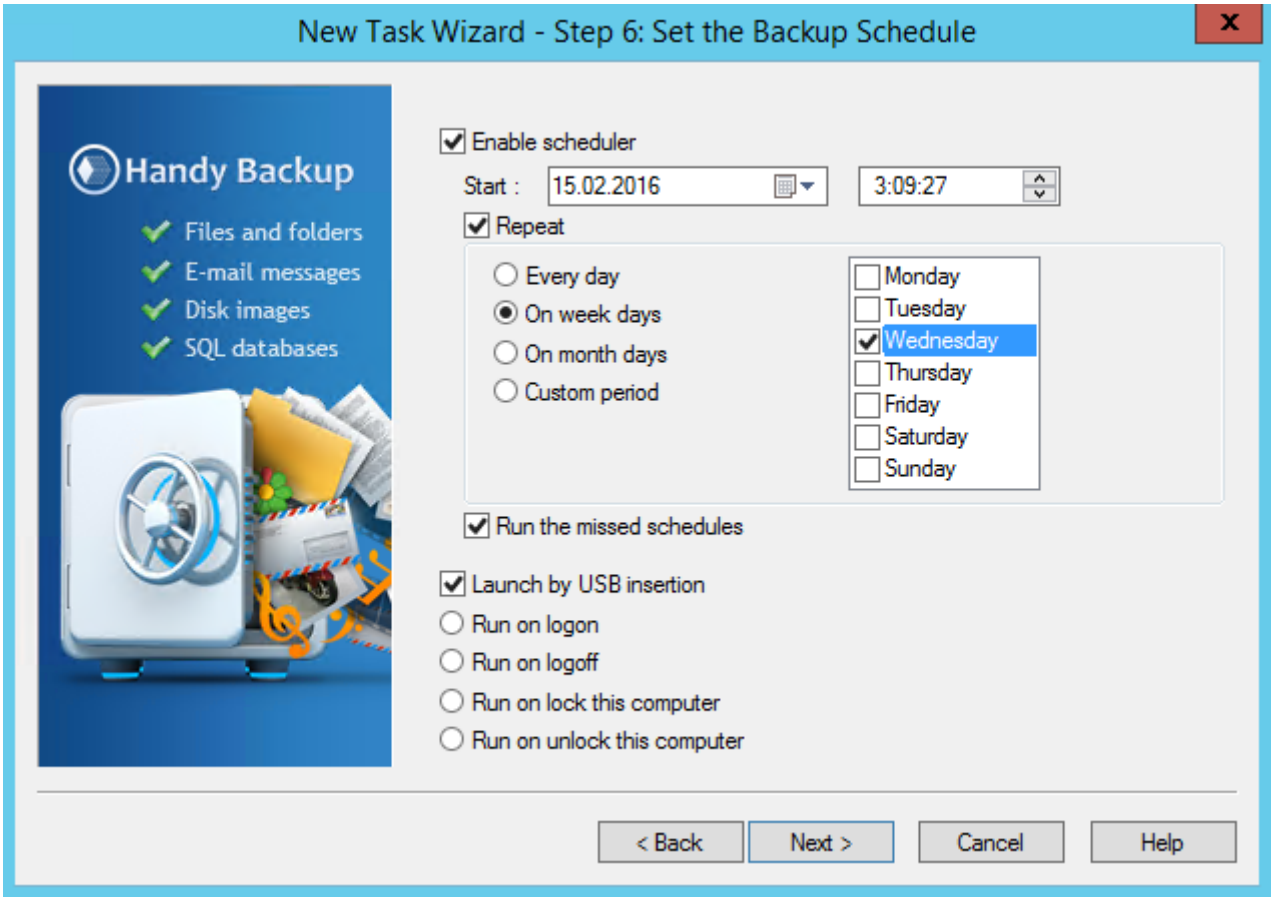
- **Scheduling pros:** You can be sure that a task scheduled by time will save copy of your data exactly when you need it. You can also always be sure that the last execution of this task takes place previously, knowing the exact time of last backup even to a minute.
- **Scheduling cons:** Incorrectly specified backup period can either produce a lot of garbage with too frequent backups, or miss some critical data with too rare backup frequency. Setting the right frequency for particular data is completely a matter of user skills.

Triggering a Task

Besides scheduling options, Handy Backup also allows you to start your backup tasks after some triggering events. These events including logging on and off the system (meaning starting and stopping the job), plugging a task-related USB data storage into a PC, or even repeating a missed scheduled task.

Note: Starting the task manually is a sort of “triggering” in terms of backup strategy development; obviously, in this case the event that triggers backup is definitely a wish of a user.

- **Logging on and off the system.** This trigger marks that some user has started or quit the job, and the need for backup emerges. For example, if a user just joined the daily activity with some project, it seems reasonable to make a fresh copy of this project to avoid human errors.
- **Plugging a USB device into a PC.** Often this trigger means connecting with a modern, capacious and fast external data storage able to save a lot of data. Thus, triggering a backup task by connecting a related device is an obvious solution provided by Handy Backup.
- **Repeating a missed task.** If some occasion interrupts a normal execution of a scheduled task, it is necessary to repeat it as quick as possible. For example, if a computer was turned off during the last scheduling period, Handy Backup repeats a scheduled task when it turns on again.



These are quite few facts that can be said about pros and cons of triggering tasks. Each trigger, except manual execution and repeating missed jobs, describes a specific situation or a bunch of situations when using this particular trigger can be beneficious for an overall backup strategy. Just know it and use it!

Programming Triggers and Scheduling Sequences in Handy Backup

During a new task creation, the Step 6 of Handy Backup task wizard is completely about triggering and scheduling. You can set up an exact time or a repeating period for task execution, as well as link a task to some event or force its running when the task miss its regular execution for somehow.

An option: For existing tasks, you can also modify task properties and change or set a new event triggering this task, as well as setting a new time scheduling parameters.

Triggering and Scheduling in Different Use Cases

Let us show some examples of typical tasks requiring triggering and scheduling for greater convenience and extra automation of backup routines.

- **Saving shared projects.** The project kept on an FTP server or in some shared cloud account can be copied by scheduling twice per day, just before the workday started and then after finishing the daily job (e.g. at 7:30 am and at 18:30 pm).

- **Scheduling database backups.** Full-scale databases require continuous backups, perhaps every hour or even every minute (the last case is a good reason for a differential backup). It is completely impossible to do it manually; therefore, schedule the period of backup you need.

- **Mirroring a website.** To mirror your website content or to clone your web data to some customers via FTPs, please set up a daily or weekly period (depending of your real needs) when scheduling your task.

- **Copying a dataset to an external USB drive.** It is a common practice when the matter touches the big, bulky datasets or, perhaps, a system image. To save data undoubtedly when a dedicated USB device is ready to receive backups, trigger a task for plug a USB unit in your PC.

- **Snapshotting user data.** This type of backup is a most common data-saving activity ever existed. Check the regularity of crucially renewing your personal data; this can be from months in a case of music collections and up to minutes in projects. Schedule the backup task at this frequency.

Please note that you can always run any task existed in Handy Backup manually at any time you need it. The manual execution of a task does not interfere with any other type of scheduling or triggering, and requires no special preparations (except, perhaps, checking a connection to a data storage unit).

Creating Whole Backup Strategies with Triggering and Scheduling

With Handy Backup, you can merge a bunch of tasks backing up different data (or a same dataset) into a general strategy, with detailed plans about how, when and where to back up your information. After the initial setup, this strategy can work automatically for a long time.

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