



Traditional Backups

- Granular File Recovery
- Long Retention Times
- Used for All Data

Active Replication

- Rapid Recovery
- Used for Mission Critical Apps
- No-Impact recovery Testing

The Differences Between Server Backups and Active Standby Replication

What's right for your business – a data backup solution, replication or both? There are advantages and disadvantages to both. It's important to determine your business objectives for choosing a replication or backup strategy.

The goal of Business Continuity (BC) is to prevent interruption of mission-critical services and to re-establish full functionality as swiftly and as smoothly as possible.

Server / Data Backups

Traditional backup focuses on compliance and granular recovery, such as recovering a single user's emails or a corrupted file.

Whenever humans are involved mistakes are bound to happen. If a user accidentally deletes or corrupts a file data backups would be needed to restore the file since the corruption or deletion would have been replicated to the standby server.

With more than 90% of restores stemming from user error (accidental deletion) and corruption rather than data loss, replication alone can't provide the level of protection that is required as part of a comprehensive BC/DR strategy.

With a proper backup procedure in place, you can easily refer back to a point in time, before the corruption/deletion occurred.

Active Standby Replication

Replication and recovery focus on business continuity — quick and easy resumption of operations after a disaster or corruption.

Minimizing the recovery time objective (RTO) is key.

For a DR plan to be successful, business processes need to be fully operational rapidly after a disaster or outage; having data on a disk does not achieve that goal with possible restore time exceeding several hours for a full system. Only continuous replication provides a true business continuity solution for the enterprise.

Backup does not replace the always-available benefits of replication.

Summary

Backup and Replication have distinct use-cases and both have a place in a business continuity strategy.

Having both replication and a backup system in place is the ideal scenario – achieving both high availability for business continuity and the ability to restore from a specific point in time backup.