SWsoft

PLESK 7.5 FOR WINDOWS

BACKUP/RESTORE UTILITIES USER'S GUIDE
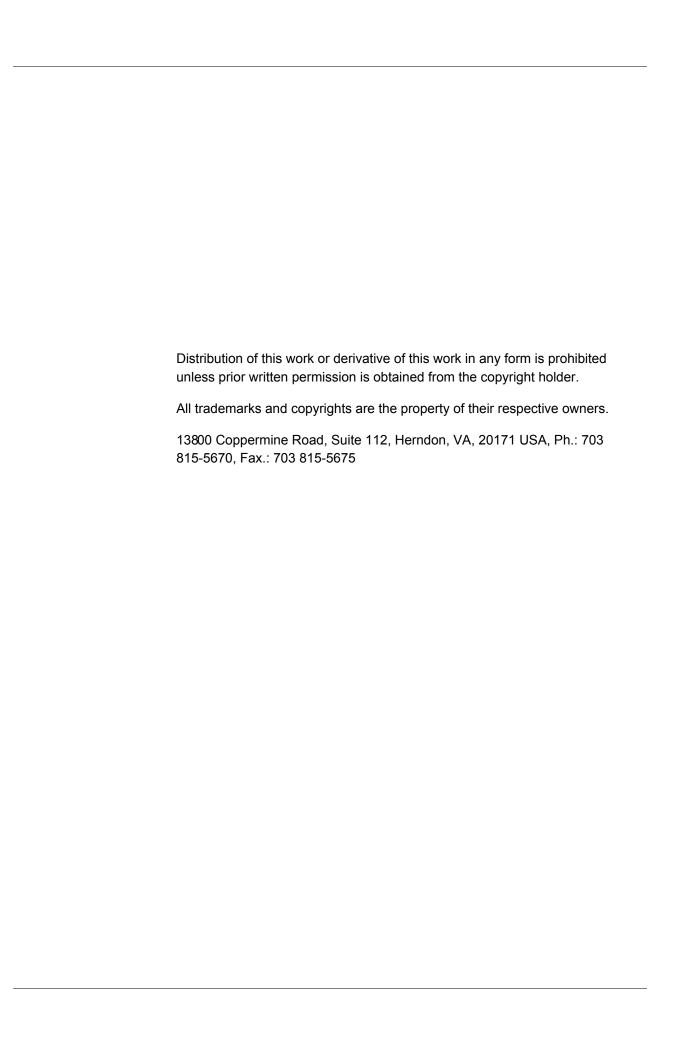
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Chapter 1. Introduction

The Plesk backup/restore utilities allow backing up the Plesk server configuration information as well as its current content (client accounts, domains and so forth) as they are at a certain moment in time - the moment when the backup is carried out. They also allow restoring these data at the server. This proves useful when either you need to execute a system operation, which can influence such data (for instance, upgrade the OS that Plesk is running on), or simply for the safety purposes. The two utilities that provide these functions are: Plesk Backup and Plesk Restore.

Chapter 2. Backing up the configuration information and the data

Full backup

You can back up the entire Plesk server: the control panel configuration and server settings along with client accounts and domains.

To perform a full backup follow these steps:

1. Run Plesk Backup.

2. Select the Back up control panel configuration and server settings checkbox and click the Select All shortcut to select all client accounts and domains.

> **ℹ NOTE**
>
> You can save your current backup configuration for further use. To do this, in the File menu, select the Save configuration item.
>
> To load a previously saved backup configuration, use the Load configuration item in the File menu.

3. Specify the backup file name and path or click the Browse button to locate an existing backup file to be overwritten.

4. Type a description in the Description field, if desired.

5. Click Start.

Notes on backing up

It is recommended that you use the Suspend domain operations during backing up option, because if some changes are made through the Plesk control panel during the process of backing up, the resulting backup file may be generated incorrectly or the process itself may fail.

You are strongly advised to temporarily stop the control panel web-server engine, so as to prevent the users from changing data through the control panel in the process of executing a backup. To do this, select the Suspend control panel services during backing up checkbox, or operate the control panel services via the Service Control Utility that can be invoked from the operating

system taskbar. Please keep in mind that the Backup and restore utilities require that the Plesk Management Service, Plesk Miscellaneous Service, and Plesk SQL Server be running.

The backup file size is limited to 4 GB. All backup files over 4GB are split into several volumes, named in accordance with the following scheme: FileName -> FileName.1->FileName.2, etc.

If Plesk is configured for working with a remote MS SQL server, the MS SQL databases are not backed up.

Selective backup

You can choose to back up only the data associated with certain client accounts or certain domains. The Plesk Backup utility allows you to select the client accounts and/or domains for performing the selective backup of data.

Backing up selected client accounts

Follow these steps to back up the selected client accounts:

1. Run Plesk Backup.

2. Select the client accounts you wish to backup by checking the corresponding checkboxes in the object tree or click the Select All shortcut to select all of them.

3. Specify the backup file name and path or click the Browse button to locate an existing backup file to be overwritten.

4. Type a description in the Description field, if desired.

5. Click Start.

Backing up selected domains

Follow these steps to back up the selected domains:

1. Run Plesk Backup.

2. Select the domains you wish to back up by checking the corresponding checkboxes in the object tree. Note: when backing up a domain, the personal information and credentials of the client - owner of the domain are also stored.

3. Specify the backup file name and path or click the Browse button to locate an existing backup file to be overwritten.

4. Type a description in the Description field, if desired.

5. Click Start.

Scheduled backups

To use automated backing up on schedule, follow these steps:

1. Run Plesk Backup.

2. For a selective backup, select the objects that you wish to be automatically backed up. For a full backup, proceed to the next step.

3. In the File menu select the Schedule backup item.

4. Select the Enable automatic backup checkbox, and specify the time as desired.

5. If you have selected the objects for backing up, choose the Backup selected domains and client accounts option. To back up all domains and accounts, select the appropriate option.

6. It is recommended that you use the Suspend domain operations during backing up option, because if some changes are made through the Plesk control panel during the process of backing up, the resulting backup file may be generated incorrectly or the process itself may fail. You are also strongly advised to temporarily stop the control panel web-server engine, so as to prevent the users from changing data through the control panel in the process of executing a backup. To do this, select the Suspend control panel services during backing up checkbox.

7. Specify the backup file name and path. By default, you will have a single backup file, overwritten upon each backing up. If you wish to have a separate backup file created each time, select the Generate new file name option.

8. To have the backup utility notify you by e-mail each time backing up is carried out, specify your e-mail address, the return address, and the message subject as desired.

9. Click Apply.

Chapter 3. Restoring the backed up configuration information and data

Mapping

In cases when backing up and restoring is performed on different servers, the mapping mechanism is used for associating various entities between the backed up server and the one being restored. The example of this is mapping of IP addresses: the set of available IP addresses at the restored server may differ from the like set at the backed up server, some of the IP addresses could be used on domains at the backed up server. In order to have such domains restored properly and functional, one needs to "map" the corresponding IP addresses so that when Plesk is restored, the appropriate IP addresses are substituted in place of the ones, used at the backed up server. The Plesk Restore utility allows mapping of IP addresses, domains and client accounts.

Mapping IP addresses

The most important aspects of mapping IP addresses are:

- The type and belonging to a specific client's IP pool are significant. This must be taken into account when mapping IP addresses

- Each separate IP address should only be mapped to a separate IP address per a single run of restore.exe

- The types (shared or exclusive) of the source IP address and destination IP address must coincide. If the destination IP does not exist, a new one is created with required type.

Mapping domains

This may come useful when restoring at a non-clean Plesk installation. It may happen so that the domains you are trying to restore already exist at the Plesk server. Situations like this can be resolved either by mapping domain name or by ignoring the colliding domain names.

> ⚠️ **IMPORTANT**
>
> You must map IP addresses when restoring domains with hosting configured.

Mapping client accounts

This may come useful when restoring at a non-clean Plesk installation. It may happen so that the client accounts you are trying to restore already exist at the Plesk server. Situations like this can be resolved either by mapping client accounts or by ignoring the colliding client accounts.

> ⚠️ **IMPORTANT**
>
> If a client account in the backup file and a client account that already exists at the server, where the restore is executed, have the same login name and personal name, the two such accounts are considered the same and the data are merged.

Full data restore

You can restore the entire Plesk server: the control panel configuration and server settings along with client accounts and domains.

To perform a full data restore follow these steps:

1. Run Plesk Restore.

2. Specify the path to backup file or click the Browse button to locate it. Once the backup file is selected you can view the information clicking the Show backup file info shortcut.

3. Select the Full option.

4. Select the Restore control panel configuration and server settings checkbox and click Next.

5. Select the ip addresses from the backup file to be restored. To add or remove mapping, right-click an IP address, and select Add Mapping or Remove Mapping option respectively. For IP mapping you can choose to either map to existing IP address, or create a new one.

6. Click Next.

7. Specify the restore options.

8. Click Start.

Notes on restoring

To make sure that the restore can be performed without errors, you can use the Test mode. The actual restore will not be performed but should any errors or collisions appear, you would be notified of them.

If you have a corrupt backup file, you can attempt restoring from this file by selecting the Skip missing files option.

When restoring domains with site applications, make sure that the respective site application packages are installed in your Plesk control panel's application vault.

When restoring a domain with or without ssl support onto a new IP address, a certificate from the backup file is restored.

When restoring a domain without SSL support on an existing IP address, the certificate connected with IP is not restored.

When restoring a domain with SSL support on an existing IP address, which is not used for hosting domains with SSL support, the certificate is restored on the IP address.

When restoring a domain with SSL support on an existing IP address, which is used for hosting domains with SSL support, the domain is restored without SSL support, and the certificate is not restored on this IP.

If Plesk is configured for working with a remote MS SQL server, and the domains selected for restoring contain MS SQL databases, these MS SQL databases are not restored.

If MS SQL credentials are not stored in Plesk, then on the last step of the restoration wizard you will have an option to supply the login and password.

The MS SQL databases will not be restored in domains that contained MS SQL databases, if the credentials for connecting to database server are not supplied, or the connection cannot be established.

When restoring on a non-configured Plesk, all backed up data except for language packs are restored.

When restoring on a configured Plesk, only those data are restored that are currently missing in Plesk.

Selective restore

You can choose to restore only the data associated with certain client accounts or domains.

Restoring selected client accounts

To perform the selective data restore follow these steps:

1. Run Plesk Restore.

2. Specify the path to backup file or click the Browse button to locate it. Once the backup file is selected you can view the information clicking the Show backup file info shortcut.

3. Select the By clients option, and click Next.

4. Select the client accounts from the backup file to be restored. To add or remove mapping, right-click an item, and select Add Mapping or Remove Mapping option respectively. For account mapping you can select an existing destination client account to map to.

5. Click Next.

6. Select the ip addresses from the backup file to be restored. To add or remove mapping, right-click an IP address, and select Add Mapping or Remove Mapping option respectively. For IP mapping you can choose to either map to existing IP address, or create a new one.

7. Click Next.

8. Specify the restore options.

9. Click Start.

Restoring selected domains

To perform the selective data restore follow these steps:

1. Run Plesk Restore.

2. Specify the path to backup file or click the Browse button to locate it. Once the backup file is selected you can view the information clicking the Show backup file info shortcut.

3. Select the By domains option, and click Next.

4. Select the domains from the backup file to be restored. To add or remove mapping, right-click a domain name, and select Add Mapping or Remove Mapping option respectively. For domain name mapping you can select an existing destination domain name to map to.

5. Click Next.

6. Select the ip addresses from the backup file to be restored. To add or remove mapping, right-click an IP address, and select Add Mapping or Remove Mapping option respectively. For IP mapping you can choose to either map to existing IP address, or create a new one.

7. Click Next.

8. Specify the restore options.

9. Click Start.

Restoring client backups

Plesk allows clients to individually back up particular domain's data from the control panel. In order to ensure security of the system such backup files are digitally signed. This prevents illegal modification of the backup file contents and thus protects the system from possible misuses.

> ⚠️ **IMPORTANT**
>
> The digitally signed client backups can be restored by clients (through the control panel) only at the same server. This is due to the fact that a key, which is used for signing, is generated when the backup/restore utilities are installed on the server.

See the Plesk 7.5 User's Manual for instructions on creating and restoring domain data from the control panel.