

Why use a preload (seed) drive?

If you are backing up to an eFolder BDR for Acronis Cloud Node and you have a large amount of data, you may want to streamline this process by requesting a preload (seed) drive from us.

To help determine if this procedure may be necessary for you, please see [this knowledgebase article](#) on estimating how long the initial backup job will take when sending data over the internet.

We recommend doing a preload any time you are backing up more than 100GB of data on a standard internet connection.

eFolder offers a round-trip preloading (seeding) service, which includes everything required to properly preload (seed) your account. Depending on the shipping option you choose, it could take a few days to receive your drive, so we recommend starting the process as soon as possible.

- Please review [How to Request a Preload Drive](#) to get started.
- If you are ready to request your preload drive, please click [Request a Preload \(Seed\) Drive](#).
- Need more details about the preload process? Review our [Preload FAQ](#).

Not using Acronis? If you need to create a preload (seed) drive for another software package, please refer to:

- [eFolder Backup for Files](#)
- [eFolder BDR for AppAssure – Rapid Recovery](#)
- [eFolder BDR for Replibit](#)
- [eFolder BDR for ShadowProtect](#)
- [eFolder Backup for Veeam](#)

Additional Assistance

eFolder is committed to responsive, competent technical support. Our team strives to exceed your expectations. Contact eFolder by emailing support@efolder.net or call us at 800-352-0248 [Option 2]. Additional material is available online at <http://www.efolder.net/support/> and in the [eFolder Partner Portal](#).



The People Behind Your Cloud

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Overview

This article provides instructions and requirements for creating an encrypted Acronis Backup Vault for seeding, as well as a description of creating a backup job to the Seed-Vault.

Understanding the requirements

Acronis has an option to encrypt its archives when a backup plan is specified on an Acronis Agent. However, if agent encryption is enabled, Acronis cannot perform deduplication on the archives after they are written to the ASN Backup Vault because the node does *not* store the archive encryption key.

Note: It is very important that you do not use agent encryption when creating your archives because the data cannot be deduplicated.

The recommended method for protecting your archives is to use Storage Node-side encryption on the Cloud ASN vault. Doing this ensures that anything written to the vault will be encrypted and anything read from it will be decrypted transparently by using a vault-specific encryption key stored on the Storage Node. This allows the deduplication of unencrypted archives to function properly while still protecting the Acronis archive data

Step 1: Creating an encrypted Acronis Backup Vault for seeding

IMPORTANT: You must seed your archive data in an encrypted Acronis Backup Vault. If eFolder receives a drive with raw Acronis archive data (files with a *.tib file extension), the data will *not* be processed. To ensure you have correctly created the seed, please follow the instructions below carefully:

1. Connect to your local Acronis Management Server and create a vault to store your seed backups by clicking Vaults, then Centralized on the left-side menu. Then click Create from the top menu in the main window.
2. Fill in the *Create a centralized vault form* by completing the following steps:
 - a. Enter a name for the Seed-Vault in the *Name* field.
IMPORTANT: The name of this vault should be the name of your eFolder Acronis Cloud Node (such as acr-mynode1).
 - b. Change the vault type to Managed by selecting the drop-down option under Type.
 - c. Select the storage node desired from the Storage Node drop-down menu.
 - d. Next, ensure that Deduplication is set to Off.
 - e. Enable encryption by clicking the blue Encryption link in the main window. The vault encryption dialog box appears.
 - f. In the Select the encryption algorithm drop-down list, select the AES 256 option. Enter the encryption password you want to use for this vault. **IMPORTANT:** This password should be the same one you provided when requesting a preload drive from eFolder.
3. Next, specify the path to store the vault in the *Path* field by clicking on the blue Required link. In the *Vault Path* dialog box that opens up, expand the volume where your data will be stored and create a folder in the root directory called Seed-Vault. Select the newly created folder and click OK to continue.

4. In the *Path* field, **disable** the option Place deduplication database along with backups by unchecking the checkbox next to it.
5. Edit the location of the *Catalog* database from its default location by clicking the blue Catalog database link. This should be stored in the *Seed-Vault* directory on your preload drive.

Important: Deduplication must be turned off when creating the initial backup job to the Seed-Vault. If deduplication is turned on, it will significantly increase the amount of time it takes for eFolder to process your preload. Deduplication of the data will occur once it has been imported into your Acronis Cloud Node vault.

Tip: The Seed-Vault on your preload drive can be used for multiple sites and servers that need to be sent offsite. This means that you can fit up to 4TB of backup data onto a single eFolder Preload Drive. Consolidating all of your offsite seed-backups into a single Seed-Vault will greatly reduce the amount of time it takes to process your data.

Step 2: Creating a backup job to the Seed-Vault

1. Using the Acronis Console, connect to your locally installed AMS. Click Backup plans and tasks in the left navigation window; then, click New and Backup plan to create a new backup plan.
2. In the *What to back up* section of the *Create backup plan* window, click the blue Required link to open the *Data to Back Up* dialog box. Now, expand the *Machines with agents* group to locate and select the machine(s) that you are going to include in this backup plan. Then click OK.
3. In the *Where to back up* section, click the blue Required link to open the *Location* dialog box. Ensure that the top radio button labeled Store all machines' archives in a single location is selected. Then expand the *Centralized* group from the left window and select the Seed-Vault you created previously. Then click OK to continue to the next step.
4. In the Single-pass disk and application backup section, decide whether to enable or disable the single-pass backup.
5. Click Backup scheme and select Manual Start on the drop-down menu.
6. In the *Plan* name field, name this backup plan to Preload; then, click Save.
7. In the *Backup plans and tasks* window, select the Preload backup plan and click Run/Full backup ('once later' scheme) to initiate your preload to the seed vault.
8. After the preload backup job is complete, you must detach the seed vault from the storage node. In the left navigation window, expand Vaults/Centralized, right click on your seed vault, and click Detach. After you click Detach, a conformation dialog box appears. Click Yes to detach the seed vault.

IMPORTANT: If you plan to provide granular recovery to an Exchange Information Store, you **must** back up that Exchange server with a local backup. Performing granular recovery to an Exchange Information Store is *not* supported from Acronis backups that are backed up to the eFolder Cloud.