A Comparison of Replication versus Backup

Attribute	Replication	Backup
Summary	Best suited for quick access to data on the target device, including fast virtualization of servers	Best suited for long-term data retention of file-level data, pristine data integrity, and the retention of historical versions and deleted data
Format of data on target device	The data is stored in the same format on the replication target as it exists on the replication source If the data is not encrypted with a ShadowProtect encryption password on the source BDR, it will not be encrypted on the target BDR	The data is stored in a proprietary, compressed, and optionally encrypted format
Accessing the data	Replicated data can be accessed immediately without having to perform a restore operation	Data must first be restored using the File Manager tool in the Backup Manager before it can be accessed The File Manager decrypts and decompresses the data from the backup storage
Speed of virtualization	Bare-metal backups can be instantly virtualized	Bare-metal backup images must first be restored to a computer using the File Manager tool in the Backup Manager before they can be virtualized
Historical data	Does not store historical versions of files; however, since the bare-metal backups store each point in time as a separate file, it is possible to restore historical data located in a bare-metal backup image on the target BDR	Supports storing as many historical versions of a file as are desired
Data corruption	If data is corrupted on the source BDR and is not detected, the corrupted data will be replicated to the target BDR Bare-metal backup images are always checked for corruption before they are replicated, mitigating the risk	Backups can store historical versions of a file, allowing the restoration of a previous (uncorrupted) version of a file if there is undetected silent data corruption on the source

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