



Media Assure

Today, as organizations face increasing amounts of data to backup within shrinking backup windows, storage administrators need to be sure that their backup data can be read successfully to facilitate a quick recovery. You may need to verify the backup date for recoverability by restoring the backup data from the media, and then make sure that you can access the data. This strategy helps you identify potential problems before a real disaster happens.

CA ARCserve® Backup includes the media assure functionality, which allows the storage administrators to verify that their backup data can be read and restored successfully. This policy based feature lets backup administrators be assured that everything that has been backed up can be read successfully.

OVERVIEW

CA ARCserve® Backup Media Assure feature helps Storage Administrators verify that their backup data can be read successfully.

Media Assure is different from the Scan utility in previous versions of CA ARCserve® Backup. The Scan utility is limited to searching session header information only for the purposes of identifying which tapes have which data files.

CA ARCserve® Backup Media Assure examines the actual blocks of data that are written to the backup device. A successful Media Assure job verifies that the backup data is readable so that it can be restored successfully.

BENEFITS

- Enables you to test the backup data readability without performing an actual restore.
- Enables you to test backup data for all servers or single out servers that are most critical.
- Helps you verify whether media is accessible without your identification, as well as report on the usability of the media and data.

Install/Configure

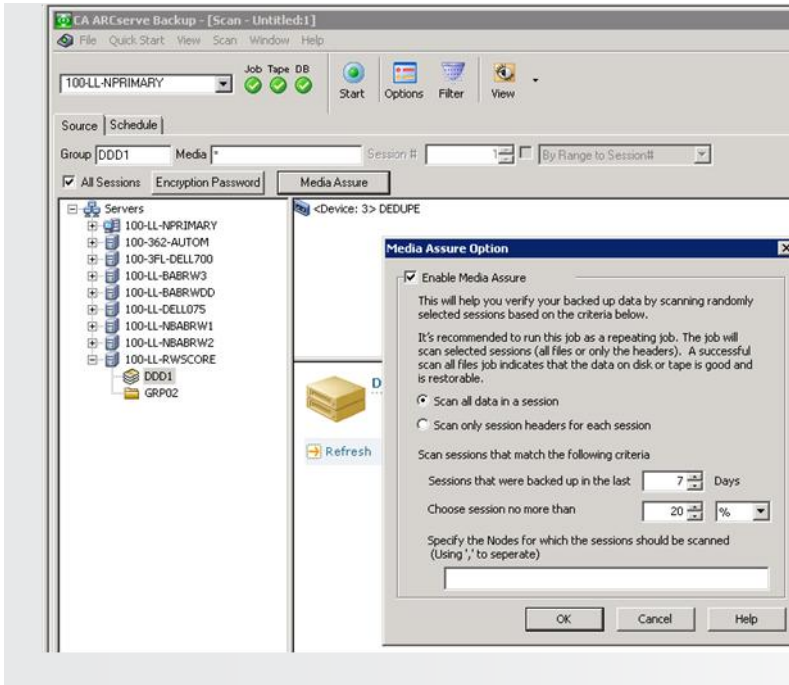
The CA ARCserve® Backup Media Assure feature is part of the Base Product. Installation of CA ARCserve® Backup is straightforward and wizard driven; after installing CA ARCserve Backup, you can access the Media Assure option from the Scan Utility. You do not need any additional license to avail the benefits of this feature.

How Media Assure Works

CA ARCserve® Backup Media Assure feature depends on the session records in the CA ARCserve® Backup database. If there are no records available for the media in the database or the session records for this media have been destroyed, media assure will not scan any sessions.

This is a policy driven job which picks up CA ARCserve® Backup sessions randomly from any CA ARCserve Backup media (including DDD) and scans CA ARCserve® Backup sessions on the media. It scans all the metadata and data that is present in an CA ARCserve® Backup session on the media. A successful scan of CA ARCserve® Backup session assures that the data is restorable. It automatically validates the backup images in the background.

The Storage Administrator first selects the device group that will run Media Assure operations. The Administrator can choose how many sessions will be examined by Media Assure (either by explicit number of sessions or by a percentage of the sessions in the device group, chosen at random). Also, if there are more critical servers that the Storage Administrator needs to focus on, the names of those servers can be specified in the Media Assure job creation GUI. If server names are specified, Media Assure will only examine sessions that contain information from these servers.



This feature can be useful for Storage Administrators who may be hesitant to adopt new technologies like Data Deduplication. If Media Assure can successfully read the data that is written to the new device, the data can be successfully read for restore purposes.

This policy allows you to:

- Scan all data in a session
- Scan only session headers for each session

Scan sessions that match the following criteria:

- Sessions that were backed up in the last (number) Days
- Choose session no more than, to limit the number of sessions to be scanned
- Specify the Nodes for which the sessions should be scanned

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need a license for the CA ARCserve Backup Media Assure feature?

A: No, this feature is included with the base product.

Q: Does CA ARCserve Backup Media Assure verify data integrity?

A: CA ARCserve Backup Media Assure verifies that the data can be read successfully for the purposes of the restore. The Application and File Server Administrators need to verify the integrity of the data before it is backed up by the Storage Administrators.

Q: How much time is required for the CA ARCserve Backup Media Assure job to complete?

A: This is determined by the amount of data in the selected amount of sessions and the speed of the backup device. No data is actually restored for the Media Assure operation; so, hard drive speed and network bandwidth won't affect how long the job takes.

Summary

CA ARCserve Backup introduces a feature for Storage Administrators to check that their backup data can be read: Media Assure. If the data on the backup device can be read successfully by the Media Assure operation, the Storage Administrator can be confident that the data will be readable for Restore jobs.

For more information about the CA ARCserve Family of products, please visit arcserve.com/products or test drive our products at arcserve.com/software-trials.