Drobo and Apple Time Machine for Backup

The Drobo Difference

Regardless of which one you choose, every Drobo is designed to setup easily in minutes, expand without tools by installing larger drives at any time, and protect your valuable data. Drobos are self-healing, self-managing and even self-optimizing. They'll let you know when you're running low on capacity and need to install bigger drives. Simply insert the drives and Drobo will take care of the rest!

Time Machine for Backing up your Mac

Apple's Time Machine was designed to make backing up files simple and painless and offers the easiest and most cost effective way to backup a Mac onto an external drive or locally attached network share. With hard drive capacities continuing to grow, it makes sense that Mac owners want to leverage those larger drives for both user data and backup data. This can present some challenges.

The Need to Control How Much Storage Time Machine Uses

Apple recommends that twice the capacity of the Mac's internal disk be allocated for backup using Time Machine. Experienced Time Machine users know that it will gradually consume all available disk space on the backup disk, and there is no easy way to stop this from happening.

Time Machine and Drobo: A Perfect Pairing

All Drobo products support data protection using Apple's embedded Time Machine backup software. Combining Time Machine with a Drobo storage array simplifies setup and allows for complete storage consolidation of both user data and backup data while ensuring your data is safe and protected even in the event of a hard drive failure.

Drobo Family

Challenge

Time Machine uses all available disk space for a disk or volume making it difficult to use larger drives for both user data and backup

Solution

Drobo allows you to easily create a separate Backup Volume with just a few clicks

Recomended Time Machine Client Load

Number of Time Machine Clients	Drobo Gen3	Drobo Mini	Drobo 5D	Drobo 5N	Drobo B800fs	Drobo B800i	Drobo B1200i
1	✓	✓	✓				
Up to 5				✓	✓		
Up to 25						✓	
Up to 75							✓

Note: Assumes regularly scheduled Time Machines backups.

Updated Time Machine Support for Direct Attached Drobos

Backup   **Data**

Time Machine and Drobo Direct Attached models

With the latest updates to the Drobo Direct Attached models you can now more easily control the maximum storage space available for Time Machine backups through Drobo Dashboard saving you time and simplifying setup. Within Drobo Dashboard you simply create a dedicated, fixed capacity volume for Time Machine's use, allowing you complete control over the amount of space allocated for backup.

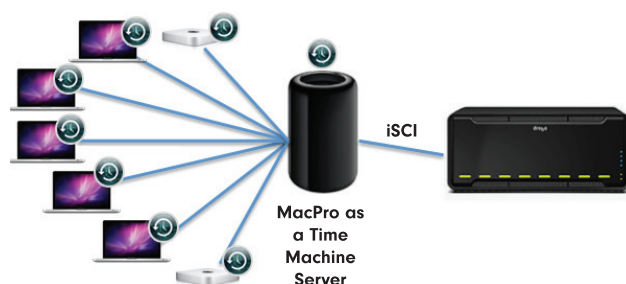**Below is a list of benefits introduced with the new Time Machine Backup Volume feature:**

- No need for complicated partitioning of the main volume in order to reserve space for backups.
- The size of this volume can be set to a fixed capacity for Time Machine to use.
- The ability to set capacity limits eliminates the need to create sparse bundle files.
- Time Machine Backup Volume wizard auto detects the best size based on the internal disk capacity.
- Encryption such as OS X FileVault is supported on a Drobo Time Machine Backup Volume.
- Can delete and recreate the Backup Volume with a different size without affecting the data volume.

Consolidated Time Machine Backups for Workgroups

For many small businesses and workgroups the challenge of backing up their Mac clients to a central storage repository can be seemingly impossible. With the Drobo NAS products, setting up separate file shares for each Mac client is a few mouse clicks away creating separate and capacity controlled Time Machine backup volumes that will give consolidation and peace of mind knowing that data is protected and always available for recovery.

Data

Time Machine and Drobo NAS Models

iSCI

MacPro as a Time Machine Server

Time Machine and Drobo iSCSI SAN Models

Massive Backup Capacity for Time Machine Server

Environments that are looking to consolidate the management of backup as well as the storage of their backup images in a Mac OS X server environment may choose to utilize the Time Machine Server service to centrally manage and monitor many client backups. For these deployments having a consolidated and scalable storage architecture like the Drobo iSCSI SAN products will give maximum flexibility and performance to handle the most demanding of Time Machine backup deployments.

Conclusion

Providing data protection solutions that are easy to use without sacrificing features, functionality or peace-of-mind is the foundation for all Drobo products. When combined with Time Machine, you will have an effortless way to manage and protect your valuable data.