



Backing Up Your Virtual Machine System State

Virtual machine environments generally provide a *snapshot* capability, which captures the state of a system as it's running. Once a snapshot is created, you can perform additional operations on the system and *revert* to the snapshot in the case of disaster recovery (or for any other reason). Because this feature is so powerful, Barracuda strongly recommends performing a snapshot at certain points in time:

- Before upgrading the Barracuda product firmware.
- Before making major changes to your configuration (this makes taking a snapshot a convenient *undo* mechanism).
- After completing and confirming a large set of changes, such as initial configuration.
- As a periodic backup mechanism.

Before taking a snapshot, Barracuda strongly recommends powering off the virtual machine. This step is particularly important if you are using Microsoft Hyper-V as your virtual machine environment.

Barracuda Networks recommends that you review your virtual environment documentation regarding the snapshot capabilities and be familiar with their features and limitations.

