



Future System Solutions Casper 5.0

Loading Zone

November 2009 • Vol.9 Issue 12

Future System Solutions Casper 5.0

Casper 5.0

\$49.95

Future System Solutions

www.fssdev.com



Most backup software tries to do everything, but Casper focuses on doing one thing as best as possible. Namely, cloning an entire drive and keeping the cloned copy updated so that disaster recovery after hard drive failure is a snap.

Whether you use the 1-Click Cloning feature to instantly back up an entire drive or dive into the scheduling options to tell the software when to update the cloned copy, getting from A to B takes just a few clicks and very little time. The interface is as straightforward as any we've seen, but there are plenty of options if you want to bypass the default settings and tweak things to your liking. These include things such as adding file or folder exclusions, eliminating warning messages (for example, the software detecting that backup performance has degraded), and adjusting performance throttling settings so background cloning doesn't steal resources from more important tasks.

Another nice thing about Casper is that it's fast. Although the initial cloning can take a long time, as you might expect, updates to the cloned copy don't take long at all because the software keeps track of what's changed and updates it incrementally instead of recloning the entire drive from scratch. All backups are automatically verified for accuracy, and scheduling backups is easy, making this true set-it-and-forget-it backup software.

One thing to bear in mind is that the software does not create a proprietary image of the hard drive, compress data, or encrypt it. This is bad if the backup drive is stolen or compromised, but the good part is that if your original hard drive ever fails, you can swap in the cloned drive and quickly recover your system. No boot discs, no lengthy data extraction from an encrypted volume, none of that—just mount the drive, and you're back in business. Even if you use a dual-boot setup (Windows only), it will remain intact if you backed up the drive using Casper. It's simply great hands-off ghosting software. ■

by Tracy Baker