

## **ROUNDRIP DRIVES BEST PRACTICES**

### **SCOPE**

This article discusses best practices when utilizing Roundtrip drives either provided by QBR or personal drives.

### **WHAT ARE ROUNDRIP DRIVES?**

Roundtrip drives are external hard drives provided by QBR to assist clients with getting larger base images off-site as well as playing catch-up if the off-site chain for an agent is too far behind with QBR's Cloud.

The drives are external hard drives with powered enclosures.

The default operation of the Roundtrip drives is as follows:

- A zfs snapshot is taken of the entire data storage array. This accommodates all of the snapshots on the device.
- This snapshot is used to create a send-file on the attached roundtrip drive.
- Once the send-file has finished transferring, the drive is then issued a stop command. It is dismounted from the device.
- The drive is then sent back to QBR headquarters and is synced with our cloud.

### **WHAT CAN ROUNDRIP DRIVES DO?**

- Roundtrip drives can expedite the sending of data points off-site for clients.
- They can also get the chains caught up for certain larger agents or the bandwidth can't support.

### **WHAT CAN'T ROUNDRIP DRIVES DO?**

- Roundtrip drives cannot act as a temporary storage medium to get free space back.
- They cannot be used to make local snapshots eligible for retention pruning immediately after they are synced.
- The entire process requires the snapshots to be created off-site before the local snapshots can be destroyed.

## **WHY WOULD ROUNDTRIPS FAIL AFTER THEY REPORTED AS SUCCESSFUL?**

- In order for the Roundtrip upload to be successful, there needs to be a matching connecting point that exists offsite and on the local device.
- If connecting points have been deleted, the off-site chain looks for local points to act as the connecting points to protect the integrity of the chain.
- If the points have been deleted prematurely, the chain may be broken and a Roundtrip will not be able to continue the chain off-site.

## **WHAT ARE THE BEST PRACTICES IN PREPARING FOR A ROUNDTRIP SYNC?**

- Check your off-site backup chains and your local backup chains. Determine how many days out of sync that the chains are.
- Determine the allocated off-site syncing speed and determine the average amount of data that can be sent off-site.
- The QBR speed test is a quick method of determining what can be sent off-site at 50% of the current network speeds.
  - Sustained tests can be found from a number of websites online that may better gauge how much bandwidth that you can utilize.
- If at all possible, increase the available upstream bandwidth that the QBR device can utilize to help expedite the transfer of files off-site.
- Determine the timetable for getting a Roundtrip drive.
  - Determine your location and the turnaround time before concluding whether or not a drive will be of value.
  - Additional drives or express shipping will incur charges.
- Determine the time-table for a drive:
  - Consider the shipping time for the drives.
  - Once the drive arrives, consider setup time and dispatch to the clients site.
  - Drives will sync to the QBR device at about a terabyte of data a day.
  - Determine how much space is being protected locally.
  - The Roundtrip drive will attempt to capture all snapshots stored on the device, even those that have been replicated off-site.

## **BEST PRACTICES BEFORE STARTING THE ROUNDTRIP DRIVE.**

- Pause your current off-site sync. Allow for the device to stop any sendfiles from being transmitted.
- For QBR devices, disable screenshots from the Admin tab until the local Roundtrip sync is complete.
- Make sure all backups are completed and none are in a running state.
- Start the drive from the off-site tab and make sure that you see some transfer to the drive.

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- A statistic will be generated to show you the current space utilized on the drive.
- After you see a few GB of transfer, you should be okay to leave the drive in place.
- Upon completion, get the drive sent back as quickly as possible so that data may be efficiently synced.