

# Why free backup software matters

~~a quick rant on cloud-services and commercial  
software~~

how free software simplifies problems from  
„impossible“ to „painful“

# Who am I?

## Andreas Rogge

- Co-maintaining free backup software for a living
- Operated infrastructure for an internet agency
- Lots and lots of Linux and network consulting
- Into Linux since 1995, but still learning new stuff

# Why do we need backup?

## Business continuity

“capability of an organization to continue the delivery of products and services within acceptable time frames at predefined capacity during a disruption” [ISO 22301:2019]

## Disruption

“incident, whether anticipated or unanticipated, that causes an unplanned, negative deviation from the expected delivery of products and services according to an organization’s objectives” [ISO 22301:2019]

TL;DR somehow continue working after things went wrong

# What will disrupt my business?

- Natural Disasters
- Environmental Risks
- Security Incidents
- Human Errors
- Economic/Market Shifts
- Supply Chain Disruptions
- Regulatory Changes
- Workforce Challenges
- Reputational Risks
- Financial Risks
- Technology Failures
- Something else

# Where backup can help

- Natural Disasters
- Environmental Risks
- Security Incidents
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# Let's assume there is a backup

- Non-free on-premise or in the cloud
- Storing all relevant data
- Integrated with all systems
- Actually restorable
- **Disruption of that service is business critical**

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# Where is free software better?

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# Scenarios: Market Shift

- Vendor discontinues agent for legacy system, but legacy system is still there
- Cloud services sunset with no migration path, tons of data to migrate somehow
- Vendor discontinues product, data unreadable

## With free Software

- not at a single vendor's mercy
- host your own service
- data format specification as source code



# Scenarios: Supply Chain Disruption

- Backup service outage, need restore *right now*
- Critical operation failed, vendor support not helpful
- Bug was fixed, next release is months away

## With free software

- avoid cloud vendor lock-in, use multi-cloud strategy
- debug issues without reverse-engineering
- patch the software yourself



# Scenarios: Regulatory Changes

- Vendor doesn't implement new requirements
- New export guidelines prohibit the vendor from offering products and services to you

## With free software

- add features yourself
- local contractors or self-service viable

# Scenarios: Financial Risks

- Vendor stops targeting your market segment
- Vendor puts a price-tag on a feature that was free before
- Vendor changes pricing model to your disadvantage

## With free software

- choose another contractor
- features will not hide behind a pay-wall

# Discussion

- Most scenarios are valid for every software
- For backup software it hits differently
  - diverse platforms required (including EoL)
  - stores lots of data for a long time
  - products are pretty different, usually no migration
  - you cannot switch product in the middle of a recovery

# Conclusion

- Vendor lock-in can become a serious problem
  - unwillingness / inability to provide what you need
- Free software enables
  - arbitrary customization
  - data portability
  - vendor independent support
  - and products won't suddenly cease to exist

# Thank you!



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