

Warm Spare Setup

This information on this page applies only to PBX versions 14.x and lower. For version 15+, please see: [Warm Spare Backup Server 15+](#)

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Introduction

This guide will walk you through the process of setting up a warm spare server.

APPLICATION NOTE

You will need 2 PBX servers of the same model with identical hardware including analog and digital cards.

This article assumes the following:

- You have an existing PBX system that will be your primary server.
- You have an identical PBX system that will be your secondary server.
- Both servers have identical Analog/PRI/BRI hardware (if used).
- The two servers can communicate on an IP level with each other on port 22.

Setup

SSH Keys

First we will set up share keys between the two servers so they can communicate across SSH on port 22.

Begin by creating a user and an SSH key on your warm standby server so that it can log in to the primary production server and transfer backups to itself.

Login to your backup server with an SSH client such as [PuTTY](#), [SecureCRT](#), or other SSH client.



```
FreePBX
FreePBX
Interface eth0 IP: 192.168.0.32

Please note most tasks should be handled through the FreePBX UI.
You can access the FreePBX GUI by typing one of the above IP's in to your web browser.
For support please visit http://www.freepbx.org/support-and-professional-services

[root@localhost ~]#
```

At the prompt type: **sudo -u asterisk ssh-keygen**

APPLICATION NOTE

You will be asked 3 questions. Simply press "Enter" to accept the defaults.

```

[root@localhost ~]# sudo -u asterisk ssh-keygen
Generating public/private rsa key pair.
Enter file in which to save the key (/home/asterisk/.ssh/id_rsa):
Created directory '/home/asterisk/.ssh'.
Enter passphrase (empty for no passphrase):
Enter same passphrase again:
Your identification has been saved in /home/asterisk/.ssh/id_rsa.
Your public key has been saved in /home/asterisk/.ssh/id_rsa.pub.
The key fingerprint is:
7b:4a:38:a3:d5:cb:63:4f:72:a8:7b:2e:68:86:b7:ad asterisk@localhost.localdomain
The key's randomart image is:
+--[ RSA 2048 ]-----+
|
|          S
|         o o
|        . = * +
|       . =+.*+B
|      +Eo+*=o.
+-----+
[root@localhost ~]#

```

Next we will copy the key to the primary server so that the backup server can SSH to the primary server without needing a password. Issue the command.

At the prompt type: `sudo -u asterisk ssh-copy-id -i /home/asterisk/.ssh/id_rsa.pub root@PrimaryServerIP` and enter the password when prompted.

APPLICATION NOTE

Make sure you replace the PrimaryServerIP with the IP Address of your primary PBX. (use IP and not a hostname that may be common to both primary and warmspare)

If this command completes without error, you are ready to test:

At the prompt type: `ssh -i /home/asterisk/.ssh/id_rsa root@PrimaryServerIP`

If all went well, you should now be logged in to the Primary server.

Creating the Backup Job

Now we will log into the warm spare's administration GUI.

- From your browser, go to `http://IPADDRESS` and then click on PBX Administration.
- In the pop up, enter your username and password, then click continue.

APPLICATION NOTE

Replace IPADDRESS with the actual IP address of your warm spare. This assumes you are on standard port 80. If you are using a different port or https, please adjust accordingly.



FreePBX Administration



User Control Panel



Operator Panel



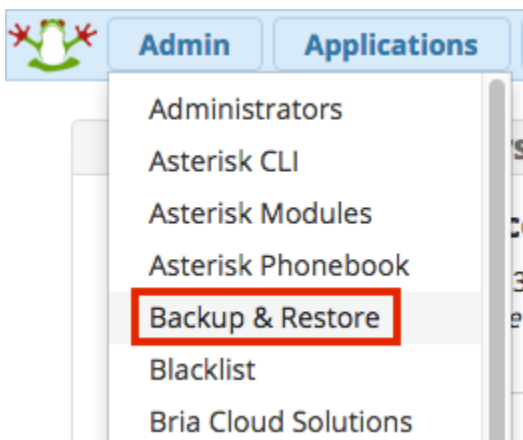
Get Support

Login

To get started, please enter your credentials:

Once Logged in:

- Click **Admin**
- In the drop down click **Backup & Restore**



You should now see the following:

Backup and Restore

Item	Description	Actions
Default backup	Default backup; automatically installed	

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 rows

Backups
Restore
Servers
Templates
Default backup

We will now define the primary PBX as a new server for this warm spare server to reach into and perform the backup on.

Click on the **Servers** option on the right side. It will bring up a page like this:

Servers

Add Server

Search

Item	Description	Type	Actions
CDR server	CDR server, generally a local database server	mysql	
Config server	PBX config server, generally a local database server	mysql	
Local Storage	Storage location for backups	local	

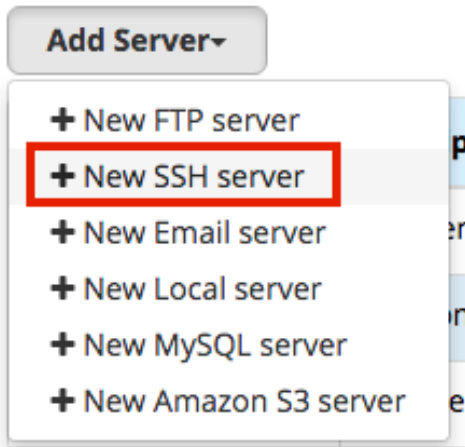
Showing 1 to 3 of 3 rows

Backups
Restore
Servers
Templates
CDR server (mysql)
Config server (mysql)
Local Storage (local)

Click on the **Add Server** button.

Add Server

Select the **New SSH server** option from the drop down menu.



You will be taken to a form where you can enter information on where and how to connect to the primary PBX in order to get the backup data.

Servers

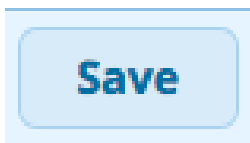
SSH Server

Server Name ?	<input type="text"/>
Description ?	<input type="text"/>
Hostname ?	<input type="text"/>
Port ?	<input type="text" value="22"/>
Username ?	<input type="text"/>
Key ?	<input type="text"/>
Path ?	<input type="text"/>

We are going to define the following fields for this server:

- **Server Name** - A name for this server. In our example we could call it "Primary PBX."
- **Description** - A description or notes to help you identify this server.
- **Hostname** - The IP address or FQDN of the primary server.
- **Port** - By default we use port 22 for SSH.
- **Username** - The SSH username. In our example we would enter "root" because it is the username we set up for our share keys.
- **Key** - This is the location of the private SSH key that we created earlier. In our example it is `/home/asterisk/.ssh/id_rsa`
- **Path** - Path on the remote server where files are stored. (**Recommended setting** Leave this empty)

Click the **Save** button. *Note: there is no apply config button.*



Now that we have set up the primary server location information in the backup module, we will create an actual backup job by clicking on the **Backups** option on the right side of the screen. This brings us back to the landing screen.

Click on the **New Backup** button.

Backup and Restore

Backup Wizard	+ New Backup	<input type="text" value="Search"/>
Item	Description	Actions
Default backup	Default backup; automatically installed	Edit Delete Refresh

Showing 1 to 1 of 1 rows

This will take you to a form where you can enter information about a new backup job as described below.

Backup and Restore

Backup

Backup Name [?](#)

Description [?](#)

Status Email [?](#)

Drag templates and drop them in the items table to add the templates items to the table

Items

Type	Path/DB	Exclude	Delete
------	---------	---------	--------

+

Templates

- [+](#) CDR's
- [+](#) Config Backup
- [+](#) Exclude Backup Settings
- [+](#) Full Backup
- [+](#) System Audio
- [+](#) Voice Mail

— Hooks

Pre-Backup Hook [?](#)

Post-Backup Hook [?](#)

Pre-Restore Hook [?](#)

Post-Restore Hook [?](#)

Backup Server [?](#)

This server



Drag servers from the Available Servers list to add them as Storage Servers

Storage Servers

Available Servers

- + Local Storage (local)
- + Primary PBX (ssh)

Backup Schedule

[Schedule Help](#)

Run Automatically: Never

Maintenance

Delete After: 0

Minutes
Hours
Days
Weeks
Months
Years

Delete After: 0 Runs

- **Backup Name** - The Name should be something representative of the task. We will call it "Nightly Warm Backup"
- **Description** - A description or notes to help you identify this backup.
- **Status Email** - An e-mail address to send status messages to when this backup is run.
- **Items** - Drag the desired template(s) from "Templates" to "Items." For this task we will drag "Full Backup" and "Exclude Backup Settings" to the backup items on the left.

Failing to include the "Exclude Backup Settings" in the warm spare backup job will cause the backup jobs on the primary system to overwrite all backup jobs on the spare. You need this item included in all warm spare type backups.

- **Backup Server** - Select your primary PBX in the drop-down.
 - A **Restore Here** option will appear. Select **Yes**. This will cause 3 additional settings to appear.
 - **Disable Registered Trunks** - Select **Yes** if SIP trunks are registered with your carrier, or if the two systems will compete for the trunk registration. Otherwise you can leave set to **No**.
 - **Exclude NAT settings** - Select **Yes** if you want to exclude any machine-specific IP settings. This allows you to have a warm-spare machine with a different IP address.
 - **Apply Configs** - Select **Yes**. This is equivalent to clicking the red apply config button, will happen automatically after a restore on a standby system

Backup Server ? Primary PBX

Restore Here ? Yes No

Disable Registered Trunks ? Yes No

Exclude NAT settings ? Yes No

Apply Configs ? Yes No

- **Storage Servers and Available Servers** - If you want to also store a copy of the backup file on this server, drag the **Local Storage** item from the **Available Servers** bin on the right to the Storage Servers bin on the left.
- **Run Automatically** - Set this to **Daily**. This will cause the script to run each day at midnight.


Click the **Save** button when done.



Running the Backup Job Manually







After saving, if not already back on the main page, click **Backups** in the menu at the right side of the screen. This will take you back to the main page.

Backups
Restore
Servers
Templates
Default backup
Nightly Warm Backup

To run the backup job and test all the settings, click the run button  for the backup. The backup job may take a while.

Backup and Restore

[Backup Wizard](#)
[+ New Backup](#)

Item	Description	Actions
Default backup	Default backup; automatically installed	  
Nightly Warm Backup		  

Showing 1 to 2 of 2 rows

Failing Over to the Backup Server

In the event that you would like to make your backup server become the production server, you would need to perform a few tasks.

Network

You need to update the IP Address of the backup box to be the (current) Primary PBX's IP Address so the phones and trunks know how to register to it.

Log into the web UI of the warm spare and go to **Admin System Admin**.

You should see the page below:

System Admin

PBX Firmware: 10.13.66-1

PBX Service Pack: 1.0.0.0

The System Admin module is an optional module that gives you the ability to manage different Operating System level settings, such as Network Settings, HTTP and HTTPS Ports, Hostname, DNS and other useful features.

This module comes in 2 versions, a free version and a Pro (commercial) version.

For more information on the features of system admin module please visit [the FreePBX wiki](#) for information on the various versions.

Activation
DNS
DDNS
Email Setup
FTP Server
Intrusion Detection
Network Settings
Hostname
Notifications Settings
Power Options
Port Management
HTTPS Setup

On the right, click **Network Settings**. You will then see the following:

System Admin

Network Settings

Network Interface

eth0

IP Assignment

Static

DHCP

Unconfigured

Static IP

Netmask

Gateway

Start Automatically

Yes

No

From here, you can change the IP address of the backup server to be the same IP that your production server was.

APPLICATION NOTE

Don't forget to remove the production server from the network before changing the IP address here, or you will have an IP address conflict.

