

BIG TEST

Software test of free online backup

Send your files to a safe place

Online backup of your most important files is an excellent idea, but our test of eight free backup services shows that there is a big difference between storage space and user-friendliness as well as those functions the provider makes available to you. The winning programme, Keepit, excels, in particular, on user-friendliness.

HOW WE TEST

We registered for each of the eight services and took a backup of a 1GB file:

We evaluated User-friendliness according to how easy it is to begin and how easy it is to use the appurtenant programme or website. Whether or not the service is in Danish also rates highly and the same applies to the support that is offered.

For Security, we measured how good the encryption is on the transferred files but also the soundness of the company that provides the service.

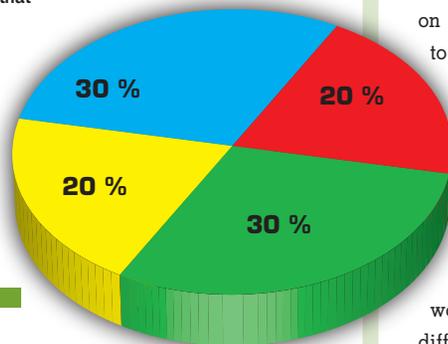
As far as Functions are concerned, among other things we measured the speed at which transfer is made.

HOW WE GRADE

- Storage space
- User-friendliness
- Security
- Functions

THE WEIGHTING OF GRADES

We weighted user-friendliness and functions the highest. In other words, we rewarded those services that are easy to work with and which give the user the majority of options. But also storage space and security is important to the total evaluation of the services



Online backup makes really good sense. Should it happen that your computer is stolen or the hard disk crashes, then your files will be safely waiting somewhere else. And from here you can easily retrieve them to your new computer.

An online backup solution typically comprises a programme on your computer and a server to which you send your files to safety. The programmes are generally automated so they can take a backup of the programmes and files you require. They can handle the backup automatically and without disturbing your work on the computer. The only difference in relation to backup to an external hard disk at home is that the entire process takes place via the Internet connection.

Some services do not use a programme, but a website from which you can send and receive files. This has the advantage that you (and others you allow) have ac-

cess to the files from any computer.

One general conclusion we were able to arrive at was that the file transfer from our computer to the various servers was very slow in comparison to a backup to an external hard disk. So if you need to take a fast backup of many files every day, the external hard disk is probably the better solution.

Our test also showed that there is a great difference between user-friendliness in the programmes, but that all providers provide good fundamental security for your files.

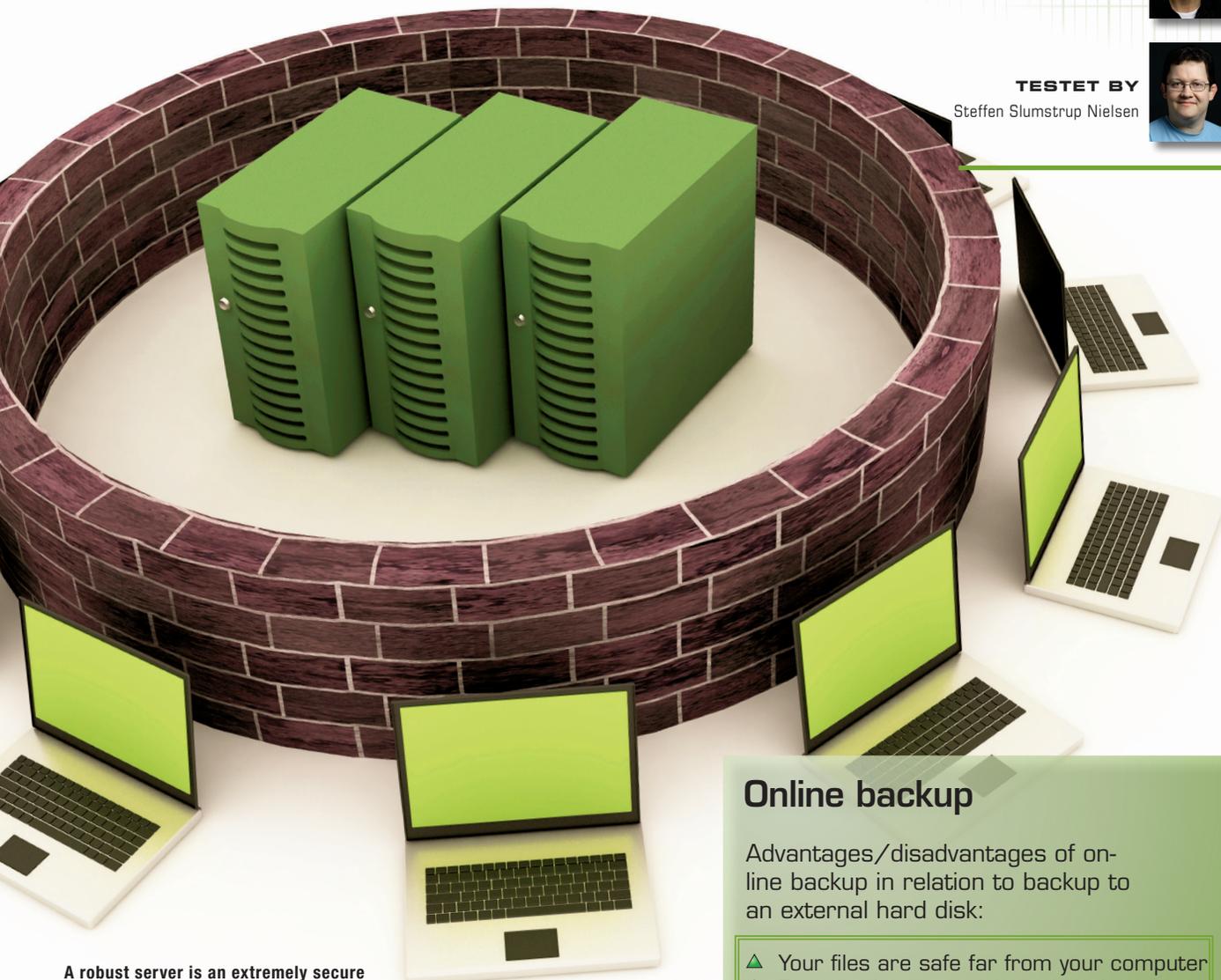
A third issue the services have in common is the option of purchasing more storage space if you are satisfied with the service.

The winner of the test was Keepit, which provided user-friendly installation and was simple and intuitive to use. On the whole, there was not much to criticise about this Danish language solution. But several of the other services in the test can be recommended if you want your files safely stored.

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A robust server is an extremely secure home for your most valuable files.

Online backup

Advantages/disadvantages of on-line backup in relation to backup to an external hard disk:

- ▲ Your files are safe far from your computer
- ▲ Password protected access and encrypted transfer
- ▲ Access to the files from any computer that is on the Internet
- ▼ Limited space available
- ▼ Slower transfer

In brief about the services

Name	Language(s)	Space	Upload/download 1GB	Storage Space	User friendliness	Security	Functionality	Total Grade
				GRADE	GRADE	GRADE	GRADE	GRADE
Keepit 	Danish / English	2 GB	50 min / 40 min	5	10	8	7	7,7
Norcube	Danish	5 GB	29 min / 25 min	6	6	7	8	6,8
iDrive	English	2 GB	1,5 Hour / 1 Hour 20 min	5	6	9	8	7,0
Box	English	1 GB	30 min / 28 min	4	8	7	6	6,4
Mozy	English	2 GB	1 Hour 15 min / 1 Hour 8 min	5	5	7	8	6,3
ADrive	English / Danish	50 GB	25 min / 22 min	10	7	7	6	7,3
Backup2net	English	100 MB	26 min / 23 min	3	6	9	9	6,9
BuddyBackup	English	5 GB	Could not complete test	6	4	7	6	5,6

KEEPIT

It can be so easy

Keepit shows how easy and simple online backup can be. This is the programme we recommend for beginners. You are guided through the entire process.

From the website, which is clear and in Danish, you are told what you need to do and which options you have. Several versions of the programme exist – the free one which we have tested gives you 2 GB storage space.

You go through three pages where you need to enter all the normal data – address, email and so on before you can retrieve the programme. You receive an email with a link and the programme is activated. It is very simple. The same applies to the installation. It is straightforward and a few minutes after we received the licence, the programme was installed.

The programme works well and is very simple and easy to use. The setting of the programme is also very intuitive. You can postpone backup in the middle of the process (if, e.g. you need to switch off the

computer) and continue later and basically use the computer normally whilst the programme runs in the background.

Conclusion
We are impressed about the simplicity and uncomplicated structure which Keepit has been able to design. Such simple programmes are often synonymous with extremely basic products. This is not the case with Keepit. Time has been used on the graphics and you are guided all the way through. Unfortunately it is slightly slow, but this is compensated for by the fact that it can run in the background.

Keepit - 1.1

Masser af plads
Keepit modtager efter lanceringen mange nye brugere...
[Læs mere](#)

Status **Indstillinger** Gendan Konto

Backup indstillinger

Standard mapper
Mine mapper

Keepit

STORAGE SPACE ██████████
USER FRIENDLINESS ██████████
SECURITY ██████████
FUNCTIONS ██████████
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GOOD & BAD

▲ Good website
▲ quickly restore data
▲ Very easy to use
▲ Attractive user interface
▼ Limited space for FREE

7,7

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Language(s): Danish/English
Storage space: 2 GB
Transfer: With software

Download the program on:
www.keepit.com

Price: FREE

NORCUBE

Annoyingly uncertain

Norcube has an almost insignificant website where your options are briefly and plainly explained. You get 5 GB space – but giving at least 30 days' notice, Norcube can request payment for it. This is of course, a huge drawback; especially if you are pleased with and become familiar with the programme. But if nothing else, the 30 days notice gives you the option of finding an alternative if you do not want to pay.

So even though the programme and Norcube seem credible and the programme will probably be worthwhile in a couple of years, some of the confidence disappears with that message at the beginning of the website.

And this is annoying as the programme is good. It has a somewhat more comprehensive menu than for example, Keepit, which is far simpler. But the structure is basically the same as Windows Pathfinder and therefore easy as you can recognise all the buttons. The backup itself is fairly advanced and

Norcube's file searching is completely identical to Windows Pathfinder and this makes it easy to use. The procedure of taking backup is however slightly troublesome.

you are asked for an extra password for the encrypting of data. This makes it all a little more troublesome but also provides increased security. The programme also has a lot of extra functions where you can see the load on the processor, etc. Norcube is a serious programme and it is therefore disappointing that you cannot be certain that you can use it for free in the future.

Conclusion
Norcube is in many ways an advanced programme with many options and extra functions, more or less user-friendly and high security in the transfers. 5 GB space is also fine but the uncertainty about how long it will remain free is a big drawback.

Norcube Web Backup klient

Filer Vis Handling Funktioner Konto Indstillinger Hjælp

Albyrd Administrator Auto Backup Opdater Indstillinger

Denne Computer

- Default User
 - hwat
 - Andre computere
 - AppData
 - Application Data
 - Contacts
 - Cookies
 - Desktop
 - Documents

Norcube Web Backup Adminis

Filer Vis Processor Rediger

Norcube

STORAGE SPACE ██████████
USER FRIENDLINESS ██████████
SECURITY ██████████
FUNCTIONS ██████████
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GOOD & BAD

▲ Easy and fast installation
▲ Manageable file structure
▲ High security
▼ Uncertainty about price
▼ Troublesome transfer

7,1

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Language(s): Danish
Storage space: 5 GB
Transfer: With software

Download the program on:
www.norcube.dk

Price: FREE



IDRIVE

Serious but slow

Contrary to Keepit, IDrive is a somewhat more business-like page to get into but, manageable nevertheless. As with the majority of other services, there is a free version and a professional version. With the basic version you get 2 GB space.

The website and the programme are in easily understandable English. The installation and setup is simple enough but the download of the programme itself was very slow; a sign that the server is slow.

And unfortunately this was the case when we took a backup. Even with the lowest encryption and with as few additional choices as possible, the process of transferring 1 GB to the disk was interminably long. You can control whether the programme should use your entire broadband. But this does not help much when the server at the other end is clearly slow.

A large company is behind IDrive and they will probably improve in a couple of years' time. That aspect is certain enough.

It is also possible to gain access to files from other computers. But all things being

Everything is done in English and in the uppermost menus you can find many advanced functions.

equal, it is somewhat laborious and slow. You can clearly feel that you are online on a server with many thousands of users. This meant long waiting times in the test period.

When everything is set up, the programme runs very simply in the background and it is easy to use. You can stop in the middle of the process, which resembles an ordinary file transfer.

Conclusion

IDrive is a serious business, which provides good and high security. It passes on user-friendliness without being impressive. But the speed needs to be higher in order to get our recommendation.

IDrive

STORAGE SPACE: [Progress bar]

USER FRIENDLINESS: [Progress bar]

SECURITY: [Progress bar]

FUNCTIONS: [Progress bar]

GOOD & BAD: **7,0**

- ▲ Many encryption options
- ▲ Advanced backup functions
- ▲ High security
- ▼ Laborious in practice
- ▼ Far too slow

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Language(s): English
Storage space: 2 GB
Transfer: With software

Download the program on: www.idrive.com

Price: **FREE**

BOX

Backup - no software

The unusual thing about Box is that it is not a programme but a website where you can upload your files and retrieve them again.

The advantage of Box running without a programme is obvious. You can easily gain access to your files from all computers – as long as you remember your logon and password. The disadvantage is that you do not have the same security in encrypting and you cannot take a backup to the same extent in the background at pre-determined times and so on.

It takes a few minutes to gain access and create a user. A few seconds later you receive an email and you are ready.

You can create a folder that you can share with friends and family so they have access to various files. Quite practical if you have taken a number of holiday photos you would like to share with others without having to mail large files to them.

The disadvantage when you need to take a backup is that you need to search around the file system to find those files

Box has symbols that are almost self-explanatory. So it does not matter that everything is in English. The backup function occurs via your browser.

you want to do a backup of. This is rather inadequate in relation to a pure backup programme and an unnecessary source of irritation.

Despite a simple system, we found it frustrating that on several occasions the programme had not taken the files we believed we had chosen.

Conclusion

The biggest strength about Box is that it is not a programme but a website where you can save your files and have the option of sharing them with others without having a programme. But the lack of a programme on your computer is also its disadvantage. The functions are simply too inadequate.

box store here, access anywhere

Home My Files Updates Collaborators Services

MyBox

Welcome to Box, get started below:

Create a new folder

Box

STORAGE SPACE: [Progress bar]

USER FRIENDLINESS: [Progress bar]

SECURITY: [Progress bar]

FUNCTIONS: [Progress bar]

GOOD & BAD: **6,4**

- ▲ No software
- ▲ High user-friendliness
- ▼ Low security
- ▼ Poor backup options
- ▼ Limited storage space

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Language(s): English
Storage space: 1 GB
Transfer: Via browser

Try for yourself at: www.box.com

Price: **FREE**

MOZY

Unnecessarily Difficult

Mozy has a slightly confusing website where everything is described in English. That positive perception of things being easy and safe, which you have in abundance with Keepit, is lacking.

You also need to go through several points in order to register as a user. With the others, you need to complete 2-3 pages, with Mozy you need to go through six. Again – it is not difficult but just unnecessarily tedious when you want to begin quickly with your new backup programme.

After having sent a link to your mail address, the installation of the programme is easy.

Data can be encrypted with a 448 bit key which is a very high degree of security. With the installation, the speed of your internet connection is tested among other things. Quite good.

The programme resembles Pathfinder and is therefore easy to use, but the symbols are small and you need to leaf through several tabs to find your way

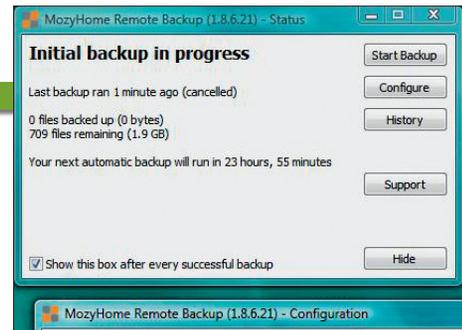
around.

There are many options for different types of backup. But it is laborious to use them.

Conclusion

Mozy is a little too demanding to use, even though it can run in the background. The setup of the backup is unnecessarily tedious. The encryption and security is high, but since there is a programme like Keepit available, which is better on all points, we prefer Keepit.

The Mozy programme is far too tedious. You need to click on too many tabs before everything is the way you want it.



Mozy

STORAGE SPACE: [Progress bar]

USER FRIENDLINESS: [Progress bar]

SECURITY: [Progress bar]

FUNCTIONS: [Progress bar]

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GOOD & BAD

6,3

- ▲ Advanced encryption
- ▲ Backup in the background
- ▼ Tedious setup
- ▼ Laborious installation
- ▼ Far too slow

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Language(s): English
 Storage space: 2 GB
 Transfer: With software

Download the program on: www.mozy.com

Price: FREE

ADrive

Good Supplement

As is the case with Box, ADrive is not a programme but an internet page where you can gain access to hard disk space and share your files with others. And here you have all of 50 GB for free. The page itself is in English but when you use the programme, some of the icons are actually in Danish.

The website is very simple and functions well. The approval process is a little long and bothersome but when this is done – with an irritatingly long password – you receive your log-on via email and you can begin.

The setup can be a little tricky. You can use the click and drag method for those files you want to take a backup of. But in practice, this often resulted in problems but fortunately you can also choose another method where you use a pathfinder.

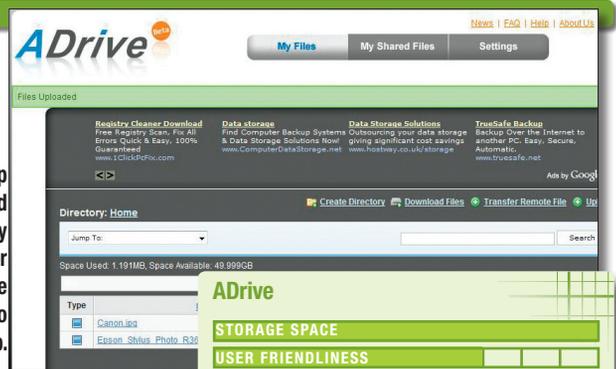
The procedure for selecting folders is easy but some problems arose when selecting folders instead of files. This part of the programme was a recurring source of

ADrive is online backup which is very clear and easy to use. Unfortunately there are several minor problems when you choose the files you want to backup.

irritation. A little frustrating, as it is otherwise the fastest of all when uploading and downloading files.

Conclusion

ADrive is in many ways a well-functioning system with many options. The user-friendliness is high 80 percent of the time. You are plagued by not being able to run some of the functions correctly the remaining 20 percent of the time. ADrive is good as a supplement to a backup programme – especially if you want to share large files with others.



ADrive

STORAGE SPACE: [Progress bar]

USER FRIENDLINESS: [Progress bar]

SECURITY: [Progress bar]

FUNCTIONS: [Progress bar]

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GOOD & BAD

7,3

- ▲ Large storage space
- ▲ No programme
- ▲ Fast
- ▼ Several minor defects
- ▼ Limited security

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Language(s): English/Danish
 Storage space: 50 GB
 Transfer: Via browser

Try it at: www.adrive.com

Price: FREE

BACKUP2NET

Best for the experienced user

With 100 MB, *Backup2net* has the least space of all. It is primarily to show what the programme can do and you can then purchase it later. In practice, we could not measure it with our 1 GB, so our speed measurement is based on 90 MB files which we have multiplied so it matches the others.

The programme resembles something for companies, but there is access for everyone. Microsoft is behind the programme and the large file that contains the programme is quickly retrieved but it takes time to install.

After installation it is fairly easy. You follow a step-by-step guide where you choose the folders and programmes of which you want to take a backup, whether you want to replace folders every time, or whether new ones must be made. You can take a timed backup and on the whole it is fairly advanced without being too difficult.

It looks rather more old-fashioned and boring than, e.g. the outstanding Keep-

Backup2net is slightly nerdy. But it functions well and for each action you have an explanation (in English) about what you need to do to carry on.



it. We also think that the backup procedure itself could be made even friendlier and not quite so nerdy.

Conclusion

Backup2net would in many ways clearly be the best programme of all if it offered more space. You only get 100 MB but it does not cost much to buy more. The programme has many advanced functions and works really fast. But it is a little old-fashioned and nerdy to use compared with *Keepit*. Try both of them – they are very different and really good.

Backup2net

STORAGE SPACE: [Progress bar]

USER FRIENDLINESS: [Progress bar]

SECURITY: [Progress bar]

FUNCTIONS: [Progress bar]

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GOOD & BAD

- ▲ High security
- ▲ Many advanced functions
- ▼ Slightly nerdy setup
- ▼ Limited space
- ▼ English language

6,9

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Language(s):	English
Storage space:	100 MB
Transfer:	With software

Download the software at:
www.backup2net.com

Price: FREE

BUDDYBACKUP

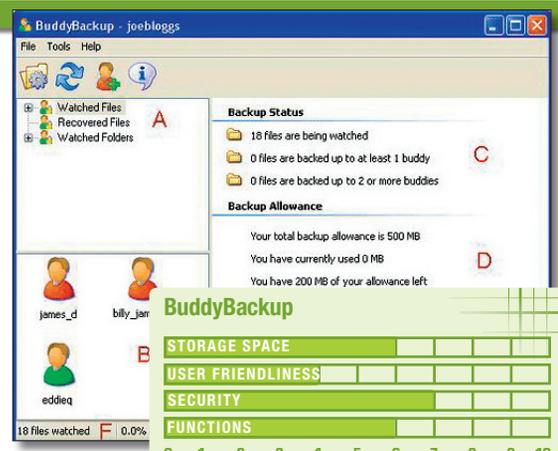
Trust your friends

This programme does not resemble any of the others in the test. The concept is that you can save up to 5 GB with one or more of your friends, who simultaneously have a backup located with you. The more space you make available to your friends, the more space you have with them. An interesting and innovative concept that could mean a minor revolution in the way in which you do online backup.

Unfortunately, *BuddyBackup* is not the best ambassador for the new method. In the test period we experienced difficulty several times in getting online. Whether this is a general problem is difficult to say. Therefore, try it for a period before you decide to use it permanently.

You do not take a backup directly to your friends. It goes over a server, which encrypts the files and checks whether there are changes since the last time you took a backup. These changes or all the files are then sent to the friends or family with whom you have made an agreement. In practice this means that your friends

BuddyBackup is simple to use - when it works. In practice during the test period, we could often not get online at all, which is why we cannot recommend the programme.



do not need to be online – they receive the files when they want to or when they go online.

Conclusion

BuddyBackup is just as much file sharing as actual backup. It can easily be used as a pure backup, but in practice it is better as a supplement to, e.g. *Keepit* or *Backup2net*. Unfortunately, there was far too much trouble with the technology and transfers.

BuddyBackup

STORAGE SPACE: [Progress bar]

USER FRIENDLINESS: [Progress bar]

SECURITY: [Progress bar]

FUNCTIONS: [Progress bar]

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GOOD & BAD

- ▲ Backup with friends
- ▲ Good distribution
- ▼ A lot of defects in installation
- ▼ Often unable to log on
- ▼ Too unstable

5,6

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Language(s):	English
Storage space:	Depends on you
Transfer:	With program

Download the program at:
www.databarracks.com/buddybackup

Price: FREE