Categories of MySQL Backup Software

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The Three Categories of MySQL Backups

While there are a number of MySQL Backup Applications available they all use just one of several methods available for backing up MySQL. There are three types of MySQL backup methods: Legacy, Online, and Continuous Data Protection.

1. Legacy Backup Applications

Examples: mysqldump, mysqlhotcopy, Zmanda Enterprise

Legacy Backup Application Performance	
Backup Method Used	Dump / Lock and Copy / Binary Log
Hot / Online (Zero Business Interruption)	No
Backup Type	Full (incremental with binary log)
Backup Window Length	Hours on Larger Databases
Granular Restore	No (transactional restore with binary logs)
Server Disk I/O & Load Impact	Heavy

2. Online Backup Applications

Examples: InnoDB commercial ibbackup, Linux LVM Snapshots, Zmanda Enterprise CDP (misleading - really means LVM Snapshots)

Online Backup Application Performance	
Backup Method Used	ibbackup (binary log) / Linux LVM (Lock and Snapshot)

Hot / Online (Zero Business Interruption)	Yes
Backup Type	Full
Backup Window Length	Hours on Larger Databases
Granular Restore	No
Server Disk I/O & Load Impact	Heavy

3. CDP Backup Applications

Examples: R1Soft is only CDP Backup for MySQL

R1Soft CDP	
Backup Method Used	Continuous Data Protection
Hot / Online (Zero Business Interruption)	Yes
Backup Type	Virtual Full
Backup Window Length	Minutes when CDP is in Sync
Granular Restore	Yes Table Level for InnoDB and MyISAM
Server Disk I/O & Load Impact	Minimal = Only Time to Read Deltas