# How do I backup my Hosts file with BackBlaze?

Posted At : June 23, 2020 9:00 AM | Posted By : Jeffry Houser
Related Categories: BackBlaze

I'm a programmer, and when doing local development I often set up local domains that loop back to my development machine. This is primarily for testing purposes. On Windows the domains are stored in a hosts file. The windows hosts file is located at "C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc" and has no extension.

It acts as your own local DSN and contains a bunch of domain names and IP addresses you want to point them to--for me this is almost always 127.0.01 back to localhost.

Although, this is not important, in the worst case scenario it would suck to have to set this back p from scratch. I would prefer not to lose this config.

However, BackBlaze does not back it up. I reached out to support and they told me that the Windows directory is restricted and will not be backed up. There was no way to backup this file. So I started looking into alternate solutions.

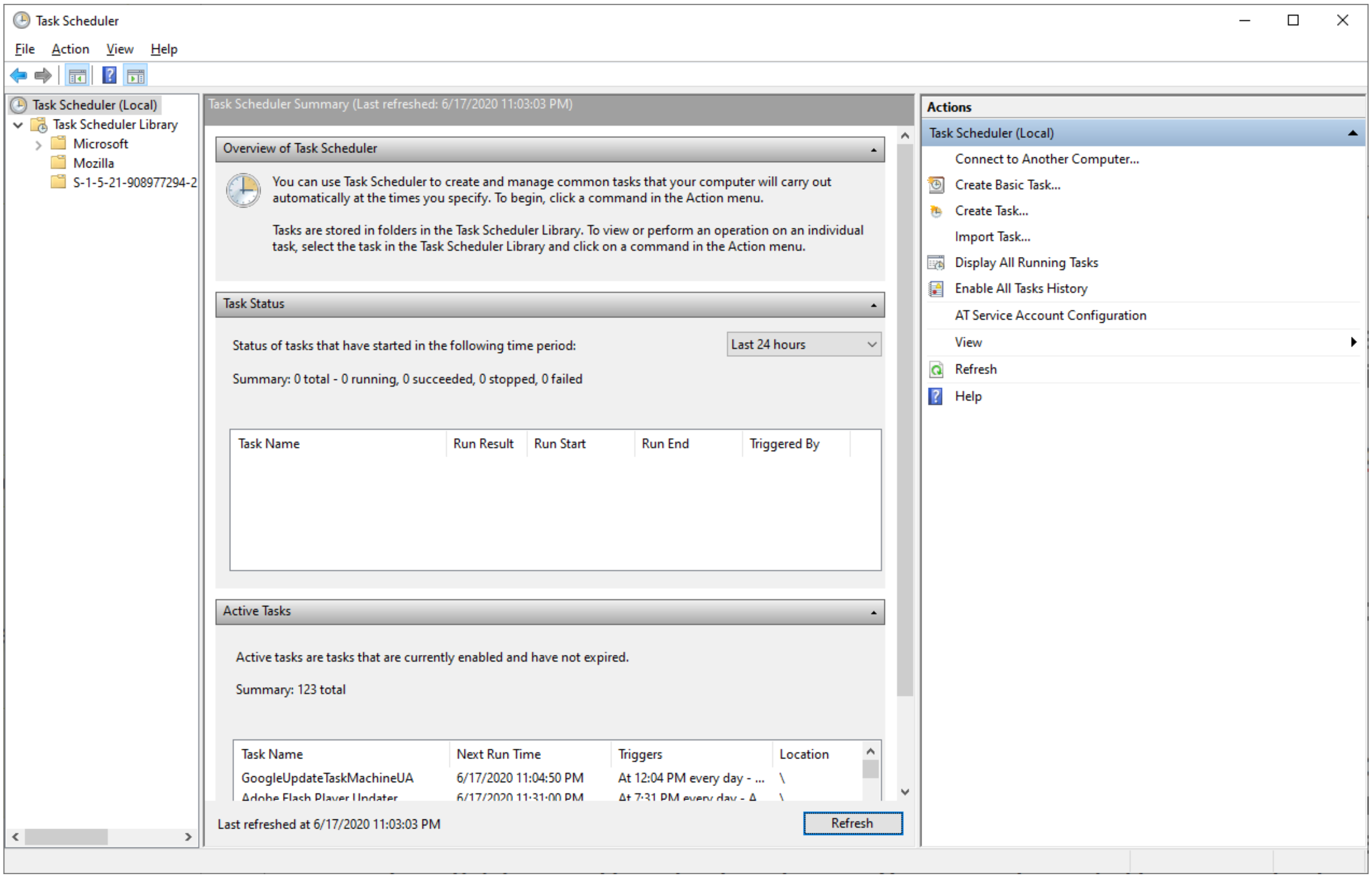
I decide to create a scheduled tasks to copy the hosts files from the windows directory to some place that Backblaze would back up. This can be done all inside windows.

The first step is to create your config file. I created a file named copyFiles.ps1. It contains a powershell script:

```
Copy-Item -Path C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc -Destination C:\BackupConfig\hosts -Recurse -Force
```

This uses a copy item command. The path is the source--the windows specific directory, and the destination is the place you want to copy the files to. The recurse flag tells the command to copy all files inside the directory, and the force command tells you to overwrite all files in the destination. You can tweak this script at your will.

The next step is to create a the scheduled task. From your windows start menu select the task scheduler:



Task Scheduler Summary (Last refreshed: 6/17/2020 11:03:03 PM)

You can use Task Scheduler to create and manage common tasks that your computer will carry out automatically at the times you specify. To begin, click a command in the Action menu.

Tasks are stored in folders in the Task Scheduler Library. To view or perform an operation on an individual task, select the task in the Task Scheduler Library and click on a command in the Action menu.

Status of tasks that have started in the following time period: Last 24 hours

Summary: 0 total - 0 running, 0 succeeded, 0 stopped, 0 failed

| Task Name | Run Result | Run Start | Run End | Triggered By |
|---|---|---|---|---|

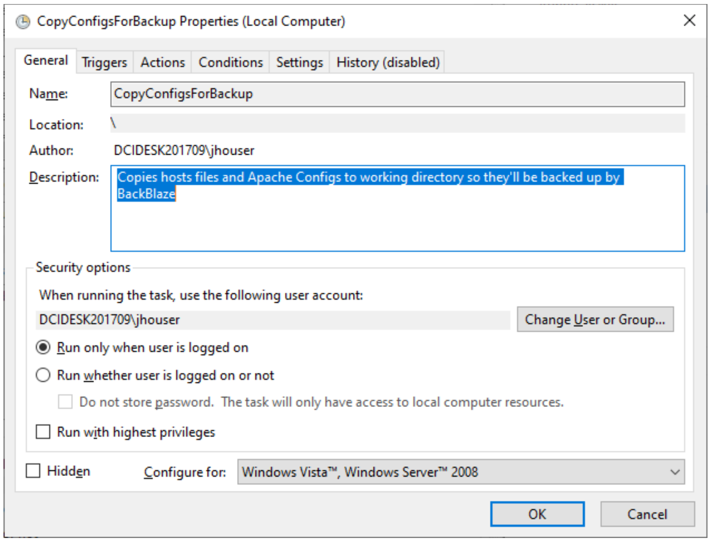
Active tasks are tasks that are currently enabled and have not expired.

Summary: 123 total

| Task Name | Next Run Time | Triggers | Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| GoogleUpdateTaskMachineUA | 6/17/2020 11:04:50 PM | At 12:04 PM every day - ... | \ |
| Adobe Flash Player Updater | 6/17/2020 11:31:00 PM | At 7:31 PM every day - A | \ |

Last refreshed at 6/17/2020 11:03:03 PM

Click the Create Task button in the right menu:



Name: CopyConfigsForBackup

Location: \

Author: DCIDESK201709\jhouser

Description: Copies hosts files and Apache Configs to working directory so they'll be backed up by BackBlaze

Security options

When running the task, use the following user account:

DCIDESK201709\jhouser

● Run only when user is logged on

○ Run whether user is logged on or not

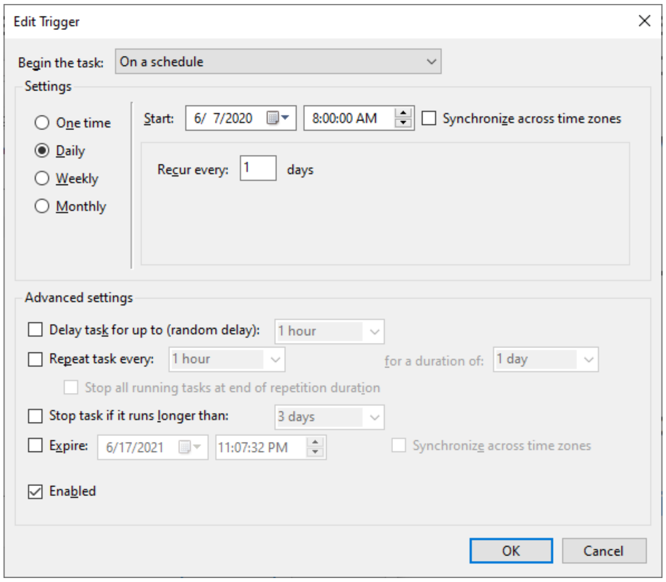
□ Do not store password. The task will only have access to local computer resources.

□ Run with highest privileges

□ Hidden  Configure for: Windows Vista™, Windows Server™ 2008

I gave it a name: CopyConfigForBackup. and added in some description of what the task does. (I'm also copying my Apache configs from the program files directory as you can see from the description)

Click to triggers and click new:



Begin the task: On a schedule

Settings

○ One time

● Daily

○ Weekly

○ Monthly

Start: 6/ 7/2020  8:00:00 AM  □ Synchronize across time zones

Recur every: 1 days

Advanced settings

□ Delay task for up to (random delay): 1 hour

□ Repeat task every: 1 hour  for a duration of: 1 day

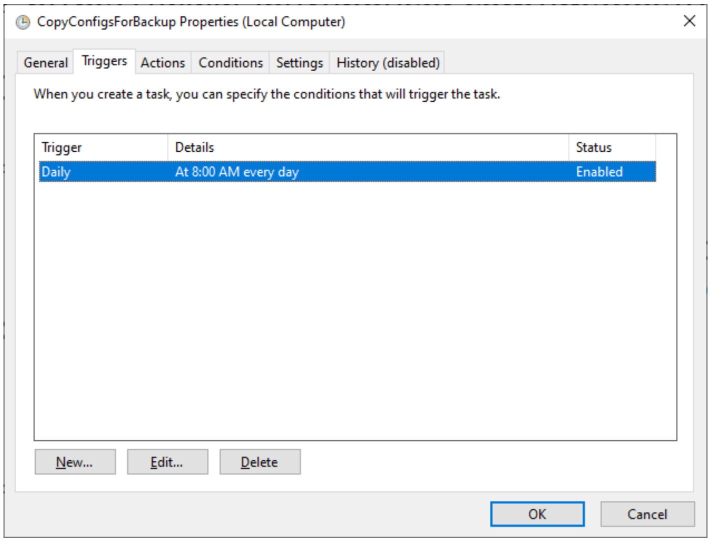
□ Stop all running tasks at end of repetition duration

□ Stop task if it runs longer than: 3 days

□ Expire: 6/17/2021  11:07:32 PM  □ Synchronize across time zones

☑ Enabled

I selected on a schedule, and chose daily at 8am. In most cases I'm up and my computer is already on at that point. Click OK and you should see the trigger in your list:



When you create a task, you can specify the conditions that will trigger the task.

| Trigger | Details | Status |
|---|---|---|
| Daily | At 8:00 AM every day | Enabled |

Click the actions tab, and then click new to create a new action. This is where the magic starts to happen.

I select start a program. The program I want to start is powershell, which should be located here:

```
C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe
```

Add a bunch of arguments:

```
-NonInteractive -NoLogo  -NoProfile -File "C:\scripts\CopyFiles.ps1"
```

The first argument sets the powershell window to not be interactive. It will do its thing w/o user intervention. Perfect for a scheduled tasks. The second window says not to display the powershell logo. This is not needed when loading things up, or down. The NoProfile tells powershell to load in the deafult profile, not something we customized. The file argument tells powershell which script to run. This is the same script I shared earlier.

I left the Conditions and settings tabs, relatively untouched.

Click okay, and your task should be created and show up in your list.

Now every day at 8am powershell blinks for a fraction of a second, and copies the files for back blaze to back up.

It's been working well for me.