

# Backing up and packing Plone's database file (Data.fs)

## Backing up the database

See “[Backup Plone](#)” and “[Backup and recover Data.fs in linux](#)” in Plone’s documentation.

Additional notes:

- Recent versions of Repoze can compress (gzip) the backup files in addition to doing incremental backups.
- When doing full backups, Repoze behaves exactly as using `cp` to copy `Data.fs`, except it uses ZODB’s code to determine where the last finished transaction is and therefore do not copy unfinished transactions at the end of `Data.fs`.
- Zope’s ZODB can use multiple “storages” (think of it as something like database backends). It comes with `FileStorage` (i.e. storing everything in `Data.fs`). [DirectoryStorage](#) is an alternative that is supposedly easier and faster to back up incrementally.

## Packing the database

Packing a database throws away old object versions (generated by undo actions) from the database. To pack a database:

Go to Zope’s admin panel, under Control Panel → Database → [database name, e.g. main], choose how much undo info to keep, and click “pack”. Note: `Data.fs.old` will contain a copy of the database file before packing.

(There is a Zope product called [PloneMaintenance](#) that can do scheduled backup, although I have not tried it yet.)

