

## How to do an emergency backup of PROMPT data to a desktop PC

The preferred media for backup used by Mid-American is a tape drive. It has been tried and proven for years and is not an expensive backup method.

Tape drives like any other hardware can fail and until replaced leaves the user vulnerable in the event of a hard disk failure or other problem causing damage so extensive that it is necessary to resort to loading the last valid backup.

This procedure explains how to copy the minimum necessary files for data recovery from the PROMPT Linux Server to a Windows desktop PC workstation.

### **How PROMPT Data is stored**

The PROMPT Database Management System manages all PROMPT data files and holds this data in fixed length data sets named "database" that we have created on directories named PDB001, PDB002, PDB003, etc. The number of these directories depends upon the amount of data you have.

There are two small control files found on /usr/edx/pdblib named \$PDBCTRL and \$PDBCKPT that hold critical pointer information about all of the database files located on PDB001 – PDBnnn. You might say these 2 files are the key to the PROMPT data.

When you have properly copied the two control files, and all of the database files from the PDB001 – PDBnnn directories, you have a backup of your PROMPT data.

### **Define – "Properly copied"**

Think of all of the database, PDB001 – nn files plus the 2 control files as one unit. You must make a copy of all of these files while the PROMPT system is "quiet" or YOU DO NOT HAVE A GOOD BACKUP! "Quiet" means that no one is using the PROMPT System.

### **Detailed backup instructions**

#### **Assumptions**

Four assumptions apply to the following procedure: (1) You have read and understand the previous information explained above, and (2) You have a working knowledge of a Windows Desktop PC, and (3) You have File Zilla installed to move data between your PROMPT server and a Windows Desktop PC and (4) You realize that this backup does not include programs, screens and report specifications that typically do not change very often. These elements can be recovered in an emergency basis from an older tape backup should a hard drive have to be completely reloaded. On an extreme emergency basis these (non data) files can be obtained from Mid-American but may not contain custom reports or programs a user might be running that are not on the current PROMPT release.

## Procedure

Our example assumes a user with three data sets all named database and located on PDB001, PDB002 and PDB003. Here is how the backup would be done **while the PROMPT System is quiet.**

- The first time the backup is made these directories must be established on the Windows Desktop PC
- We recommend a directory named Prompt\_data with these sub-directories, however you can use different names as long as you follow this structure.  
controls  
pdb001  
pdb002  
pdb003

- Next point File Zilla to your PROMPT Linux Server and drag these files:

### To Windows Desktop PC

C:\Prompt\_data\controls  
C:\Prompt\_data\controls  
C:\Prompt\_data\pdb001  
C:\Prompt\_data\pdb002  
C:\Prompt\_data\pdb003

### From – PROMPT Server

/usr/edx/pdblib/\$pdbctrl.edx  
/usr/edx/pdblib/\$pdbckpt.edx  
/usr/edx/ pdb001/database.edx  
/usr/edx/pdb002/database.edx  
/usr/edx/pdb003/database.edx

If the need arises where you are without a tape drive for several days, we STRONGLY recommend setting up a Windows directory structure such as Prompt\_data\_Monday, Prompt\_data\_Tuesday, etc for as many days as you want a separate backup. Obviously each of these primary directories would have the controls and PDBnnn subdirectories. This memo does not intend to cover the entire subject of proper data backup, but assumes the user realizes the high risk associated with only one generation of data backup. We prefer a minimum of five.

End of procedure