

**Question:** Why does my backup store different numbers of files each day, some days the number seems much larger than others?

The DataFort backup is designed to be both resilient and also minimise the number of files transferred for any backup set. As a result we would expect to see the number of files backed up to vary significantly from day to day. A number of real-world situations may cause this, the major ones are detailed below:

**Variable numbers of files have changed and require backup.**

By far the most frequent cause is the simple fact that a different number of files have changed and require backup. Sometimes, especially when application data files are being backed up, it is difficult to be precise about the number of files that will require backing up at the end of the day. The DataFort solution will only backup changed files at the end of the day so a variation in this number is to be expected.

**Directory Copies**

Another frequent cause for a jump in backups is the process of making a directory copy. Frequently a copy of an entire directory structure or files within a structure will be made. The Operating System will mark these as new files requiring backup and if the new directory falls within the DataFort backup area then DataFort will back those files up as requested. If you wish to make a backup of files or directories and not back them up to DataFort then simply copy the directories to an area of your disk where DataFort does not backup.

**File Access**

Some applications will lock files open and the DataFort process will not be able to backup that file while the file is locked. The DataFort service will ensure, the next time that a backup is scheduled, that the file if available is backed up.

This can, with some applications; result in a small number of files one day because many changed files are locked followed by a larger backup the following day because the application is closed and the files are available for backup. The easiest method to determine if this is happening is to check your daily email. This email identifies any files that DataFort was unable to backup because of file locking problems.

**Synchronisation**

If you find that large numbers of files are being backed up over the weekend then this may indicate synchronisation is taking place. The DataFort system is designed to ensure that human error does not result in files that are not backed up correctly. Sometimes an operator will perform an action that resets the archive bit on the files, even though DataFort has not backed the files up. Typical actions that do this are tape backup of some directories, CD burning of directories or files or manually changing the archive status.

Every weekend DataFort performs a synchronisation process to ensure that every file and directory marked for backup has, indeed, been backed up. If operator action has prevented this then the synchronisation process will bring the archive and the customer computer back in synch.