

## Route-Backup

We all know that while building route's in RailWorks we should make back-ups of the route on a regular basis. Unfortunately there is no quick built in way of doing this and it is always in the week we forget to back-up that things go terribly wrong, SBHH errors occur or we find that there are miles of track floating in mid-air. Then when we go to the backups we do have, we find that the last good back-up is a couple of weeks old and we have lost many hours of work.

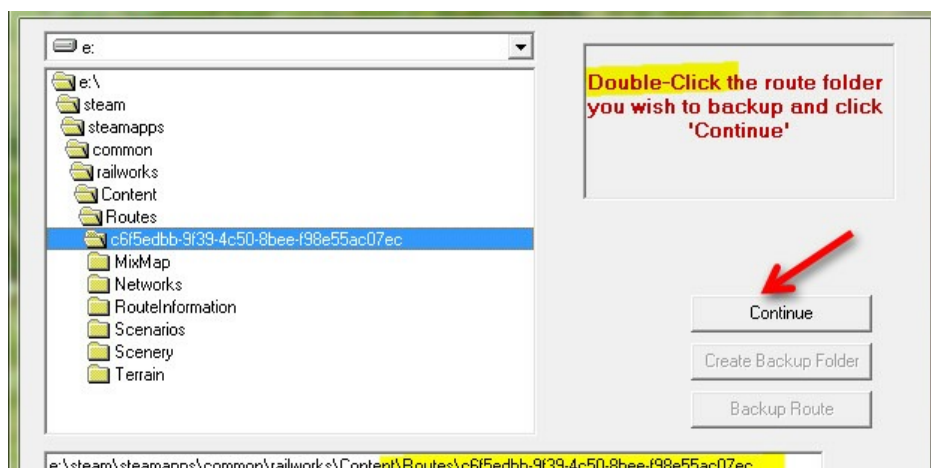
I have used Microsoft's SyncToy to keep backups of my whole RailWorks folder on a weekly basis, but this has the limitation of only saving changes to your installation on a weekly basis. So the chances are that the backup of your route includes errors you made recently.

Route-Backup is a new automated solution to your back-up problems. Once the program has been set up, you can backup your route by clicking the desktop icon, or even better for those with short attention spans, you can set it up so that the Windows Task Scheduler does the work for you and backs it up on a daily basis or at intervals you require.

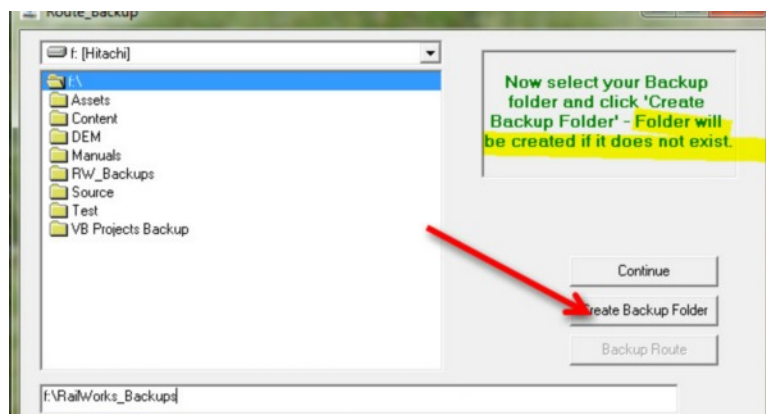
Each backup is saved in a new folder named like RW20120714 i.e. RW followed by year/month/day - if more than 1 backup is made in a day (1), (2) etc is added to the folder name.

Route-Backup is a simple program, just make a new folder, e.g. E:\Rail Utilities\Route Backup and unzip the package into it. Then make a desktop icon for Route\_Backup.exe by right clicking the desktop and selecting New - Shortcut from the pop-up menu and navigating to the Route Backup folder.

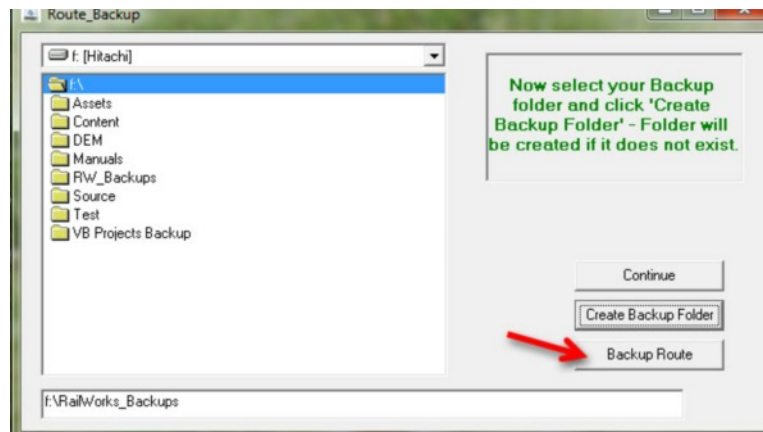
Now, run the program and you will get a window as under - It should automatically find your



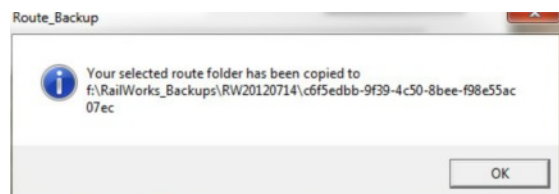
RailWorks\Content\Routes folder, so just navigate down to your own route and DOUBLE-CLICK on it making sure that the whole route path including the 'HEX' numbers of the route folder appear as shown in yellow. Click continue and you can now select the folder where you wish to save your backups:-



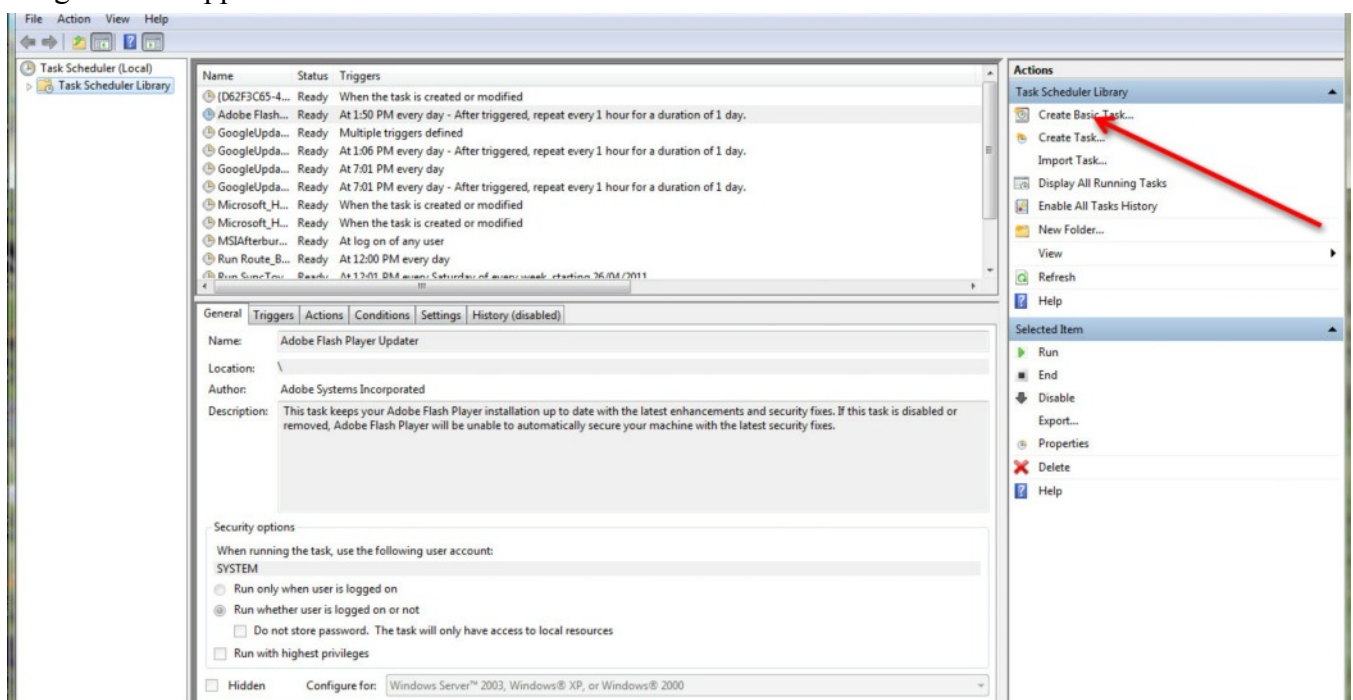
If the backup folder does not exist, then it will be created for you. In my case I have selected F:\RailWorks\_Backups by typing the folder name into the box, where F: is an external USB3 drive.



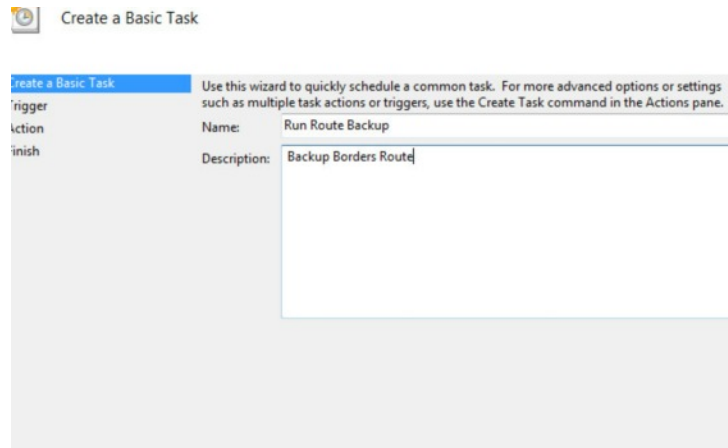
Click 'Backup Route' - a CLI window will open and you will see your files being copied. Once this ends, you will get a message advising you where your files are stored, click OK and the program closes.



From this point on, you can click the desktop icon any time you wish to backup your route and it will be done instantly. However if you wish to automate this operation, you should consider using the Windows Task Scheduler to accomplish this. To run the Task Scheduler, you can select it from the Windows Start menu, Accessories/System/Task Scheduler, or in Windows 7/8 you can just type Task Scheduler into the Start/Search Programs and Files box and it will appear in the list of found files. Run the program and the following window appears. Click on 'Create Basic Task' as shown.



This option takes you to a series of windows as under:-



Enter a name and description of your task, then click Next and enter data as required, I selected

Daily,

Every 1 day at 6pm.

Start a program

Entered the name of the program, in my case "E:\Rail Utilities\Route Backup\Route\_Backup.exe"

Finish

And that is all there is to it, now my route folder (and all sub-folders) will be backup daily at 6pm whether I remember or not.

### **Working on more than one route?**

If you are working on more than one route, then install 2 copies of Route\_Backup.exe in 2 separate folders, named e.g. York\_Backup and Scarborough\_Backup, make 2 desktop icons with these names and set each up as above, then you can backup both of your routes automatically.

2. If you ever wish to make a change to the route you are backing up, go into the Route Backup folder and delete or rename the file Backup.txt - This is looked for when the program runs and if it is not there, then you are back to the beginning and can start over as above.

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