

Using Acronis True Image

Here are the steps for using Acronis:

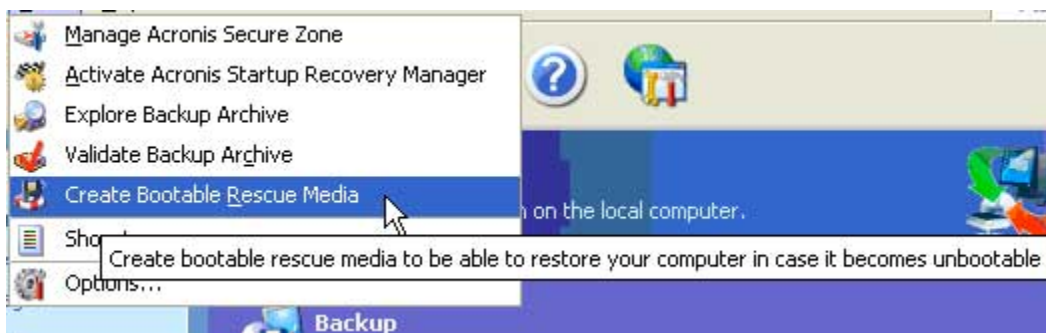
1. Download the trial version and install the software
2. Create a Bootable CD – see instructions below
3. Create an image – see instructions below
4. Restore your system in case of emergency – see instructions below

Creating a Bootable CD using Acronis True Image

A terrific feature that Acronis True Image 11 has packed into the program is the ability to create a bootable CD. You are probably thinking that is not a big deal. The thing that differs the True Image bootable CD from an ordinary bootable CD is that Acronis allows you to put the entire True Image program on the bootable CD. Can you imagine the possibilities? This is a review of the Acronis True Image process of creating a CD.

What good would the Acronis True Image application be if it was sitting on your hosed hard drive? If you were to totally hose your Operating System, you could just pop the bootable CD in and run True Image from the CD to restore the image that you made in the "Create an Image" [tutorial](#). You did keep the image in a safe place didn't you? Creating the bootable CD is just as easy as creating an image or restoring an image. Here is a quick tutorial about how to make a bootable CD with the Acronis True Image program installed on the CD.

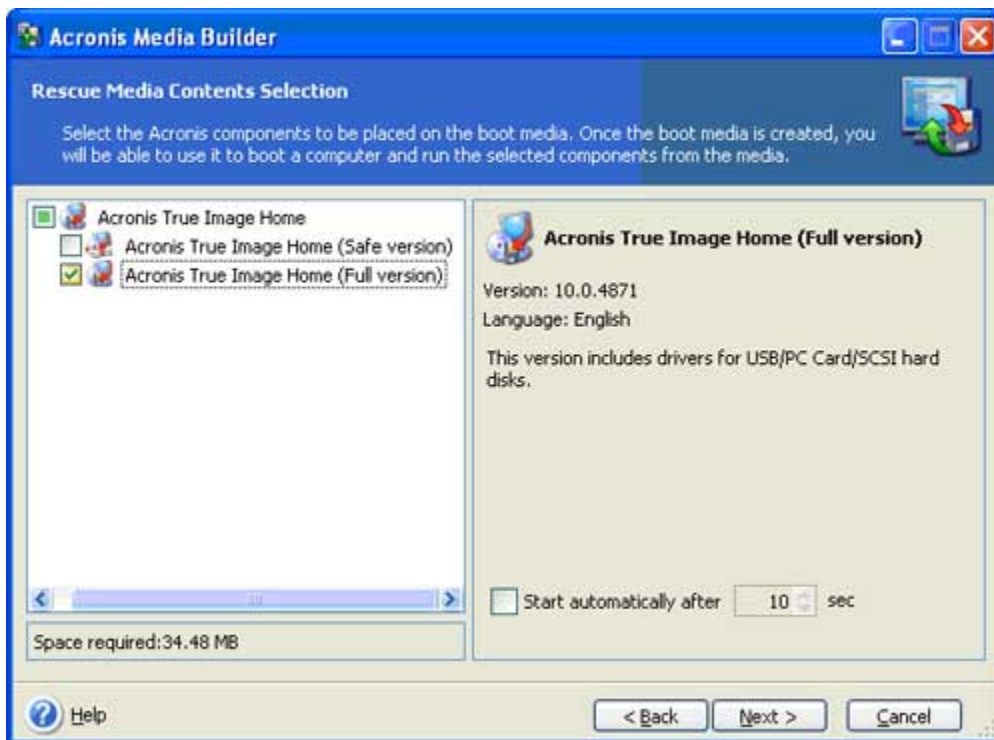
Open up the True Image application and choose to Create Bootable Rescue Media. The newer versions may have a separate menu item for this.



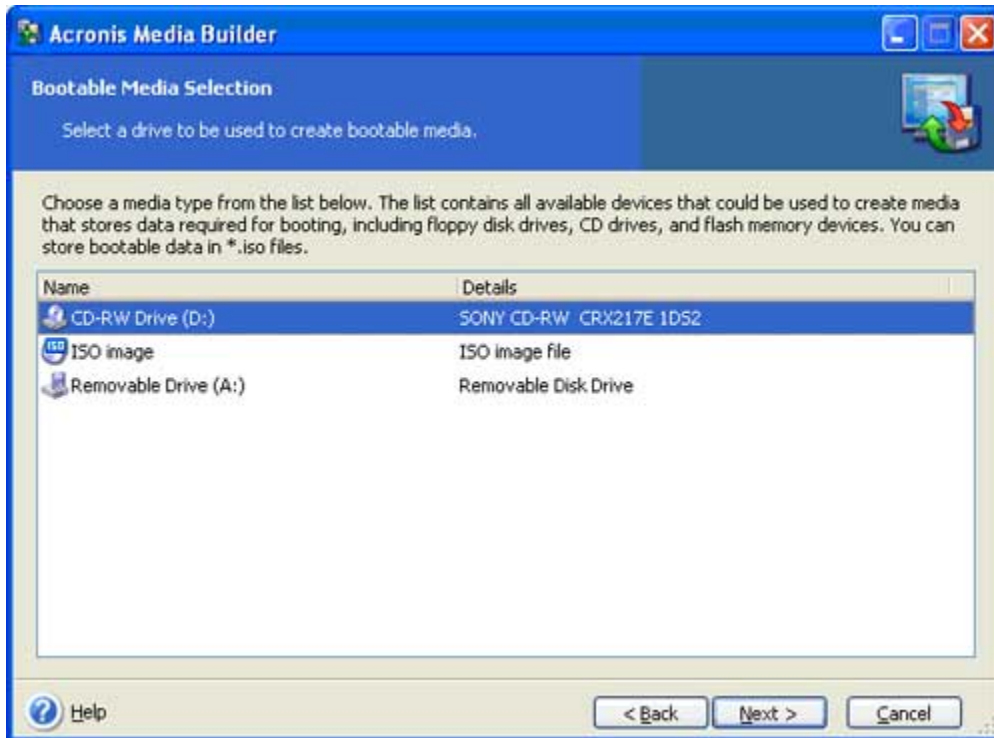
The next screen you will see is the welcome screen that welcomes you to the Acronis Media Builder. Click next.



The next screen is the Rescue Media Contents Selection. Here you have a choice about whether to install the Full Version of True Image or the safe version. Choose the Full version, which includes drivers for USB and SCSI disks.



The next screen you will see is the Bootable Media Selection. For this tutorial you would choose the CD-RW drive to make a bootable CD.



The next screen simply shows you what the media builder is going to do. Check this screen over to make sure it is what you want to do and click the proceed button.



A few seconds later, the bootable CD is complete. You should test it to make sure that it will work in an emergency. Do not wait until you need it to try it. I have never had one fail but you never know. The Acronis True Image program makes disk management so easy. I wish there were programs like this one back in the day...

This is what you will see when you boot your computer with the [Acronis True Image](#) bootable CD. You could boot to Windows or run the True Image program.



This next screenshot is the full program running from the bootable CD.



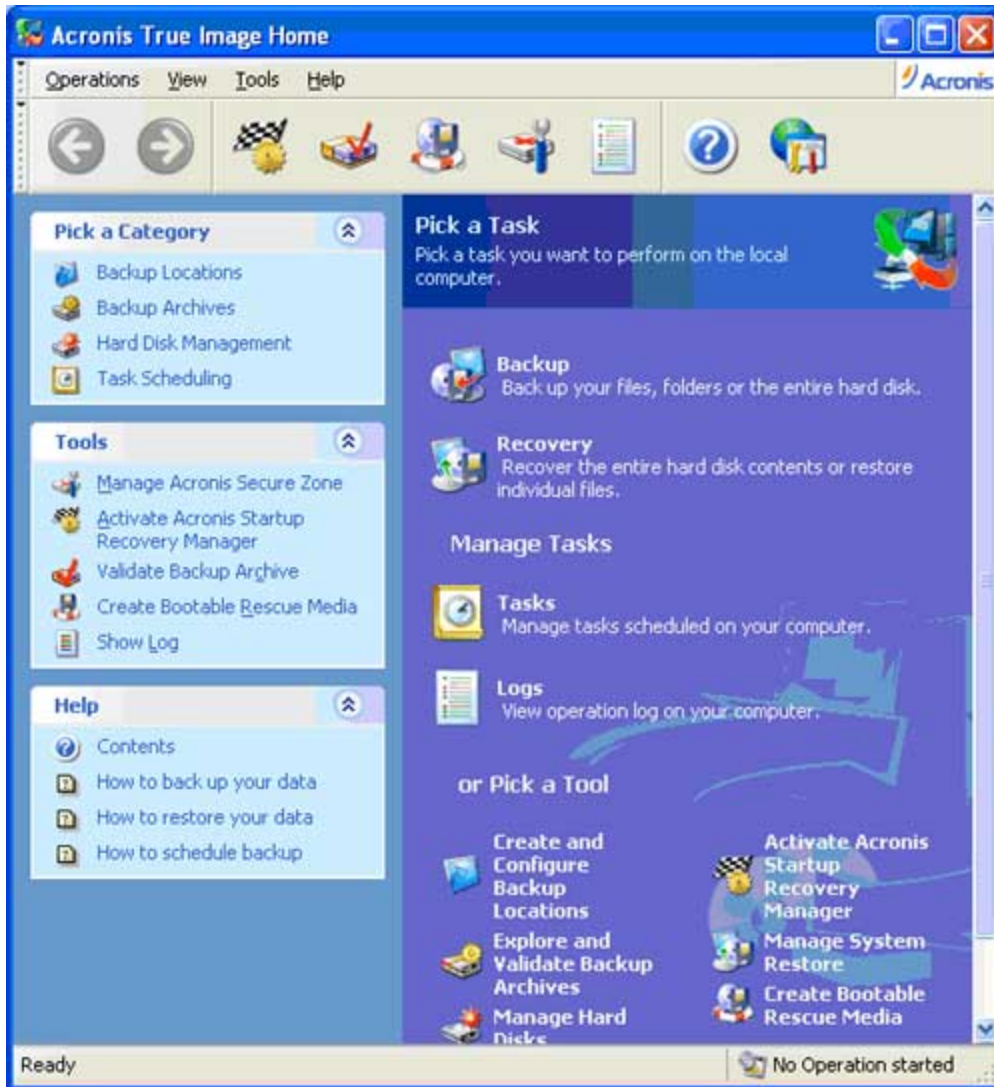
With the Acronis program on CD, you could just follow the **restore tutorial** to restore the original image to a drive right from the CD. So if your hard drive were to totally crash, you could just buy another one and put your good image on the new drive without having to reload the Operating System. Maybe you are just running out of disk space and want to upgrade your hard drive without installing Windows again. The restore CD will work great for that purpose too! Acronis True Image is truly a life saver.

Creating a Hard Drive Image using Acronis True Image

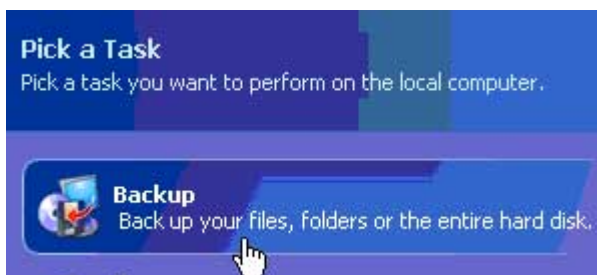
For the sake of this review of Acronis True Image, lets say that I have just spent hours loading Windows XP on a new computer. I used Windows Update to install all 93 security updates, loaded and tweaked all of my applications to get them just the way I need them to be able to have my computer function exactly the way I like it. I do not want to do that job again any time soon. Another scenario would be that you are about to try something that you are not sure will work, like trying the latest and greatest video driver, and it has the possibility of crashing your computer. If you need to upgrade your hard drive without reinstalling Windows, this is the easiest way to get the job done.

The first thing that needs to be done is to take an exact image of the hard drive just in case it crashes or you accidentally step in some scumware and do not feel like taking the two hours it probably would take to remove it. The tool for the job is Acronis True Image. Here is the step-by-step tutorial or walkthrough of Acronis True Image in action.

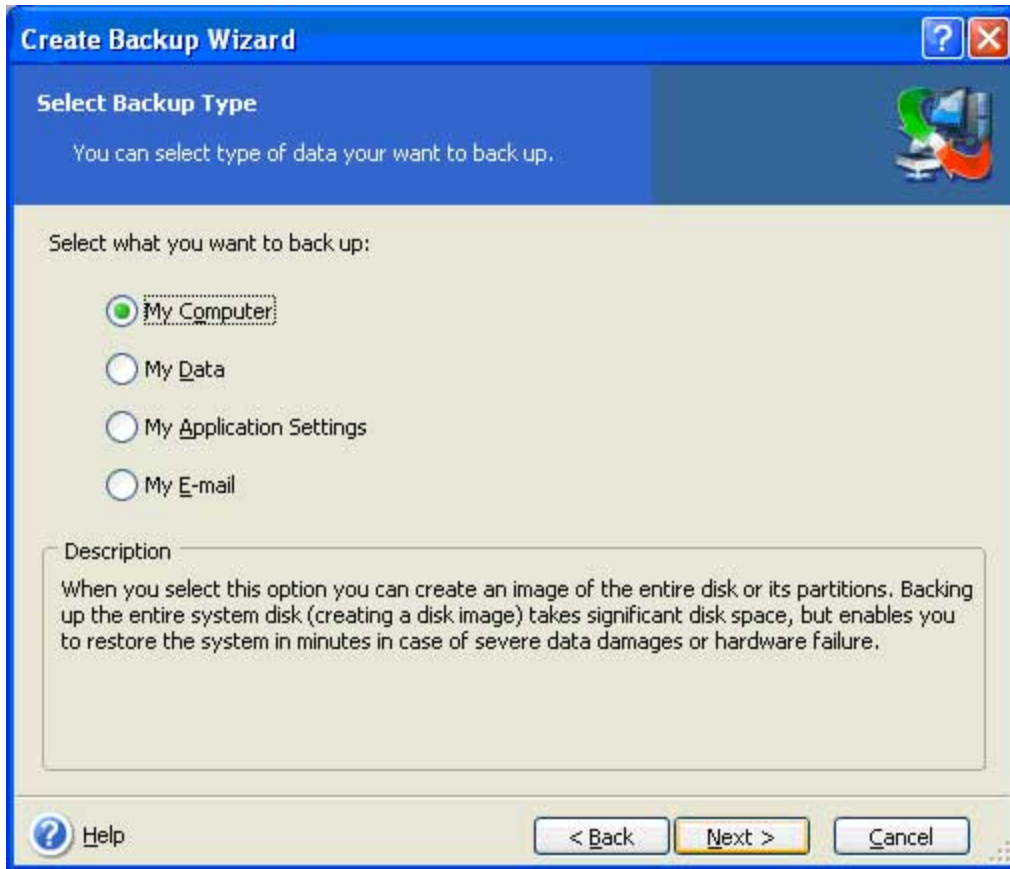
Although there are many different ways to image a hard drive, the easiest way to image a computer hard drive is to use the Acronis True Image hard drive cloning utility. You can [**download a free trial**](#) of the Acronis True Image software so you can follow the review on your own computer. The installation is a snap. The defaults work just fine. When you open the program, you will see the user interface below with a lot of options to manage and protect all of those megabytes and gigabytes.



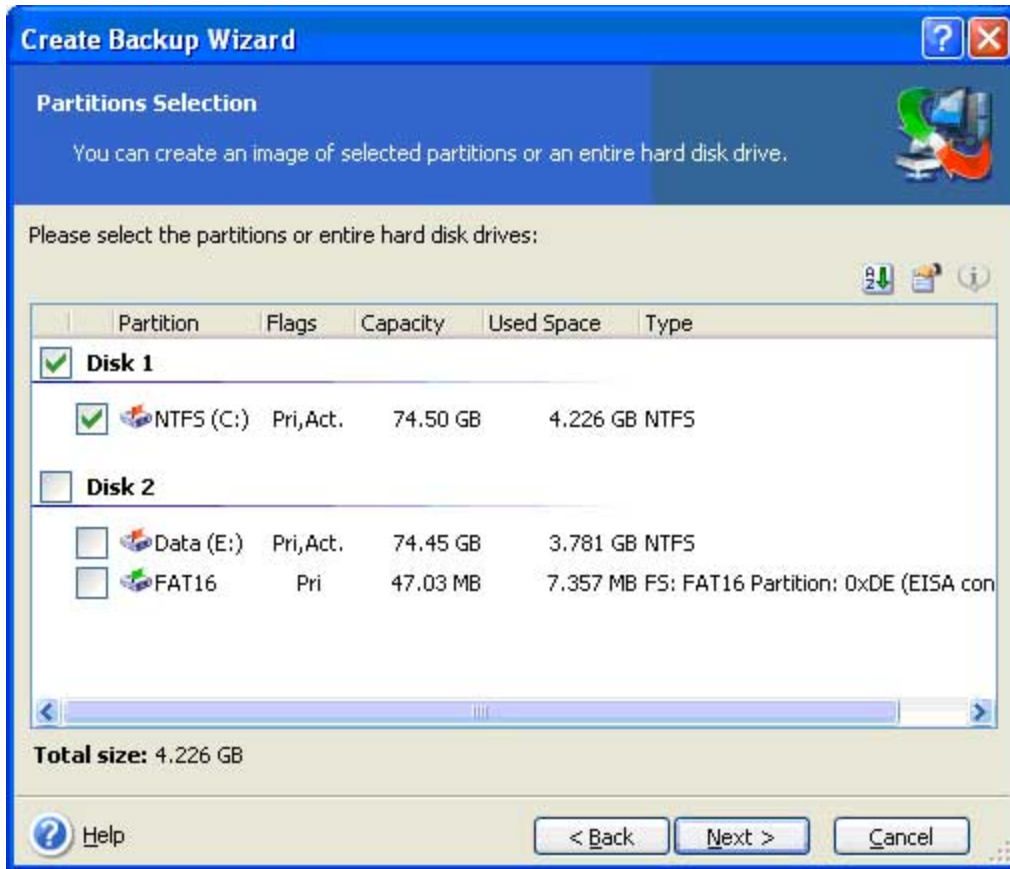
We want to take an exact image of the hard drive. For that task, click on the Backup option on the program interface.



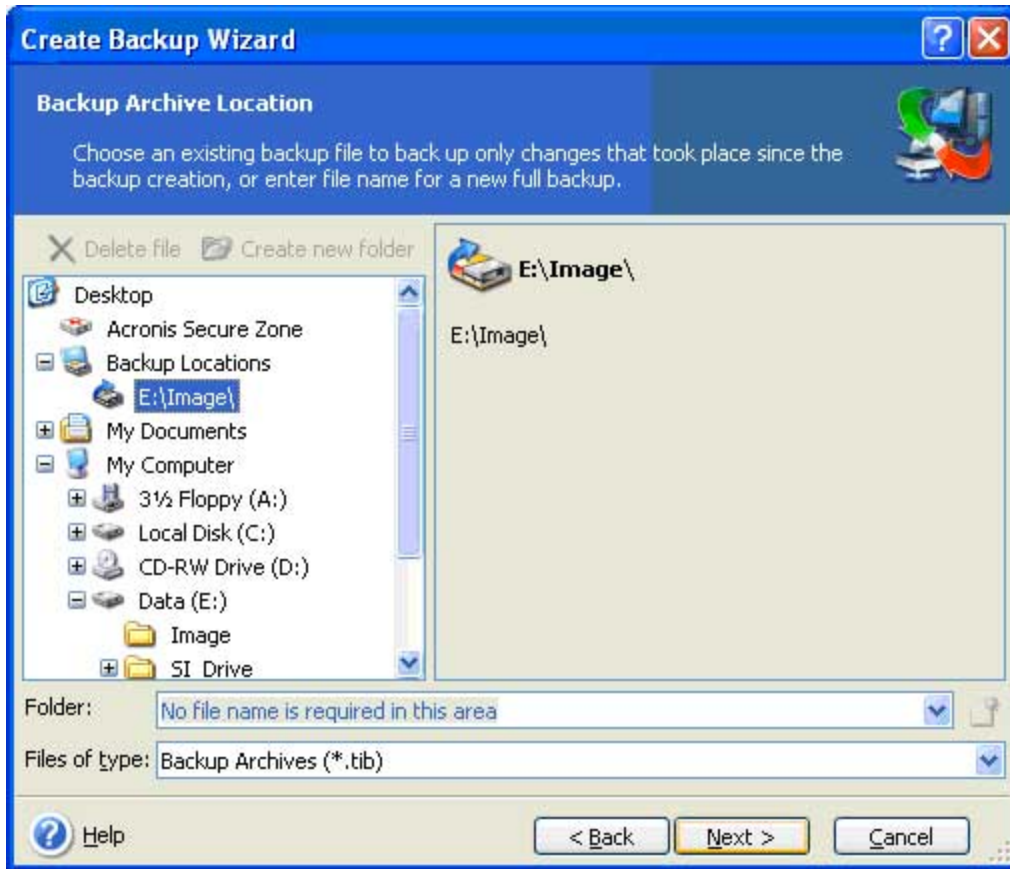
Then choose the "My Computer" option on the following screen.



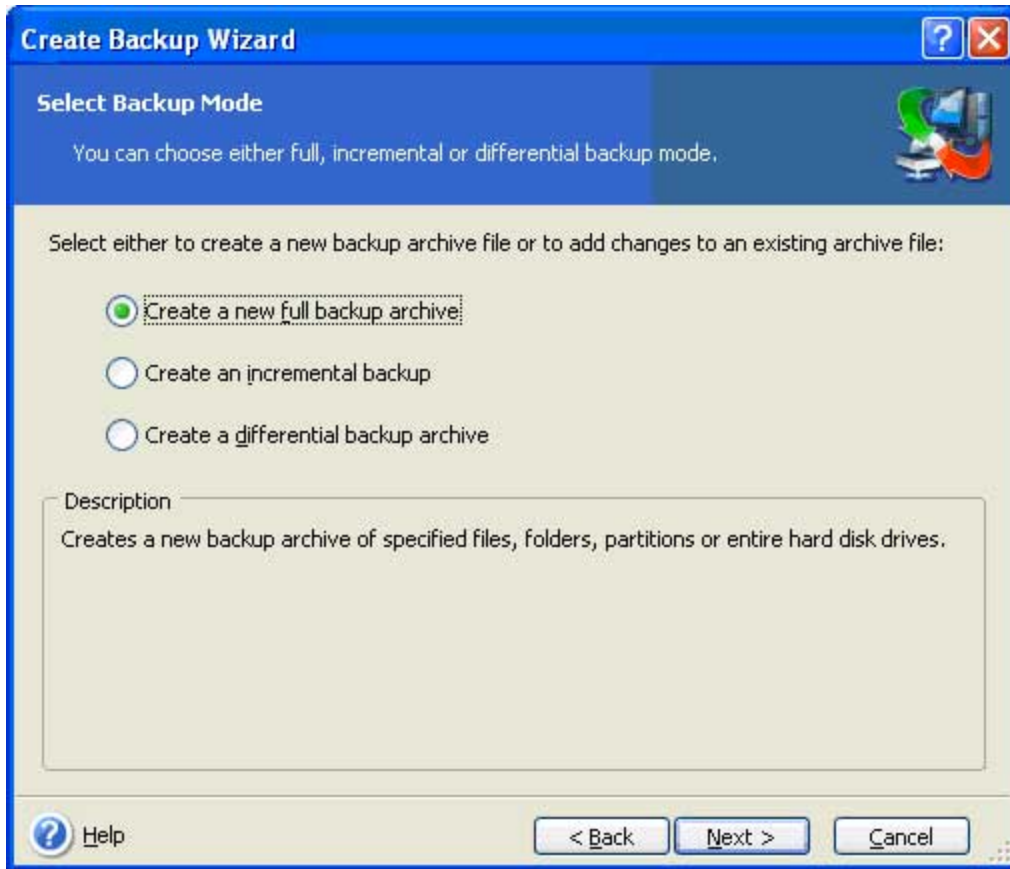
Acronis True Image will analyze the configuration and have you choose which partition to make a backup image of. Choose your main partition to image.



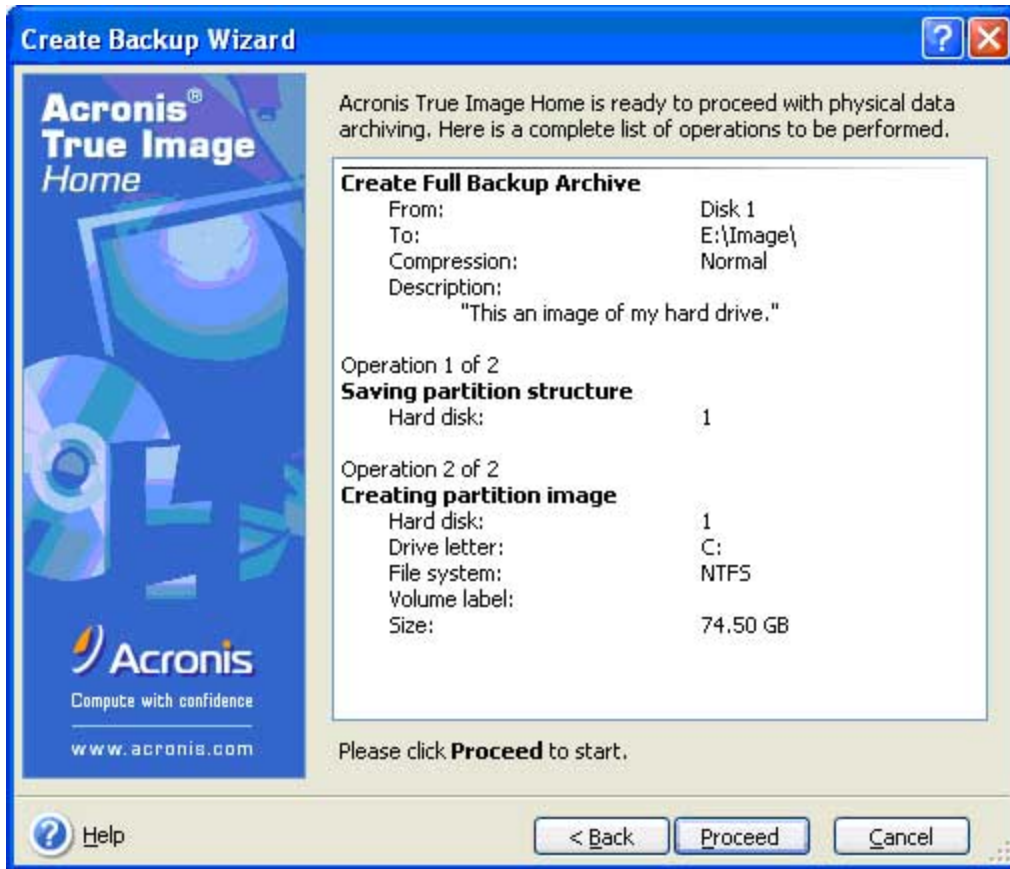
Then you will be asked where you want to store the image. In this case, there are two hard drives installed in the computer so I will choose the Data drive to store the image.



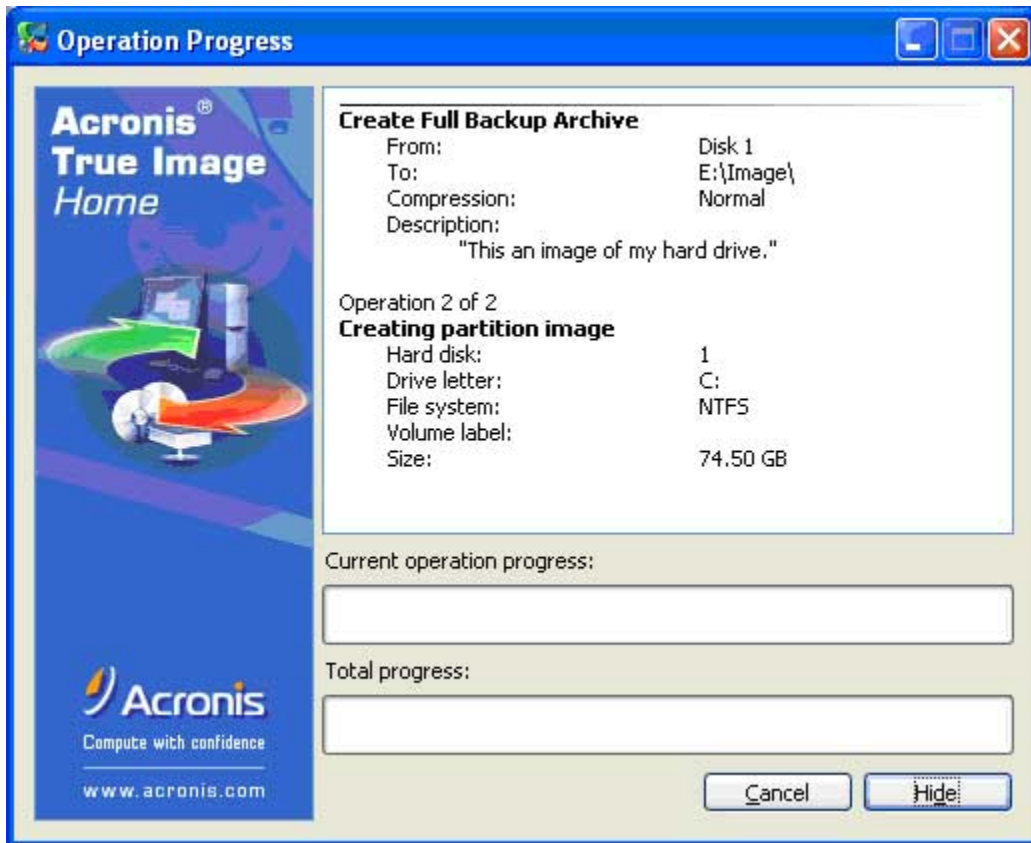
Then we will have it create a full backup archive.



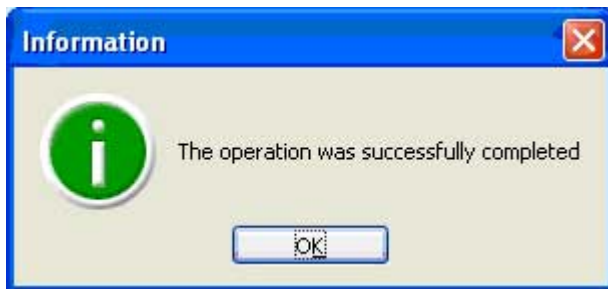
You can just use the defaults on the next few screens and then you will come to the following screen. True Image is basically telling you what it is going to do. Double check this screen to make sure that all the backup options are correct and then click proceed.



You then will see a progress indicator for a short time. The following screenshot is the operation in progress. You notice that you can still be working at your computer while the image is being taken.



When the image has been successfully created, you will see the following prompt.



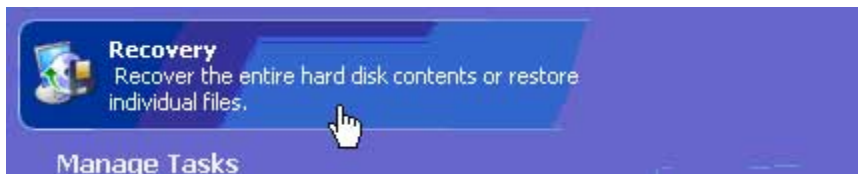
Go to the location where the image was created to see the image file.



Hard Drive Image Restore using Acronis True Image

You took an image of your hard drive using Acronis True Image in the “Create an Image” [tutorial](#) and now something has happened to your computer. Maybe you stepped in some scumware or somebody installed AOL instant messenger, which is a virus in itself, anyway your computer is not as healthy as it was. Not a problem. Acronis makes it just as easy to restore an image of your hard drive as it was to create the image in the first place. This review of Acronis True Image shows how easy it is to recover a hard drive with the Operating System and all applications intact.

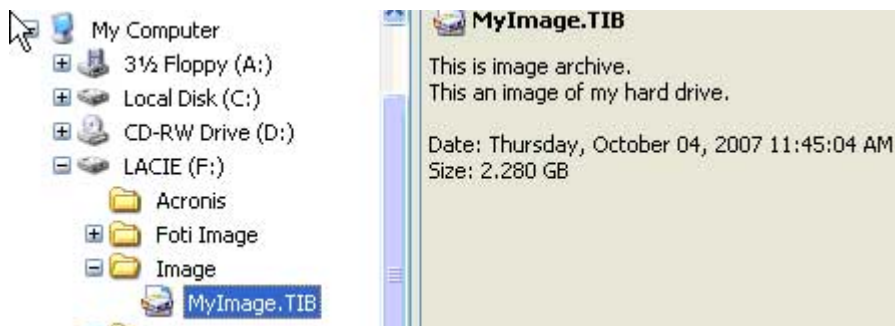
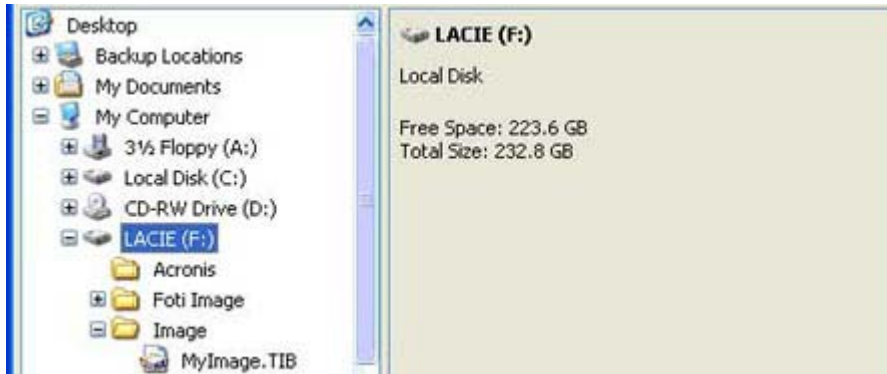
Open up the Acronis True Image program and choose the Recovery option.



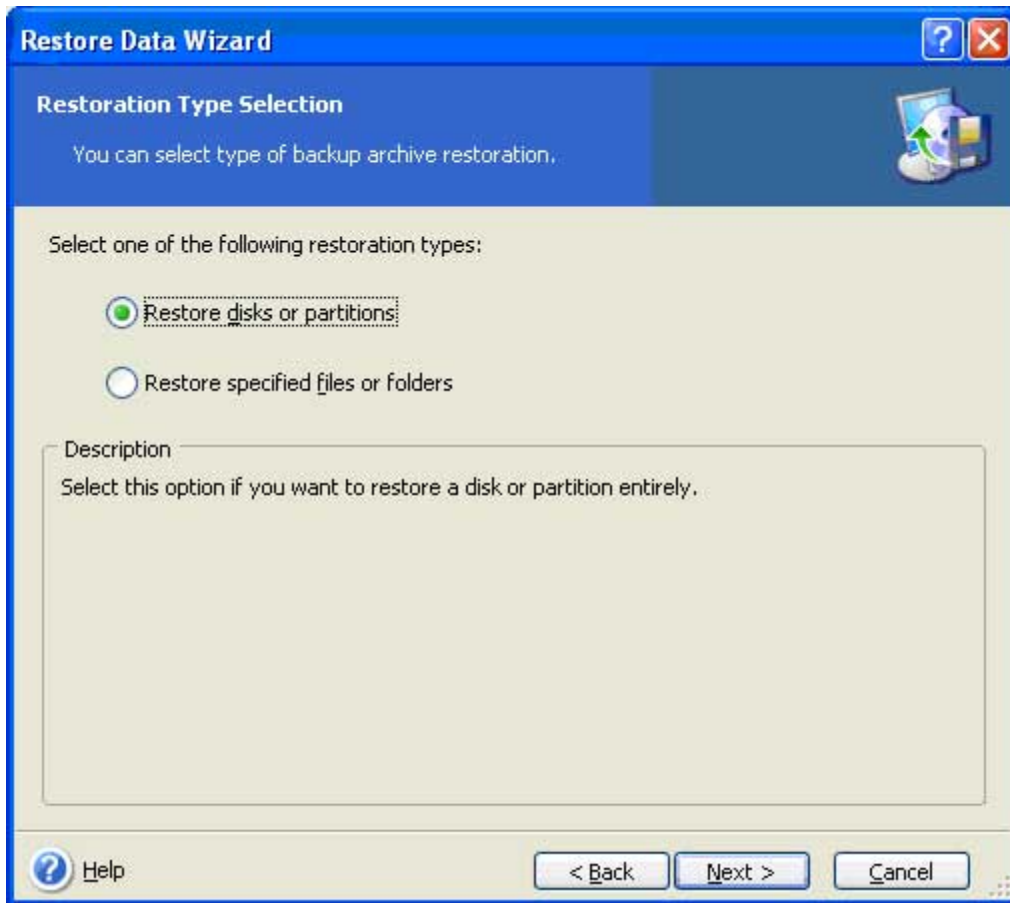
Browse out to the image file that you created when your system was healthy. Hopefully you stored it in a safe place. This image was stored on another internal hard drive.



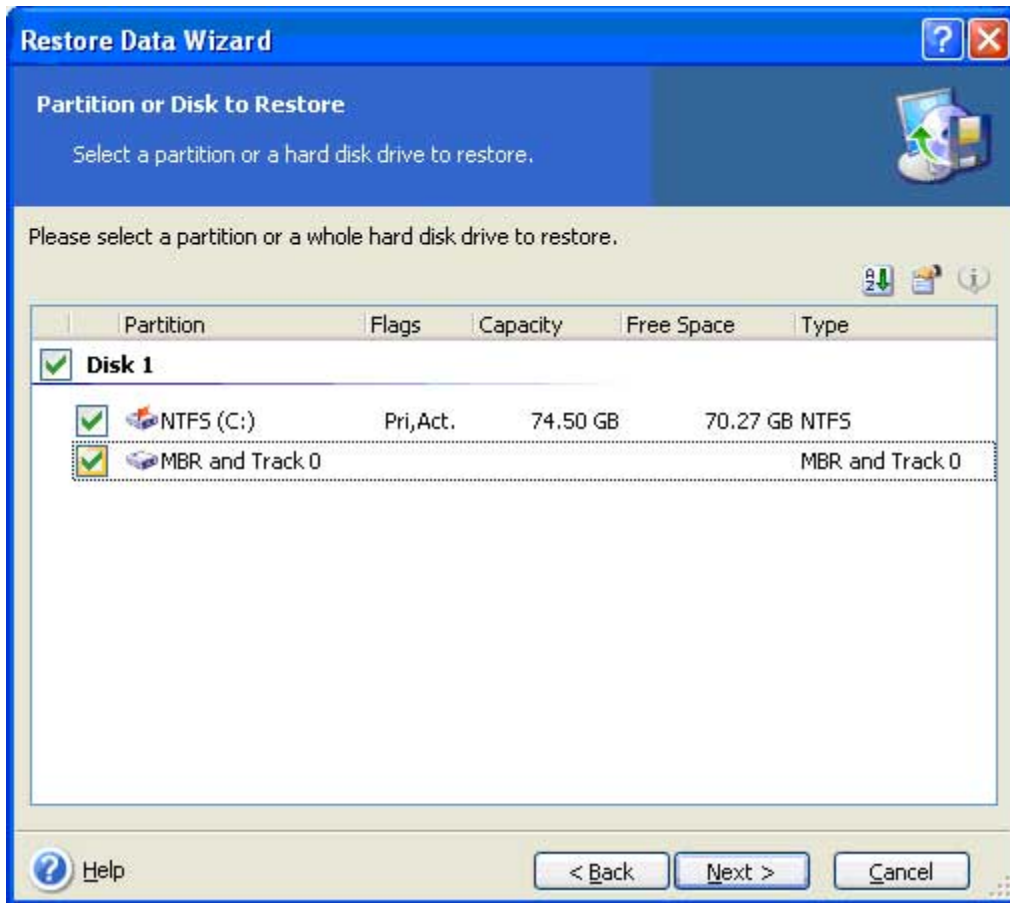
This following image file was stored on a **Lacie 250 gig external drive**. Just to show you that you can use an external drive to do a full restore of the image. it does not really matter where you decide to store the image as long as it is in a safe accessible place.



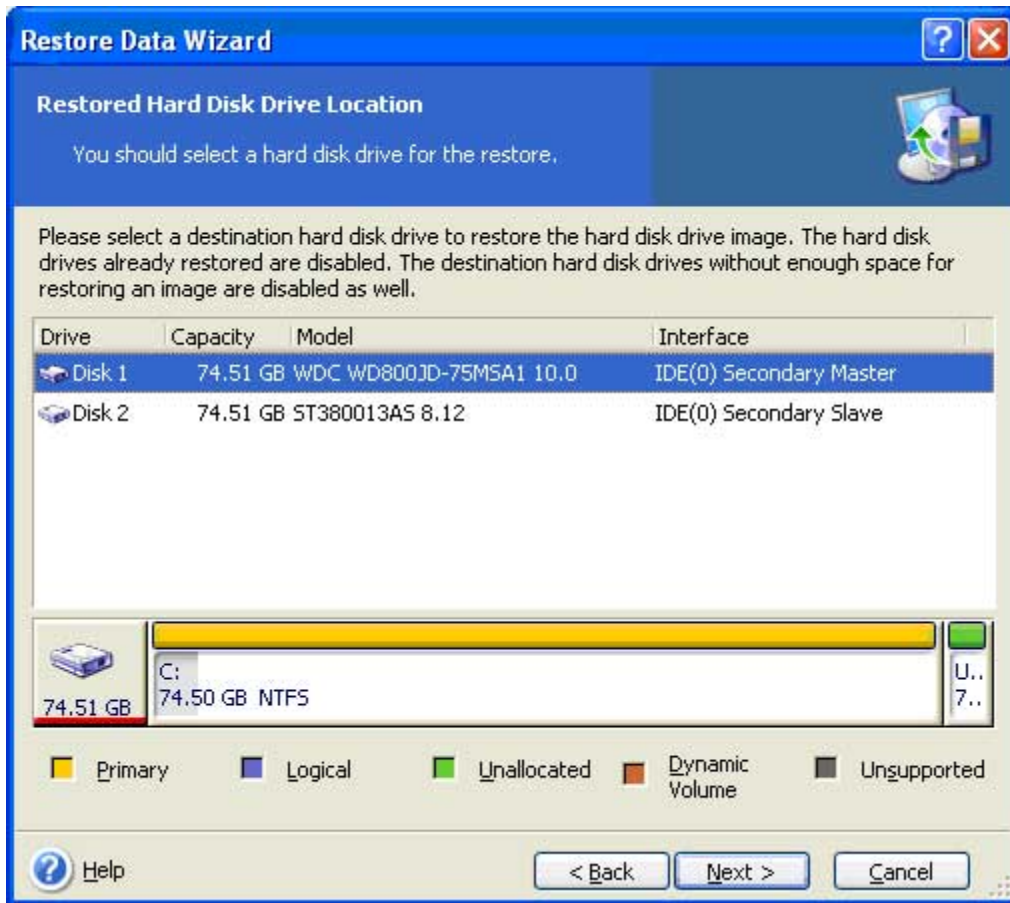
Choose to restore disks or partitions.



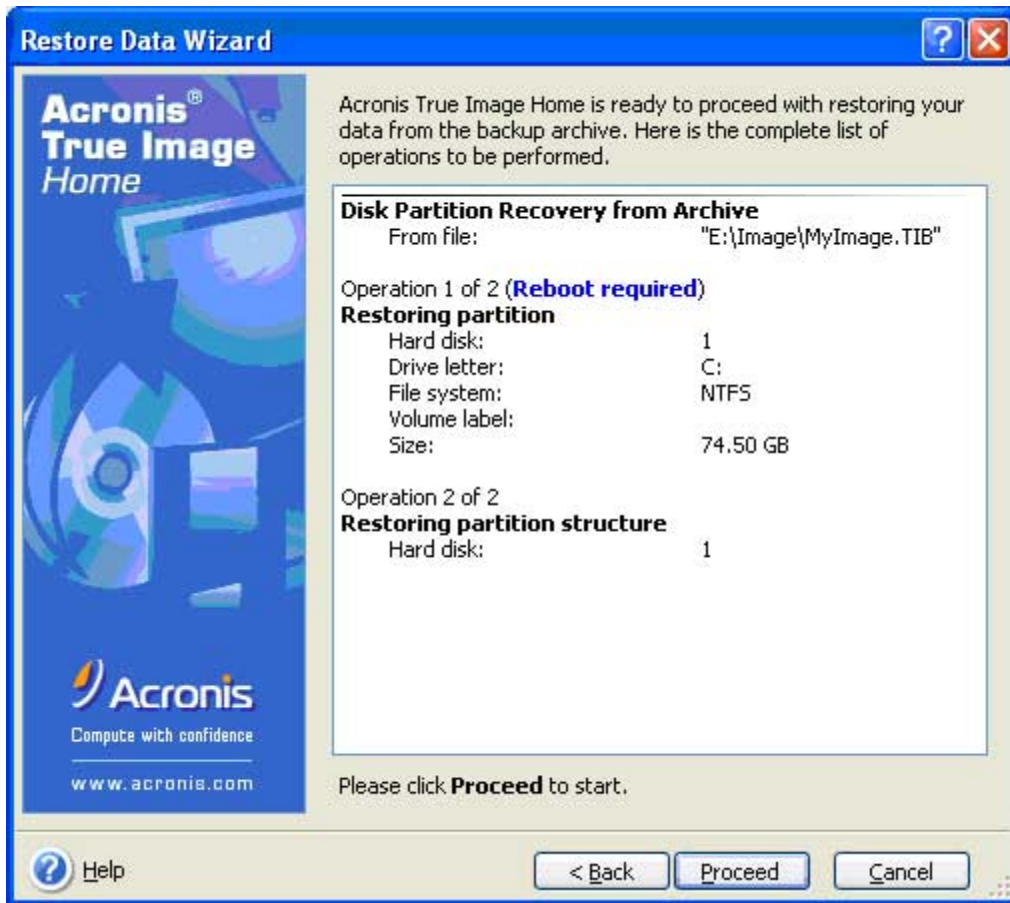
Choose where to restore the image. In this case, the image will be restored to Disk 1.



Then choose the hard disk drive location that the image will be placed. Be sure to choose your main drive.



Acronis True Image will warn you that there are partitions on the drive you have chosen and ask what you want to do with them. Select yes to delete all the partitions on the hard drive before restoring. The program does not know that the partitions are infected with something. Click next to get to the following screen that tells you what operations will be performed. Check this screen carefully to make sure that it is what you want to do, then click Proceed.



Of course, you are restoring an image to the drive you are using so you may be prompted that a reboot is necessary. Just click reboot.



In just a few minutes, your hard drive will be restored to that perfect state it was in when you first made the image. Acronis has made hard drive imaging and restoration that simple.