OBM Best Practices

Don't back up the root of a drive, especially the [C:](C:) drive

Backing up the root of the C: drive includes a large number of files in a backup set that likely do not need to be backed up. These include various temporary files, application files, and system files. This causes a client to waste quota space backing up files they don't need. Also, often times the temporary backup directory Reliable LifeSaver uses to store files while they are being uploaded is on the C: drive. If a client has two backup sets running simultaneously, such as a database backup and a file backup, the database files may be in this temporary directory and backed up by the file backup set, thus backing up the same data in two different places.

Don't use a File Backup Set to backup a database/MS Exchange

Reliable LifeSaver has modules available which interact with built-in backup tools for most database software as well as Microsoft Exchange. This allows it to ensure that databases are in a stable state before performing a backup. The standard File Backup Set can't do this, and thus if you use it to back up database data, there is no guarantee that a client will be able to restore from backed up data.

If you're backing up a database every day, there's no real need to perform a transaction log backup

The purpose of providing the transaction-log backup is for large databases that would be inconvenient to back up every day. In this case, a large database could perform a full backup on weekends, and only back up the transaction logs during the week. In this case, to recover their database, a client would need to perform a restore on the database, then apply up to five transaction logs, depending on what day it might be. If the database is small enough to reasonably back up every day, then Reliable LifeSaver will have a point-in-time backup of each day anyway, so there is no need to back up the transaction logs.

Ensure that the directory you are using for temporary backup spooling is not itself included in the backup set

When backing up databases, Reliable LifeSaver first uses the database's own tools to perform a dump of the data into a temporary directory specified in the backup set. This data remains there until the upload to the backup server is complete and verified. If a file backup set is scheduled during this time, it may see this data as new or changed and upload it a second time as part of the file backup set, thus using double the space for no good purpose. To ensure this doesn't happen, a client can make sure that the temporary spooling directory is not contained within any file set backups.

Make sure that the temporary spooling directory is on a drive with enough free space.

As discussed above, when performing a database backup, Reliable LifeSaver first uses the database software's own tools to dump the data into a temporary directory. If there is not enough space on the drive where this directory is located to contain this dump, the backup will fail. Clients will then be unable to recover the data if they experience a data loss.