

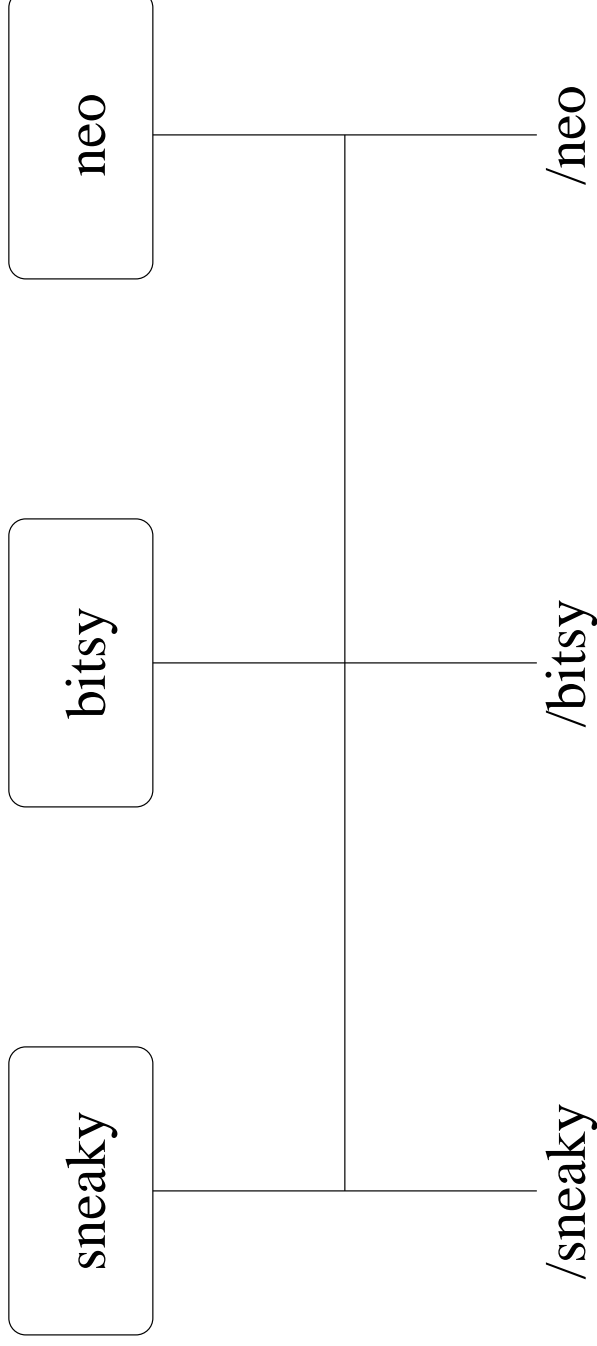
**frontdown—An Automated Backup  
for Home/Home Office Networks**

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**frontdown** will be of interest to people  
who—

- wish to have backups done automatically
- have adequate space on removable disks or NFS filesystems
- use RCS and/or the --backup option to keep earlier versions of files
- have a network where the computers aren't turned on all the time

Our network consists of three computers with shared filesystems



**frontdown** uses parameters specified in a configuration file:

```
include_patterns=/home/adeniz/.back/includepatterns
exclude_patterns=/home/adeniz/.back/excludepatterns
backup_to=/sneaky/adeniz/backup
host=sneaky
mail_to=adeniz
fullbackup_days=30
incbackup_hours=23
id=adeniz
```

This configuration causes the following files to be created in the backup directory (`/sneaky/adeniz/backup`):

- `adeniz_backup.log`—Log of what was done, and when
- `adeniz_full.tar.gz`—Full backup (done every 30 days)
- `adeniz_incremental.tar.gz`—Backup of files modified since the full backup was done (done every day)
- `adeniz_timestamp`—Date and time of full backup

`cron` can be used to run `frontdown` periodically

```
00 * * * * frontdown /home/adeniz/.back/sneaky.conf
30 * * * * frontdown /home/adeniz/.back/bitzy.conf
```

`frontdown` will check that the host specified in the configuration file is up before backing up the files.

# Final comments

- Written in perl
- Can be used to back up to local disks (fixed or removable)
- Uses email, cron, tar, and nfs
- Available from (under GNU copyleft):  
<http://www.baker-research.com/software.html>
- Send comments to [adeniz@baker-research.com](mailto:adeniz@baker-research.com)