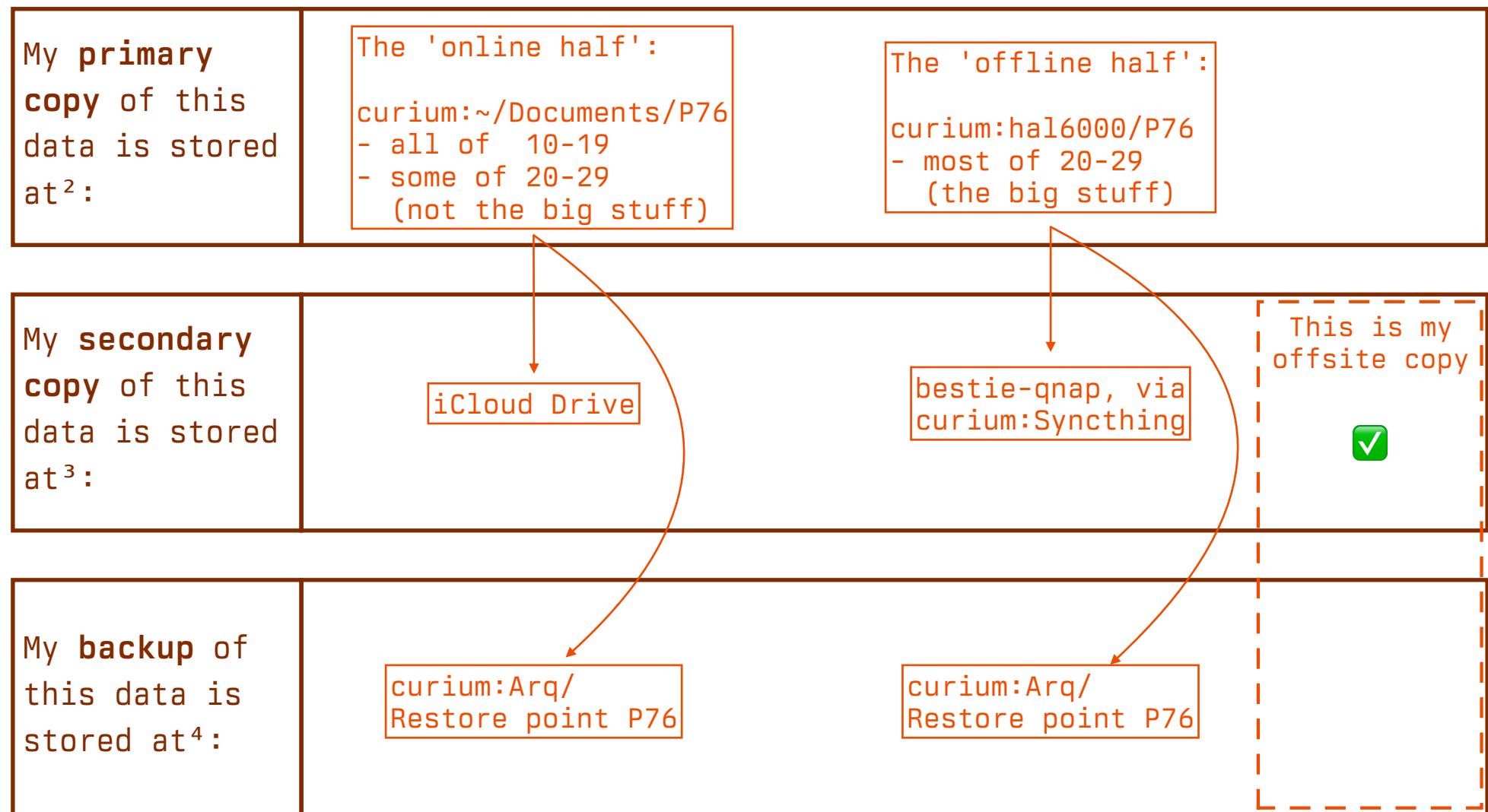


This is the 3-2-1 documentation<sup>1</sup> for Johnny.Decimal system: P76 Johnny's personal system

Last updated on: 2025-12-17





# Notes

## 1. What does 3-2-1 mean?

This industry-standard guidance helps keep your data safe from accidental loss.

You need to have:

- 3: **Three copies** of your data, in total.
- 2: Stored on **two different types of media**.
  - e.g. one copy on your laptop, one copy in the cloud, or
  - one copy on your laptop, one copy on a server.
- 1: **One copy must be offsite**.
  - Which means 'not at the same location as your laptop'.
  - Otherwise when your house burns down you lose everything.

## 2. The 'primary copy' of your data

The 'primary copy' of your data counts as one of your three copies.

This is probably your laptop.

Note: this assumes that you have a *complete* copy of your data on this laptop. Many cloud services (iCloud, Dropbox) allow you to keep a *partial* copy. **In this case your laptop is not the primary copy of your data.** Life gets more complicated and we'll discuss this another day.

### 3-2-1 tracker

Copies: 1/3

Media: 1/2

Offsite: 0/1

## 3. The 'secondary copy' of your data

The 'secondary copy' counts as the second of your three copies.

It *might* also be your offsite copy; or that might be your backup.

This is probably a cloud service like iCloud or Dropbox.

Copies: 2/3

Media: 2/2

Offsite: 0/1? 

## 4. The 'backup' of your data

Finally, your backup is the third of three copies.

It *might* also be your offsite copy; or that might be your 'secondary copy'.

You might think that iCloud/Dropbox is a backup. It is not!

This must be a dedicated backup service like Time Machine (runs locally) or Backblaze (in the cloud).

Copies: 3/3

Media: 2/2

Offsite: 1/1