

# Your Backup Success Rate Is Lying To You

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*It measures job completion. Not recoverability.*



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Build Like An Engineer.

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# It's Not Malice. It's Observability.

OBSERVABLE  
EVERY DAY

## Backup Success

A job either ran or it didn't. Clean, binary, reportable at any scale.

OBSERVABLE  
ONLY INTERMITTENTLY

## Recoverability

Only provable by actually restoring something. Expensive, disruptive, rare.

*Backup success became the metric because it could be measured continuously.*



# Silent Corruption



## GREEN CHECKMARK IN THE CONSOLE

- Job runs, retention satisfied, log shows success.
- Resulting restore point is unusable — application-consistency failed.
- Backup software measured the copy, not the outcome.

# Unverified Restorability



GREEN CHECKMARK IN THE CONSOLE

- Job succeeds — and nobody has ever restored from it.
- The write-only backup problem: protection running in one direction only.
- An untested backup is an assumption wearing a checkmark.

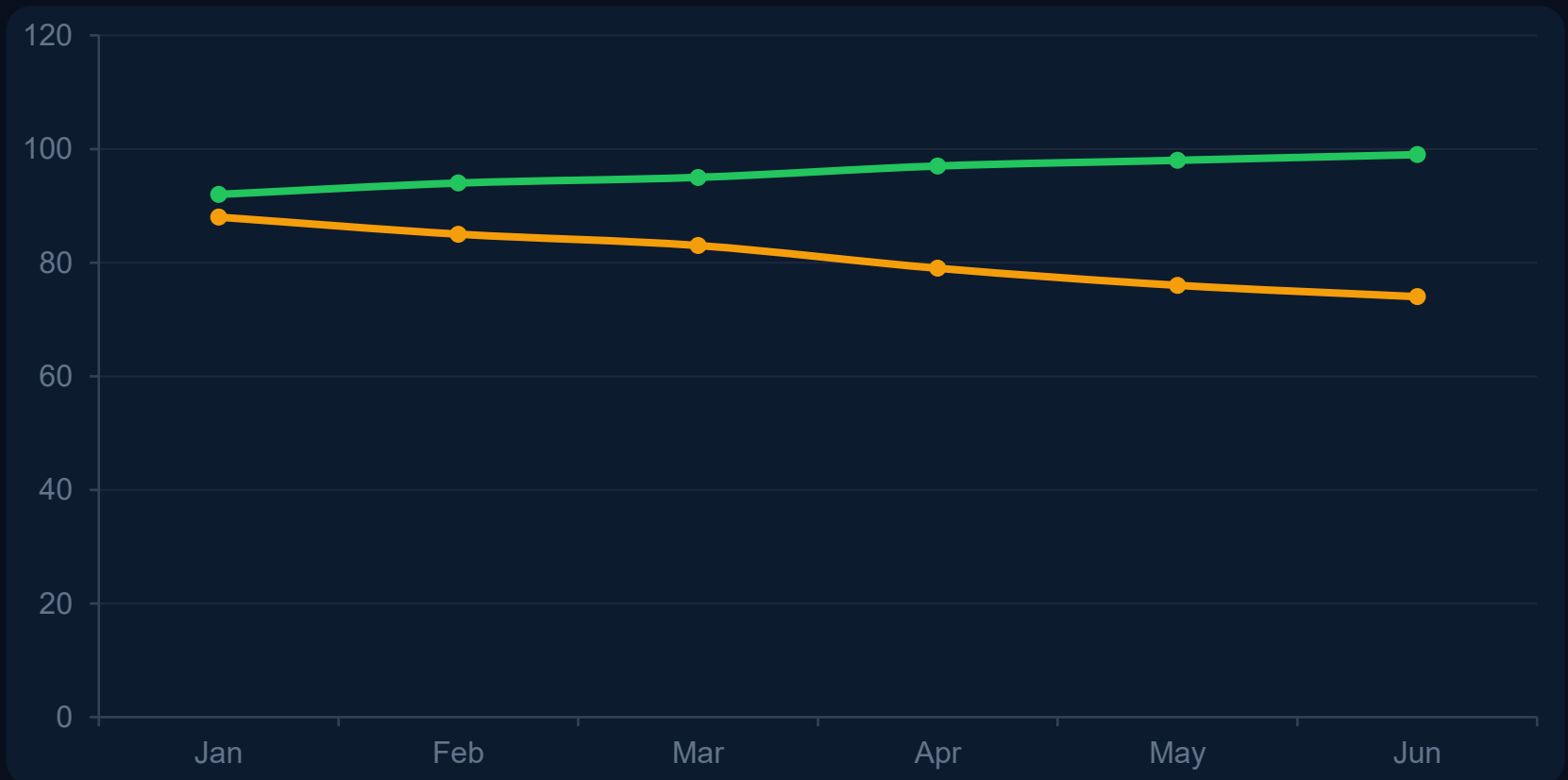
# Scope Blindness



GREEN CHECKMARK IN THE CONSOLE

- Job succeeds, but scope quietly drifted from what's actually protected.
- New volumes, migrated workloads — policy never catches up.
- The metric is accurate and irrelevant at the same time.

# The Metric Gets Better While Protection Gets Worse



*Exclusions added. Retries loosened. Hard cases scoped out.*

# Aggregation Erases the Signal

99.4%

Reported success rate  
across 10,000 jobs a night.

0.6%

Where silent corruption, untested jobs,  
and scope drift all quietly sit.

*The aggregate number isn't wrong. It's answering a different question than the one you're asking.*



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# Three Different Questions, Not One

1

## BACKUP SUCCESS

Is the metric honest?

2

## RESTORE DESIGN

Does the design hold up?

3

## RECOVERABILITY

Does it hold up under  
attack?

*This post lives entirely at step one.*



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# Job Completion Isn't Evidence of Recovery

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*The most dangerous backup environments are often the ones with the cleanest dashboards.*

Job completion is being mistaken for recoverability — and that mistake is invisible from inside the dashboard making it.

READ THE FULL BREAKDOWN

# Rack2Cloud.com

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Follow The Architect for more field notes on backup, recovery, and the metrics that actually matter.