

HOT SPOT BACKUP ADVICE

When working with DMR radio and HOT SPOT Raspberry Pi in network switching from a "Brandmeister server to a ChicagoLand DMR+ server" is it advisable or necessary to do a backup each time.

When switching your **DMR Hot Spot (Raspberry Pi / Pi-Star)** from **BrandMeister** server to a **DMR+ server**, it is **not strictly necessary** to do a backup every single time — but it is definitely **advisable**, especially if:

- You've customized talkgroups
 - You've edited the DMR+ options file
 - You've adjusted master server settings
 - You've made changes to expert mode configurations
 - You've added static talkgroups or reflector settings
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[Why a Backup Is Smart](#)

When switching between:

- BrandMeister
- DMR+

You are changing:

- Master server address
- Password/API key use
- Talkgroup routing method
- Static vs dynamic talkgroup behavior
- Possibly time slot configuration

One small typo or mis-click can cause:

- No TX audio
- Talkgroups not linking
- Registration failures
- Strange routing behavior

A backup lets you restore in 30 seconds instead of reprogramming everything.

Best Practice (What I Recommend)

If you're experimenting or switching back and forth:



Do a backup **before major network changes**



Keep one backup labeled "BrandMeister Working"



Keep one labeled "DMR+ Working"

In Pi-Star:

- Go to **Configuration**
- Click **Backup / Restore**
- Download the zip file

It takes less than a minute and saves a headache later.

When You Don't Need a Backup

If:

- This is a permanent switch
- You haven't customized anything
- You don't care about restoring old settings

Then no, it's not required.

My Real-World Recommendation

Since you've been working with Chicago LAN and USA talkgroups recently, I'd absolutely back up before switching networks. DMR+ especially uses a different talkgroup handling method than BrandMeister.