

Fast and Reliable VMware Backups with Data Protector

Data Protector efficiently protects VMware virtual machines and physical servers, simplifying data protection for modern enterprise IT environments.

Data Protector at a Glance:

- **Performs agent-based and agentless backup**

Allows both approaches to solve today's virtual backup challenges.

- **Uses hardware-assisted snapshots and parallel streaming to speed up backups**

Offers advanced features for rapidly backing up mission-critical applications running on VMware hosts.

- **Provides universal network access and storage-sharing**

Enables companies to use the most appropriate IT infrastructure for backup and recovery.

- **Simplifies virtualization strategies**

Allows administrators to operate a mix of virtual and physical servers without changing the overall backup strategy.

Virtualization Can Bring Complexity to Data Protection

Virtualization has transformed the way IT administrators deploy enterprise applications, allowing them to rapidly create virtual machines (VMs) and maximize the use of hardware. However, virtualization can also make it more challenging to back up data, complicating backup strategies and increasing administration requirements.

One problem is that not all backup software has the high-speed VM backup methods required to quickly back up hundreds or thousands of VMs. The backup software may also not have the flexibility to effectively handle different virtual backup scenarios. For example, it may not be able to back up mission-critical applications without disrupting users, or it may not be compatible with an organization's IT infrastructure.

Administrators often address these problems by buying specialized backup applications for virtual environments. However, they then spend time managing those applications, and must consider potential disconnects between them.

Data Protector Simplifies VMware Backup

OpenText™ Data Protector offers administrators a single, flexible, enterprise-class solution for backing up physical and virtual servers, including OpenText™ VMware vSphere and Microsoft Hyper-V virtual environments. We will focus on the benefits of using Data Protector with VMware because it is one of the most common virtual application platforms.

Allows Agent-Based and Agentless Backup

Data Protector can perform an agentless backup, which is a simple, fast way to back up VMs that are not running mission-critical applications. This approach uses the VMware VADP vStorage application programming interface to back up multiple VMs and their VM disks in parallel and stream them to a backup device. Administrators can use this feature to rapidly back up their applications to multiple backup targets, including to the cloud or to tape. Removing the need for agents minimizes license costs and reduces maintenance.

Companies performing agentless backups can also use the OpenText™ Zero Downtime Backup (ZDB) feature, which offloads processing of the backup from the hypervisor. First, a snapshot of the VM is created on a high-speed disk array. Then, the snapshot is mounted on a separate backup server, where a backup is created and sent to another storage device. This ensures the process does not slow down the VMware ESXi hypervisor.

Data Protector can also perform agent-based backups. This method, often preferred for mission-critical applications, uses agents running inside a VM to manage application data consistency during the backup process and while end users are connected to the application. For example, it can distinguish between active and passive application clusters in Oracle RAC, Microsoft Exchange, and Microsoft SQL Availability Groups, and back up without disturbing the active clusters. It also allows administrators to be more selective when backing up and recovering data, by backing up only log files

and configuration items, or recovering individual application items.

The solution makes it easier to perform agent-based and agentless backups by providing similar interfaces for both approaches. It can orchestrate these two methods at the same time, with some VMs backed up by hypervisor and some using traditional agents. In addition, Data Protector can centralize management, monitoring, and reporting for the entire backup environment including virtual and physical servers.

Instantly Recovers Virtual Machines from Backups

Data Protector also offers several ways of accelerating the recovery process. The Power-On feature allows users to access VMs from backups without restoring them to their original location. It achieves this by mounting VMs via the network file system (NFS) from a backup device—such as Data Protector's SmartCache server (a software-defined backup device managed by Data Protector), Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) 3PAR array, or HPE StoreOnce device—and connecting them to a hypervisor.

Administrators can also use the Live Migration feature to access VMs while they are being restored. This works with the same range of data stores supported by the Power-On feature.

Enables Granular Recovery

The granular recovery (GRE) feature restores a single file to the VM it came from or to another VM. It can restore this file directly to the VM from full or incremental backups stored on an HPE StoreOnce Catalyst device, SmartCache server, or HPE 3PAR snapshot. If the backup is stored on tape, it is necessary to mount the files in a temporary cache instead of restoring them directly to the VM. The granular recovery feature is a VMware plugin, so users can access it via the VMware vSphere client software.

Supports Diverse Enterprise IT Environments

Unlike some virtual backup tools, Data Protector works with disk appliances, SmartCache

servers, and tape archives running on Windows, Linux, and Unix, or connecting to devices running those operating systems. It also allows administrators to use the same storage device for backups of VMs and physical servers.

In addition, administrators can back up VMware VMs to the cloud. Data Protector offers native support for Amazon S3, S3-compatible systems (Ceph and Scality) and Microsoft Azure. It can also back up to the cloud by using cloud gateways, such as an AWS Gateway, Microsoft Azure StorSimple, HPE StoreOnce Cloud Bank Storage, or Dell EMC Data Domain Cloud Tier.

Benefits for Users

Data Protector allows administrators to accelerate the backup and recovery of VMware environments. It also allows them to reduce the complexity of their existing or future backup environments. Using Data Protector, administrators can:

- Minimize business interruptions by accelerating backup and recovery, and ensuring these processes do not slow down mission-critical applications
- Save time and reduce complexity by using a single backup solution to perform agent-based or agentless backups
- Maximize value from IT infrastructure by using existing servers, storage, and network components to back up VMs, and reduce IT costs by backing up VMs to the cloud
- Virtualize at a pace that suits the organization, with a backup solution that allows various backup approaches and hardware configurations
- Simplify management and increase the productivity of IT staff with centralized management, monitoring, and reporting for the entire backup environment.

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