

Snapshot Director for VMware

Continuous availability of VMware applications

FalconStor® Snapshot Director for VMware dramatically enhances data protection for VMware ESX Server 2.5 and 3.0 virtual machines by providing fast, 100% transactionally consistent recovery.

Highlights

- > Provides 100% transactional integrity of VMware snapshots, for efficient recovery without lengthy consistency checks
- > Continuous availability through dramatically faster, reliable data recovery
- > Simplifies DR
- > Coordinates with VMware and the database, email, and file systems hosted on VMs
- > Compatible with all leading applications including Oracle, Microsoft Exchange and SQL Server, IBM DB2 UDB, and Lotus Notes/Domino
- > Cost-effective and easy to deploy
- > Easily integrates with VMware environments; no costly infrastructure changes or impact on existing procedures

Optimize VMware snapshot technology

Today's businesses are embracing VMware technology to enhance the efficiency of their IT operations. VMware allows a single powerful server to host many application instances through hardware abstraction. The virtualization of physical resources via VMware ESX Server enables IT managers to consolidate servers for optimal capacity utilization, reduced overhead, and streamlined application development and testing. It also facilitates cost-effective disaster recovery (DR) since there are fewer physical machines to protect.

For backup purposes, ESX Server includes utilities to take snapshots of virtual machine (VM) instances housed within the ESX system. However, it lacks the ability to coordinate with the hosted applications to make them aware that a snapshot backup is about to take place in order to initiate the appropriate quiescing procedure. It also lacks the ability to inform applications when a snapshot has taken place. Because consistency checks are required, recovery can be time-consuming.

Furthermore, in order to back up application data, users typically install a backup software client for each VM instance and create an external snapshot of the entire ESX Server. These crash-consistent backups further delay recovery. When trying to recover from a snapshot, the system behaves as if it has crashed, forcing databases, messaging applications, and file systems to undergo an extensive and cumbersome repair process that can include application reinstalls. This creates costly downtime and difficulty meeting recovery time objectives (RTO) and recovery point objectives (RPO).

FalconStor's fully application-aware solution

FalconStor has worked with VMware to provide a compelling, application-aware tool that solves these issues: FalconStor Snapshot Director for VMware.

This cost-effective, easy-to-deploy software, built upon FalconStor's powerful, flexible IPStor® virtualization platform, leverages existing VMware snapshot technology, enhancing it with the intelligence needed to comprehend, communicate with, and capture application-specific data.

The Snapshot Director for VMware facilitates immediately usable backups of VM instances by creating transactionally consistent snapshots that are accurate and up-to-the-moment. Users can quickly recover data with minimal risk of data loss, for improved business continuity and an ability to meet RTO and RPO objectives.

How it works

The Snapshot Director for VMware and application-specific Snapshot Agents easily install directly onto the ESX Server host machine. The Snapshot Director for VMware can quiesce host-based database applications, email applications, and file systems running on VMs to ensure complete transactional integrity and point-in-time accuracy.

Snapshot Director for VMware coordinates with backup software to seamlessly place critical applications into “hot backup mode” while VMware takes a snapshot of an instance. Since the process is automated and coordinated with VMware itself, every VM instance can be backed up simultaneously. Organizations can replicate the entire ESX Server locally or offsite to a DR site.

FalconStor Snapshot Agents for File Systems protect data with full point-in-time consistency and virtually non-stop access to files. Snapshot Agents are available for a wide variety of popular database and messaging applications, ensuring full transactional integrity. Since each protected file system and hosted application is aware that a snapshot backup has taken place, recovery is quick and simple.

Peace of mind for your VM-hosted applications

FalconStor Snapshot Director for VMware integrates with existing storage infrastructures and does not require costly changes to processes. Users can enjoy the immediate benefits of rapid, consistent recovery of VMware instances.

Only FalconStor provides the intelligence and deep level of integration needed to enable VMware systems to communicate with each individual application in the “language” that it understands, for the most complete snapshots and robust data protection possible.

Specifications

Supports	VMware ESX Server 2.5 and 3.0
Solution Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FalconStor Snapshot Director for VMware runs on the ESX Server• FalconStor SAN Client software runs on each VM• File system-specific or application-specific FalconStor Snapshot Agents run on their respective VMs
Snapshot Agents <i>Available for virtual machines operating within the VMware ESX Server environment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For Linux environments: IBM Lotus Notes/Domino, Oracle, Linux file system• For Novell NetWare environments: Novell GroupWise, NetWare file system• For Microsoft Windows environments: Microsoft Exchange Server, IBM Lotus Notes/Domino, Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, Sybase, Informix, IBM DB2 UDB, SAP, Pervasive SQL, Microsoft Volume Shadow Copy Service, Windows file systems

About FalconStor

FalconStor Software, Inc. (NASDAQ: FALC) delivers proven, comprehensive data protection solutions that facilitate the continuous availability of business-critical data with speed, integrity, and simplicity. Our comprehensive solutions, based on the award-winning IPStor® virtualization platform, include the industry-leading Virtual Tape Library (VTL) with Single Instance Repository (SIR) for de-duplication, Continuous Data Protector™ (CDP), Storage Virtualization, and Replication for disaster recovery and remote office protection. Our products are available from major OEMs and solution providers and are deployed by thousands of customers worldwide, from small businesses to Fortune 1000 enterprises.

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