



Solving the Backup and Restore Challenges in Your Organization



Introduction



It's not an exaggeration to say that backup and recovery might embody the pressures facing your IT department more than any other process. Even though the actual recovery data can be fairly rare, backup and recovery is a top-of-mind issue for many IT staffers because checking the nightly backup is often one of their first tasks the IT staff does in the morning. When backups have a history of being unreliable, IT staffers start and end their day by wondering how the backup worked.

One of the biggest issues facing IT staffs today is data growth. There's no shortage of studies that try to pin a number on the amount of electronic data that's being created today, and each number is harder to grasp than the last. The bottom line for IT professionals is that this ever-growing mountain of data needs to be stored, and to protect businesses it also needs to be backed up on a regular basis. The more data that needs to be backed up, the more that money, business expectations and time become an issue for the IT department.

Unlimited resources could go a long way toward dealing with data growth and making backups easier and more reliable, but the truth is many IT departments are suffering from budget stagnation. Every purchase, including new storage capacity and backup systems, comes under tight scrutiny. This budget stagnation is also the main reason many businesses are using backup systems that aren't built to handle their current needs whether it's the amount of data, the scalability or the adoption of a virtualized infrastructure.

For some businesses, backup and recovery processes are dictated by industry or government regulatory compliance and service level agreements (SLAs) with internal or external customers (as in the case of service providers). In this case there's very little margin for error, and businesses must comply with regulations or SLAs or face penalties, lose business or both.

More pressure facing IT staffers tasked with backup and recovery comes from the recovery time objective (RTO) and recovery point objective (RPO) that governs how quickly data must be restored and to what point. Faced with more data to back up and an increasingly small backup window in which to do it, many business are living dangerously when it comes to the world of backup and recovery.

This paper will explore the backup issues you business is facing through the lens of your position in organization. It will also discuss the ways that CA ARCserve can help with the backup issues you're facing.

CA ARCserve offers a full range of capabilities, from bare-metal restore to fully automatic failover for high availability. It delivers a complete strategy to manage backup, recovery and availability in data centers as well as in local and remote offices, whether they are deployed on-premise, off-premise, in the cloud or in any combination thereof.



Backup for Virtual Server Environments

"CA ARCserve is designed to allow your business to easily integrate the cloud into its backup, recovery and data protection policies."



Chances are your IT organization is already taking advantage of server virtualization and seeing the benefits of using virtualization to reduce energy costs, increase server utilization and spend less on server hardware. Because there are fewer physical servers to manage, virtualization can help your IT organization run more efficiently and make better use of your human resources.

When it comes to backing up and protecting data on virtual servers, however, the process is more complex than it used to be. For starters, there are multiple server virtualization environments, including VMware, Microsoft Hyper-V and Citrix XenServer, which can complicate server management and backup when more than one virtual environment is present. Unlike the days when each application had its own server, today multitenancy is the rule. A wide range of applications can be installed on each physical server thanks to virtual machines (VMs).

All of these complexities make it harder for businesses to rely on the same backup software they used before they turned to server virtualization. Some backup solutions do not offer the restoration granularity required for quick restore. Others demand full VM restore to temporary disk space to recover even a single file. Backup to tape is simply not fast enough on the restore end. Most organizations run backups on a daily or weekly basis, which may not really support the desired RPO.

Choosing the correct method of backing up and restoring data on virtual servers helps minimize downtime and keep the business running smoothly. By better protecting data and being able to quickly restore data when there's a problem, the exposure to risk is minimized.

Having data properly protected and quickly restored also improves service levels for internal and external customers, helping the business meet SLAs.

Organizations today are turning to other complementary solutions such as VSS Snapshots, replication, continuous data protection (CDP) and high-availability (HA) technologies to minimize downtime, especially for critical applications and data and more important user groups.

CA ARCserve D2D protects VMware vSphere, Microsoft Hyper-V and Citrix XenServer virtual servers with fast, image-based backups, while CA ARCserve Backup offers virtual machine-level protection and granular recovery.

Both CA ARCserve Replication and CA ARCserve High Availability protect Windows, Linux and UNIX environments on physical and virtual servers. Users get VM-level protection for VMware virtual infrastructure and VMware vSphere, Hypervisor and Guest-level protection for Microsoft Hyper-V and VM-level protection for Citrix XenServer.

Conclusion

When you're looking for a solution to help your business with

“CA ARCserve is designed to allow your business to easily integrate the cloud into its backup, recovery and data protection policies.”



backup and recovery, it is easy to find products that can help you solve certain problems or help protect data on certain platforms. Today's businesses need a solution that can help them with all of the issues that face when it comes to backup and restore, including any combination of on-premise, off-premise or the cloud; virtual server environments; and business continuity and disaster recovery.

CA ARCserve provides comprehensive protection and recovery of physical and virtual systems, applications and data that live onsite, offsite or in the cloud. It is designed to help businesses recover quickly and effectively from data disasters and other threats to business continuity.

CA ARCserve is easy to manage and maintain and features an intuitive interface and Web 2.0 feel. It provides centralized management and comprehensive reporting for physical and virtual servers and geographically distributed workstations.

With both image-and file-based backup, scheduled and continuous replication, bare metal recovery, virtual standby and high availability, CA ARCserve gives users control over the protection and recovery of their systems, applications and data whether its a single file or email, an Exchange mailbox, a server volume, an entire Exchange or SQL database, or an entire physical or virtual system.

CA ARCserve is also scalable enough to serve the needs of everyone from small businesses to large enterprises.

Discover more about CA ARCserve and plan your data protection, business continuity and disaster recovery strategies at:

<http://www.arcserve.com>

