



Replication and High Availability for VMware Operating Systems

How CA XOsoft™ Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Software Adds High Value to any VMware virtualized server environment

VMware high availability and disaster recovery

VMware offers a suite of virtualization software that includes several valuable components for availability and disaster recovery. VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager (SRM) automates the disaster recovery process and ensures that it is executed rapidly and correctly utilizing 3rd-party storage solutions for replication and failover, and makes it possible for customers to test their disaster recovery plan at an additional cost. VMware vCenter Server Heartbeat provides VMware vCenter High Availability for your virtual datacenter infrastructure, also known as cloud operating system, but at an additional cost as well.

While these VMware solutions will appeal to some VMware customers, our experience shows that most organizations today have a mix of physical and virtual servers in their production and disaster recovery environments, and different parts of the business may have different needs and resources. Some organizations, especially small and medium sized businesses, can't afford the expensive storage array technology typically required by VMware vCenter SRM. Others may prefer not to be locked into the same hardware vendor's storage solution at both production and replica sides – preferring a less costly storage solution at the DR site. So for them, VMware vCenter SRM may not be an option.

What is CA XOsoft™ software?

CA XOsoft software provides both business continuity (BC) and disaster recovery (DR) capabilities to help ensure critical business systems, applications and data are always available, even in the face of planned and unplanned outages.

The CA XOsoft software product family includes CA XOsoft™ Replication and CA XOsoft™ High Availability. Both perform host-based (VM Guest), real-time, replication between production servers and replica (failover) servers—whether physical or virtual—for continuous application availability. Both products include application-aware replication for Microsoft Exchange, SQL Server, SharePoint, IIS and Windows as well as Oracle and Blackberry Enterprise Server, eliminating the need for custom scripting. Other Microsoft Windows, UNIX and Linux applications can be protected as well.

CA XOsoft Replication requires manual failover while CA XOsoft High Availability adds server monitoring, scheduled and automated instantaneous failover and push-button fail-back for even greater protection. Web-based centralized management, and no-reboot deployment and maintenance makes them simple to install and manage.

How does CA XOsoft software add value to VMware virtualized server (cloud operating system) environments?

Most organizations like to have options. CA XOsoft software provides them the flexibility to protect both their physical and virtual server environments with a single integrated solution from one vendor.



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CA XOssoft software not only protects the applications and data running in each virtual machine (VM) on the VMware ESX or vSphere server, but also protects the VMware vCenter server through real-time replication and automated failover for high availability. Other CA XOssoft software features like System State Protection and Registry Synchronization help protect the Microsoft operating system too. And since CA XOssoft is a software solution, customers may leverage *any-to-any* replication providing total flexibility when selecting their server and storage hardware vendors for both production and replica sites which may help reduce TCO.

VMware offers VMware vCenter Server Heartbeat which delivers high availability for the vCenter Server. But, the additional cost of that point solution could be used to help justify purchasing a complete CA XOssoft solution that not only protects vCenter Server, but protects all the Windows, Linux and UNIX applications and data that reside in the VMware ESX VMs as well. With CA XOssoft software, IT administrators can also define replication and failover scenarios for each VM individually, based on the critical needs of the business.

With CA XOssoft™ Assured Recovery®, which comes with both CA XOssoft products at no extra charge, IT administrators can schedule recurring, automated testing of the failover server and application environment – with no impact to the production environment or workers – no impact to the real-time replication protection – and no IT support necessary. CA XOssoft Assured Recovery also enables customers to take a VSS snapshot immediately after the test, which can then be backed up using CA ARCserve® Backup, or customers may use whatever backup solution they have in place. This capability provides backup of a valid point-in-time, with no impact to the production environment. And CA XOssoft products also include Data Rewind for true CDP to help protect against accidental or malicious data loss or damage between scheduled backups.

Other uses

CA XOssoft software can be used to help migrate data from older x86-based servers to newer x64-based servers, or from physical servers to virtual servers, and of course, virtualized servers may be used for the BC/DR replica servers to help reduce costs. A CA XOssoft solution may also be used to manually failover to the replica servers for short periods of time, to allow IT staff to perform hardware and/or software maintenance on the production servers, which helps eliminate or at least minimize business disruptions. All these capabilities provided by CA XOssoft software deliver the type of powerful and flexible business continuity and disaster recovery solution many businesses demand today.

Summary

Our partner VMware, has been the premier server virtualization solution in the market for many years and delivers high value to users by helping significantly reduce the total cost of ownership (TCO) for both production and failover (or DR) environments. CA works very closely with VMware to ensure our technologies seamlessly integrate and provide even greater value to our joint customers when used together. VMware ESX and CA XOssoft software combined, deliver the right combination of technology and value when designing your business continuity and disaster recovery solution. Remember, CA XOssoft protects both physical and virtual servers, providing P2P, P2V, V2P and V2V replication and failover – so customers get the protection and peace of mind they need – whatever their IT environment. To learn more about CA and VMware partnership, visit ca.com/vmware.