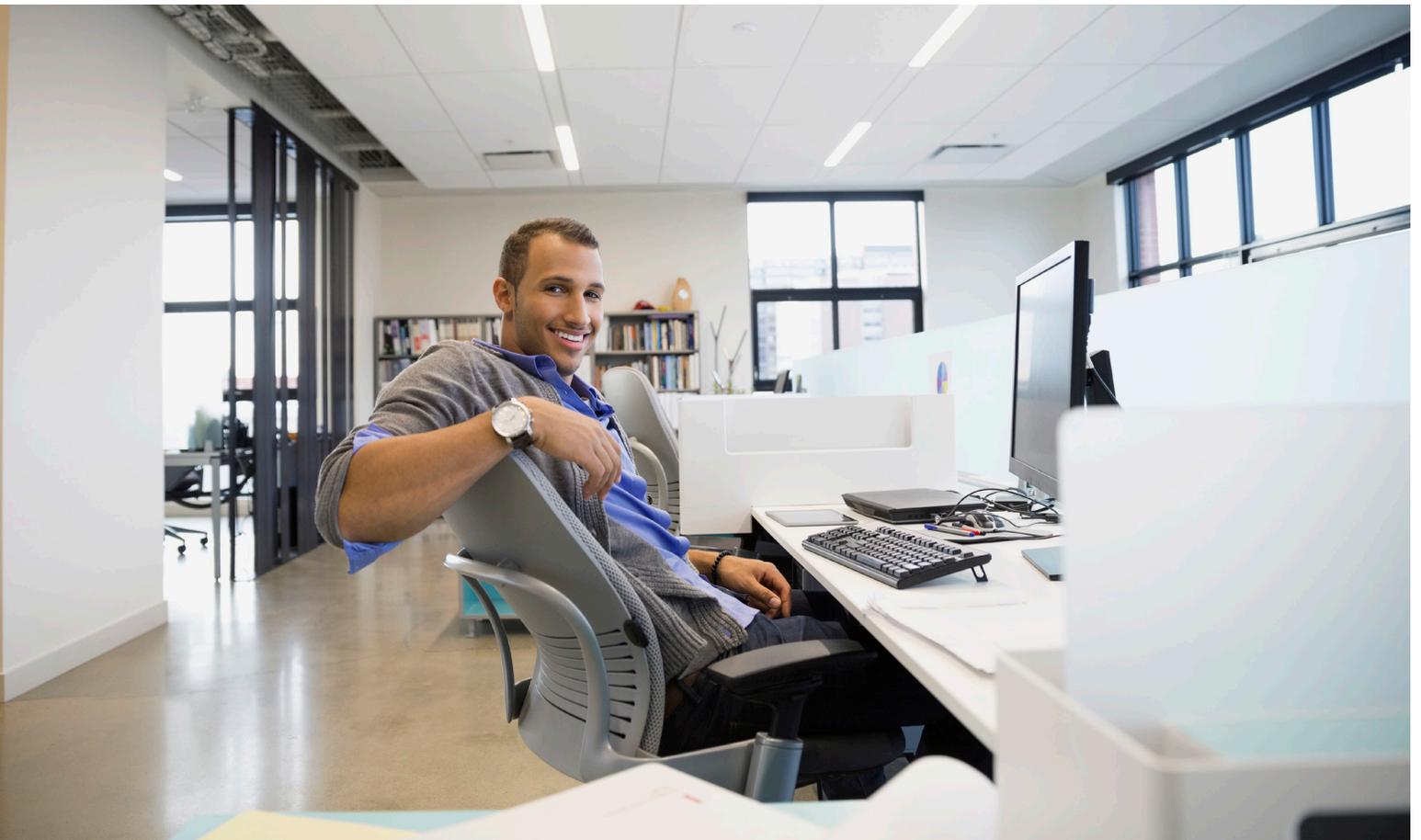


▶ IT Brief: Improving Control of Virtual Machines

Server virtualization is a darling of IT administrators for a number of reasons: it delivers more efficiency and cost control than adding physical servers to accommodate the data explosion. It offers savings due to server consolidation, at the same time giving enterprises valued flexibility and scalability, and promises to make the transformation to cloud architectures, whether private or hybrid, faster and simpler.

While IT embraces these apparent benefits, administrators are facing the challenges that come along with such a momentous shift in the way we now process, store and protect our data. Server virtualization has become a powerful change agent, forcing IT organizations to evaluate and oftentimes modernize their backup and recovery approach for virtual machines. It is also enhancing the need for automated processes as IT must manage and control data protection with the same degree of effectiveness it exhibited in legacy systems.



Increasing use of server virtualization is among the top priorities of IT professionals, along with improving data backup and recovery, managing data growth, and data center consolidation. Transitioning to this virtual environment puts added demands on backup and recovery and on meeting service level agreements (SLAs) for critical applications. A single platform that can fulfill these needs for advanced data protection and scalability is Commvault® software which enables rapid scalability of virtual machines, movement of business critical applications to the cloud, and data protection in both the physical and virtual environments.

In this administrative brief we examine five areas in which IT can use available data protection technologies to realize the full potential of virtualization.

Commvault software can protect hundreds of virtual machines in minutes and provides a grid-based architecture so that your enterprise can grow seamlessly from initial deployment to cloud-based infrastructure with no hidden costs or surprises.

▶ ONE: ADVANCED BACKUP AND RECOVERY

Enterprises who attempt to use traditional, legacy, data protection techniques for the backup and recovery of data housed in the modern data center will find out these methods simply do not work. What is needed is a modern data protection approach that understands virtualization and can support private and public cloud architectures. Commvault's solution minimizes the load on production systems, reduces administrative effort, enhances data protection and recovery and eases the transition to a virtualized data center. It can leverage any tier of infrastructure including public and hybrid cloud, to extend disaster recovery (DR) capabilities to more workloads and reduce DR costs.

Commvault's virtual-friendly software accelerates Recovery Point Objective (RPO) and Recovery Time Objective (RTO) with the broadest hardware snapshot integration; offers near-zero backup impact to production resources, and efficient and resilient backup with global deduplication. DR and testing is accelerated with automated, replicated VM backups to the cloud.

▶ TWO: TIER 1 APPLICATION SUPPORT

As more critical, Tier 1 applications (such as SQL and Exchange) move into the virtual environment, it is imperative that your data protection solution provide you with deep application integration to enable rapid recovery and to meet the most stringent SLAs. Features, such as application consistent protection, offered by Commvault software, perform background tasks to ensure applications are protected in a consistent and rapidly recoverable state. This ensures rapid and granular recovery options are available for the protected application, even when running in a virtual deployment.

▶ **THREE: SEAMLESS SCALABILITY**

How do you manage and control the deployment of anywhere from dozens to hundreds of virtual machines? As your enterprise data use continues to grow, and you transition more applications to virtual servers, a resilient, scalable architecture becomes vital. This is critical since many point solutions, supposedly “purpose-built” for VM, lack the scale and resiliency feature sets required for the enterprise, and result in myriad hidden costs in the form of extra hardware appliances and 3rd party software. Commvault software can protect hundreds of virtual machines in minutes and provides a grid-based architecture so that your enterprise can grow seamlessly from initial deployment to cloud-based infrastructure with no hidden costs or surprises.

▶ **FOUR: AUTOMATED VM MANAGEMENT**

Controlling VM sprawl and ensuring that increased VM usage does not create unwanted risks is a paramount concern of IT administrators. Commvault offers the industry’s first solution to provide these controls, eliminating VM sprawl and increasing resource utilization with policy-based VM archiving.

Automation is a key benefit, enabling IT to simplify testing and development, and leaving no VM unprotected thanks to automated VM discovery. It also allows IT to identify idle or stale VMs, thus automatically reclaiming wasted resources. Commvault is also delivering “IT as a service” with chargeback reporting, workflow automation and self-service access, providing even more efficiencies for IT managers.

▶ **FIVE: AGNOSTIC PLATFORM SUPPORT**

Some organizations are now migrating Tier 2 applications from VMware to Microsoft Hyper-V which is embedded within Windows Server. As a result, there is an even greater need for a data protection solution that can support more than one platform. Commvault Software supports cross-platform (VMware vCenter, vCloud Director and Microsoft Hyper-V) protection in a single platform solution.

Data Management in the Cloud Era Infographic

This infographic examines what IT decision-makers from large organizations have to say about managing data with a single, cloud-based platform.

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By 2017, more than 60% of workloads will run in a cloud-enabled data center.

Source: Cisco Global Cloud Index: Forecast and Methodology, 2012-2017.



▶ **A VIRTUALIZATION SOLUTION THAT WORKS**

Transitioning more of your IT operations to virtual machines does pose new challenges in terms of protecting data in multiple environments, whether private or public clouds, or VMware or Microsoft Hyper-V. IT administrators have faced the aggravation of trying to find solutions that can be integrated into an enterprise's current infrastructure without unwanted expense and complexity. It's good to know that solutions such as Commvault software exist. Commvault software is designed to support both the physical and virtual environments and offer full protection and recovery of data housed in your legacy systems as well as data flowing through the cloud. With virtualization rapidly increasing in usage, Commvault offers a means of managing this change with the security and cost control that IT professionals demand.

▶ Commvault software delivers the unparalleled advantages and benefits of a truly holistic approach to data and information management. Learn more at commvault.com/solutions.

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