

Veritas™ Cluster Server HA/DR 5.0 Fire Drill

Real-time disaster recovery through automated testing

Continuous access to data and applications has become an operational necessity in today's enterprise environments. Downtime, planned or unplanned, is no longer an option as it may result in lost revenue, reduced productivity, and diminished user satisfaction.

Many enterprises choose to implement a data center availability solution, either with data replication alone or in combination with application clustering, to protect IT and business operations in the event of a site outage. However, the effectiveness of these solutions is often in doubt because application and storage configurations change frequently, and most enterprises do not have the time or the budget to adequately test their business continuity plans, including the recovery infrastructure.

The result is that not all required data is properly replicated, causing applications at the remote site to fail when needed and placing the overall business at risk. In short, to deliver real-time disaster recovery, enterprises today need the ability to test and verify their recovery solution in an automated, cost-effective, and integrated manner.

Veritas Cluster Server HA/DR Fire Drill

Recognizing this need, Symantec has extended Veritas Cluster Server HA/DR to allow enterprises to validate their replicated data, as well as the applications that will use that data, regardless of the underlying replication technology. The Fire Drill feature of Veritas Cluster Server HA/DR automates the testing of replicated data using the same application clustering configuration that is responsible for bringing up the recovery infrastructure systems following a disaster.

The Fire Drill process is easy to configure and initiate, has zero impact on production environments, and can be integrated into the recovery and restoration components of any business continuity or disaster recovery plan. In addition, Fire Drill's use of potentially idle remote site hardware assets reduces total cost of ownership.

Fire Drill in operation

Veritas Cluster Server HA/DR Fire Drill is available around the clock. It supports two methods of data replication: host-based replication with Veritas™ Volume Replicator and array-based replication with third-party products such as EMC SRDF, Hitachi TrueCopy, and others. In the Volume Replicator approach, a space-optimized snapshot is taken at the recovery site, which obtains the point-in-time copy of data that has changed. So, the data is immediately available at the recovery site and requires very little additional disk space. In the array-based approach, the space-optimized function cannot be used; rather, Fire Drill uses native array-based replication functions to create or delete a data snapshot (for example, EMC TimeFinder). These snapshots require a full copy of the replicated data and thus significantly more storage compared with Veritas Cluster Server HA/DR Fire Drill with Volume Replicator.

After the point-in-time copy has been created, Fire Drill facilitates automated testing of the recovery site data with the actual applications needed post-disaster. Once testing is finished, the snapshot is destroyed so that the disk space can be available for future tests. Users can customize Fire Drill using an automated setup wizard, which creates a special-purpose function that automates point-in-time copy creation plus startup/shutdown of the desired application(s).



Benefits of Fire Drill

- Validates replicated data and applications
- Validates new data/hardware/application configuration changes and protects against administrative errors
- Supports stretch cluster (metro region) and global cluster (wide area) configurations
- Maximizes server and storage return on investment
- Facilitates off-host/batch processing, for example, Symantec i³™ application performance tuning
- Assists with regulatory compliance regarding recovery
- Can be performed frequently and anytime
- Has zero production impact
- Leverages existing host-based and array replication

Veritas Cluster Server HA/DR Fire Drill provides cost-effective, automated testing of data center availability and the recovery infrastructure, with zero production impact, in advance of a disaster. As an ideal component of business continuity plan testing and maintenance, Fire Drill helps enterprises rest assured that their investment will pay off in the event that real-time disaster recovery is needed.

Veritas Cluster Server HA/DR platform support

Support	
Veritas Cluster Server HA/DR Version	5.0
Platform	Solaris™, AIX®, HP-UX®, Linux®, Windows**
Host Replication	Veritas Volume Replicator
Array Replication	EMC SRDF/S/A, Hitachi TrueCopy, EMC MirrorView, IBM Metro Mirror

* Space optimized snapshot not available for Windows.

More information

Visit our Web site

<http://enterprise.symantec.com>

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About Symantec

Symantec is a global leader in infrastructure software, enabling businesses and consumers to have confidence in a connected world. The company helps customers protect their infrastructure, information, and interactions by delivering software and services that address risks to security, availability, compliance, and performance. Headquartered in Cupertino, Calif., Symantec has operations in 40 countries. More information is available at www.symantec.com.

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