

VMware Consolidated Backup

Centralized backup for virtual machines with zero downtime

AT A GLANCE

VMware® Consolidated Backup provides a centralized backup facility for virtual machines that works in conjunction with many leading backup tools. It enables third party backup tools to protect virtual machines and their contents from a centralized backup server rather than directly from an ESX Server.

BENEFITS

- Reduce the load on each ESX Server to run more efficiently and run more virtual machines.
- Integrate with the existing backup tools and technologies already in place. This improves manageability of existing IT resources and eliminates the need to run a backup agents on every virtual machine.
- Eliminate backup traffic on the local area network

What Is VMware Consolidated Backup?

VMware® Consolidated Backup provides a centralized backup facility for virtual machines that works in conjunction with many leading backup tools. It enables third party backup tools to protect virtual machines and their contents from a centralized backup server rather than directly from an ESX Server. Consolidated Backup allows IT organizations to:

- Reduce the load on each ESX Server by allowing it to run more efficiently and run more virtual machines.
- Integrate with the existing backup tools and technologies already in place. This improves manageability of existing IT resources and eliminates the need to run a backup agents on every virtual machine.
- Eliminate backup traffic on the local area network

How Is VMware Consolidated Backup Used in the Enterprise?

VMware Consolidated Backup enables:

- Full and incremental file backup of virtual machines for recovery of individual files and directories
- Full image backup of virtual machines.

How does VMware Consolidated Backup work?

Consolidated Backup enables off-host backup of virtual machines running any supported operating system from a centralized backup proxy server using existing backup software already in the environment. Consolidated Backup includes seamless integration with most major backup providers and frees up the LAN from backup traffic. A backup job is created for each virtual machine and that job is dispatched to the backup proxy server. Consolidated backup takes a virtual machine snapshot and mounts the snapshot to the backup proxy server directly from the SAN. As part of this process, the file system in the virtual machine is quiesced to ensure that all that the entire state of the virtual machine is captured at the point in time the snapshot is created. The third-party backup agent, already in place on the backup proxy server, then backs up the contents of the virtual machine as a virtual disk image or as a set of files and directories depending on the operating system. Finally, Consolidated Backup tears down the mount and takes the virtual disk out of snapshot mode.

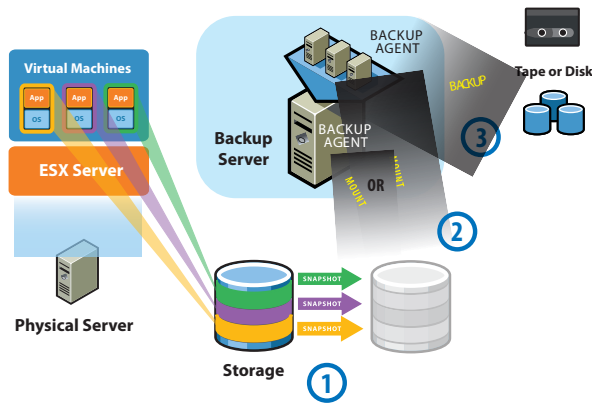


Figure 1: VMware Consolidated Backup enables off-host backup of virtual machines.

KEY FEATURES

Key features of VMware Consolidated Backup

- **Integration with most major backup products.** Leverage existing investment in backup agents to move virtual machine data from the backup proxy server to tape or disk. Consolidated backup is supported with backup software from Computer Associates®, CommVault®, EMC®, HP®, Symantec®, Tivoli®, Vizioncore®, and more.
- **Backup proxy server.** Remove load from ESX Server by using an off-host backup server. In addition to running as a standalone server, the backup proxy server can also be run inside a virtual machine for enhanced flexibility.
- **File level full and incremental backup.** Recover individual files and directories.
- **Image level backup.** Recover entire virtual machine image in the event of disaster.
- **NEW iSCSI, NAS, or local storage support.** Protect a virtualized environment that is utilizing any type of storage.

How can I purchase VMware Consolidated Backup?

For more information on how to purchase, refer to the "How to buy" page

<http://www.vmware.com/products/vi/buy.html>

Product Specifications and Systems Requirements

File level full and incremental backups are available for virtual machines running Windows®. Image level backup can be run for virtual machines running any operating system.

For detailed product specifications and systems requirements refer to the VMware Consolidated Backup product documentation and guides located at http://www.vmware.com/support/pubs/vi_pubs.html.

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