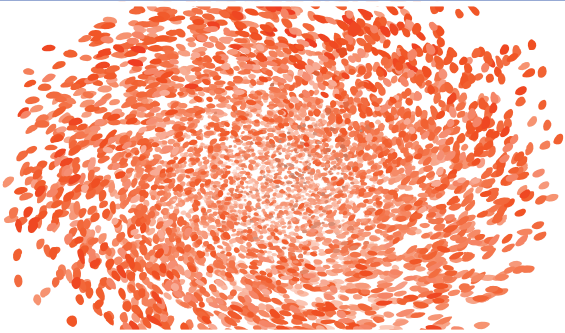


# COMPLEX PROBLEM, SIMPLE SOLUTION: SOLVING THE VIRTUALIZATION PUZZLE



**8 tips for success**  
in a heterogeneous environment  
that protect your data and your company



## If virtualization is so wonderful, why is it making your world more complex?

Good question. We all know the many benefits of virtualization — the increased efficiencies of server consolidation, the maximized flexibility in deploying workloads, and the faster provisioning of servers, to name a few. But what about one of the biggest problems of virtualization — the way it adds a layer of complexity to your infrastructure, your processes and your IT department's ability to keep all your corporate stakeholders happy?

### A few realities about virtualization and your data center:

According to the latest estimates, the number of virtual machines is now projected to exceed the number physical servers by 2:1 by 2014.\* That's a riveting statistic that shows just how advantageous virtualization can be, and just how rapidly the IT workplace is changing.

Problem is, if you're operating in a heterogeneous environment that includes physical and virtual machines, you may find that you're using different backup solutions for each. In fact, in a recent survey, nearly 60% of IT managers said they used separate backup solutions for their physical and virtual environments.\*\*

That means they (and you) may be investing more time and money into their IT operation than was ever done previously, and adding more complexity, too. All at a time when IT operations are being asked to do more — and do it better — with fewer resources.

And that's not even taking into account the difficulties of backing up in a heterogeneous environment that has multiple hypervisors, such as a combination of VMware, Microsoft Hyper-V, Red Hat Enterprise

Virtualization, or any of the other solutions that are gaining popularity and usage every day. If you are regularly forced to use management tools from several different vendors (how many is too many?), you may be stepping into administrative quicksand.

Furthermore, the challenges posed by these complexities have led to a dangerous development — over 50% of survey respondents in our recent poll confessed to not backing up their virtual data as often as their physical machines.\*\* And even data that was previously backed up may no longer be recoverable, as your new, virtualized IT operation may have adopted new backup methods and chosen new vendors over time, rendering the original backup irretrievable.

With so much data now being created within organizations — and so much of it being deemed “mission critical” for a company's survival — the threat posed by these trends is enormous. It leads to a clear conclusion: Even though virtualization is probably providing significant benefits to your organization, its net effects can be offset and neutralized if the problems caused by its inherent complexity go unaddressed.

\*IDC/Kaspersky Lab

\*\*Acronis Survey 2012

## You've got questions, but who's got the answers?

It's not surprising that increased complexity has given rise to lots of questions on the part of IT professionals. These queries are taking on added urgency as the pace of virtualization quickens and its essential-yet-challenging nature becomes progressively more apparent.

Here are a few of the questions that your IT colleagues — and you — may be asking:

- How do you control costs as your number of VMs increases and you continue to use a multitude of technologies?
- How do you best migrate from physical to virtual in a timely manner?
- What type of impact will your virtualized backup have on the performance of your various applications?
- What types of configurations of VMs should you be considering in order to best protect your data?
- What about bandwidth — is there enough to allow you to fit your backup into the timeframes allotted by your backup window?
- Is your DR plan effective and economical? How do you ensure rapid and reliable recovery, and meet your RTO and RPO requirements? Specifically, how do you recover entire VMs, or recover individual files to a previous version? Or what about recovering an application database?
- Overall, with the explosion of data, limitless sprawl of VMs, emergence of the cloud, and proliferation of mobile devices — how do you cope with all the added complexity that has been forced upon you?

## 8 pieces of the puzzle: Put them together to solve the problem of complexity in a heterogeneous environment.

To find answers to these questions, and meet the challenge of escalating complexity, you need to:

- 1. Employ a single solution** for data protection and disaster recovery (DR) for physical and virtual servers.
- 2. Give yourself the choice** of protecting your data by backing up from the host, or backing up from within the VM.
- 3. Put an automatic disaster recovery plan** in place, and simplify your restore operations, with a solution that's specifically tailored to the needs of businesses like yours.
- 4. Implement full-scale or file-level recovery** for both agent-less and agent-based backups.
- 5. Take advantage of integrated deduplication** for saving disk capacity and reducing network traffic.
- 6. Utilize powerful migration capabilities** that enable you to go physical-to-virtual, virtual-to-virtual, virtual-to-physical, and to and from the cloud.
- 7. Maximize your flexibility** with a vendor-neutral solution that doesn't lock you in — and instead, gives you cross-hypervisor data migration, backup and DR.
- 8. "Future-proof" your operation** with a solution that will evolve with your company, and solve the complexities that develop as new IT technologies and processes are introduced in the years to come.

Like to learn more about how to put all 8 of these tips into action as you seek simplicity in an ever-more-complex environment? Talk to Acronis. We provide the solutions you may be looking for — just as we're now doing for 175,000 businesses around the globe.

<http://www.acronis.eu/solutions/enterprise/virtualization.html>

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