

NetBackup 7.6 Feature Briefing Plug-in for VMware vCenter

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This document describes a feature introduced in NetBackup7.6 and available in this and higher releases.

If you have any feedback or questions about this document please email them to IMG-TPM-Requests@symantec.com stating the document title.

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Feature Description

VMware's vSphere client interface provides complete administrative access to the vSphere virtual machine environment. VMware has built into this vSphere interface the ability for 3rd party vendors to create functional plug-in. This integration point was developed so that partner vendors can provide integration with their product directly into the vSphere client interface. vSphere administrators enjoy the benefits of using a single interface to interact with multiple supporting 3rd party applications. With the 7.6 release, NetBackup is introducing a powerful vSphere client plug-in that brings data protection capabilities directly to the VMware administrator.

The NetBackup plug-in for VMware vCenter provides two levels of functionality to the VMware administrator – comprehensive backup reporting and virtual machine image restores. Both of these features are accessible via the standard NetBackup Backup Archive and Restore (BAR) interface. But the VMware administrator is typically not familiar with this interface. NetBackup administrators are hesitant to allow access to the BAR GUI as it also provides access to protected data not related to VMware.

The NetBackup plug-in for VMware vCenter is designed to use the look and feel of the standard vSphere client. To the VMware administrator, it is accessed like any other functionality within the vSphere client. NetBackup reporting is context sensitive and virtual machine image restores use a simple, wizard based process. All of this is done within the context of the vSphere interface that VMware administrators are comfortable using.

Business Value

NetBackup can provide backup and restore access to the VMware administrator through standard NetBackup interfaces. But the typical VMware administrator is not familiar with backup paradigms. Much of the functionality that is available in the NetBackup interface is most likely confusing to a virtual machine administrator. By creating a vSphere client plug-in designed specifically for VMware environments, the VMware administrator can access only the information that is important to them and in a format that they are comfortable with – the vSphere client.

This plug-in offloads tasks typically managed by the backup administrator. Information related to the protection status of every VM can easily be accessed through the vSphere client. Virtual machine image

restores can be processed by the VMware administrator as well. No need to ever contact the backup administrator for these tasks. This intuitive plug-in provides access to only virtual machine backup images. The VMware administrator can search for and select from any full or incremental backup image to restore any protected virtual machine. The backup administrator is freed up to focus on other activities. The backup administrator always has complete control of all backup resources. Access to these functionalities and can be rescinded at any time.

Underlying Principles

The NetBackup Plug-in for VMware vCenter works within the vSphere client framework as defined by VMware. No NetBackup software needs to be installed on the vCenter server. The plug-in operates from a virtual appliance that is supplied and preconfigured by NetBackup. This appliance is deployed as an OVF Template via the vSphere client.

Enabling the plug-in requires explicit permissions from both the vCenter and NetBackup servers. On the NetBackup side, vCenter credentials must be provided to allow access and communication with the vCenter system. Reporting is enabled through the “Post events to vCenter” attribute that is defined within the NetBackup for VMware policy. Enabling virtual machine image restores requires that a trusted SSL certificate be generated by the NetBackup master server and imported to the vCenter server. Without this certificate, virtual machine image restores are not possible. This certificate can be revoked at any time by the NetBackup master.

Once configured, access to NetBackup reporting and restores is achieved. At this point a NetBackup tab is available within the vSphere client and context sensitive backup reporting is available. Backup information can optionally be exported in either a CSV or XCEL format by the vSphere administrator.

Virtual machine image restores utilize this same basic framework. An easy to use wizard walks the user through the entire image restore process using terminology familiar to the virtual machine administrator. Entire virtual machine restores can be simply processed through a sequence of a few mouse clicks. No specific operating system knowledge is required to restore any virtual machine.

Test Drive

Reporting. By clicking on a VMware object (e.g. ESXi host, cluster, virtual machine), a backup report that is specific to that object can be accessed by selecting the “Symantec NetBackup” tab (Figure 1).

Important backup information such as successful/failed backs is displayed. Backup history is also available. Virtual machine specific information is also included such snapshot deletion status.



Figure 1 – Backup Protection Summary

Clicking on the “Virtual Machines” section of the NetBackup tab (Figure 2) provides a tabular view of virtual machine backup status. Sorting these backup events can be accomplished by clicking on any column. For larger environments powerful filtering tools can be used to focus on specific virtual machines.

The screenshot shows the 'Virtual Machines' section of the Symantec NetBackup interface. The 'Virtual Machines' tab is selected, and the 'Backup Successful' view is active. The filter is set to 'Name contains nfs'. The table displays 19 total count of virtual machines with backup status details.

Name	Host / Cluster	Backup Status	Last Successful Backup	Backup Age (days)	Policy	Master	Consecutive Failures
NFS_RHEL5	oigtesx	Backup Successful	2/22/2012 3:51:46 PM	23	test2	lqso19-	-
NFS_SUSE1	oigtesx	Backup Successful	2/23/2012 6:07:55 PM	22	test3	lqso19-	-
NFS_DFM_A	oigtesx	Backup Successful	3/13/2012 4:43:01 PM	3	new1	hyp	-
NFS_DFM_A	oigtesx	Backup Successful	3/13/2012 4:43:01 PM	3	new1	hyp	-
NFS_DFM_A	oigtesx	Backup Successful	3/13/2012 4:43:13 PM	3	new1	hyp	-
NFS_DFM_A	oigtesx	Backup Successful	3/13/2012 4:43:23 PM	3	new1	hyp	-
NFS_DFM_A	oigtesx	Backup Successful	3/13/2012 4:43:24 PM	3	new1	hyp	-
NFS_DFM_A	oigtesx	Backup Successful	3/13/2012 4:43:29 PM	3	new1	hyp	-
NFS_DFM_A	oigtesx	Backup Successful	3/13/2012 4:43:03 PM	3	new1	hyp	-

Figure 2 – Tabular list of Virtual Machine backup status

VMware events that are specific to backup operations are posted within the Events tab (Figure 3). More detailed information related to each event can be found within this tab. Again, this information is context sensitive.

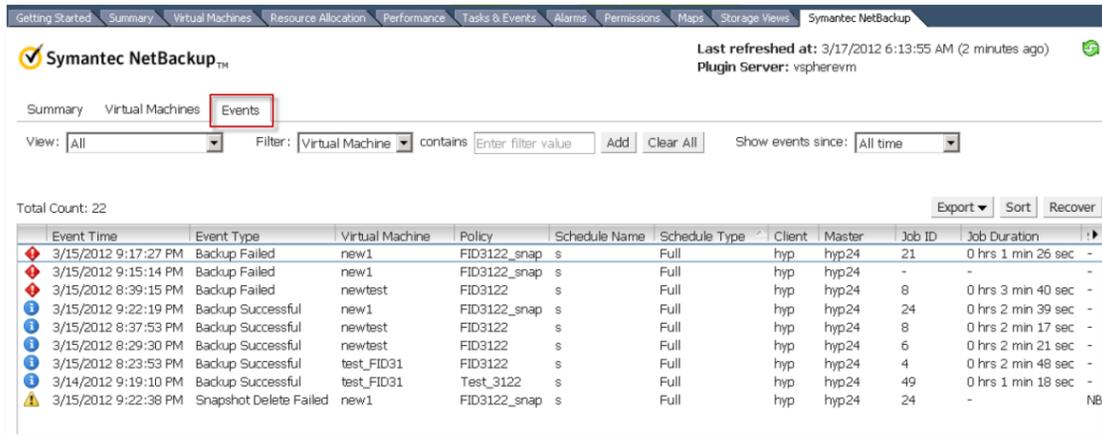


Figure 3 – Backup related event list

Virtual machine recovery. Restoring a virtual machine can be accomplished by using one of three access points. First, you can restore the virtual machine by right clicking on the virtual machine itself and selecting the Symantec NetBackup Recovery Wizard. You can also restore via the Symantec NetBackup Recovery icon within the vSphere client home screen. Finally, you can initiate a restore from the events section of the Symantec NetBackup tab (Figure 4).

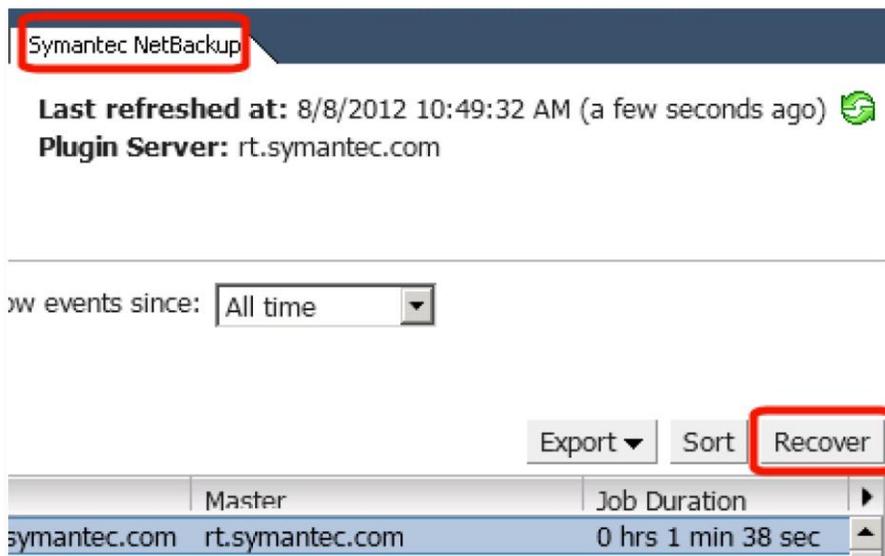


Figure 4 – Virtual machine restore from events section

From this point on, the virtual machine recovery is completely wizard based. First we see a summary screen that describes the virtual machine attributes (Figure 5).

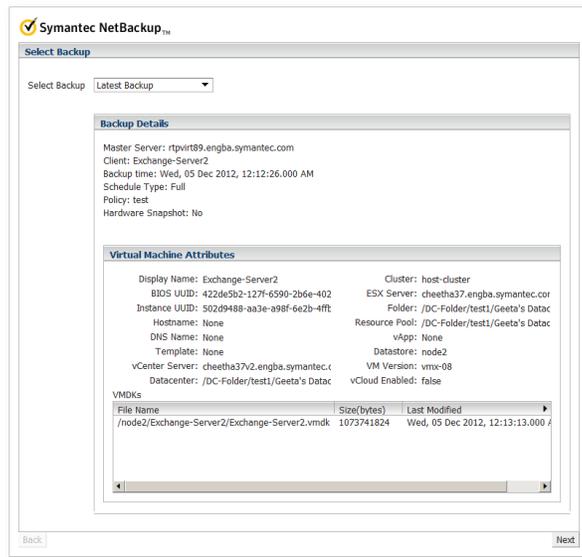


Figure 5 – Virtual machine image recovery wizard

The next few screens provide options related to placement and configuration of the virtual machine to be restored (Figure 6).

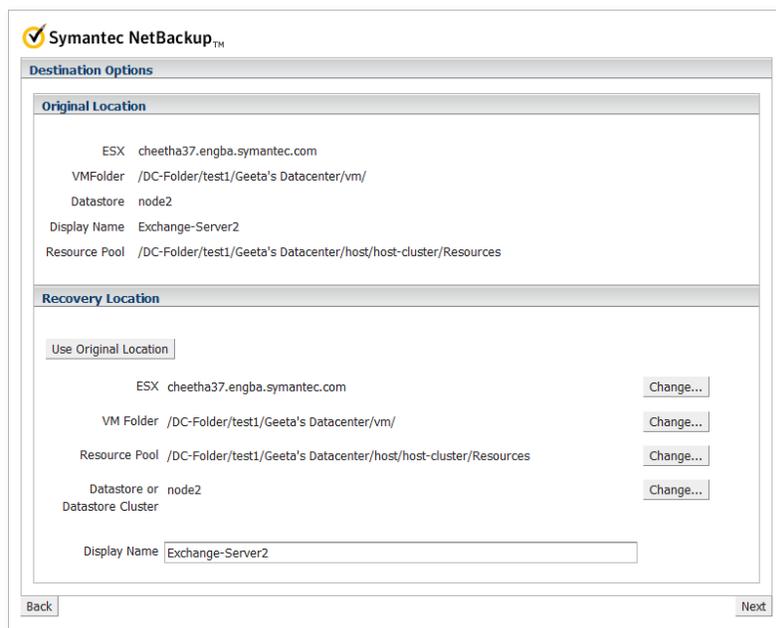


Figure 6 – Recovery wizard

The final screen displayed is a pre-recovery check. Here a number of final tests are made to help ensure that the virtual machine recovery has the highest probability of successfully completing. As we see below, the Datastore that will be the target of the restore does not have enough free space for the restored virtual machine (Figure 7). Once any reported issues are fixed, simply select the “Recover” button and the entire virtual machine restore process is now completely automated.

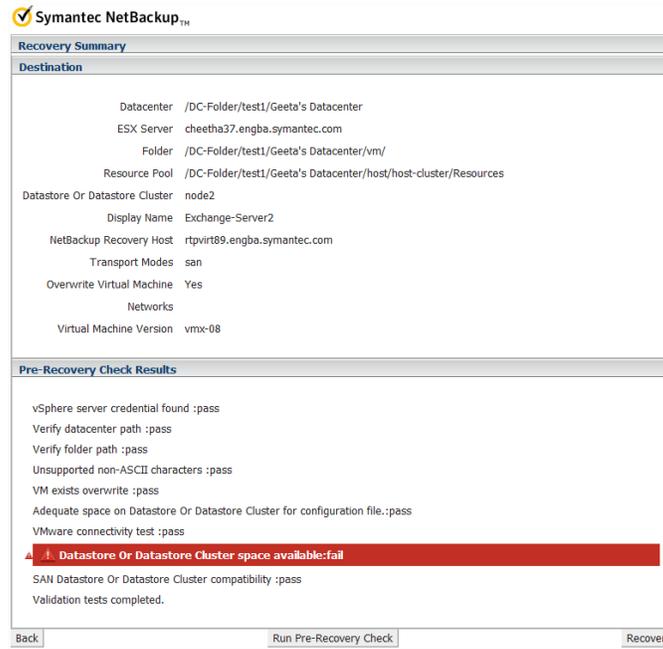


Figure 7 – Pre-recovery check

Licensing and Support Considerations

The NetBackup vSphere Client Plug-in is provided as part of the Enterprise Client license.

Related Documents

[NetBackup for VMware Guide](#)

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Symantec Corporation
World Headquarters
350 Ellis Street
Mountain View, CA 94043 USA
+1 (650) 527 8000
+1 (800) 721 3934

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