

VMware vSphere Replication 6.0 Release Notes

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VMware vSphere Replication 6.0.0.3 | 17 MAY 2016 | Build 3845888

VMware vSphere Replication 6.0.0.2 | 23 MAR 2016 | Build 3656322

VMware vSphere Replication 6.0.0.1 | 12 MAY 2015 | Build 2718739

VMware vSphere Replication 6.0 | 12 MAR 2015 | Build 2568808

Last updated: **04 AUG 2017**

Check for additions and updates to these release notes.

For information about the vSphere Replication 6.0.0.x patch releases, see the corresponding section.

- [vSphere Replication 6.0.0.3 Express Patch Release](#)
- [vSphere Replication 6.0.0.2 Express Patch Release](#)
- [vSphere Replication 6.0.0.1 Express Patch Release](#)

What's in the Release Notes

These release notes cover the following topics:

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Localization

VMware vSphere Replication 6.0 is available in the following languages:

- English
- French
- German
- Japanese
- Korean
- Simplified Chinese
- Traditional Chinese

What's New

The following features are new for this release:

- Network traffic compression: replicated data is now optionally compressed prior to being sent over the network, resulting in reduced replication times and less network bandwidth consumed.
- Linux guest OS quiescing: introducing Linux guest OS quiescing service to provide file-system level crash consistency to replicated Linux-based VMs.
- Network isolation: management and replication traffic can be split over separate networks.
- Increase in product scalability: each vSphere Replication Management Server can now configure for replication and manage a maximum of 2000 simultaneous replications, up from the limit of 500 replications in previous releases.
- Performance improvements: numerous enhancements were made to the host-based replication engine to enhance performance.

- Interoperability with VMware vSphere Storage DRS at the target site: vSphere Storage DRS can now detect replica discs of replicated virtual machines at the target site. When vSphere Storage DRS needs to initiate a move of replica disks between datastores, vSphere Replication will seamlessly and automatically handle the move to the new datastore, thereby eliminating the need for any manual intervention by administrators.
- The vSphere Replication 6.0 release removes the functionality that switches the TCP port for replication traffic from port 31031 to 44046 after the end of the initial synchronization. Replication traffic now uses port 31031 at all times. For the purposes of traffic shaping, customers can use the Network isolation feature.

Existing replications are not affected during upgrade of vSphere Replication, and you do not have to reconfigure them due to this change.

Existing replications will continue to use port TCP 44046 until they are reconfigured for some other reason.

Product Documentation

In addition to the current release notes, you can use the documentation set for vSphere Replication 6.0 that includes the following deliverables.

- [vSphere Replication 6.0 Documentation Center](#)
- [Compatibility Matrixes for vSphere Replication 6.0](#)

The documentation set for VMware vCloud Air – Disaster Recovery includes the following deliverables.

- [vCloud Air – Disaster Recovery Release Notes](#)
- [vSphere Replication for Disaster Recovery to Cloud](#)
- [vCloud Air – Disaster Recovery User's Guide](#)

vCloud Suite Licensing and Integration

You can license vSphere Replication 6.0 individually or as part of vCloud Suite 6.0. You should consider the licensing and integration options that are available to you.

Some vCloud Suite components are available as standalone products that are licensed on a per-virtual machine basis. When the products are part of vCloud Suite, they are licensed on a per-CPU basis. You can run unlimited number of virtual machines on CPUs that are licensed with vCloud Suite.

You can combine the features of vSphere Replication with other components of vCloud Suite to leverage the full capabilities of the software-defined data center. For more information, see *vCloud Suite Architecture Overview and Use Cases*.

Installation

Download the vSphere Replication **.zip** file and unzip it. The vSphere Replication 6.0 **.zip** file includes two OVF files. You can deploy each package by using the Deploy OVF wizard in the vSphere Web Client:

1. **vSphere_Replication_OVF10.ovf**: Use this file to install all vSphere Replication components, including the vSphere Replication Management Server and a vSphere Replication Server.
2. **vSphere_Replication_AddOn_OVF10.ovf**: Use this file to install an optional additional vSphere Replication Server.

For more information on installation, see section Installing vSphere Replication in the [vSphere Replication Documentation Center](#).

Upgrading vSphere Replication

The downloadable ISO image is the only means of upgrading from vSphere Replication 5.5.1 or 5.8 to vSphere Replication 6.0. You cannot upgrade vSphere Replication from version 5.5.1 or 5.8 to version 6.0 by using vSphere Update Manager or the official VMware Update Repository from the VAMI of the vSphere Replication appliance. See the [compatibility matrix](#) for further information on supported versions.

Important: Before you initiate an upgrade, verify that the vSphere Replication appliance has an OVF environment, or context. See [Checking and Restoring the OVF Context of the vSphere Replication Appliance \(2106709\)](#).

Verify that you read section [Upgrade](#) under Known Issues.

See [Upgrade vSphere Replication by Using the Downloadable ISO Image](#) for the procedure on upgrading to vSphere Replication 6.0.

Operational Limits for vSphere Replication

The operational limits of vSphere Replication 6.0 are documented in the VMware Knowledge Base. See [Operational Limits for vSphere Replication 6.0 \(KB 2102453\)](#).

Note: vSphere Replication requires additional configuration to support more than 500 replications per a vSphere Replication Management server. See [Operational Limits for vSphere Replication 6.0](#) and [Configuring Upgraded vSphere Replication Appliances to Support up to 2000 Replications](#).

Open Source Components

The copyright statements and licenses applicable to the open source software components distributed in vSphere Replication 6.0 are available at the [vSphere Replication Open Source Disclosure page](#).

Caveats and Limitations of vSphere Replication 6.0

- vSphere Replication does not support VSS quiescing on Virtual Volumes.
- vSphere Replication does not support vSphere APIs for IO Filtering on both the source and the target sites. You cannot replicate a virtual machine that is assigned a VM Storage Policy that contains IOFilters, nor can you assign such a policy to the replication target VM. Before configuring a virtual machine for replication, verify that the VM Storage Policy that is assigned to it does not contain IOFilters. Do not assign VM Storage policies with IOFilters to virtual machines that are already configured for replication.
- Replication statistics and reports are not available to users that run vSphere Replication 6.0 on a vCenter Server 5.1.
- Deploying more than one vSphere Replication appliance produces a warning on the boot screen. This requires user confirmation to either continue and configure all replications again or shut down the new appliance so that it does not interfere with the old one. This situation does not occur when deploying more than one vSphere Replication servers.
- Each vSphere Replication Management Server can manage a maximum of 2000 replicated virtual machines. See [Configuring Upgraded vSphere Replication Appliances to Support up to 2000 Replications \(KB 2102463\)](#) and [Requirements to the Environment... \(KB 2107869\)](#).
- vSphere Replication supports a maximum disk size of 62TB. If you attempt to enable replication on a virtual machine with a disk larger than 62TB, the virtual machine will not perform any replication operation and will not power on.
- vSphere Replication no longer supports IBM DB2 as the vSphere Replication database, in accordance with the removal of support for DB2 as a supported database for vCenter Server 5.5. If you use DB2 as an external vSphere Replication database, contact VMware support for instructions about how to migrate your data to a supported database.
- vSphere Replication does not support upgrading the VMware Tools package in the vSphere Replication appliance.
- When using Storage DRS at a replication site, ensure that you have homogeneous host and datastore connectivity to prevent Storage DRS from performing resource consuming cross-host moves (changing both the host and the datastore) of replica disks.
- For replications to cloud, a seed vApp can be used for only one replication.
- An adjustment of **+1 second** is scheduled for **23:59 UTC on 30th June 2015**. This adjustment affects the vSphere Replication appliance. For more information, see <http://kb.vmware.com/kb/2115818>.
- **NEW** To use the network isolation feature, vSphere Replication requires the host to be ESXi 6.0 or later.

Supported Browser Versions

For supported browser versions for the vSphere Web Client, see the documentation of the vSphere Web Client that you use.

Available Patch Releases

vSphere Replication 6.0.0.3 Express Patch Release

Released 17 MAY 2016 | Build 3845888

- The vSphere Replication 6.0.0.3 Express Patch applies the fix for [CVE-2016-3427](#).

Installation Notes

If you are running vSphere Replication 6.0.0.x, upgrade to vSphere Replication 6.0.0.3. See [Upgrading vSphere Replication](#) in vSphere Replication Administration for instructions about updating vSphere Replication 6.0.0.x.

You upgrade vSphere Replication by using a downloadable ISO image.

vSphere Replication 6.0.0.2 Express Patch Release

Released 23 MAR 2016 | Build 3656322

- The vSphere Replication 6.0.0.2 Express Patch applies the fix for [CVE-2015-7547](#).

Installation Notes

If you are running vSphere Replication 6.0.0.x, upgrade to vSphere Replication 6.0.0.2. See [Upgrading vSphere Replication](#) in vSphere Replication Administration for instructions about updating vSphere Replication 6.0.0.x.

You upgrade vSphere Replication by using a downloadable ISO image.

vSphere Replication 6.0.0.1 Express Patch Release

Released 12 MAY 2015 | Build 2718739

The Oracle (Sun) JRE package is updated to 1.7.0_80. The update addresses multiple security issues that exist in the earlier releases of Oracle (Sun) JRE. Oracle has documented the CVE identifiers that are addressed in JRE 1.7.0_80 in the [Oracle Java SE Critical Patch Update Advisory](#) for April 2015. The JRE update includes fixes for CVE-2015-0488, CVE-2015-0478, and CVE-2015-0204.

- The vSphere Replication 6.0.0.1 Express Patch applies the fix for CVE-2015-0488, CVE-2015-0478, and CVE-2015-0204.
- The vSphere Replication 6.0.0.1 Express patch resolves the issue with a timeout error appearing while configuring a replication to cloud to use a

Installation Notes

If you are running vSphere Replication 6.0.0.x, upgrade to vSphere Replication 6.0.0.1. See [Upgrading vSphere Replication](#) in vSphere Replication Administration for instructions about updating vSphere Replication 6.0.0.x.

You upgrade vSphere Replication by using a downloadable ISO image.

Resolved Issues

The following issues have been resolved in this release.

- **A timeout error appears while configuring a replication to cloud to use a vApp as a seed**

Depending on the environment performance and connectivity, you might experience a timeout issue while you try to configure a vApp as a seed.

The following error message appears on the Replication seed page of the Configure Replication wizard:

The data service timed out because a back-end task took more than 120 seconds. See the vsphere-client-virgo.log for more details.

This issue has been resolved

Known Issues

The following known issues have been discovered through rigorous testing and will help you understand some behavior you might encounter in this release.

- [Upgrade](#)
- [General](#)
- [Replications to vCenter Server](#)
- [Cloud Replications](#)
- [Documentation](#)

Upgrade

The following known issues might be observed after the upgrade.

- **The vSphere Replication Management service does not start after the upgrade**

After you upgrade vSphere Replication, the vSphere Replication Management (VRM) service appears as stopped in the VAMI, and the `/opt/vmware/hms/logs/hms-configtool.log` file in the virtual appliance contains `java.net.ConnectException: Connection refused` error messages.

This problem is observed if the upgrade procedure of the embedded DB schema fails because the vPostgreSQL service was not fully started.

Workaround:

1. In the virtual appliance console, log in as the root user.
2. Run the following command: `$ /opt/vmware/hms/bin/hms-configtool -cmd upgrade -configfile /opt/vmware/hms/conf/hms-configuration.xml`

The DB schema upgrade starts.

3. Wait for the DB upgrade procedure to complete.
4. In the vSphere Replication VAMI, navigate to the **Configuration** tab, and complete the SSO registration of the appliance.

- **Missing vSphere Replication permissions after upgrading the vSphere Replication appliance, certificate or IP change**

If you upgrade the vSphere Replication appliance, or if for some other reason the certificate or the IP address of the vSphere Replication appliance changes, the permissions that are assigned to the default VRM user roles are deleted.

This problem is observed every time the vSphere Replication extension is unregistered and registered with the vCenter Server extension manager.

Workaround: Clone the predefined VRM roles and create your custom roles before upgrading the vSphere Replication appliance, or changing its certificate or IP address. The permissions that are assigned to custom roles are not removed.

- **The vSphere Replication Virtual Appliance Management Interface (VAMI) becomes inaccessible after upgrade**

After the upgrade, the vSphere Replication VAMI changes and you cannot access it in the same browser window that you used before the upgrade.

Workaround: Do one of the following.

- Change the browser that you use to open the VAMI.
- Close the entire browser and open a new browser window to connect to the VAMI.
- Clear the cache of your browser.

- **vSphere Replication actions in vSphere Web Client are not available after upgrade**

If you follow the steps in [Update the vCenter Server IP Address in the vSphere Replication Management Server](#) but use the vSphere Web Client 6.0 before you upgrade the vSphere Replication appliance, replication actions through the vSphere Replication plug-in are not available.

Workaround: Restart the vSphere Web Client.

- If vCenter Server runs on Linux, establish an SSH connection to the vCenter Server system, log in as the root user, and run the following command:

```
service vsphere-client restart.
```

- **After an upgrade from 5.5.x to 6.x, you cannot register more than one vSphere Replication appliance in the same vCenter Single Sign-On domain**

If the appliances in your environment use the default auto-generated self-signed vSphere Replication certificates, you cannot register more than one vSphere Replication appliance within the same Single Sign-On domain.

The problem is observed because in 5.5.x and earlier releases, all auto-generated self-signed vSphere Replication certificates are issued to the same common name.

Workaround: Regenerate the self-signed certificates by using the VAMI of each vSphere Replication appliance in the Single Sign-On domain.

- **The vSphere Replication appliance changes to a vSphere Replication server after the upgrade**

If you do not check the OVF context of the vSphere Replication appliance before you perform an upgrade, and the upgrade operation does not fail, the upgraded vSphere Replication appliance appears as a vSphere Replication Server. The data about replications that were configured before the upgrade is lost.

Workaround:

- If you have a pre-upgrade snapshot of the vSphere Replication appliance, revert to that snapshot and see [Checking and Restoring the OVF Environment of the vSphere Replication Appliance \(2106709\)](#).
- If you do not have a pre-upgrade snapshot of the vSphere Replication appliance, uninstall the upgraded vSphere Replication instance and perform a fresh deployment. See [Installing and Uninstalling vSphere Replication](#).

- **After an upgrade of the vCenter Server and vSphere Replication, configuring the SSO in the vSphere Replication VAMI fails with error Bad exit code: 1**

After you upgrade the vCenter Server and vSphere Replication to version 6.0, you must register the appliance with vCenter Single Sign-on. On the Configuration tab of the vSphere Replication VAMI, you enter the LookupService address and the credentials of an SSO administrator, and click **Save and Restart Service**. The following error message appears: **Bad exit code: 1**.

This problem is observed because the upgraded vCenter Server changes its IP address or certificate, but the vSphere Replication Management server preserves the old IP address and certificate of the vCenter Server in its OVF environment. As a result, the validation of the vCenter Server fails.

Workaround: In the vSphere Web Client, right-click the vSphere Replication Management server VM (HMS VM) and power it off and on. This operation forces the update of the OVF environment on the vSphere Replication Management server VM.

- **Error: Cannot update the dynamic configuration policy when configuring NTP in an upgraded vSphere Replication appliance**

If you run the `yast2 ntp-client add server=<your_chosen_time_server>` command in the vSphere Replication appliance to configure synchronization with an NTP server, the following error message appears **Error: Cannot update the dynamic configuration policy**.

Workaround: You can ignore this error message and proceed with configuring the synchronization with the NTP server of your choice:

1. Log in to the vSphere Replication appliance console as the root user.
2. Run the command `yast2 ntp-client add server=<your_chosen_time_server>`
This error message appears in the console: **Error: Cannot update the dynamic configuration policy**.
3. Run the command `yast2 ntp-client enable`
4. Run the command `sntp -P no -r <your_chosen_time_server>`

The `ntp.conf` file is updated and the NTP synchronization is configured successfully.

- **vSphere Replication appears as Enabled (Not accessible) after the upgrade**

In the vSphere Web Client, on the vSphere Replication **Home** tab, you can check the list of vCenter Server instances in the Single-Sign On domain, and the status of vSphere Replication on each vCenter Server instance. After you upgrade vSphere Replication, the status of the upgraded vSphere Replication server turns to **Enabled (Not accessible)**.

Workaround: Configure the synchronization with an NTP server of your choice:

1. Log in to the vSphere Replication appliance console as the root user.
2. Run the command `yast2 ntp-client add server=<your_chosen_time_server>`
This error message appears in the console: **Error: Cannot update the dynamic configuration policy**.
3. Run the command `yast2 ntp-client enable`
4. Run the command `sntp -P no -r <your_chosen_time_server>`

The `ntp.conf` file is updated and the NTP synchronization is configured successfully.

- **Site Recovery Manager cannot be upgraded after upgrading vSphere Replication**

On upgrade of vSphere Replication to version 6.0, Site Recovery Manager cannot be upgraded as the vSphere Replication version is detected as incompatible. Under solutions manager in vCenter, the vSphere Replication version appears not to have been upgraded though the appliance reports the upgrade is successful.

Workaround: Register the vSphere Replication appliance with vCenter Single Sign-On.

1. Connect to the VAMI interface of the vSphere Replication appliance by using a supported browser.

See [VMware Studio 2.5 Release Notes](#) for supported browser versions when using the VAMI.

2. On the **Configuration** tab, enter the user name and password of an SSO administrator.

Note: The text boxes for the SSO credentials will not be visible if you are using an unsupported browser.

- **vSphere Replication UI does not appear in vSphere Web Client if you upgraded vCenter Server and vSphere Replication to version 6.0 but you did not upgrade Site Recovery Manager to 6.0**

When you upgrade vCenter Server 5.5U2 to 6.0, vSphere Replication 5.8 to 6.0, and Site Recovery Manager 5.8 is registered with vCenter Server but not upgraded, vSphere Replication starts successfully but the vSphere Replication interface does not appear in vSphere Web Client.

Workaround: Upgrade Site Recovery Manager 5.8 to 6.0, or uninstall Site Recovery Manager 5.8. Restart the vSphere Web Client.

General

The issues in this section pertain to the vSphere Replication vApp, or to all types of replication.

- **Replacing the SSL certificate of vCenter Server causes certificate validation errors in vSphere Replication**

If you replace the SSL certificate on the vCenter Server system, a connection error occurs when vSphere Replication attempts to connect to vCenter Server.

Workaround: For information about how to update vCenter Server certificates and allow solutions such as vSphere Replication to continue to function, see <http://kb.vmware.com/kb/2109074>.

- **Data synchronization fails and the log file of the source vSphere Replication Management Server contains error `DeltaAbortedException`**

If your environment experiences connectivity issues during data synchronization, you might observe the following problems.

- Replication group synchronizations fail and the `hms<n>.log` file in the vSphere Replication Management server at the source site contains the following error message:

`DeltaAbortedException.`

- In Site Recovery Manager, replication group synchronizations fail with the following error message:

`VR synchronization failed for VRM group <group_name>. A generic error occurred in the vSphere Replication Management Server. Exception details: 'com.vmware.hms.replication.sync.DeltaAbortedException' .`

Workaround: Resolve the connectivity issues in your environment before you proceed.

- **The initial configuration task fails with error `InvalidArgument`**

If you configure a replication for a virtual machine that contains disks without UUID, vSphere Replication assigns UUIDs for these disks during the initial configuration. However, if these disks have parent disks, for example preceding snapshots, vSphere Replication cannot assign UUIDs for them and the initial configuration task fails with error `InvalidArgument`.

Workaround: Consolidate the disks on the source virtual machine and try configuring a replication again.

- **Target datastores are not displayed in the Configure Replication wizard**

If you try to configure a replication, the datastores at the target site are not listed in the Target Location page of the Configure Replication wizard.

Workaround: Restart the vSphere Web Client at the source site.

- For Linux-based installations, establish an SSH connection to the vCenter Server and run the command `service vsphere-client restart`
- For Windows-based installations, open the list of Windows services on the vCenter Server, right-click the `VMware vSphere Web Client` service, and click **Restart**.

- **Failover with "Sync latest changes" might fail with `SocketTimeoutException` when multiple replications are recovered concurrently and there is a huge accumulated delta since the latest synchronization**

The vSphere Replication Management server might not receive due responses through the vCenter reverse proxy when there is heavy replication traffic at the same network. Some replication management or monitoring operations might fail with the following error message:

`'com.vmware.vim.vmoi.client.exception.ConnectionException: java.net.SocketTimeoutException: Read timed out'`

Workaround: Configure network traffic isolation for vSphere Replication traffic, so that the management communication between vCenter and the vSphere Replication Management server is not affected by the heavy replication traffic. See [Isolating the Network Traffic of vSphere Replication](#).

- **Virtual machines that are located in the target folder are overwritten during recovery**

If the target folder contains a registered virtual machine with the same name as the replicated virtual machine, the registered virtual machine is overwritten during the recovery. When you start the Recovery wizard, vSphere Replication checks the target folder and displays a dialog box for you to confirm the overwrite operation. On rare occasions, after the target check is complete, and while the wizard is still open, a virtual machine might be registered to the target folder. On these occasions, the virtual machine that was copied to the target folder will be overwritten without

- **Replications appear in Not Active (RPO violation) status after changing the IP address of the vSphere Replication server at the target site**

If the IP address of the vSphere Replication server at the target site changes, the status of all replications to this site turns to Not Active (RPO violation). This problem is observed because replications on the source site are not reconfigured automatically when the IP address changes.

Workaround: Reconfigure all replications, so that the source hosts use the new IP address of the target vSphere Replication server.

- **Transient Error state during the initial full synchronization**

During the initial synchronization, you might observe that the state of the synchronization changes temporarily to **Error** and back to normal multiple times. The error state might indicate resource deficiency at the target site. If the IO workload caused by the sync operation is higher than the load that target hosts can handle, the state of the replication will turn to **Error**. When the IO workload decreases, the error disappears.

Workaround: Reduce the value of the host configuration option called **HBR.TransferMaxContExtents** on each ESXi host where replication source VMs are running. The default value is 8, and a lower value decreases the size of data blocks that are sent during one sync update, but increases the duration of the initial full sync. After the initial full sync, change the value back to its default (**8**) to achieve maximum RPO performance. If transient errors continue to appear during delta synchronizations, it might mean that a lot of changed blocks are transferred during each delta, and the hosts at the target site cannot accommodate the incurred IO workload. In such cases, keep the value of the **HBR.TransferMaxContExtents** configuration option low.

Alternatively, you can add more hosts to the secondary site.

- **The error message Unable to compute permissions appears when you start the Reconfigure wizard for an incoming replication**

When a replication is configured between two remote sites and you do not have a current session to the source site, when you right-click a replication from the Incoming Replications list and select **Reconfigure**, the following error message appears: **Unable to compute permissions**.

Workaround: Navigate to the vSphere Replication Target Sites view, and reconnect the source and the target site.

- **Users that are assigned the VRM administrator or VRM virtual machine replication role cannot access the Configure Replication wizard**

The Configure Replication wizard is not launched if a user that is assigned the predefined VRM administrator or VRM virtual machine replication role logs in the vSphere Web Client and attempts to configure a replication.

Workaround: Clone the default role to add the **Profile-driven storage -> Profile-driven storage view** privilege to it, and assign the cloned role to the user.

- **Clicking the Configure link for an embedded VR Server does not open the VAMI**

If you navigate to the Replication Servers view, select an embedded vSphere Replication server, and invoke the Configure action, the VAMI is not displayed.

Workaround: Open a browser and enter the address `https://<VR_Appliance_Address>:5480` to open the VAMI.

- **Empty Reconfigure wizard for user roles that are not assigned the View VR privilege**

If a custom role that does not have the **View VR** privilege is assigned to a user, and that user attempts to reconfigure a replication, the Reconfigure wizard is launched empty.

Workaround: None.

- **vSphere Replication tasks are not localized in the vSphere Web Client**

The vSphere Replication tasks that appear in Tasks pane of the vSphere Web Client are not localized.

Workaround: You can ignore this localization problem. vSphere Replication tasks run as expected.

- **The option to enable quiescing is disabled in Configure Replication wizard for a powered off replication source VM, though the guest OS supports quiescing**

For both Linux and Windows sources, the Enable Quiescing option is enabled based on the information about the guest OS. If a virtual machine has never been powered on, ESXi hosts always report no support for quiescing, because the guest OS information is not available.

Workaround: Verify that replication source VMs have been powered on at least once before you configure replications.

- **vSphere Replication service is inaccessible after vCenter Server certificate changes**

If the vCenter Server certificate changes, vSphere Replication becomes inaccessible.

Workaround: See [vSphere Replication is Inaccessible After Changing vCenter Server Certificate](#).

- **If vFlash is enabled for a virtual machine on the source site, vSphere Replication disables it after recovery**

During replication, vSphere Replication does not check for or reserve vFlash resources on the target site and cannot guarantee that vFlash resources will be available for the virtual machine at the target site. If vFlash is configured, but vFlash resources are not available, the virtual machine fails to power on at the target site. To avoid this issue, vSphere Replication disables vFlash for the virtual machine during recovery.

Workaround: Manually re-enable vFlash for the virtual machine after the recovery.

- **Replication status does not change from Configuring to Error and blocks recovery attempts**

If the primary site vSphere Replication Management Server (VRMS) becomes unavailable and cannot be restored while replication reconfiguration operation is in progress, the replication never shows an error state and recovery can not be initiated.

Workaround: Contact VMware Support Services for assistance.

In rare cases VRMS might stop during recovery immediately after registering the recovered virtual machine in the target vCenter Server. The last recovery error in the replication details panel says **VRM Server was unable to complete the operation**. When VRMS restarts, it cleans up the files for the partially recovered virtual machine. In some cases, it fails to unregister the virtual machine from the target vCenter Server. Subsequent recovery attempts show an error in the recovery wizard that the selected virtual machine folder already contains an entity with the same name.

Workaround: Manually remove the virtual machine from the target vCenter Server, but keep its disks as they point to the replica placeholder files.

- **During replication of multiple virtual machines, a vSphere Replication server might enter a state where it does not accept any further VRMS connections but continues to replicate virtual machines**

Workaround: Reboot the vSphere Replication server.

- **vSphere Replication operations fail with a Not Authenticated error**

If you start an operation on one site, for example configuring vSphere Replication on a virtual machine, and then restart vCenter Server and the vSphere Replication appliance on the other site, vSphere Replication operations can fail with the error **VRM Server generic error. Please check the documentation for any troubleshooting information. The detailed exception is: 'com.vmware.vim.binding.vim.fault.NotAuthenticated'**. This problem is caused by the fact that the vSphere Replication server retains in its cache the connection session from before you restarted vCenter Server and the vSphere Replication appliance.

Workaround: Clear the vSphere Replication connection cache by logging out of the vSphere Web Client and logging back in again.

- **Operation in vSphere Replication Management Server fails with error "... UnmarshalException"**

When the vSphere Replication Management Server experiences high load or transient network errors, operations can fail with UnmarshalException due to errors in the communication layer.

Workaround: Try the failed operation again.

- **The VAMI might not respond when you install an update**

When you upgrade vSphere Replication, a status message 'Installing Updates' might not disappear even after the updates install successfully because the VAMI is not responding.

Workaround: Refresh the VAMI UI in the browser or open it in a new tab.

- **A virtual machine recovered in vSphere Replication does not power on in vCenter Server**

When you use vSphere Replication to run a recovery on a virtual machine, it fails, and the status of the replication is not 'Recovered'. The virtual machine is registered in the vCenter inventory, but when you try to power it on, it fails with error: **File [datastorename] path/vmname.vmx was not found**. The virtual machine registration as part of the vSphere Replication recovery workflow can succeed in vCenter Server, but the response might not reach the vSphere Replication Management Server due to a transient network error. vSphere Replication reverts the replication image and reports a failed recovery task due to virtual machine registration error. If you initiate another recovery, it fails with a message that a virtual machine with the same name is already registered in vCenter Server.

Workaround: Remove the partially recovered virtual machine from the vCenter Server inventory. Do not delete the files from disk. Try the recovery again.

- **vSphere Replication is not available in an attempt to reconfigure replication if the connection to the target site is broken**

If you connected two sites and configured replication for a virtual machine between them, then changed the certificate of one of the vSphere Replication appliances with a new self-signed certificate, the connection between the sites must be repaired.

Workaround: Click reconnect at the target site and verify that the sites are connected before attempting the operation.

- **Replication stalls when you revert to a snapshot during a paused replication**

When you configure replication for a virtual machine and pause the replication, take a snapshot, then resume the replication and revert to the snapshot, instead of going into the paused state, the replication status in the UI does not change and makes no progress.

Workaround: Pause and then resume the replication.

- **vSphere Replication VAMI is not accessible on Internet Explorer 8 and Chrome on Windows XP64 and Windows Server 2003**

You see the error message described in [Microsoft KB 968730](#).

Workaround: Use Firefox to access the VAMI. If Firefox is not an option, install the [Microsoft hotfix](#) on Windows XP and Windows Server 2003.

- **vSphere Replication returns error for VMK_STALE_FILEHANDLE**

If a vSphere Replication persistent state file is on an NFS volume and you remove that volume on the NFS server in such a way that the ESXi Server gets a stale file handle, vSphere Replication attempts to access the persistent state file forever and makes no progress.

Workaround: Commonly, the virtual machine is located on the same volume as the persistent state file and will also be inaccessible. If the virtual machine is not located on the removed NFS volume and is still accessible, unconfigure and reconfigure replication so that a new persistent state file is generated on new storage. Reconfiguring replication will result in a full sync.

- **If you change the vCenter Server certificate, and then log into vSphere Replication, the vSphere Replication Management Server becomes inaccessible**

If you change the vCenter Server certificate you lose connectivity to vSphere Replication and when you try to log in to vSphere Replication, you see this error:

- **vSphere Replication operations fail when there is heavy replication traffic**

vSphere Replication operations might fail with error `java.net.UnknownHostException`. These errors occur because DNS requests are dropped due to network congestion.

Workaround: Configure your network to ensure that management traffic is not dropped, by configuring traffic shaping, quality of service, or DNS on the vSphere Replication appliance. One possible solution is to modify the network address caching policy for the vSphere Replication appliance.

1. Log into the vSphere Replication appliance as root.
2. Open the file `/usr/java/jre1.7.0_72/lib/security/java.security` in an editor.
3. Uncomment the line `networkaddress.cache.ttl` and set its value to at least 86400 seconds (24 hours) or to the longest time that is required for an initial full sync to complete.
4. Save the file and reboot the vSphere Replication appliance.
5. Repeat the procedure for all remaining vSphere Replication appliances.

Replications to vCenter Server

The issues in this section are specific to replications to a vCenter Server.

- **Cannot reconnect sites if the connection status is "Connection issue"**

When two sites are connected, but the status of the connection is `Connection issue`, the following error message appears if you try to reconnect the sites:

`An internal error has occurred - scheme and schemeSpecificPart should not be null.`

Workaround: Disconnect the sites and connect them again.

- **No replications are shown in Outgoing/Incoming views on the target site when the source vCenter Server is unavailable**

If you have configured replications between two remote sites, and currently the source vCenter Server is unavailable, the Monitoring views on the target site do not show any incoming or outgoing replications.

Workaround: Start the source vCenter Server if available.

- **You cannot use custom defined users and roles with vSphere Replication**

You are unable to configure a replication with a custom user, even if that custom user is assigned all required VRM privileges on both sites. The error message `Permission to perform this operation is denied` appears on the Target Location page in Configure Replication wizards.

Workaround: None. All vSphere Replication operations must be performed with the SSO administrator user on both sites.

- **VRMS stops during recovery, replication operations fail, and no virtual machine is registered in the target vCenter Server**

Replication operations stall or fail with error: `VRM Server was unable to complete the operation`. Replica files are available in the target location ready to be registered as a virtual machine in vCenter Server without any vSphere Replication temporary files. If VRMS stops immediately after the vSphere Replication server prepares the virtual machine image from the replica files, VRMS might not update the database and the VR server is no longer aware of the recovered replication.

Management operations on the replication involving the vSphere Replication server immediately fail and block sync operations.

Workaround:

1. Manually move the replicated virtual machine image, the `.vmx` and `.vmdk` files, into another datastore folder.
2. Stop the replication in the vSphere Replication appliance.
3. Manually register the `.vmx` file of the replica image as a virtual machine in the target vCenter Server.

If you do not manually move the replicated virtual machine `.vmx` and `.vmdk` files, VRMS deletes the `.vmdk` files as it does not detect vSphere Replication server part of failover for the replication has already been performed.

- **Recovery wizard fails with error: The source virtual machine has no instance available for recovery**

In vCenter Server -> Manage -> vSphere Replication -> Replication servers, the vSphere Replication server is listed with a disconnected status. The recovery wizard does not display the appropriate error message for the described situation, but message about the replica instance is not available.

Workaround: Resolve the connectivity between VRMS and the vSphere Replication server and try the recovery operation again.

- **A recovered virtual machine with multiple point-in-time instances enabled can lose the attached disks to the latest snapshot when you revert to a previous snapshot and then revert to latest snapshot again**

When you recover a virtual machine for which you enabled point-in-time instances and attach a disk for unresolved disks, if any, the disks attach to the latest snapshot. If you revert to a previous snapshot and then revert to the latest one, the attached disks are not available.

Workaround: Edit settings of the virtual machine and add the required disks as existing hard disks.

- **Moving multiple replications from one vSphere Replication server to another results in error**

Reconfigure or move operations fail with "SocketTimeoutException: Read timed out" and replications go into the Error state. When the source or target vSphere Replication server and the storage are under heavy load, moving a replication can take more than a few minutes and result in the timeout error.

When you add a new disk to a replicated virtual machine and reconfigure replication to include the new disk for replication, the replication goes into full sync state as expected. In rare cases, the UI might show a disk mismatch error for the virtual machine while the full sync is in progress even though there is no error. After the full sync completes and an instance is created for the virtual machine, the error clears.

Workaround: None.

- **During recovery, the pop-up for credentials to the source site does not display if sites have been paired from a different session**

When you use a different browser to pair sites and configure replication between them, then launch the Recover wizard from a different browser, instead of prompting you for credentials to connect to the site, vSphere Replication says the source site is unavailable.

Workaround: Log out of the vSphere Web Client and log in again. The credentials prompt appears.

- **Replication goes into an error state when the virtual machine disk is greater than 2 TB and the target ESXi host is a lower version than 5.5**

When you configure a replication for a virtual machine which has a disk that is larger than 2 TB, and the target ESXi host that has access to the replica datastore is downgraded to a lower version, the replication goes into the Error state and you see an NFC error.

Workaround: None. When the source virtual machine has a disk that is larger than 2 TB, you must use ESXi 5.5 version on the target site.

- **When a target vSphere Replication server is not available, vSphere Replication does not show an error in the vSphere Web Client Monitor -> Issues page**

If the target vSphere Replication server is not available because it is powered off or has network connectivity issues, and a replication is in an initial full-sync state, vSphere Replication does not report an issue in the Web Client at **Monitor -> Issues** page of the target vCenter Server. Instead, you see an event on the vCenter Server and a disconnected status at **Manage -> vSphere Replication -> Replication servers**.

Workaround: Check if a target vSphere Replication server is currently available at **Manage -> vSphere Replication -> Replication Servers** page. Alternatively, set an alarm for "VR Server disconnected" event on the target vCenter Server.

- **Cannot reconfigure replication after switching from embedded database to existing external database**

If you configure vSphere Replication with an external database and configure replication within the same site, then switch to the embedded database, the replication is not available, which is as designed. If you switch back to the external database, the replication is in an error state. Reconfiguring the replication fails with the following error: **ManagedObjectNotFound**

Workaround: When restoring the vSphere Replication database to the previous external or embedded database, you must reset its contents.

- **Cannot configure a virtual machine with physical mode RDM disk even if the disk is excluded from replication**

If you configure a replication for a virtual machine with physical mode, you might see the following error:

```
VRM Server generic error. Check the documentation for any troubleshooting information.
The detailed exception is: HMS can not set disk UUID for disks of VM : MoRef:
type = VirtualMachine, value =

, serverGuid = null'.
```

Workaround: None.

- **Configuring replication with vSphere Replication fails if the virtual machine contains two disks on different datastores**

See [KB 2012610](#)

- **Recovering a virtual machine using the "Recover with latest available data" option is possible when the source virtual machine is powered on**

Before you start a recovery operation on the target site, you must power off the replication source virtual machine. However, if you select the option **Recover with latest available data** when recovering a virtual machine, it is possible to perform the recovery while the source virtual machine is powered on. This causes the following problems.

- **The state of the replication temporarily changes to Error after a recovery operation has been started for it**

If you initiate a recovery operation while the source virtual machine is still powered on, the state of the replication changes temporarily from **Recovering** to **Error** and back to **Recovering** before the recovery operation completes successfully.

Workaround: You can ignore this transient **Error** state as the recovery on the target site is successful.

Note: During recovery operation, replication of the source virtual machine to the target site does not proceed. It will resume immediately after recovery operation, if the recovery operation does not succeed.

If you select **Recover with recent changes** when you recover a virtual machine, it is not possible to complete the recovery if the source virtual machine is powered on.

- **Recovering a virtual machine with vSphere Replication 6.0 fails to power on the recovered virtual machine**

If a replicated virtual machine is attached to a distributed virtual switch and you attempt to perform a recovery in an automated DRS cluster, the recovery operation succeeds but the resulting virtual machine cannot be powered on.

Workaround: Edit the recovered virtual machine settings to attach it to the correct network.

- **Registering additional vSphere Replication servers takes a long time**

If vCenter Server manages several hundred ESXi Server hosts, registering an additional vSphere Replication server with the vSphere Replication appliance can take several minutes.

This is because the vSphere Replication server must register with each ESXi Server host.

Cloud Replications

The issues in this section are specific to replications to and from cloud.

- **org.hibernate.exception in the VCTA log file**

In the `vcta-info.log` file or the `vcta-debug.log` file, you might observe the following message:

```
org.hibernate.exception.ConstraintViolationException: Could not execute JDBC batch update
```

Workaround: You can ignore this message because it does not affect the operation of vCloud Air - Disaster Recovery.

- **The vApp in the cloud organization is not powered off after a recovery on premise**

When you recover a replication from cloud at the tenant site and, in the Recovery wizard, you select to recover the VM by using the option **Use latest available data**, vSphere Replication does not power off the source vApp in the cloud.

This is because the option **Use latest available data** assumes that there is no connection to the replication source site.

Workaround: You can connect to the cloud site to manually power off the source vApp.

- **Replications from cloud turn into Error state**

If you use the vCloud Air web user interface to add a new disk to a virtual machine that serves as a replication source, vSphere Replication at your local site automatically pauses the incoming replication for that machine, and moves the replication group into **Error** state.

Workaround: Stop the replication from cloud that indicates **Error** state, and configure a new replication.

- **Hardware changes on the replication source VM might not be automatically copied to the placeholder vApp in the cloud**

Changes to the protected virtual machine on the source site, such as changes to memory, CPU, networks, and so on, might not be replicated to the placeholder vApp in your cloud organization if you apply them while vSphere Replication is running a workflow, for example, a test recovery.

Workaround: Edit the hardware of the replication source VM again to trigger a full synchronization.

1. In the vSphere Web Client inventory tree, right-click the source VM.
2. From the drop-down menu, select **Edit Settings**, and apply a change to the virtual hardware.
Note: Opening and closing the Edit Setting dialog box is not enough. You must apply some change to the hardware.
3. Click **OK**.

- **Disks are not automatically consolidated during recovery at the cloud site**

If you configure a replication to cloud that has the MPIT functionality enabled, and you recover the replicated virtual machine at the cloud site, its retained instances are not consolidated during the recovery. By design, replication instances are not consolidated to speed up the recovery process.

The unconsolidated disks in the recovered virtual machine might cause performance problems as follows.

- The recovered virtual machine runs slower than expected.
- The recovered virtual machine requires more storage resources.

Workaround: Use the vCloud Air interface to manually consolidate the disks on the recovered virtual machine.

- **Outgoing replications to cloud remain in Not Active state**

By default, when you power on the vSphere Replication appliance, a vSphere Installation Bundle (VIB) is installed on all supported ESXi hosts in the vCenter Server inventory where the appliance is deployed. The VIB creates a firewall rule, Replication-to-Cloud Traffic, that opens TCP ports 10000 to 10010 for outgoing traffic. However, the automatic installation of the VIB file might fail due to network issues in your environment. When the firewall rule is missing on the source ESXi hosts, outgoing replications to cloud remain in **Not Active** state.

Workaround: Install the vSphere Replication VIB file on each ESXi instance that hosts a cloud replication source VM.

1. Temporarily disable the firewall on the ESXi host.
2. Establish an SSH connection to the ESXi Server.
3. Run the following command:

```
$ esxcli software vib install -v https://VR_APPLIANCE_IP:8043/vib/vr2c-firewall.vib
```

If, in your vCloud Air inventory, you have a virtual machine that has disks of size not equal to whole Megabytes, for example 104.56 MB as opposed to 104 MB, and, at your local site, you configure a replication from cloud or a reverse replication for that VM, the replication appears in the Incoming Replications list, but remains in **Not Active** state.

The problem is observed because the disk size that the cloud system reports is rounded down.

Workaround:

1. At your local site, stop the replication from cloud that appears as **Not Active**.
2. In vCloud Air, locate the virtual machine and open its properties.
The disk size is rounded down. For example, the disk size for a 104.56 MB disk appears as 104 MB.
3. Increase the disk size by one MB.
For example, for a 104.56 MB disk change the size from 104 MB to 105 MB.

- **The network configuration of replication source VM is mirrored when a replication is configured, but only partially updated after that**

By default, when you configure a virtual machine for replication to cloud, its NICs and MAC addresses are copied automatically to the target site as part of the provisioning of the placeholder virtual machine. If, after the provisioning of the placeholder VM, you update the NICs on the replication source VM, the NICs on the target site are updated. However, if you update the MAC address of a NIC on the source VM, the address of the placeholder VM on the target site is not updated. The MAC addresses of newly-added NICs are not copied to the target VM, either.

Workaround: None.

- **Planned migration fails with error: Synchronization monitoring has stopped**

If the synchronization phase of a planned migration task takes more than 3 minutes, the task fails with error **Synchronization monitoring has stopped**. The synchronization can take more than 3 minutes to complete due to slow VSS quiescing, due to large accumulated delta since the last synchronization, or if large delta has been accumulated during the guest shutdown.

Workaround:

- Manually power off or shut down the guest OS of the source virtual machine.
 1. After the failed planned migration task, wait for the sync status to change to **OK**.
 2. Manually power off or shutdown the guest OS of the source VM.
 3. Try running the planned migration task again.
- Increase the toleration period for replication synchronizations on the vSphere Replication Management Server (VRMS).
 1. Log in to the VRMS appliance as the root user and navigate to `/opt/vmware/hms/conf/`.
 2. Open the `hms-configuration.xml` file for editing and set the value of the `hms-sync-replication-error-toleration-period` property to a value that exceeds the actual duration of the synchronization phase.
The value is set in milliseconds. For example, the value for 4 minutes is $4*60*1000=240000$ milliseconds.
 3. Restart the VRMS service by running the command - `/etc/init.d/hms restart`.
 4. Try running the planned migration task again.

- **Planned migration or synchronization fails with error: A replication error occurred at the vSphere Replication Server.**

If, during planned migration, the infrastructure (hosts, network, or storage) is under heavy load, running a planned migration might fail with the following error.

A replication error occurred at the vSphere Replication Server for replication <group_name>. Details: 'Error for (datastoreUUID: "..."), (diskId: "..."), (hostId: "..."), (pathname: "..."), (flags: retrieable): Class: NFC Code: 10; NFC error: The operation completed successfully; Set error flag: retrieable; ...'

Usually, this error is transient and the operation succeeds if you retry running it.

Workaround: If the error occurs frequently in your environment, you can increase the toleration period for replication synchronizations on the vSphere Replication Management Server (VRMS).

1. Log in to the VRMS appliance as the root user and navigate to `/opt/vmware/hms/conf/`.
2. Open the `hms-configuration.xml` file for editing and set the value of the `hms-sync-replication-error-toleration-period` property to **300000**.
3. Try running the planned migration task again.

- **All operations on a seed vApp in vCloud Air are disabled**

If you configure a replication to cloud and select a vApp from the vCloud Air inventory to be used as a replication seed, all operations on the seed vApp are disabled.

Workaround: None. Replication seeds cannot operate as virtual machines. A seed vApp can be used for only one replication.

- **You cannot disable the automatic mirroring of source VM NICs and MAC addresses to the target site**

When you configure a virtual machine for replication to cloud, its NICs and MAC addresses are copied automatically as part of provisioning the placeholder VM on the cloud site.

If the test network is not isolated from the production network and the networks have common routing, a test recovery of the replicated virtual machine might result in duplicate MAC addresses in your virtual data center.

Workaround: Use the vCloud Director UI to reset the MAC address of the replicated virtual machine. See Resetting the MAC Address of a Virtual Machine that is Replicated to Cloud ([KB 2086292](#)).

If, after the initial full sync, you update the NICs on the replication source VM, the NICs on the target site are updated. However, if you update the MAC address of a NIC on the source VM, the address on the target VM is not updated. The MAC addresses of newly-added NICs are not copied to the target VM, either.

Workaround: None.

• **Exception Invalid datastore format '<Datastore Name>' appears when vSphere Replication runs a sync task**

If you rename a datastore on which replication source virtual machines are running, replication sync operations for these virtual machines fail with error

```
VRM Server runtime error. Please check the documentation for any troubleshooting information. The detailed exception is: 'Invalid datastore format '<Datastore Name>'
```

Workaround: Pause and resume the replications that use source virtual machines from the renamed datastore.

Documentation Issues

- **The vSphere Replication Administration guide is updated with new information. For a list of the documentation enhancements, see [Updated Information](#).**

- **Missing information in the localized version of topic [Stop Replicating a Virtual Machine](#)**

The topic Stop Replicating a Virtual Machine does not contain clear information about the consequences of stopping a replication.

When you stop a replication, the following operations are performed at the replication target site:

- VMDK files are deleted from the target site datastore if the VMDK files were created when the replication was first configured.
Note: vSphere Replication deletes the VMDK files, but does not delete the replica directory at the target datastore. See [Clean Up the Target Datastore After You Stop a Replication](#).
- VMDK files are not deleted and remain on the target datastore if you configured the replication to use existing disks at the target site as seeds.

- **Incorrect product name in the localized versions of topic [Select Recovery Networks on the Target Virtual Data Center](#)**

Step 3 of topic Select Recovery Networks on the Target Virtual Data Center contains the following text:

The drop-down menus display only the networks that are configured for vCloud Hybrid Service.

Should read: The drop-down menus display only the networks that are configured for vCloud Air.

- **Incorrect information on supported product version in the localized versions of topic [Disaster Recovery to Cloud System Requirements and Compatibility](#)**

The table in topic Disaster Recovery to Cloud System Requirements and Compatibility contains the following text :

vCenter Server 5.5.x and 6.0

Should read: vCenter Server 6.0.



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