What Is vCenter Site Recovery Manager?

vCenter Site Recovery Manager is the market-leading disaster-recovery management solution. It provides automated orchestration and nondisruptive testing of centralized recovery plans to simplify disaster-recovery management for all virtualized applications.

vCenter Site Recovery Manager integrates natively with vSphere Replication and supports a broad set of high-performance array-based replication products to reliably copy virtual machines across sites according to business requirements (see Figure 1).

By basing a deployment on vSphere and complementing it with vCenter Site Recovery Manager, you can dramatically lower the cost and complexity of disaster recovery through management and testing automation.

vCenter Site Recovery Manager ensures fast and highly predictable recovery point objectives (RPOs) and recovery time objectives (RTOs) by enabling automated, nondisruptive testing that can be performed as frequently as needed.

Figure 1. vCenter Site Recovery Manager automates the failover and migration of virtual machines to a secondary site. vCenter Site Recovery Manager relies on either vSphere Replication or a storage-based replication product to replicate virtual machines to the recovery site. It supports a broad range of third-party replication products.

How Does vCenter Site Recovery Manager Work?

vCenter Site Recovery Manager integrates with vSphere, vCenter Server and an underlying replication product to automate end-to-end recovery processes. vCenter Site Recovery Manager relies on the following components:

- **Integration with vCenter Server** – vCenter Site Recovery Manager requires vCenter Server instances at both the production and recovery sites. vCenter Site Recovery Manager instances are deployed at both sites, and each integrates directly with its local vCenter Server instance.

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**AT A GLANCE**

VMware vCenter™ Site Recovery Manager™ is the market-leading disaster-recovery management solution. It provides automated orchestration and nondisruptive testing of centralized recovery plans to simplify disaster-recovery management for all virtualized applications. It integrates natively with VMware vSphere® Replication and supports a broad set of high-performance array-based replication products to reliably copy virtual machines across sites according to business requirements.

**KEY BENEFITS**

- Lower the cost of disaster recovery by up to 50 percent.
- Set up and manage recovery plans centrally from VMware vCenter Server™ and replace error-prone, manual runbooks.
- Perform frequent, nondisruptive testing of recovery plans to ensure highly predictable recovery objectives.
- Automate the orchestration of site failover and failback with a single click to ensure fast, reliable recovery.
- Streamline planned migrations and preventive failovers.
- Use vSphere Replication—included with vSphere at no extra charge—or choose from a broad range of supported array-based replication solutions.
- Protect any virtualized application with a single disaster-recovery solution that is application- and hardware-agnostic.
VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager 5.5

Benefits of vCenter Site Recovery Manager

Traditional disaster-recovery solutions often fail to meet business requirements because they are too expensive, complex and unreliable. As a result, IT departments—uncertain whether the quality of the protection is worth the cost—hesitate to expand disaster protection beyond their most critical applications. The best disaster-recovery solution provides reliable protection easily and at the lowest possible cost. IT organizations use vSphere and vCenter Site Recovery Manager to ensure highly reliable RTOs and RPOs at a much lower cost and level of complexity than traditional disaster recovery. With vCenter Site Recovery Manager, organizations can expand disaster protection to all applications that they run on the vSphere platform, and to smaller sites.

Simplify the setup of recovery and migration plans.

Traditional recovery plans are complex to set up. They are usually captured in manual runbooks, which are error-prone and quick to fall out of sync with configuration changes. With vCenter Site Recovery Manager, setting up a recovery plan is simple and can be done in minutes instead of weeks. Through an interface that is tightly integrated with vCenter Server, the user selects which virtual machines to protect, maps virtual
Extend recovery plans with custom scripts.
• Control access to recovery plans with role-based access controls.
• Recover multiple sites into a single shared recovery site.

Automated Failover
• Receive automatic alerts about possible site failure.
• Initiate recovery-plan execution from vCenter Server with a single click.
• Automatically stop replication and promotion of replicated datastores for recovery.
• Shut down low-priority virtual machines at the failover site.
• Automate the bootup of protected virtual machines with a prespecified boot sequence.
• Execute user-defined scripts and pauses during recovery.
• Automate reconfiguration of virtual-machine IP addresses at the failover site.

Automated Failback
• Fail back automatically to the original production site.
• Reprotect virtual machines by automatically reversing replication to the original site.
• Execute the original recovery plan in the reverse direction.
• Take advantage of automated failback in vSphere Replication.

Planned Migration
• Use a planned-migration workflow to ensure zero data loss and application-consistent migrations.
• Execute the graceful shutdown of protected virtual machines at the original site.
• Perform data sync to force complete replication of powered-off virtual machines to the failover site.
• Execute a recovery plan that leverages application-consistent virtual machines.

Nondisruptive Testing
• Automate execution of recovery tests.
• Leverage storage snapshot capabilities to perform recovery tests without interrupting replication.
• Recover virtual machines in an isolated network to avoid any impact on production applications.
• Customize execution of recovery plans for testing scenarios.
• Automate the cleanup of testing environments after completing tests.
• Store, view and export results of test and failover execution from vCenter Server.

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Key Features of vCenter Site Recovery Manager

Centralized Recovery Plans
• Create and manage recovery plans directly from vCenter Server.
• Automatically discover and display virtual machines that are protected by vSphere Replication or array-based replication.
• Map virtual machines to appropriate resources on the failover site (resource pools, virtual switches and virtual-machine folders).
• Specify the boot sequence of virtual machines.
• Customize virtual-machine IP addresses.
• Customize the shutdown of low-priority virtual machines at the failover site.
Support for vSphere Replication

- Leverage the only true hypervisor-based replication, purpose-built for vSphere and vCenter Site Recovery Manager.
- Manage replication directly through vCenter, at a granular and flexible virtual-machine level.
- Use storage-agnostic replication that supports use of low-end storage, including direct-attached storage.
- Perform asynchronous replication with flexible RPOs ranging between 15 minutes and 24 hours.
- Replicate only changed blocks to increase network efficiency.
- Scale to hundreds of virtual machines.
- Leverage support for file and application consistency.
- Revert to earlier known states using multiple point-in-time (MPIT) recovery.

Support for Third-Party Array-Based Replication

- Choose among a broad range of compatible storage arrays and replication products from major vendors.
- Use array-based replication solutions based on iSCSI, Fibre Channel or NFS storage.
- Ensure tight integration with vCenter Site Recovery Manager through SRAs.
- Automate replication and data-sync operations for coordinated disaster-recovery failovers and planned migrations.

How to Buy vCenter Site Recovery Manager

vCenter Site Recovery Manager is available à la carte in two editions to help you protect your virtual environment according to business requirements:

- **Enterprise edition** – Protects an unlimited number of virtual machines per site or per vCenter Site Recovery Manager instance.
- **Standard edition** – Designed for small environments, protects up to 75 virtual machines per site or per vCenter Site Recovery Manager instance.

Licensing

Both à la carte editions of vCenter Site Recovery Manager are licensed per protected virtual machine.