



Legacy Backup Software Compatibility for ESX 4.0 and ESXi 4.0

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VMware will not validate backup software compatibility for the ESX Service Console (COS) or for backup software running inside of a Virtual Machine (VM) running on ESX or ESXi after vSphere 4.0. Due to these reasons, this legacy backup software compatibility guide will be retired in the future. VMware recommends customers use software solutions that utilize vStorage APIs for Data Protection or VMware Consolidated Backup (VCB) outside of the COS to maintain compatibility with ESX and ESXi installations. For a list of VCB integrated backup offerings, please refer to VCB Partner Integration Guide found at:

http://www.vmware.com/files/pdf/vcb_partner_integration_guide.pdf

Customers who want to continue running backup software on the COS or inside of a VM running on ESX or ESXi and have questions on compatibility should contact their backup software vendor.

Introduction

Data residing within VMware virtual machines (VM) can be protected using several different approaches which include the following:

- 1 **Backup Software solutions that are integrated with vStorage APIs for Data Protection or VMware Consolidated Backup (VCB)** – Using vStorage APIs for Data Protection or VCB based backup solutions is the VMware preferred backup model to protect virtual machines residing in a VMware Virtual Infrastructure.

For more information on VCB software integrations, please see the VMware Consolidated Backup Partner Guide at:

http://www.vmware.com/files/pdf/vcb_partner_integration_guide.pdf

For more information on vStorage API based solutions, contact your backup software solution provider.

Please note: This Legacy Backup Guide does not apply to vStorage APIs for Data Protection or VCB based installations. Please refer to the VCB Partner Integration Guide for backup software solutions that utilize VCB.

- 2 **Network Backup Client in the virtual machine** – A vendor supplied backup client can be installed in a virtual machine just as in a physical environment. This will perform a conventional file level network backup. Provided the backup is performed over the network, no compatibility guide is needed.

- 3 **Backup Server running in a virtual machine** – Vendor supplied backup server software can be installed in a virtual machine just as in a physical environment. There are special considerations to be taken when using tape devices connected to the virtual machine that is serving as the backup server. For more information see the [Virtual Machine Backup Guide](#).
- 4 **Backup Client in the ESX Service Console** – This method is used to back up virtual machines in their entirety including all virtual disk files and related configuration files residing on VMFS volumes. This is method supports ESX only and will not apply to ESXi environments. For more information on software in the ESX Service Console please see the VMware document titled [Third-Party Software in the Service Console](#).

Backup Software Compatibility

The contents of this table only applies to environments that use 3rd party backup server software in a virtual machine or backup clients installed on the ESX Service Console. For backup solutions that leverage vStorage APIs for Data Protection, contact your backup solution provider. For backup solutions that integrate with VMware Consolidated Backup refer to the VMware Consolidated Backup Partner Guide at:

http://www.vmware.com/files/pdf/vcb_partner_integration_guide.pdf

The following table represents backup software versions that are compatible with ESX 3.x & 4.0. This is not an exhaustive list of all backup software and versions that are compatible with ESX, but it represents specific software that is tested by VMware or VMware Technology Alliance Partners with the current major release of ESX.

Table 1.

	ESX	ESXi	
	4.0	4.0	
	Backup Client running within service console/VM	Backup Server running within VM	Backup Server running within VM
CA BrightStor ARCserve r11.5 SP2	X	X	X
Commvault Galaxy v 7.0	X	X	X
EMC Avamar	X ²	X ²	X ²
EMC NetWorker v 7.4.2	X	X	X
HP Data Protector	X ²	X ²	X ²
Symantec Backup Exec 12.0	X	X	X
Tivoli Storage Manager v 5.5	X ¹	X ¹	X ¹
Veritas Netbackup 6.5	X	X	X
Veritas Netbackup 6.5.2a	X	X	X
¹ VMware and IBM do not support TSM on ESX 4.0 backups to tape storage of any kind.			
² Contact the backup software vendor for support statement on ESX 4.0 and ESXi 4.			



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