



By Charles Butler

ROBUST, EFFICIENT DATA PROTECTION WITH SYMANTEC BACKUP EXEC 2010

The Symantec™ Backup Exec™ 2010 solution delivers comprehensive data protection from server to desktop. New features such as data deduplication and archiving help to reduce storage costs and increase backup performance, while support for the latest Microsoft® Windows® platforms and granular recovery from virtualized application servers help to simplify management for IT administrators.

As enterprises grow, a reliable backup and recovery system for production data becomes a key component of an effective IT infrastructure. And as virtualization becomes increasingly popular for critical applications such as Microsoft Exchange, these enterprises need software that can seamlessly protect both physical and virtualized servers.

The new Symantec Backup Exec 2010 solution provides integrated data protection for the latest Microsoft Windows environments, including the Windows 7 and Windows Server® 2008 R2 operating systems as well as Exchange Server 2010. Innovative technology designed for rapid recovery of Microsoft software such as the Exchange, SQL Server®, SharePoint®, and Active Directory® platforms as well as Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2 Hyper-V™ and VMware® virtualized environments helps minimize downtime risks for critical applications. From a single-pass backup, administrators can rapidly restore entire applications or recover individual e-mail messages, files, and other data, and can even eliminate backup windows while supporting reliable point-in-time recovery through continuous data protection technology.

Backup Exec also provides centralized management to enable administrators to extend their backup infrastructures across distributed environments and

remote offices, helping simplify ongoing operations as the environment expands. Support for managing systems running Windows and non-Windows operating systems—including Linux®, UNIX®, Novell® NetWare®, and Apple Mac OS X operating systems—through a single console, along with remote media server support for Linux-based servers, helps further simplify management of heterogeneous infrastructures.

In addition to these features, Backup Exec 2010 introduces a variety of enhancements over previous versions, including granular data recovery from virtualized applications in Microsoft Hyper-V and VMware virtual machines (VMs), flexible archiving options for Windows file systems and Exchange servers, and more. By taking advantage of these features to optimize their Windows data protection strategies, enterprise IT administrators can deploy robust, efficient backup and recovery while helping to streamline management and reduce costs.

COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION FOR VIRTUALIZED ENVIRONMENTS

Backup Exec 2010 adds new functionality to the Microsoft Hyper-V and VMware agents introduced in Backup Exec 12.5. Both agents are licensed on a per-host basis without restrictions on the number of VMs that can run on each host, and support disk and

tape storage environments. Both agents also now extend Backup Exec Granular Recovery Technology (GRT) to virtualized applications such as Microsoft Exchange, SQL Server, and Active Directory, without requiring separate “brick-level” VM backups to recover individual items such as mailboxes, e-mail messages, private or public folders, calendar items, tasks, user accounts or attributes, SQL Server databases, and Active Directory objects (see Figure 1). Instead, these items can be recovered from image-level VM backups, helping to accelerate data recovery and reduce associated costs.

The Backup Exec 2010 Agent for Microsoft Hyper-V provides comprehensive protection for VMs running on a Windows Server 2008 R2 Hyper-V host while also helping protect existing physical server files and Windows applications. In addition, the agent adds support for the Clustered Shared Volumes (CSV) and live migration capabilities introduced in Windows Server 2008 R2.

The Backup Exec 2010 Agent for VMware Virtual Infrastructures delivers comprehensive disk-to-disk-to-tape data protection for growing VMware virtualized environments while helping protect existing physical server environments through a single flexible console. The agent enables Backup Exec 2010 to perform full, differential, or incremental VM backups to help maximize flexibility in virtualized environments. Integration

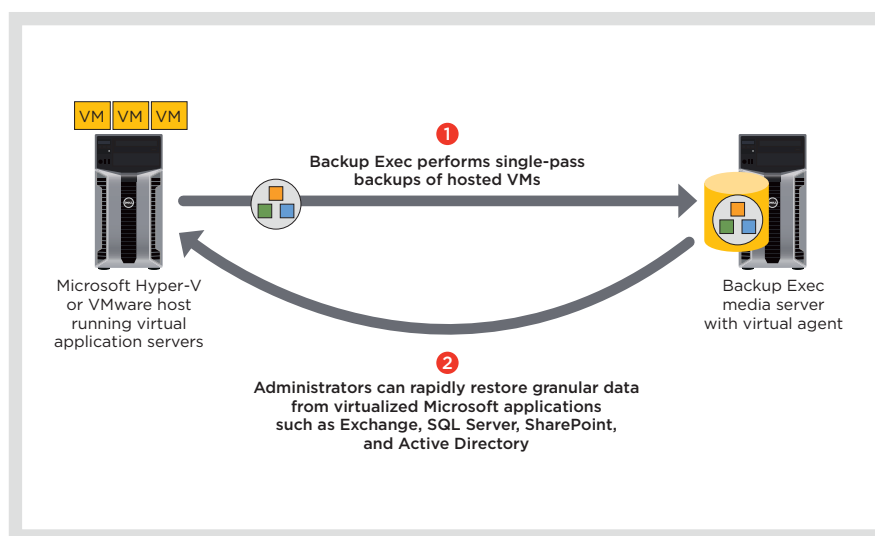


Figure 1. Symantec Backup Exec 2010 agents enable rapid recovery of individual items from supported Microsoft applications

with VMware vStorage application programming interfaces (APIs) helps maximize backup and recovery performance, while integration with VMware vCenter™ Server supports automatic VM discovery. Hyper-V and VMware VM backups can also be deduplicated using the Backup Exec Deduplication Option, helping to eliminate redundant data and reduce associated storage capacity requirements.

FLEXIBLE ARCHIVING OPTIONS

Backup Exec 2010 incorporates support for two archiving options based on Symantec Enterprise Vault™ software—one for Microsoft Windows file systems and one for Microsoft Exchange (see Figure 2).

The Backup Exec 2010 File System Archiving Option provides unified backup and archiving for Windows file systems by archiving data from the backup copy rather than separately pulling data from the source. This option enables administrators to reduce redundant data from the file server source to help free up storage space. End users can easily retrieve individual archived documents and files through the Web browser-based Backup Exec Retrieve interface, while administrators can retrieve archived file data through the Backup Exec console.

The File System Archiving Option supports Microsoft Windows 2000 Server, Windows Server 2003, Windows Server 2008, and Windows Server 2008 R2 operating systems, and is licensed for each protected or archived server. It additionally requires the Backup Exec Agent for Windows Systems on each archived server.

The Backup Exec 2010 Exchange Mailbox Archiving Option provides similar unified backup and archiving functionality for Microsoft Exchange environments—archiving data from the backup copy rather than from the Exchange server, and enabling end users to retrieve individual archived e-mail messages through the Backup Exec

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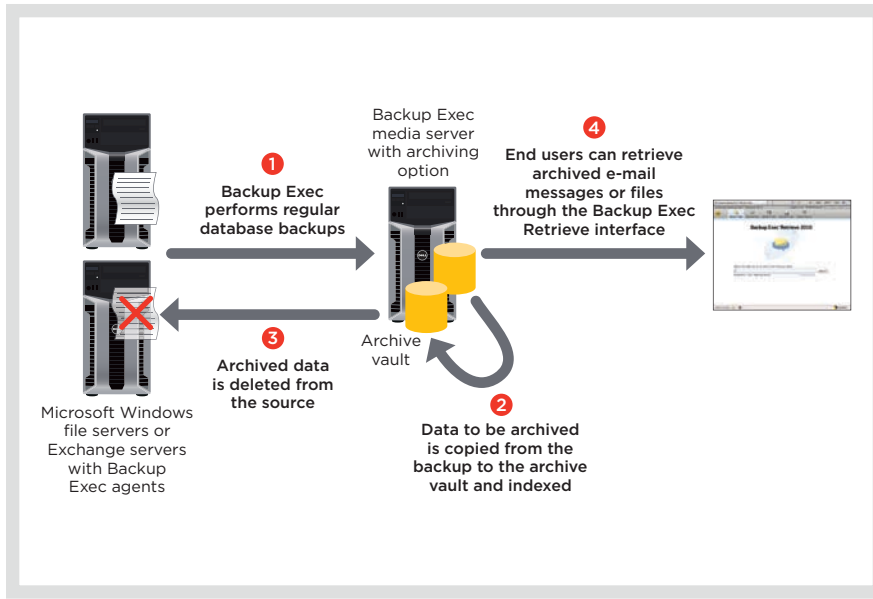


Figure 2. Symantec Backup Exec 2010 options provide unified backup and archiving for Microsoft Windows file systems and Microsoft Exchange

Retrieve interface while enabling administrators to retrieve archived data through the Backup Exec console. Administrators can easily index data and set retention periods to help them efficiently manage data life cycles.

The Exchange Mailbox Archiving Option supports Exchange Server 2003 and Exchange Server 2007, and is licensed in packs of 10 or 100 Exchange users. It additionally requires the Backup Exec Agent for Microsoft Exchange on each Exchange server.

ADDITIONAL FEATURES AND ENHANCEMENTS

Backup Exec 2010 introduces several other new features as well. It incorporates comprehensive protection for the Microsoft Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2 operating systems, including the CSV feature for highly available Hyper-V deployments. Support for Microsoft .vhd files allows redirected file restore operations directly to .vhd files, with the .vhd files created as part of the restore process. In addition, Backup Exec 2010 supports the Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS) writers introduced in Windows Server 2008 R2, providing a


deep level of integration and protection for these environments.

Backup Exec 2010 also introduces the Virtual Tape Library (VTL) Unlimited Drive Option, which offers a simplified, cost-effective pricing method to license all VTL drives for use with a Backup Exec media server. The VTL Unlimited Drive Option allows administrators to integrate a VTL storage environment as a unique device that shows only tape functions that are valid for VTLs. Administrators can also modify VTL media to erase data that has reached its expiration date, helping reclaim storage space.

Finally, the Backup Exec 2010 Agent for Microsoft Exchange now supports Exchange Server 2010 and its database availability group (DAG) feature. Support for GRT helps eliminate the need to run mailbox or Messaging API (MAPI) backups, helping significantly reduce the number of backups and the time required to protect Exchange deployments. The enhanced Agent for Microsoft Exchange can granularly recover data from a single backup, helping eliminate the need for multiple backups. Fast, flexible technology helps protect critical Exchange 2000 Server, Exchange Server 2003,

Exchange Server 2007, and Exchange Server 2010 data while the application is still online.

ROBUST, EFFICIENT BACKUP AND RECOVERY

The innovative architecture of Symantec Backup Exec 2010 is designed to fully incorporate Microsoft design standards, helping ensure compatibility with Microsoft Windows Server operating systems. Backup Exec 2010 support for Microsoft Hyper-V and VMware virtualized environments helps maximize flexibility by enabling granular data protection for both physical and virtualized application servers. In addition, Backup Exec 2010 can incorporate data reduction capabilities utilizing data deduplication, file system archiving, and Exchange mailbox archiving, providing a variety of ways to reduce storage requirements. Deploying these features in enterprise IT environments can help administrators protect critical data in an efficient, streamlined way while helping reduce storage and management costs. 

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