

SOLUTION BRIEF

Data Protection for Microsoft Office SharePoint Environments

Highlights

The FalconStor Data Protection Solution for Microsoft Office SharePoint Environments delivers the following benefits:

- > Comprehensive protection and recovery for Microsoft Office SharePoint servers and Microsoft SQL databases
- > Thin Provisioning optimizes disk capacity utilization
- > Eliminates backup windows
- > Application-aware FalconStor Snapshot Agents for 100% transactional consistency
- > Remote data center operations
- > WAN optimization improves remote data link efficiency, reduces bandwidth requirements
- > TOTALLY Open™ architecture enables integration with existing infrastructure, avoids vendor lock-in

Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (Microsoft SharePoint) allows organizations to share, streamline, and control their business processes and content. Microsoft SharePoint is more than a single application; it is an integrated suite of services incorporating intranet, extranet, and web applications within a single platform, enabling better business insight and results. Microsoft SharePoint infrastructure availability becomes even more critical as users depend on Microsoft SharePoint services to centralize their operations and increase business process efficiencies.

The FalconStor® Continuous Data Protector (CDP) solution enables customers to protect both application and data volumes, while providing near-instant recoverability.

A comprehensive, TOTALLY Open™ solution

FalconStor CDP provides a TOTALLY Open™ architecture, which means that customers are not confined to one storage vendor or product family for data protection. Cost efficiencies can be realized by utilizing existing storage from any vendor or set of vendors, as well as tiered storage. Both DAS and SAN are supported, as are Fibre Channel (FC) and iSCSI connectivity.

Backup window elimination

Backup continues to challenge IT personnel because the model is fundamentally outdated. Busy Microsoft SharePoint servers are tasked with pushing data to a backup target while providing 24x7 collaboration services to end users. This can consume a majority of CPU and system resources. As a result, Microsoft SharePoint availability is limited or offline during nightly or weekend backup operations. Furthermore, massive growth in the amount of data that businesses must maintain stresses traditional backup operations to the breaking point.

As the fundamental purpose of backup is recovery, FalconStor CDP provides disk-based local or remote recovery volumes with protection configurations specific to each customer's recovery needs. The FalconStor CDP solution can function as a backup replacement, keeping any combination of daily, weekly, or monthly backup images on secondary disk storage; with near-instant access or recovery from each image. Any regulatory requirements for tape archiving can be accommodated using FalconStor CDP volumes; eliminating the backup window and any impact on the Microsoft SharePoint production environment.

Flexible application and data protection

FalconStor CDP offers a combination of features that solves multiple problems and enables non-disruptive Microsoft SharePoint operations under any circumstance. Because different Microsoft SharePoint services have different data protection and recovery requirements, FalconStor CDP offers continuous or periodic protection methods, as well as combinations of both. Full-volume protection mirrors and point-in-time snapshots (up to 255 per volume) are easily configured with the FalconStor CDP management console. A journal volume captures individual transactions (writes) for fast recovery with high levels of granularity.

FalconStor CDP data protection functionality easily extends to protect all Microsoft application environments: stand-alone, physical, virtual, or clustered deployments. Customers can implement flexible data protection methodologies for all Microsoft SharePoint server applications and underlying Microsoft SQL databases; regardless of the storage type, network protocol, or location (primary data center or remote offices). Administrators can recover entire Microsoft SharePoint applications, OS, services, Microsoft SQL databases, or entire systems (bare metal restore).

Local and remote recovery

All FalconStor software recovery features are available for local and remote offices. In the event of a local disaster, the remote replication capability of FalconStor CDP allows business operations to quickly resume at a remote facility, on any hardware with any storage. If combined with Microsoft Hyper-V, remote DR can be implemented cost-effectively for physical-to-virtual (P2V) server recovery. Recovery times range from 10 minutes for local server recovery, to 30 minutes for remote Microsoft SharePoint Server recovery.

Application-aware Snapshot Agents

Microsoft Office SharePoint 2007 includes collaboration for documents, projects, calendars, and messaging functions of Microsoft Office Outlook. FalconStor CDP provides Snapshot Agents that protect Microsoft SharePoint, Microsoft SQL, and Microsoft Exchange. The Snapshot Agents communicate with the Microsoft applications to place them in a transactionally consistent 'hot backup' state. This results in a consistent point-in-time image of the data volume, ready for recovery, restoration, or mounting for near-instant recovery.

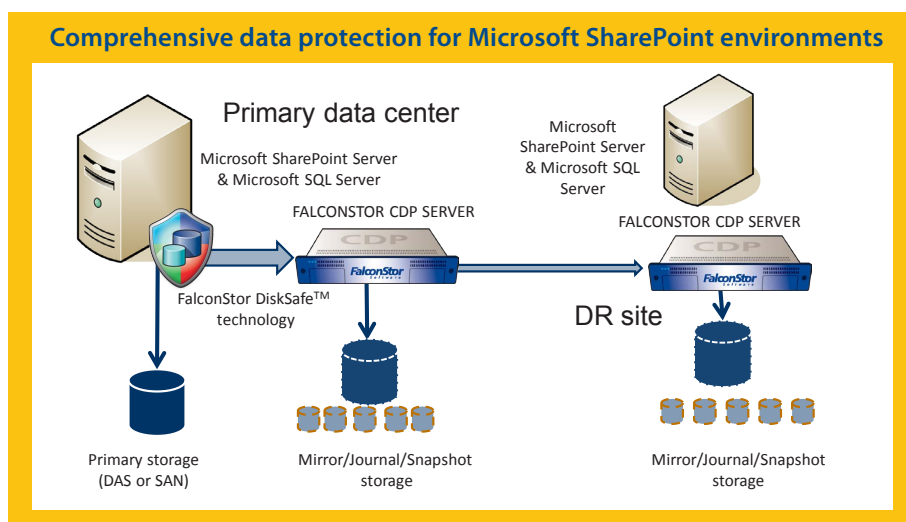
Thin Provisioning

Most storage array vendors offer thin provisioning functionality as optional products. FalconStor CDP provides this same capability as an integrated feature, at no additional cost. FalconStor Thin Provisioning allows administrators to logically over-provision storage volumes in expectation of future growth, while physically provisioning disk capacity equivalent to short-term actual needs.

Customers can leverage Thin Provisioning on both local and remote protection volumes. Regardless of primary storage provisioning methods, customers can eliminate 'stranded storage' (physically allocated but unused disk capacity) on backup and recovery storage. The result is simplified management, more efficient disk capacity utilization, and 'just-in-time' provisioning.

Comprehensive protection

Environments with secondary data centers or disaster recovery (DR) sites often utilize array-based solutions, which are limited to a single vendor or product family. In contrast, FalconStor CDP provides efficient and comprehensive remote replication with no vendor lock-in. Both continuous and periodic data protection can be implemented over remote data paths between FalconStor CDP servers. Additionally, WAN optimization improves remote data link efficiencies and reduces bandwidth requirements and associated costs. FalconStor MicroScan™ technology eliminates needless data traffic by only transmitting changed disk-sectors (512 byte granularity), reducing transmitted data and associated requirements by as much as 95%. Compression further reduces data bandwidth requirements, minimizing costs. FalconStor CDP enables cost-effective and flexible remote data protection, with comprehensive protection capabilities appropriate to every Microsoft SharePoint environment.



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