

Symantec NetBackup Continues to Stand Apart from CommVault Simpana in Appliance Deployment and Key VMware vCenter Server VM Backup Management Features

By Charley McMaster, DCIG Senior Analyst

Enterprises wanting a single solution to satisfy their combined physical and virtual backup needs often find Symantec NetBackup and CommVault Simpana on their short lists. Those enterprises most concerned about having access to a range of deployment options and advanced, integrated VMware vCenter Server management functionality will find that NetBackup continues to deliver functionality that CommVault Simpana yet lacks.



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INDUSTRY

Data Protection

SOLUTION

Symantec NetBackup 7.6

DIFFERENTIATORS

- Prioritize server backups
- Mature physical backup appliance
- Virtual appliance option
- Robust integration with VMware vCenter
- Heightened visibility into VM backups

Enterprises looking for a single, comprehensive backup software solution often find Symantec NetBackup and CommVault Simpana on their short lists of products to buy for good reason: both are recognized leaders in enterprise backup that perform physical and virtual backups. It is only when enterprises carefully compare these two software solutions that their differences become apparent. Specifically, Symantec NetBackup offers a number of backup management, alerting and appliance deployment options that give it specific advantages over CommVault Simpana. Consider:

- **Prioritize server backup.** NetBackup can dynamically reprioritize the order in which physical or virtual backups occur depending on the time since their last full backup. NetBackup's server prioritization feature examines the state of each server's backup, identifies what gaps, if any, exist and reprioritizes the order in which it schedules backups accordingly.
- **Proven physical appliance.** Backup software providers continue to make their software available as a pure software offering though more make it available as an integrated backup appliance. Both CommVault and Symantec offer both of these options for faster deployments and easier integration into their existing environments. However CommVault is still new to the appliance backup market only recently introducing an appliance whereas Symantec has shipped an appliance for years and is a market leader. CommVault's appliance also lacks a cloud backup option that is present on the NetBackup appliance plus Symantec has matured its integrated appliance by building the software and hardware to work closer together. This provides value long after the installation with single, unified software and hardware updates which CommVault's appliances still lacks.
- **Virtual backup appliance.** Virtual backup appliances facilitate the fast, easy and economical deployment of backup software on VMware ESX hosts in virtualized remote and branch offices that avoid the re-introduction of hardware appliance. NetBackup satisfies this growing enterprise requirement whereas CommVault Simpana does not yet offer a virtual backup appliance option.

- **Robust integration with VMware vCenter.** Both Symantec and CommVault integrate with VMware vCenter for various backup software management functions. Symantec, however, includes a number of VMware vCenter Server management options not yet available on CommVault Simpana. NetBackup can, among its features, restore individual files, schedule full image backups, and protect individual Outlook mailboxes from within vCenter as well do full VM restores to the original ESXi Server.

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- **Heightened visibility into VM backups.** Both Symantec NetBackup and CommVault Simpana manage and backup virtual machines. However NetBackup distinguishes itself from CommVault Simpana in its ability to identify and alert about which VMs backup significantly more data than others. Using this feature enterprises can more easily target VMs whose backup stores are rapidly growing and adjust their backup schedules accordingly.

Making an enterprise backup software buying decision is never easy. However NetBackup continues to set itself apart with a more mature range of virtual and physical machine deployment options as well as offering numerous backup management features through VMware vCenter. These features provide enterprises with compelling reasons to choose NetBackup over Simpana where having access to these features is a must-have for effectively and efficiently managing their backup infrastructure. ■

Symantec NetBackup 7.6 Key Competitive Advantages

FEATURE		Symantec NetBackup 7.6	CommVault Simpana 10
VMware vCenter Server Management Features	Full VM restore to originating ESXi server	✓	✗
	vCenter Notification	✓	✗
	Dynamic Exclusion	✓	✗
	Full VM restore to different ESXi server	✓	✗
	Populate vCenter UI w/Snapshots	✓	✗
	Host Discovery	✓	✗
	Dynamic Inclusion	✓	✗
	Scheduling Backup Jobs	✓	✗
	Schedule Differential, Full, Incremental Backups	✓	✗
	Detecting new VMs	✓	✗
Physical Appliance		✓	✓
Virtual Appliance		✓	✗
Detect VM with more Data and Alert		✓	✗
Server Backup Prioritization		✓	✗
Single Archive for Each VM		✓	✗

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