

VRVP

VIRTUALIZATION REVIEW VENDOR PROFILE

Virtualizing Business-Critical Applications with Confidence

Virtualization offers major benefits, but until recently organizations haven't fully leveraged all of its potential. Customers have aggressively virtualized non-critical systems, but moving business-critical applications like SAP®, Exchange and Microsoft® SQL applications to VMware environments has been a challenge. VMware HA, a popular optional feature protects against complete host failure as well as OS failure in a virtual machine (VM), but it does not have any application level awareness and control.

Because of the lack of application awareness and control, VMware customers deploying business-critical applications often use high-availability cluster software that was designed for physical servers rather than virtual environments. These classic cluster solutions however are not integrated with VMware vSphere, and while they work well enough on physical servers, most of them impose critical limitations in a virtual environment. For example, on commodity server hardware supported by VMware vSphere, Microsoft Windows Server is a popular operating system choice. Therefore, Microsoft HA clustering might be considered by some customers as a possible solution for providing application availability in VMware environments. Like most cluster solutions designed for a physical server environments, Microsoft clustering solution provides many features designed to protect against a failure in the physical infrastructure, such as a loss of an Ethernet NIC, Fibre Channel HBA, or the loss of an entire physical server, but it does not fully support the virtualized environment. Therefore the customer cannot maximize the benefits from their virtualization investment.

All of the obstacles to virtualizing business critical applications were removed with the introduction of Symantec ApplicationHA, a solution that delivers maximum availability, enabling businesses to confidently virtualize the key enterprise applications they depend upon every day. Working in tight co-ordination with VMware® HA, Symantec ApplicationHA

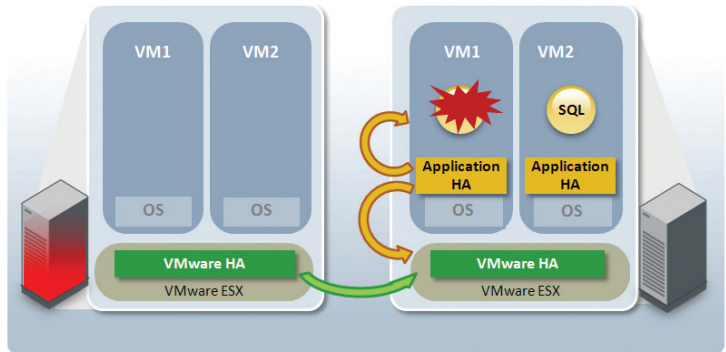


Figure 1. In the event an application fails inside the virtual machine, ApplicationHA will co-ordinate the recovery of the applications with VMware HA.

helps organizations dramatically reduce downtime for business-critical applications inside the virtual enterprise.

Visibility and control for business-critical applications.

ApplicationHA leverages more than 12 years of technology in Veritas Cluster Server to provide an application-monitoring package that runs inside a VMware virtualized environment and fully integrates with VMware HA to provide virtual machine restart as needed to react to any application issues. Combined together, this solution:

- Enhances the availability of business-critical applications by providing a mechanism to detect and recover from application failures in VMware environments
- Improves the manageability of virtualized applications by providing visibility of the application's status and application control (that is, starting or stopping the application) through a single pane of glass—VMware vSphere Client, the user interface for vCenter Server
- Reduces operational complexity and TCO by eliminating the need for different operating system-based clustering products
- Allows customers to enhance the availability of their applications without sacrificing the use of advanced VMware features such as vMotion and DRS

Symantec ApplicationHA provides application availability in Windows and Linux VMware guests. It provides extensive support to common off-the-shelf Tier 1 applications such as Microsoft Exchange, Microsoft SQL, IIS, WebLogic, Oracle, and SAP, as well as the ability to monitor and manage custom applications.

Discover more about Symantec ApplicationHA. Visit
<http://go.symantec.com/applicationha>.

