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eBook

OpenText Availability

Technical Overview

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The availability imperative

The pace and competitiveness of global commerce require a flexible and resilient IT infrastructure. Any downtime can have serious repercussions for your organization's profitability, reputation and revenue. Achieving the level of high availability required to support mission-critical systems puts increased demands on IT and data center professionals.

OpenText Availability is a proven, simple and scalable high availability and disaster recovery software solution. Real-time, asynchronous, byte-level replication efficiently and securely replicates entire servers or select data to another server located anywhere—even in the cloud—so your business can quickly and easily recover from an outage. Network independence and bandwidth efficiency allow Availability to be run on any network without the need for dedicated resources or special hardware. Easy to manage and designed to scale to complex server environments, it keeps your business running 24x7 at a price you can afford.

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True real-time replication

More efficient and better protection

Availability features patented, real-time, asynchronous, byte-level replication. It replicates data immediately and continuously to a secondary server as fast as bandwidth and processing allow. Asynchronous, real-time replication is ideal for crossing any geographic distance because it can flexibly queue and send replicated data as bandwidth and latency over distances fluctuate throughout the day, without holding up the production servers. Our byte-level replication is very efficient over any distance because, unlike some other products, it sends only changed bytes rather than entire blocks. Additionally, Availability reduces the amount of data on the network by providing three levels of intelligent data compression during replication.

Bandwidth throttling can further optimize the use of limited network resources at busy times of the day. When bandwidth is limited, Availability will intelligently queue any data that cannot be sent, but it will continue to try to send data from the queue as quickly as bandwidth allows, keeping data synchronized between the source and target as fast as possible.

Sequential replication preserves write order to keep important application and file data in a continuously consistent state. This is especially important for database applications, such as Microsoft SQL Server or Microsoft Exchange, which use transactional database technologies. By always maintaining data integrity, Availability allows you to fail over to the most current data whenever the need arises. Open-file mirroring and replication capabilities allow you to replicate active files without taking them offline.

VM   VM

Changes continuously sent
ensure **virtually no data loss**

Primary system   Target system

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Robust protection

Reliably meet all your recovery needs

Uninterrupted operations are imperative for many organizations. Availability protects the accessibility of data and applications.
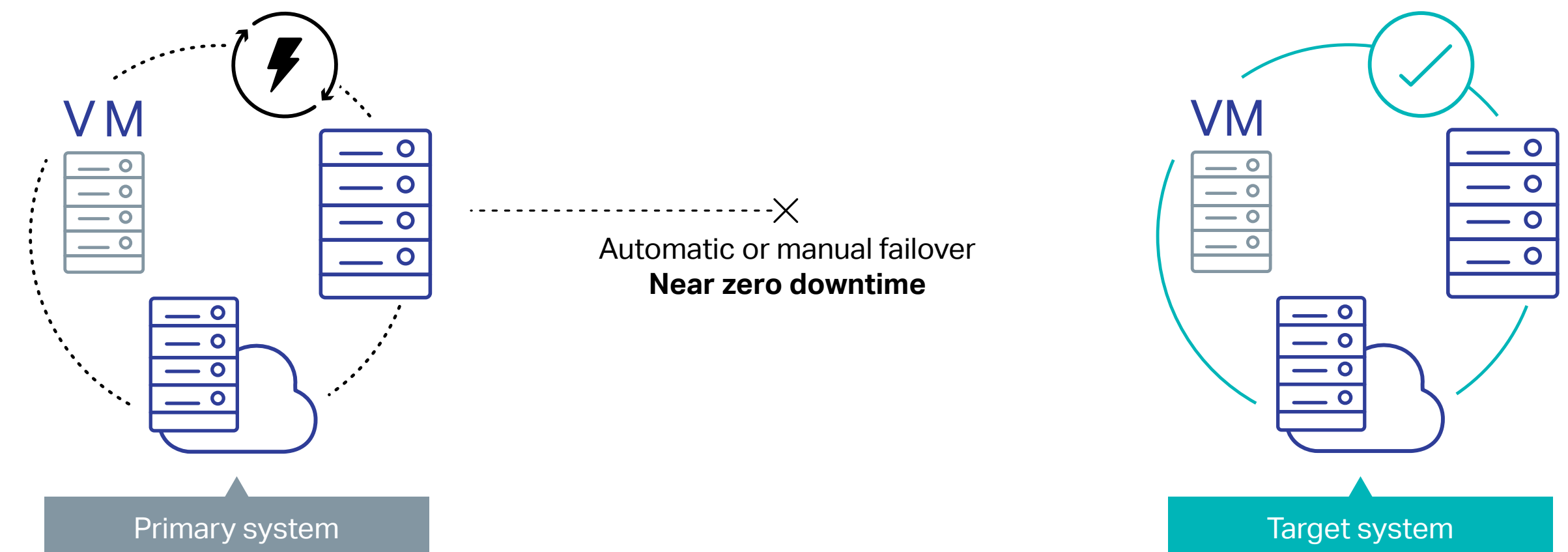
The comprehensive, reliable high availability and disaster recovery capabilities of Availability can address your recovery needs. It can be as granular as you need, replicating specific files, entire applications or full servers.

In the event of an outage, failover to the waiting secondary server is easy. A full server failover can be accomplished in seconds or minutes. Availability monitors the behavior of the production environment and can automatically take corrective action.

You can also choose to initiate an automated failover process on demand. When the time is right, you can fail back to the original server, or a replacement server, by performing an automated failback with pushbutton simplicity.

Regardless of whether the production data, applications or server being protected reside on a physical, virtual or cloud server, it can be recovered to any physical, virtual or cloud server. When recovering to a virtual machine, Availability can create and auto-provision the recovery environment.

In the case of data corruption issues, the point of failure is typically not the most appropriate recovery point. Instead, you may need to recover to a point before the corruption occurred. Availability has you covered with multiple recovery point options.

VM

Automatic or manual failover
Near zero downtime

Primary system

VM

Target system

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Flexibility

Support the full mix of servers in today's data centers

Efficient, real-time background replication prevents data loss and improves recoverability in any Windows or Linux environment.

Modern data centers are intricate for many reasons. For example, their complexity may have evolved due to mergers and acquisitions or simply through the acquisition of new technologies over time to meet new business demands. Unlike Availability, many competitor's products support only one part of the modern data center, specializing in a single virtualization platform or providing a one-size-fits-all approach to data and application availability.

Availability delivers technologies that replicate data efficiently, while eliminating the barriers between physical, virtual and cloud platforms. It works within and across these diverse computing platforms to provide protection throughout your data center.

Many organizations also use a variety of operating systems, including Windows and Linux. Availability delivers comprehensive solutions for each of these operating systems.

Availability can protect your entire data center, even if it includes a mix of differing hardware, storage and/or operating system versions. It works on all leading virtualization, private cloud and public cloud platforms and accommodates all business and system applications, including Exchange, SQL Server, SharePoint, Oracle, MySQL and more.

The ideal replication configuration is not the same for all organizations. That's why Availability supports a wide range of configurations, such as one-to-one, one-to-many, many-to-one and cascading. Availability can also protect cluster workloads to different physical locations without using shared storage.

Availability is also a highly scalable solution. From the smallest of data centers through to the largest and most complex enterprise information architectures, Availability fulfills your needs.

Supported platforms

Operating systems:
- Windows Server
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux
- Oracle Enterprise Linux
- SUSE Linux Enterprise
- CentOS
- Ubuntu

Any hypervisor, with native integration for:
- VMWare ESXi
- Microsoft Hyper-V

Any cloud platform, including:
- Google Cloud
- Amazon Web Services (AWS)
- Microsoft Azure
- VMWare vCloud Director

Simplicity
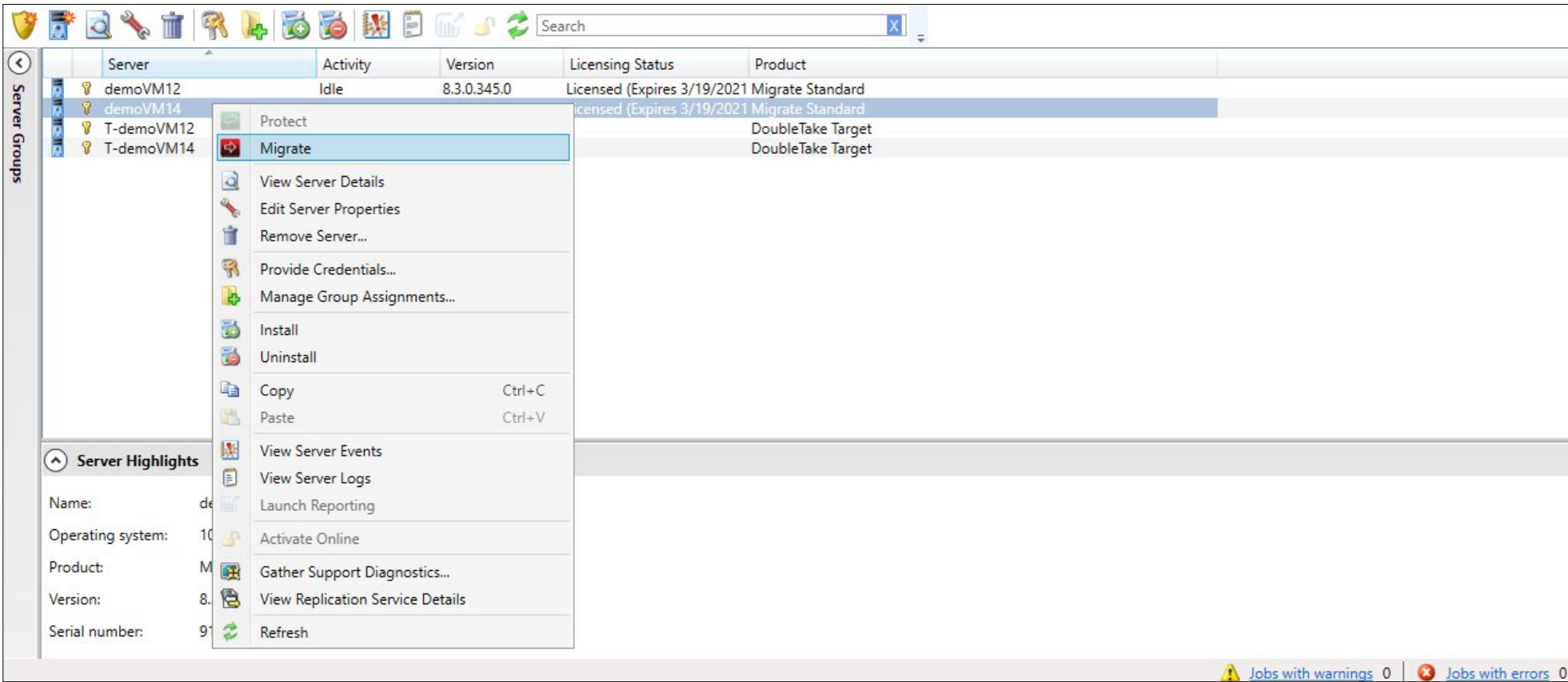
Set up quickly, run continuously, manage easily

Highly efficient, change-based, real-time replication eliminates the risk of data loss, without straining system resources.

Availability automates the setup and configuration of real-time protection and availability management for datasets, business-critical applications and full system states through advanced management features. Using full-server protection, administrators do not need to have an in-depth understanding of the applications or server configurations to enable protection.

Through a streamlined and unified console, you can quickly learn to manage and monitor all the powerful capabilities of Availability. An enterprise dashboard provides real-time visibility and management of your physical, virtual and cloud environments, with features that allow you to monitor the health of your primary and failover servers, perform recoveries and failbacks, check event logs and manage your license inventory. Single-screen monitoring allows you to sort, filter and monitor data on the health of servers, check the currency of your target system, and view event logs in one intuitive display.

To assist you in optimizing your configuration, the Availability diagnostics job simulates replication traffic and estimates the amount of bandwidth needed for efficient replication between the production and backup servers.

The console further simplifies the management of your Availability environment by forwarding events via SNMP to other management tools and providing SMTP email alerts directly to your inbox.

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Affordability

Reduce total cost of ownership

Availability makes HA/DR administration fast and easy so your IT personnel can focus on what matters most—effective, efficient and profitable operations.

Availability minimizes the total cost of owning, implementing and maintaining the highest possible level of data and application availability and disaster recovery readiness by:

- **Taking advantage of existing hardware,** storage and network infrastructure to eliminate the need to invest in special equipment

- **Replicating only changed bytes** and, optionally, compressing data before transmission to minimize the need to purchase extra network capacity

- **Providing a simple, intuitive console** to minimize the strain on IT staff and reduce the need for specialized training

- **Including automatic features** that reduce the need for manual administration to, on average, just minutes a day

- **Offering flexible licensing models** for perpetual ownership or pay-as-you-go DRaaS to provide a solution that fits your budget

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Integration and extendibility

Comprehensive SDK

The Availability software development kit (SDK) is a collection of application programming interfaces (APIs), documentation and code samples that provides developers with the tools they need to rapidly build solutions. It allows them to integrate Availability HA/DR capabilities into applications seamlessly. For example, they might use the SDK to integrate the status of Availability into their monitoring consoles, whether those consoles are custom-developed or purchased from third parties. An online SDK portal contains the API documentation, sample code, tips and forums. It helps developers accelerate application integration.

The SDK includes SOAP APIs, PowerShell commands and RESTful APIs. You are free to choose the programming language and APIs that you're most comfortable with to automate tasks or to implement your own software using high availability, disaster recovery and migration services. The SDK is open to all customers and partners that wish to automate tasks or implement their own software solutions using Availability services.

About OpenText

OpenText, The Information Company, enables organizations to gain insight through market leading information management solutions, on-premises or in the cloud. For more information about OpenText (NASDAQ: OTEX, TSX: OTEX) visit opentext.com.

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