



Symantec Increases the Flexibility and Effectiveness of LiveState Recovery

Analyst: Michael Fisch

Management Summary

Symantec recently released a new version of *LiveState Recovery*, its solution for rapid recovery of *Windows* systems. This version provides several new features, all of which increase the scope and flexibility of what it can do.

Basics of LiveState Recovery

LiveState Recovery is a data protection and disaster recovery solution. It recovers *Windows* servers, desktops, and laptops from the ground up – in other words, from bare metal. This capability is useful and even necessary for handling situations that include hardware failures, faulty patches, worms and viruses, human errors, and local disasters like fires and floods.

LiveState Recovery differs from traditional backups solutions because it is optimized for full system recovery. It recovers the operating system, configuration settings, applications, and data. To do this, LiveState Recovery periodically creates *volume recovery points*, which are self-contained, portable system images taken at specific points in time. They can be full or incremental, and the copy process can be “hot” or virtually non-disruptive to applications. Enterprises store the volume recovery points anywhere on their existing networks (NAS, SAN, etc.) and on their choice of media, though disk offers the fastest time to recovery. It is easy and straightforward to perform a recovery, and it takes minutes as opposed to hours with traditional backup. The volume recovery points are also useful for server upgrades and creating test and development environments.

New Features

There are a number of salient new features in LiveState Recovery 6.0. Read on.

Hardware-independent Restoration

LiveState Recovery now can restore onto server hardware different from the original. For instance, if the original system was a Dell server, the recovered system can be an IBM or HP. This gives enterprises more freedom in planning and implementing disaster recovery. They may use whatever hardware is available for recovery or whatever offers the best value at the time. In this sense, hardware-independent restoration is more “open”. It also facilitates server

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consolidation and upgrades using LiveState Recovery as the migration vehicle. For example, users can move from single CPU to multi-CPU systems or from Intel- to AMD-based systems.

Physical-to-Virtual Conversion

More and more enterprises are deploying virtual machines on Intel servers because they confer advantages in resource utilization, manageability, and adaptability. Virtualization lowers the total cost of server ownership and aligns the computing infrastructure more tightly with changing business requirements. The new version of LiveState Recovery converts volume recovery points back-and-forth between physical and virtual *VMware* environments. Enterprises can recover to a virtual environment for quick resumption of production operations or for testing and development. They may also convert back to the physical environment, if necessary (for increased performance, for example). Meshing virtualization with system recovery creates additional options for disaster recovery and helps create a more efficient computing infrastructure.

Remote Unattended Recovery

It now recovers standalone or blade servers remotely without the presence of a local technician. It uses standard lights-out cards in servers and the Symantec *pcAnywhere* technology to recover servers at a remote location. The benefit is speed and/or cost. The recovery can happen faster because travel is not involved, or it can be done less expensively because an IT administrator is not needed at the site.

Tape Support through Backup Exec

After storing volume recovery points on disk, LiveState Recovery can now pass them to *Backup Exec* for storage on tape. (*Backup Exec* is a midrange backup and restore solution from the VERITAS acquisition.) In this way, enterprises can enjoy the recoverability of disk backup while storing images on tape for archiving or offsite storage. Disk-to-disk-to-tape is a good means for optimizing the tradeoff between

performance and cost.

The list price of LiveState Recovery is \$1,095 for the *Advanced Server* edition and \$69 for the desktop version. The *Restore Anywhere* option (for hardware-independent restore and restore to/from virtual environments) and *LightsOut Restore* option can be purchased separately or as part of Server and Desktop suites. (*LightsOut Restore* is not available for desktops.)

LiveState Recovery 6.0 is being introduced simultaneously with *Backup Exec 10d for Windows* servers. The new release of *Backup Exec* provides continuous data protection (CDP) with web-based end user file retrieval and disk-to-disk-to-tape functionality.

Conclusion

Disaster recovery and business continuity always involve a tradeoff and value judgment between cost and performance. Faster and more complete recovery tends to cost more. Each enterprise must weigh this against the cost of downtime and risk of data loss, then choose a solution that strikes an appropriate balance for its requirements.

The new features of LiveState Recovery 6.0 effectively lower the cost of full Windows system recovery. By increasing the flexibility and number of options (i.e., hardware independence, virtual machines, remote unattended recovery, tape support), it allows enterprises to do more with their IT assets and resources. Therefore, the new version slides the scale in favor of faster, simpler, and more reliable recovery.

If your enterprise needs quick and full restoration of Windows systems, consider Symantec LiveState Recovery. It is an effective solution that just became more so.



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- ***The Clipper Group can be reached at 781-235-0085 and found on the web at www.clipper.com.***

About the Author

Michael Fisch is Director of Storage and Networking for The Clipper Group. He brings over ten years of experience in the computer industry working in sales, market analysis and positioning, and engineering. Mr. Fisch worked at EMC Corporation as a marketing program manager focused on service providers and as a competitive market analyst. Before that, he worked in international channel development, manufacturing, and technical support at Extended Systems, Inc. Mr. Fisch earned an MBA from Babson College and a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Idaho.

- ***Reach Michael Fisch via e-mail at mike.fisch@clipper.com or at 781-235-0085 Ext. 211. (Please dial "211" when you hear the automated attendant.)***

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