

RecoverTrac

Automated disaster recovery (DR) operations for any environment

The FalconStor[®] RecoverTrac[™] solution delivers automated disaster recovery (DR) that ensures operational recovery of business servers and applications in the event of a disaster or failure at a primary data center. This flexible and comprehensive recovery tool addresses the needs of customers in both physical and virtual environments.

Highlights

- > Automates the complex tasks associated with DR operations
- > Wizard-based mapping defines relationships between servers, applications, storage volumes, networking, and operational dependencies
- > Supports P2P, P2V, and V2V recovery operations
- > Integration with VMware ESX Server for automated provisioning of virtual servers at recovery site
- > Enables DR testing, failover, and reversal of data center operations
- > Supports FalconStor NSS and FalconStor CDP solutions

FalconStor RecoverTrac is a wizard-driven DR tool that maps servers, applications, networking storage, and failover procedures from primary to secondary DR sites. This enables the creation of an easily executable and testable 'push-button' recovery process. FalconStor RecoverTrac operates in all environments independent of server, network, application, or storage vendor.

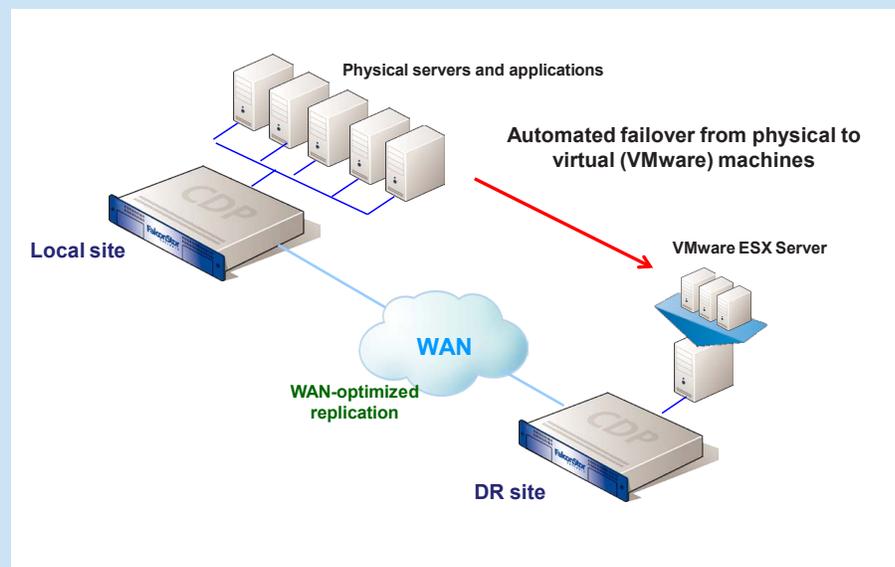
Universal recovery

Most organizations today rely on multiple applications, often parts of business suites, for their various operations: sales, support, supply chain, accounting, research, manufacturing, and so on. In addition to the considerable investments in each of these various applications, there are often several instances of each application in various parts of the organization. The task of resuming business operations at a remote DR site quickly grows in complexity as the number of servers, platforms, operating systems, and networking configurations need to be reproduced.

A multitude of factors complicate the logistics of resuming business operations at a DR site, and this complexity grows exponentially with each additional server and interdependency. Coordinating the order of start or power-up is critical during DR. Details such as tracking which applications reside on which servers, setting the appropriate networking definitions, and determining which storage volumes are allocated to which hosts all have to be handled smoothly in order to ensure a rapid and successful recovery.

FalconStor RecoverTrac maps these relationships and automates the logistics involved in resuming business operations at a DR site. FalconStor RecoverTrac supports three types of DR scenarios: physical-to-physical (P2P), physical-to-virtual (P2V), and virtual-to-virtual (V2V). All

FalconStor RecoverTrac: Automated DR solution



three scenarios are supported within a single environment and can leverage either Fibre Channel (FC) or iSCSI connectivity. Implementation of both host (operating system and server application) and data volume replication ensures that upgrades or patches are propagated to the DR site's systems via remote replication from the FalconStor Network Storage Server (NSS) solution or the FalconStor Continuous Data Protector (CDP) solution.

The heterogeneous, TOTALLY Open™ architecture of FalconStor RecoverTrac removes any restrictions with respect to vendor lock-in. In addition to automating complex data center recovery procedures, FalconStor RecoverTrac allows non-disruptive testing of these procedures. This testing capability is essential to debugging potential issues regarding procedures, assignments, software, networking, or operations involved in cold-starting an entire data center. Additionally, FalconStor RecoverTrac includes the capability to fail-back to the primary data center when the cause of the failure or disaster has been resolved.

Automated DR rehearsal and execution

FalconStor RecoverTrac has two primary modes of operation: Test and Failover. Test mode maintains business operations at the primary site and maintains remote replication to the DR site. Test mode starts remote hosts and enables them to access snapshots of appropriate storage volumes. Administrators can select snapshots according to a specific time, or close to a specific time. Customers can debug and validate server and application operations and data accessibility, while perfecting or correcting any dependencies required for proper DR execution.

Failover mode assumes that a disaster has occurred and that it has had a complete or partial impact on the primary data center. In failover mode, FalconStor RecoverTrac will start up defined hosts (physical or virtual) and applications at the DR site, attempt to shut down related hosts at the primary site, and reverse the direction of remote replication (maintaining data protection if the primary data center has data storage functionality).

Integration with VMware ESX Server for remote P2V recovery

Many organizations depend on physical servers for important business applications. As these environments expand to incorporate secondary DR sites, they have begun to leverage server virtualization technology at these remote sites, to reduce deployment costs.

For environments with physical servers at the primary data center and VMware ESX servers at the recovery data center, FalconStor RecoverTrac integrates with VMware ESX Server to further simplify DR procedures. With FalconStor RecoverTrac, applications running in a physical machine environment can be recovered at a DR site on virtual machines.

FalconStor RecoverTrac can automate VMware ESX Server DR tasks, provisioning virtual servers, mapping replicated primary storage volumes, and defining network settings to quickly enable resumption of business operations at the remote site. Simplified testing of P2V DR can be performed locally, within the same data center, using VMware ESX virtual servers and FalconStor CDP of FalconStor NSS recovery storage volumes. This economic local testing validates DR plans and facilitates provisioning of equipment at new or existing DR sites.

Simplified DR Testing

Testing complex DR scenarios and updating the procedures is highly time-consuming and as such, is often beyond the realm of most IT departments. Few organizations have the time for actual verification of DR viability. However, when DR testing is simplified and made non-disruptive, IT departments are more likely to test, debug, and perfect their emergency procedures.

Using the test mode of FalconStor RecoverTrac, DR rehearsals can be performed on a different network or subnet, so as to eliminate potential conflict with business operations. FalconStor RecoverTrac provides a centralized repository for all primary and secondary data center logistical information. It maintains an inventory of all associated components, servers, applications, storage, networking, relational dependencies, and their respective functional mappings. Testing of failover procedures is non-disruptive to business applications, and potential issues can be identified and resolved before actual disasters or outages occur.

These capabilities empower FalconStor RecoverTrac users with a comprehensive DR automation solution that allows them to develop and execute effective, reliable DR plans.

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