

Filters, Pro's and Con's in VMware Data Recovery.

Con's

- VDR doesn't work for vCenter Server in Linked Mode.
- NFS is supported only if VMDK is assigned to the Data Recovery appliance.
- VDR is not a good option to backup linked clones, as after a restore, the link will be broken.
- VDR cannot backup virtual machines protected by VMware Fault Tolerance (because it is a limitation with FT where we cannot have snapshots)
- VDR cannot backup virtual machines running on storage controlled with 3rd party multi-pathing software.
- VDR can backup upto 100 Virtual machines per vCenter instance.
- Has a limitation of handling storage up to 2TB per backup appliance.
- VDR cannot be configured with tape as destination (general limitation with other softwares as well)
- **VDR doesn't come with Essential and Standard license of vSphere (key point to look at)**

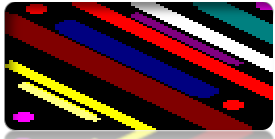
Pro's

- VDR can **concurrently back up eight virtual machines, and concurrently restore eight virtual machines.**
- **Backup jobs can be scheduled** with a GUI.
- For virtual machines with Hardware version 7, VDR carries the capability of creating a **quiesced snapshot** of the virtual machine for backup.
- VDR runs with **deduplication technology** to save storage space consumed by backups.
- VDR enables **File Level Restores (FLR)** via mounting indexed restore points as a volume on the computer with the FLR .exe installed.
- VDR has the capability of verifying the successful back up and restore of VM with a **Restore Rehearsal feature.**

Filters

1. Data Recovery can only back up a Windows Server 2008 virtual machine if it does not have disk.EnableUUID=TRUE in its VMX file. This entry only appears in for Windows Server 2008 virtual machines that were created in vSphere 4.1.

Solution: Before backing up such virtual machines, power off the virtual machine, and then remove the disk.EnableUUID=TRUE entry from the VMX file. After removing this entry, the virtual machine backs up as expected.



2. Don't use domain\username or username@domain in case you are using Samba shares.

Solution: Just use "username".

3. A file level restore might fail with "A system error occurred (577): "Windows cannot verify the digital signature for this file. A recent hardware or software change might have installed a file that is signed incorrectly or damaged, or that might be malicious software from an unknown source"

Solution: Check if vstor2-mntapi10 is running using "sc query vsto2-mntapi10" in the Windows VM. Select Start/Run/cmd and issue the command from the Windows CLI.
Use "sc delete vstor2-mntapi10" to delete the service and delete "c:\program files\VMware\VMwareDiskMount\vstor2-mntapi10.sys". This will make sure that the drivers gets reinstalled next time FLR runs.

4. You might experience error message during recatalog error -2241 destination index invalid/damaged

Solution: Log into the VDR server as root and remove the lock file. Run this command "rm -rf <store>.lck" for each destinations you have.

5. Trouble writing to destination disk. Error -1115 (disk full).

Solution: Make sure destination is less than a Terrabyte .