

[Congratulations to Veeam on the v7 release - this one is a game changer!](#)

As a friend of the folks at Veeam, I have been lucky enough to be involved in the preview releases and review process as the product evolved. The v7 release of the Veeam Backup & Replication product is significant, and fantastic!

The product speaks for itself with the features, but there are some key things that really made this one super cool for me. You can click the image below for the full infographic on what is contained as a start:



Destination: Cloud

Probably one of my favorite things to work with is the cloud targets. There are lots of targets supported with Veeam including Amazon S3, Amazon Glacier, Azure, Rackspace among many others, and the cool feature is OpenStack support! This is really handy for storing your compressed backup images in a commodity storage location so that you can have a true recover-anywhere scenario.

Using Glacier was my target of choice because of the really low cost to maintain data there, and with the compression levels of my backups it saved a lot of cost to store the content there. Since I'm less concerned about the speed of my target storage, I preferred to build my solution based on low operational cost.

I've got a post queuing up on the OpenStack target so stay tuned for much more info on this one.

Filesystems FTW!

For those who are leading the push towards new filesystems, the Microsoft ReFS is fully supported in the newest release, so you can perform file-level recovery in your Windows Server 2012 environment regardless of your deployed filesystem. It runs the gamut on other choices with support for all of the Linux EXT*, XFS and HFS plus other traditional and journaling filesystems.

Speed Boost = Win

My backups were drastically faster with the v7 release thanks to parallel processing. The previous release of Veeam Backup & Replication would serially process backups, so there was some limitation on the amount of content that you could process within a certain window.

I'm using a few different backup products, and the comparative increase in speed was unmatched. From 6.5 to 7.0 there have been changes in compression, WAN acceleration and with the parallel processing, which combined to make a significant bump in the amount of VMs that can be backed up in the time window.

Single pane of awesome

I dread the phrase "single pane of glass", but this one was a big step in the right direction. The

integration with the vSphere Web Client was another really slick features that came with v7. If you aren't already using the vSphere Web Client, you will inevitably see this become the tool of choice in future. I'd suggest getting used to it now, and then you will find lots of good reasons to use it.



Having your backup management baked into your virtualization console will be great to give you one less product screen to have to deal with as you do your day to day admin tasks.

Got tape? Not a problem

One of the biggest concern that many organizations have is the storage of long-term backups to tape media. I've been working in financial services, insurance services and health care fields for quite a while and I can tell you that tape backups are a necessary evil thanks to legal retention policies.



Well...maybe this is a bit too "legacy", but you get the idea

So the addition of being able to use a tape drive as a target was probably one of the biggest features that makes this a game changing upgrade. Storing of backups to offline media gives that extra layer of protection that will make your users, and the auditors very happy ☐

Trusting your product

I know that we see a lot of marketing slides on products and there are lots to choose from. The products that I support are ones that I know, so I can speak from experience that I trust Veeam from experience.

Trust, to me is defined by deleting your own Active Directory account and recovering from backup. It works. I tried it to confirm. Have you ever tried to do AD account recovery? That can be a horror story for most folks, so just having that option alone was a win for me.

With a lot of upcoming work on SharePoint also, I plan to take a run at the SharePoint object and item level recovery which will be a definite push for using Veeam Backup for the SQL and SharePoint web servers. More to come on that once I can fully test the feature, but in the interim you can talk to great product experts like Rick Vanover ([@RickVanover](#))

This is just a taste of the options available, so the first place you should start is by downloading the product and kicking the tires on it yourself.

You can follow the link to the right of your screen which will help to let them know that Eric from DiscoPosse sent you, and you can always go to www.veeam.com to see the entire product line. Look back here for more cloud goodness with Veeam soon too!

[Veeam Cloud Backup - Another Great Way to Protect with Veeam!](#)

✘ For current and potential customers of Veeam Backup & Replication, there is a new sheriff in town! Thanks to the awesome folks at Veeam Software, they are introducing the new Veeam Backup Cloud Edition.

Why Cloud Backup?

The advantage to using Veeam Backup Cloud Edition is that you can leverage numerous cloud storage services (15 key vendors already on board!) and thanks to pre-transfer compression, AES 256-bit encryption and the fantastic Veeam de-duplication capability, you can get the best of every side of the equation.

How does it work?

The Cloud Backup is an add-on for existing customers with service agreements in place, and for new customers of the Veeam Backup & Replication suite, the cloud storage gateway is packed inside there to so you get full functionality in-site and now off-site with your favorite cloud storage provider.



Is This Right for You?

The challenge with using any cloud storage service for storage is that it can be costly depending on how you use it. That being said, the Cloud Backup Edition is pretty nicely targeted towards small to mid-sized businesses who can add the flexibility and protection of cloud storage and keep their costs down by reducing or even eliminating tape and archival off-site.

Many companies are not running backups at all because of the potential costs. Now the barrier to true system and data protection has been lifted.

Hybrid Cloud? Yes please!!

For those who have some concerns over putting all of their backed up and replicated eggs in one public cloud basket, there is also the option of using private cloud or hybrid cloud configurations like OpenStack. Another great reason to take a strong look at Veeam Backup Cloud Edition and OpenStack ☐

The Cloud Edition is available by subscription on a per-CPU socket licensing model so you buy what you need and big capital cost to get you up and rolling.

Time for the teaser view!

Here are some screen grabs from the user interface and you can see what you will be looking at when you get your Veeam environment up and running:



This is a quick walk through of the backup process. First we setup our Cloud providers (lots to choose as you can see) and these credentials will be securely used for the backup plans:



Simply setup your access and secret key information. You can even use the Cost Estimates tab to assign the storage usage rates for an estimate of the overall storage utilization for your object storage. NOTE: These are estimates only unfortunately. At this point, the Cloud providers do not fully expose their billing information via their storage API.



Backup plans are assigned compression and encryption configurations:



Encryption options available for multiple bit lengths and encryption algorithms:



Purge options for the backup plan give you flexibility to retain deleted files per-plan, or using the global policy assigned to the entire product:



Using the Backup Plan Wizard lets you choose files, folders and volumes as needed:



Selecting your destination storage provider shows your cloud options as well as File System targets:



Getting your Veeam Backup Cloud Edition

It's as easy as clicking the graphic below to get your Free Trial and then you are on your way to new ways to protect your environment! And don't forget to tell them that DiscoPosse sent you ☐



Veeam Backup and Replication 6.5 - Get Wowed!

I've had an incredibly busy month so I'm a little late with my review of Veeam Backup & Replication 6.5 which is now in general availability. If you are already a Veeam Customer then I'm sure you are planning your migration. Not a customer yet? Not a problem because you are just steps away from more ways to wow!

Added Hypervisor support



Veeam Backup & Replication 6.5 is able to protect your VMware vSphere 5.1 and Microsoft Hyper-V on Server 2012 environments. When Veeam says they support the latest and greatest, they aren't kidding.

Now you can confidently plan your hypervisor upgrades with one less issue on the list. When migrating to new hypervisors, there are some significant changes to be aware of and knowing that your backup and replication product is already fully supported will keep your IT and management teams smiling through the upgrade.

Veeam brings their A-Game

Just take a look at the features highlighted here as a start:



Got SAN? You've got snapshot recovery now

If you are running a supported HP or LeftHand SAN hardware, you get an extra bonus. With the **Veeam Explorer for SAN Snapshots** feature you can now mount your SAN snapshots as working images and recover files, folders and volumes. Make sure that you check your hardware for support and contact Veeam for more information. And don't forget that this is free with Veeam Backup & Replication 6.5 which adds to the value.

Exchange Explorer Add-in

Just like the Veeam Explorer for SAN Snapshots, there is another great feature built in which is the **Veeam Explorer for Microsoft Exchange**. This cool little tool lets you mount your Microsoft Exchange backups and drill down to the object level for recovery. You simply browse to the object and export to PST for easy recovery back into your client's Exchange mailbox. And yes, it's free too!

e-Discovery for Exchange

On top of the recovery capability for your Microsoft Exchange environment, Veeam Backup & Replication adds e-Discovery for searching objects inside your Exchange data. This feature is quickly

becoming a requirement for business and compliance in order to shorten the delivery time of gathering information from within your backups.

Size Matters

Worried about storage? You're in luck! Veeam Backup & Replication is delivered with built in deduplication and compression which will save you on storage, and on bandwidth during protection. This is a key to letting you maximize the amount of backups you can retain and easily recover from. More data is always better!

Recover in an Instant

The Instant Recovery option is capable at the file and even at the VM level. The ability to mount and power up your VMs from directly inside the backup will be a saving grace in the event of a VM crash or corruption. Within the VM backup you can also recover files directly from the VM images without the need to stage during recovery. These features are here to ease the recovery process and speed your ability to respond to client needs without added infrastructure.

The same capability that brings you full VM recovery in an instant can be used to sandbox your VMs for testing and QA without having to clone, snapshot and manage multiple copies. Simply recover a point-in-time instance of your VM and you can test away with the option to either keep your changes, or roll back to the base image with a few clicks.

Award Winning Solution

One of the key indicators for product versatility is the acceptance in the vendor and customer community. Veeam has been recognized repeatedly by as a Best of VMworld product and by Microsoft publications for the Hyper-V protection. Click the picture below to browse the trophy case and that should help to bring confidence to you for move towards getting wowed with Veeam Backup & Replication.



Want to test drive Veeam?

Make sure that you visit Veeam with the link below and you can start by downloading the 30 day trial of Veeam Backup & Replication 6.5 to give you a head start on making your environment Veeam-tastic!



[Upcoming event - November 6th VMUG](#)

[presentation: BCP Solutions for VMware Environments](#)

✘ That's right folks, it's presentation time! Come one, come all to the November 6th Toronto VMUG event and be a part of the great community. I'll be speaking at the conference along with Pure Storage and McAfee.

The presentation is going to be titled "BCP Solutions for VMware Environments: Double-Take, Veeam and vSphere Replication". I'm going to be bringing you some real-world examples of how environments have been protected using each solution and how you can leverage each of the tools for your needs.

Big Giveaways!!

Not only will I be giving you proven solutions to use these great tools, but we also have some amazing giveaways which will be at the event. Very cool! Big thanks go out to both [Veeam](#) and [Vision Solutions](#) for bringing excitement and support to our community!

Prizes include a full copy of Double-Take Move (Retail value of \$295.00!) and [VeeamZip USB Drives](#) with the awesome Veeam Backup Free Edition software.

About the Products

Double-Take by Vision Solutions

✘ The product that will be presented as part of the solution strategy is Double-Take Availability. The Availability product is part of the overall Double-Take suite of products. Double-Take Availability provides application aware, asynchronous, block-level replication that can be configured for file, folder, volume or full server protection. And that's just the beginning!

http://www.visionsolutions.com/Double-take/DT6_LP.aspx

Veeam Backup Free Edition by Veeam Software

✘ Trust me, you need this product. Why? It's free, and it's awesome. For managing on-demand backups, server migrations, lab builds and much, much more.

Veeam Backup Free Edition provides the same capabilities to capture live machine state in a recoverable vmdk format. The tool gives you a taste of the real power which is when you engage the full Veeam Backup

http://go.veeam.com/free-vm-backup-b.html?utm_source=discoposse&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=freebackup

vSphere Replication by VMware

☒ VMware has taken their native replication product as delivered within SRM 4.0 and they have made it part of the vSphere product suite out of the box for Essentials Plus Edition and higher. By adding a replication suite with a native vCenter plugin they have made a huge leap towards being a total end-to-end product and protection suite.

<http://www.vmware.com/products/datacenter-virtualization/vsphere/replication.html>

Get Registered!

If you haven't already been registered for the event, make sure you contact [Angelo Luciani](#) or reach out through the Toronto VMUG site. I'm ☒ always amazed by the great things that I get from the VMUG community. Not only do you get a chance to get some great products, but you have access to amazing presentations, real product experts and solution experts from the industry and you are among a community of your peers who can share knowledge and provide guidance from their own experiences.

It's a win-win all around! Can't wait for it and I hope to see you all there!