

Dell EMC VPLEX SRA for VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager

6.1.0.126

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These release notes contain supplemental information about Dell EMC VPLEX SRA for VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager. The following topics are included:

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Product description

Dell EMC VPLEX Storage Replication Adapter (SRA) for VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager is a software package that enables vCenter Site Recovery Manager to support stretched storage.

Stretched storage enables you to balance workloads between Active/Active datacenters with non-disruptive workload mobility. VPLEX SRA provides a faster Recovery Time Objective (RTO) for unplanned site failures compared to traditional replication-based disaster recovery.

This version of Dell EMC VPLEX SRA also supports vCenter Site Recovery Manager 8.2 (Photon based).

The [VMware website](#) provides more information about vCenter Site Recovery Manager.

New features and changes

This release adds support for VMware Site Recovery Manager 8.2 (Photon based).

Fixed problems

The following issues were fixed in this release:

- Symptom: Cannot process consistency group 'xxx' with role 'target' when expected consistency group with role 'source'.
- Symptom: VPLEX SRA fails to load on any language platform other than English (US).
- Symptom: You cannot perform **Reprotect** after performing a disaster recovery. The **Reprotect** fails as the site preferences are not available in the consistency groups.
- Symptom: VPLEX SRA does not support duplicate storage view names in VPLEX. If the storage view name is not unique, an unplanned migration fails with error "Failed to copy file."

Known problems and limitations

Learn about the problems and limitations for this release.

Symptom	Cause/Resolution
When you use test failover commands, you get an error message saying that snapshot support is not available.	VPLEX does not support testFailoverStart and testFailoverStop commands because VPLEX does not support Snapshots.
VPLEX SRA fails to discover VPLEX clusters when they are given customized cluster names rather than the default names cluster-1/cluster-2.	VPLEX SRA does not support customized cluster names. You must use the default cluster names.

Environment and system requirements

The environment at both the protected and recovery sites must meet the requirements listed in this topic.

Ensure that the following requirements are met:

- VPLEX Metro GeoSynchrony version 6.2 is installed.
- One or more ESXi 6.7 hosts are connected to the VPLEX storage systems.
- At least one distributed virtual volume is set up before you configure VPLEX SRA.
- The following software is installed:
 - vCenter Server version 6.7 deployed in Enhanced Linked Mode.
 - vCenter Site Recovery Manager version 8.2 (Photon based).
 - VPLEX SRA version 6.1.0.126

VPLEX SRA for vCenter Site Recovery Manager protocol compatibility

Dell EMC VPLEX is compatible with Fibre Channel protocol.

The Site Recovery Manager Storage Partner Compatibility Matrix on the [VMware website](#) contains the most up-to-date list of software that is compatible with the various storage platforms.

Software media, organization, and files

Learn where to find the software file.

Download the executable file for VPLEX SRA for Site Recovery Manager 8.2 from the VMware website. The installer for VPLEX SRA for vCenter Site Recovery Manager (Photon based) file name is `vplexsraenabler-6.1.0.126.tar`

Installation

Prerequisites and installation instructions are provided in this topic.


Prerequisites

- Follow the instructions in the following VMware documentation to install and configure vCenter Site Recovery Manager at both the protected and recovery sites:
 - Site Recovery Manager Administration*
 - Site Recovery Manager Installation and Configuration*
- Configure your environment as follows:
 - Virtual Machines that are protected using this SRA must reside on datastores that are built from distributed storage that is provided by VPLEX.
 - Distributed virtual volumes must be exported to hosts on both the protected and recovery sites.
 - For stand-alone distributed virtual volumes, the Rule Set of its underlying distributed device must indicate that the cluster on the protected site is the winner.
 - For distributed virtual volumes contained in a distributed consistency group, the Detach Rule of its consistency group must indicate that the cluster on the protected site is the winner.

About this task

The VMware Knowledgebase topic, [Implementing VMware vSphere Metro Storage Cluster \(vMSC\) using EMC VPLEX \(2007545\)](#) and the *VPLEX Administration Guide* on [Dell EMC Online Support](#) provide more information. Also see [Technical notes](#) on page 4.

Steps

- Click **NEW ADAPTER** to run the SRA adapter for SRM 8.2 (Photon based).
The SRA adapter is uploaded to the SRM virtual appliance.
 **NOTE:** An uploading error is displayed while uploading VPLEX SRA. Close the upload dialog and refresh the page, the VPLEX SRA summary is now displayed correctly. It is due to an issue in SRM 8.2 and has the fix in the upcoming SRM 8.2.0.2 GA Version.
- Connect to the VMware vCenter server of the protected site through vSphere Web Client.
- In the home panel of the vSphere Web Client, click **Site Recovery**.
- Connect the protected and recovery sites, as described in *Site Recovery Manager Administration*.
- Set up inventory mappings, as described in *Site Recovery Manager Administration*.
- In the **Navigator** list under **Sites**, select a site and click **Monitor > SRAs**.
- Select **Actions > Rescan** to rescan all SRAs on the selected site.
- Repeat steps 6 on page 3 and 7 on page 3 for the second site.
- Create storage policy protection groups and recovery plans as described in *Site Recovery Manager Administration* and *Site Recovery Manager Installation and Configuration*.

Technical notes

Use this information when you implement VMware Site Recovery Manager (SRM) in a VPLEX Metro environment.

VMware SRM is generally considered a disaster recovery solution, but when used with stretched storage like VPLEX Metro, it can orchestrate a live migration HA failover to one site of the cluster.

For example, during planned maintenance at the protection site, you can execute an SRM planned migration to the recovery site, which leaves the protection site available for maintenance. You would then run SRM reprotect to return VPLEX Metro to full operation where the recovery site has become the protection site and repeat this process to complete maintenance on the recovery site.

VPLEX Metro with SRM requires two vCenters (not one as with vMSC), because each SRM implementation requires its own vCenter. In a stretched storage configuration, use the Enhanced Linked Mode (ELM) feature of vCenter, where each vCenter shares the same Platform Service Controller (PSC) and SSO domain. When you log in to either vCenter, you can see both vCenters. ELM allows cross-vCenter vMotion of virtual machines, which enables live migration of virtual machines with SRM in a stretched storage configuration.

During the VPLEX SRA installation and VPLEX setup for SRM, keep the following in mind:

- Custom cluster names are not supported. You must use the default names, cluster-1 and cluster-2.
- The VPLEX SRA supports standalone distributed devices as well as devices in consistency groups. However the winner of any configuration (detach-rule) must be the protection site (usually cluster-1). During an SRM failover (DR or planned migration), the winner automatically changes to the recovery site.
- When adding array pairs in SRM, use the management IP of VPLEX Unisphere and the user **service**.
- VPLEX Witness has no bearing on SRM so it is not required, though in general VPLEX recommends using it.

After you install and configure the VPLEX SRA, set up the protection groups and recovery plans. Stretched storage is different than active/passive replication in that the **Protection group** type is **Storage policies** and not **Datastore groups**. VMware uses tag-based storage policies when configuring protection groups for stretched storage. In addition to a tag, a category is created which allows grouping of multiple tags. Once created, the tag is assigned to the VPLEX datastores. The tag category is used in the storage policy and, therefore, SRM. Following are the high-level steps for using storage policies with SRM.

1. Create a tag and category for the VPLEX datastores used with SRM. Do not adjust the cardinality.
2. Assign the newly created tag to each VPLEX datastore used with SRM.
3. On both the protection and recovery sites, create a new storage policy and add a tag-based rule. The category associated with the tag is applied to this rule.
4. Create an SRM mapping to pair the storage policies from each site.
5. Create array managers on each site.

By default, VPLEX SRA discovers all the distributed virtual volumes and consistency groups (CGs) in the system. To accelerate the discovery procedure, set the value of 'VPLEX Filter by Name (Optional)' to the virtual volume or CG that you want to use.

6. Assign the storage policy to the virtual machines (storage) located in the SRM VPLEX datastores to ensure that the virtual machines are recognized by SRM.
7. Create a new protection group in SRM based on the newly created storage policy.
8. Create the recovery plan.

Because VPLEX cannot take a copy from a device for presentation to the recovery site, you must test using either planned migration or failover. Follow the migration or failover with a reprotect, a second planned migration or failover, and another reprotect to return the environment to its original state.

Additional resources

You can use these resources to find more information about this product, get support, and provide feedback.

Documentation

These release notes constitute the Dell EMC documentation for this product.

Documentation for VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager is available on the [VMware website](#).

Troubleshooting and getting help

You can use these resources to get help and support.


Product information

For documentation, release notes, software updates, and other information about Dell EMC products, go to [Dell EMC Online Support](#).

Technical support

[Dell EMC Online Support](#) provides technical support services. To open a service request, you must have a valid support agreement. Contact your Dell EMC sales representative to get a valid support agreement or for other questions about your account.

Notes, cautions, and warnings

 **NOTE:** A NOTE indicates important information that helps you make better use of your product.

 **CAUTION:** A CAUTION indicates either potential damage to hardware or loss of data and tells you how to avoid the problem.

 **WARNING:** A WARNING indicates a potential for property damage, personal injury, or death.