

What's New in the 8.1.1 Release

IBM InfoSphere Virtual Data Pipeline

This document introduces the new features in IBM Virtual Data Pipeline 8.1.1 (VDP). Upgrading to the latest software version is strongly recommended to benefit from the new features, enhancements and fixes. Contact your IBM Sales representative for assistance in upgrading the software on your VDP appliances.

Expanded Cloud Mobility for Migration and Remote Test/Dev

Highlights

- Users can copy the VDP Appliance's volume data into native cloud block storage (SSD or magnetic tiers). The result will be a new independent VM that does not rely on any volumes presented from the appliance.

Benefits

- Easily migrate applications, VMs and physical servers from on-prem to cloud environment, or between cloud platforms.
- Customers can decide whether to run VMs from a VDP appliance using instant-mount or copy the data to cloud native storage and run directly from that.

External Snapshot Pools with IBM Storwize/SVC and Pure FlashStorage

Highlights

- The VDP appliance can now use and manage external snapshot pools. Customers can leverage their storage arrays' performance, connectivity, and availability by using the array native snapshots for VDP's snapshot pool.
- Application data can be captured in an incremental-only fashion by snapping the production LUNs in-place (using them as the base), or they can capture data in a full+incremental fashion (aka out-of-band) into an external snapshot pool in a different array, to create a full copy of the data set first and then copy incremental changes.
- While capture methods differ, array snapshots are leveraged in both cases and can be mounted directly to hosts, thereby leveraging the arrays' connectivity (FC or iSCSI), high-availability, and performance.
- Once data is captured into the external snapshot pool, it can still flow into VDP in an incremental-forever manner to leverage VDP's capabilities, including Object storage (OnVault), dedup, remote dedup, StreamSnap, and Dedup-Async replication.

Benefits

- Better performance on mounted images. Activity on virtual clones does not go through the VDP appliance but rather directly between the host and storage array. This is especially important in test/dev environments.
- Better performance and RTO for DR, when using external snapshot pools on the DR side. Data is updated and available in its intended target storage so there is no need to copy it elsewhere.
- Better performance on SmartCopy backups (data moves directly from array to array, without going through an VDP appliance).
- Incremental-Only capture for apps that already reside on the array, resulting in faster capture (near-instant) and less storage (no need for a first full copy).
- Highly available mounts from the storage array, coordinated by VDP.
- FC host connectivity with Sky (Sky to array connection is iSCSI).
- Better scalability of VDP infrastructure - fewer appliances will be needed, typically.
- Wider support matrix - interop according to the array's connectivity.

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IBM InfoSphere Virtual Data Pipeline

NFS Datastore Support with VMware (alternative to iSCSI)

Highlights

- VDP can leverage NFS protocol, in addition to iSCSI or as an alternative, when recovering VMs and applications in a VMware environment.
- VMs are captured over the network using VMware VADP and can now be mounted back to an ESX host using NFS protocol.
- In addition, staging disks and recovered applications mounted into a VM (using a connector) can also be mounted to the ESX host over NFS and then presented as block devices (VMDK) to the VM. This applies to Windows and Linux and all supported applications, including SQL Server, Oracle, Linux-based databases captured with the CBT driver, and file systems.

Benefits

- More flexibility to capture and access data over NFS protocol.
- NFS can be easier to configure than block protocols in some environments.

Expanded Support Matrix

Highlights

- Added support for Oracle 18c.
- Added support for Oracle and file system capture on Ubuntu systems. This does not include support for other applications using the change-block tracking driver.

NFS Mount to RAC

Highlights

- Oracle ASM databases captured into a file system staging disk over NFS can now be mounted into a RAC environment. This allows the creation of virtual clones in a test/dev environment with RAC, without having to restore the data back into an ASM database.

Benefits

- More flexibility to capture and access data over NFS protocol.
- Short RTO when accessing virtual clones (mounts) since data does not need to be restored from a file system image into an ASM format.

Enhanced Global Manager (IVGM) Functionality and Usability

Highlights

- IBM is transitioning to Global Manager (IVGM) for all appliance and data management. This version adds the following functionality and usability enhancements to IVGM:
- Support for databases and other generic applications on Linux using the change-block tracking driver.
- Ability to export the content displayed in various grids (application list, host list, etc.) to CSV or PDF files.
- Streamlined display and management of application details & settings, including showing defaults and easily restoring defaults.
- All table displays use a consistent grid component with standard, rich functionality.
- Easy "short-cut" application list to move between applications when looking at an application page (e.g. Manage SLA, Access).

Benefits

- IVGM provides a single interface to manage the entire VDP environment.

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IBM InfoSphere Virtual Data Pipeline

Enhanced Cyber-Resiliency Leveraging IBM COS Retention Capabilities

Highlights

- Users can designate backups as immutable by setting an option in a template policy. When this is set, no VDP user can expire an image before its policy-driven expiration date, not even an administrator (this was available in 8.1).
- Customers using VDP with IBM Cloud Object Storage can now leverage its retention capabilities to add another layer of protection at the storage level in addition to the copy data management level.

Benefits

- Increase resiliency of data by protecting it from rogue users or malware/ransomware.

Clone SQL Server to Another Server

Highlights

- Allow user to recover SQL Server databases by copying the data to another server. The original database configuration is maintained. This is different from a mount: the data is copied to another storage rather than being presented from an VDP appliance. Full support from IVGM.

Benefits

- Recover SQL Server databases back to a point in time, copying data into production storage using original database configuration.

MDL Calculation for VSAN

Highlights

- The calculation of Managed Data License has been enhanced to accurately reflect usage in a VMware VSAN environment.

Enhanced Call-Home Functionality

Highlights

- Appliance call-home can now leverage HTTPS protocol in addition to email.

Benefits

- Simpler setup and enhanced security.

Learn more at <https://www.ibm.com/us-en/marketplace/infosphere-virtual-data-pipeline>.

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