

Replicating data at the volume level over any distance without disruption



IBM Data Management Services – Softek Replicator

Highlights

- ***Maintains continuous application availability during data replication***
- ***Supports multi-vendor and high-availability storage and virtualized storage environments***
- ***Supports local or global data replication***
- ***Delivers uncompromised data integrity***
- ***Helps meet recovery time objectives (RTOs) and recovery point objectives (RPOs)***
- ***Enables consolidated backups by replicating data to a central location***
- ***Provides automatic recovery from network outages***

Helping to recover data more quickly with volume-level replication

Softek™ Replicator software provides an efficient, reliable method to help ensure usable data recovery regardless of storage vendor or server platform. And in doing so, it enables any data protection budget to stretch farther. In addition to being essential for disaster recovery, Softek Replicator software helps reduce downtime for backup windows while also enabling centralized backup from remote sites. Replicator software provides advanced volume-level replication for fast data recovery in widely used IBM AIX®, HP-UX, Solaris, Red Hat Linux® and Microsoft® Windows® environments and supports virtualized environments (VMware).

Offering flexibility with point-in-time copies for protection beyond backups

Replicator software can make two copies of source data at the same time—one copy can be a remote copy for disaster-recovery use while the local copy can assist with backup processes. Additionally, Replicator software's write-order consistency provides continuous transfers of updated data to help minimize data loss and recovery time should an interruption occur. IT organizations with huge databases and shrinking backup windows can back up a point-in-time copy, thereby increasing availability. Data is replicated while applications remain active, and backups are carried out from the point-in-time copy during normal business hours. For centralized backups, production data can be replicated from remote locations to a central site where the backup is taken from the point-in-time copies.

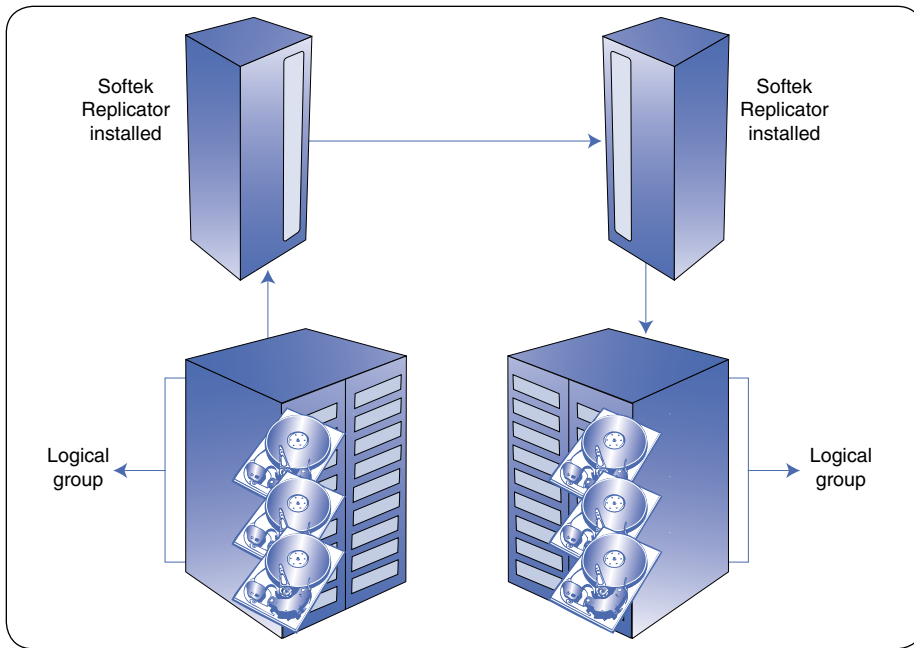


Figure 1
Local replication

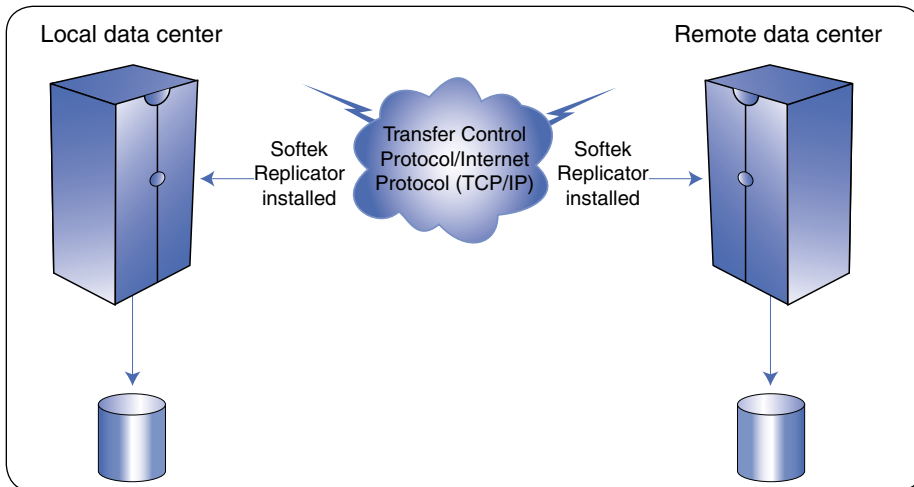


Figure 2
Global replication

Enabling seamless integration with the existing environment

Softek Replicator software leverages existing infrastructure investments by seamlessly integrating with the current production environment. The software operates at both the volume and device level and requires no prerequisite software prior to implementation. In fact, Replicator software for the UNIX® operating system can work with—or without—any volume manager. And Replicator software for Windows can work with Windows Disk Manager or other disk manager products. Plus, there is no need to perform a hardware upgrade before replicating from one storage device to another.

Managing replication with the Softek

Common Console

With thousands of open systems servers dispersed through an IT infrastructure, managing replication tasks can be challenging. Replicator software can be controlled through the Softek Common Console, including the capability to configure, monitor and manage all Replicator software activities.

Softek Replicator software features, functions and benefits		
Feature	Function	Benefit
Hardware independence	Avoids vendor lock-in	Reduces business risk
Database support	Keeps replication independent of database application	Simplifies replication with only one tool
Asynchronous replication	Prevents new inputs and outputs from having to be held waiting for confirmation	Copies data without affecting application performance
Remote mirroring	Enables data exchange and synchronization among remote sites	Protects against site disaster or loss
Logical grouping	Improves manageability	Preserves database integrity
Pacing, throttles and tunable parameters	Helps minimize replication impact during times of heavy production usage	Allows for replication during normal business hours
Fixed pacing/throttling	Replicates data at a user-specified rate	Provides fixed control over resources
Dynamic pacing/throttling	Changes replication rates dynamically	Helps prevent impacts to application performance
Data compression	Increases transfer rates	Moves more data in less time
Automatic resynchronization	Enables Softek Replicator software to survive communication-line failures and to catch up when the line is reestablished	Saves time when replicating over extended distances
Point-in-time copies for fast recovery	Makes point-in-time copies to disk	Provides faster recovery from disk than from tape
Data resynchronization of point-in-time copies	Resynchronizes differences between primary and secondary copies	Reduces replication time, supporting recovery point objectives
Multiple point-in-time copies	Makes two copies of data simultaneously	Saves time
Common Console	Provides intuitive reconfiguration and performance monitoring	Allows you to view data graphically

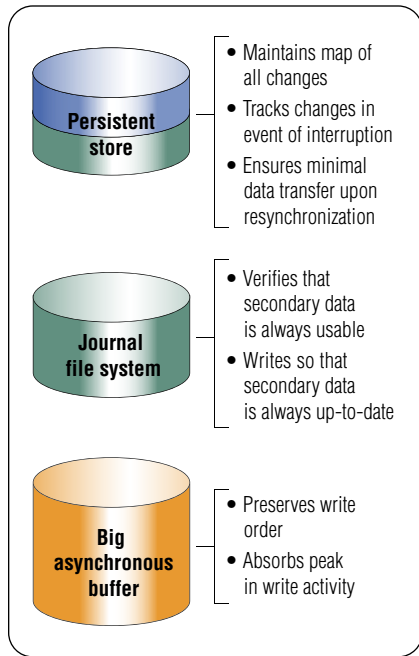


Figure 3
How Replicator software helps ensure data integrity

Maintaining data integrity

Replicator software delivers virtually uncompromised data integrity because the source data is not changed during replication. In a database environment in which the database may reside over multiple volumes, it is critical to treat all volumes as one logical entity. Replicator software does this not only by grouping volumes together but also by ensuring the correct write order for all data. With staging areas on both the primary and secondary servers, Replicator software helps ensure that the data is in a usable state for continuous availability.

Enabling continuous replication, enterprise-wide

In the event that the primary server fails, a one-button feature in the Softek Common Console will instruct the disaster-recovery server that it is now the primary replication server and that it should not accept any data from the failed server when it comes back online. Alternatively, if a network failure or interruption is experienced while using Replicator after the connection is reestablished, the software will automatically resume data replication tasks.

Why IBM?

IBM, with the acquisition of Softek, combines a comprehensive data migration and recovery solution with its existing worldwide delivery expertise in data management in storage array, host and virtualized IT environments. IBM's proven methodology and best practices, together with its worldwide network of IBM Business Partners, can help you increase the flexibility, efficiency and reliability of moving data, supporting your ability to respond more quickly to marketplace dynamics.

For more information

To learn more about Softek Replicator software, contact your IBM sales representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

ibm.com/services/us/index.wss/offerfamily/gts/a1027721

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