

IBM VM Recovery Manager DR for Power Systems, V1.3.0, formerly known as IBM Geographically Dispersed Resiliency for Power Systems, is enhanced and includes IBM VM Recovery Manager HA, V1.3.0

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Overview

Effective December 14, 2018, IBM^(R) Geographically Dispersed Resiliency for Power SystemsTM will be renamed IBM VM Recovery Manager DR for Power Systems. VM Recovery Manager DR for Power Systems supports the same capabilities as Geographically Dispersed Resiliency for Power Systems, as announced in Software Announcement [217-320](#), dated August 8, 2017.

VM Recovery Manager DR offers an easy-to-use automated disaster recovery solution that enables IBM PowerVM^(R) users to achieve very low recovery times for both planned and unplanned outages.

VM Recovery Manager DR V1.3.0 SP1 represents the renaming of and enhancements to the Geographically Dispersed Resiliency for Power Systems, V1.2 SP1, which was announced in Service Announcement [617-029](#), dated December 5, 2017, such as:

- An easy to deploy and use DR solution with planned and unplanned failover automation
- Entire site-level or subsite (Hostgroup)-level failover management
- Flexible capacity-based failovers that allow a smaller DR site
- DR replication management for a wide spectrum of storage subsystems:
 - IBM DS8000^(R) Global Mirror
 - IBM SAN Volume Controller/IBM Storwize^(R) Metro and IBM Global Mirror
 - EMC SRDF replication
 - Hitachi Universal Copy and TrueCopy replication
- IBM AIX^(R), Linux^(R), and IBM i as guest operating systems
- DR Failover rehearsal for nondisruptive testing

VM Recovery Manager DR V1.3.0 also includes:

- A UI graphical health dashboard for monitoring
- VM Recovery Manager HA V1.3.0

Note: In this version of the product, you can deploy either in DR mode or HA mode. You will not be able to deploy in DR mode and HA mode, with both active.

Key prerequisites

VM Recovery Manager DR solution operates on PowerVM capable systems and needs HMC to interact with the systems. Note that it is required that the VMs/LPARs protected by solution need to be completely virtualized based on PowerVM virtualization.

See the [Technical requirements](#) section for detailed requirements.

Planned availability date

December 14, 2018

Description

The VM Recovery Manager family now offers two products:

- VM Recovery Manager HA (5765-VRM), which provides VM Restart based HA management.
- VM Recovery Manager DR (5765-DRG), which provides VM Restart based HA and DR capabilities.

When deployed for HA management within a data center, VM Recovery Manager HA solution offers an easy-to-use graphical interface that can be used to deploy, monitor, and manage high availability for the entire data center. VM Recovery Manager HA solution also provides a deployment wizard that enables easy deployment of the solution.

VM Recovery Manager provides a number of flexible HA capabilities:

- Automation that integrates with PowerVM components such as HMC and VIOS to make it easy to discover and deploy HA management.
- Easily manage HA for many VMs.
- Enable/Disable HA monitoring for host, hostgroup, and VMs.
- Automated restart/relocation/failover of VMs upon outages. Administrators can choose Advisory mode to receive failure-related alerts and do the failovers manually.
- Priority-based restart of VMs during recovery.
- Priority-based capacity adjustment support during a recovery.
- Adjust failure detection times for Hosts and VMs. Application failure detection is done within the VM and hence those policies are controlled by the VM administrator.
- Application HA monitoring support: Lightweight framework for AIX and Linux enables custom application monitoring capabilities. Control start and stop sequences of applications within a VM.
- VM Recovery Manager HA includes agents for monitoring and managing IBM Db2^(R), SAP, and Oracle. The agent framework also enables customers to create their own agents for other application environments.
- VM Recovery Manager HA is supported for PowerVM virtualized deployments supporting NPV, vSCSI, or SSP storage solutions.

Additionally, VM Recovery Manager HA exploits Live Partition Mobility for planned HA management that includes features such as:

- Vacate a Host for maintenance: All the VMs in the Host are redeployed using LPM to other Hosts in the Hostgroup.
- Restore a Host after repair: Bring back all the VMs that were part of this Host originally. VMs have the attribute "Homehost" that will be used to search your VM list to see which VMs truly belong to the Host, and that will be moved back to the repaired original Host.

VM Recovery Manager DR provides an easy to deploy and use DR solution that can help clients plan and manage DR for their infrastructure. The solution works with components of PowerVM, such as VIOS and HMC, and also with storage subsystems to automate DR operations. After the setup and verification, administrators can perform DR failovers with the execution of a single command. Some of the capabilities of DR solution are:

- Easy setup and deployment of the DR environment in a few steps
- Administrator-initiated site or subsite (Hostgroup) DR management
- Storage replication management for DR purposes, including resynch automation
- DR failover rehearsal for nondisruptive DR failover testing
- Flex Capacity-based DR site capacity adjustment
- VLAN and vSwitch customization per site
- Boot device management for POWER8^(R), or later, systems

Statement of general direction

IBM intends to enhance VM Recovery Manager for DR to include the capability to manage both HA and DR.

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Reference information

See Software Announcement [217-320](#), dated August 8, 2017, for information about IBM Geographically Dispersed Resiliency for Power Systems, V1.1.0.

Program number

Product Number	VRM	Program Name
5765-DRG	1.3.0	VM Recovery Manager DR

Note: The following existing SWMA will be renamed:

Maintenance PID number	Program Name
5771-DRG	VM Recovery Manager DR 1yr SWMA
5773-DRG	VM Recovery Manager DR 3yr SWMA
5771-DRL	VM Recovery Manager DR ALC

Technical information

VM Recovery Manager DR solution operates on PowerVM capable systems and needs an HMC to interact with the systems. Note that it is required that the VMs/LPARs protected by the solution need to be completely virtualized based on PowerVM virtualization.

Hardware requirements

VM Recovery Manager HA is supported for the following Power^(R) systems:

- POWER7+^(R) systems (except MMB models)
- IBM POWER8
- IBM POWER9TM

Software and firmware requirements

- HMC: V9 R9.1.0, or later
- VIOS: VIOS 3.1.0.1, or later
- Storage: Any storage (except iSCSI) supported with VIOS
- Guest VMs: AIX 6.1, or later; IBM i 7.2, or later; Red Hat Enterprise Linux 7.2, or later; or SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 12.1, or later
- KSYS LPAR: AIX 7.2 TL02 SP1, or later
- Firmware:
 - POWER7+: FW770.90, or later
 - POWER7+: FW780.70, or later
 - POWER7+: FW783.50, or later
 - POWER8: FW840.60, or later
 - POWER8: FW860.30, or later
 - POWER9: FW910, or later

Prerequisites specific to DR deployment

VM Recovery Manager DR management automates storage replication by performing command and control operations on the storage subsystems. VM Recovery Manager DR replication management is supported with the following storage methods. Check the exact version/model of the storage methods supported in the product documentation.

- EMC SRDF replication capable storage subsystems
- IBM DS8K Global Mirror storage
- SVC or Storwize storage
- Hitachi TrueCopy or Universal Copy storage

Prices

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