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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ):

Continuous Data Protector (CDP) 6.0

1. What is FalconStor® Continuous Data Protector™ (CDP)?

FalconStor CDP is a TOTALLY Open™ disk-based solution that administrators can use to more efficiently and cost effectively protect business-critical data such as databases, email, and files. By using the power of disk, FalconStor CDP enables “instant recovery” from disasters—5 minutes for files, 10 minutes for servers, 30 minutes for sites—versus prolonged file-based restoration. FalconStor CDP is available as turnkey appliances, gateway appliances, a virtual appliance for VMware Virtual Infrastructure, and as standalone software (software appliance kit) that allows you to build your own appliance/server.

2. Why do I need FalconStor CDP?

Backup administrators face many challenges in meeting backup objectives. With the explosive growth of data from database applications, mail applications, and office automation applications, backup administrators are finding it virtually impossible to meet ever-shrinking backup windows. Additionally, traditional tape backup solutions are slow and unreliable—both in protecting the data and restoring the data after failure or disaster.

3. How can FalconStor CDP help us overcome storage challenges?

FalconStor CDP provides continuous data protection with instant recovery and better performance, helping drive top-line growth through business continuity and improved customer service and satisfaction. This enables organizations to focus more resources on growing the business, rather than running the business.

FalconStor CDP replaces traditional backup solutions and provides continuous and periodic disk-based protection. This allows organizations to eliminate their entire tape-backup infrastructure—from backup software to tape drives and libraries—eliminating software license and maintenance fees as well as hardware and tape costs.

At the same time, since tape is often required for regulatory or archiving purposes, FalconStor CDP facilitates high-speed, serverless backup to tape. FalconStor CDP optimizes tape backup by leveraging existing resources to improve ROI without requiring individual server backup agents.

From a “green” perspective, FalconStor CDP helps reduce total cost of ownership (TCO) by using less physical space and utilities than traditional backup mechanisms. Meanwhile, patented MicroScan™ technology, used in replication, compresses data to significantly reduce WAN bandwidth utilization and costs.

4. What are the key distinguishing features of FalconStor CDP, and how will they better protect my data and optimize DR?

> **TOTALLY Open architecture:** FalconStor CDP runs on Linux, an open-source operating system. It supports a wide range of industry-standard hardware and software and can scale to protect large, heterogeneous storage environments. CDP

protects database, email, and file server systems from market leaders including Microsoft, Oracle, IBM, and Sybase. This flexibility and broad support enables easy integration with an existing infrastructure without disrupting operations and without the vendor lock-in often associated with other providers.

- > **Thin Provisioning:** Allows provisioning of virtual storage that represents a higher capacity than is physically available. Physical storage is automatically allocated only when needed. This enables more efficient storage utilization. Thin Provisioning may be applied to primary storage, replica storage (at the disaster recovery [DR] site), and mirrored storage.
- > **TimeMark® snapshots:** Enable the creation of periodic, scheduled, or on-demand point-in-time delta snapshot copies of data volumes. These delta snapshots contain only changed data and as such use minimal disk storage space. Up to 255 delta snapshots can be maintained per volume.
- > **TimeView® images:** TimeMark technology includes the TimeView feature, which creates an accessible, mountable delta snapshot image that allows administrators to freely create multiple and instantaneous virtual copies of an active data set. The data set and/or replica copies can then be assigned to multiple application servers with read/write access for concurrent, independent processing, all while the original data set is actively being accessed/updated by the primary application server.
- > **Replication option:** Used to replicate data via IP whether onsite or offsite (such as to a DR site). It uses MicroScan, a patented technology that eliminates exaggerated block-level changes due to inefficiencies at the application and file system layer to minimize the data transferred. Only real changes at the granularity of disk-sector level (512-byte) are transferred. Replication also includes built-in data compression and encryption.
- > **Application-aware Snapshot Agents:** Ensure full protection for active databases such as Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, Sybase, and DB2, and messaging applications like Microsoft Exchange and Lotus Notes. Snapshot Agents work seamlessly with FalconStor Replication and TimeMark options. A group snapshot feature ensures transactional integrity of databases across multiple storage volumes.
- > **Mirroring:** FalconStor Synchronous Mirroring provides block-level data mirroring across any disk system regardless of vendor/brand, disk type, or data interface (Fibre Channel [FC], iSCSI, InfiniBand). Data can be synchronized to a second storage device independent of the servers involved. There is no need for OS-specific host based tools. Once the mirror is online, all future data is written simultaneously to both the primary volume and the mirror.
- > **HyperTrac™ Backup Accelerator option:** For organizations that require tape backup for regulatory compliance or corporate governance, the HyperTrac option increases tape backup speed, eliminates backup windows, and offloads processing from application servers. This option runs on the backup server, automatically initiating and mounting TimeMark snapshots when backup jobs are run.

5. What are the components of the FalconStor CDP solution?

FalconStor CDP is typically implemented as an out-of-band or side-band solution. Components include:

- > **CDP Server:** Provides journaling, snapshots, replication, mirroring, and data protection management services.
- > **CDP-X Server:** Continuous Data Protector Connector (CDP-X) is typically deployed in pairs for high availability (HA). CDP-X enables an out-of-band CDP solution through synchronous mirroring to the CDP appliance/server. It acts as a pass-through to primary storage.
- > **CDP/IPStor® Console:** Comprehensive, graphical administration tool to configure all data protection services, set properties, and manage storage.
- > **DiskSafe™ Agent:** CDP agent that delivers superior block-level data protection. It protects application server direct-attached storage (DAS) or SAN attached storage by mirroring data to the FalconStor CDP server or appliance. Disk mirroring may be continuous or periodic. DiskSafe Agents may be used with a number of Microsoft Windows Server operating systems.
- > **Central Client Manager™ (CCM):** Java console that provides central management of client-side applications (DiskSafe, Snapshot Agents) and monitors client storage. The console can run on Microsoft Windows platforms and can be accessed from the IPStor Console.
- > **Application-aware Snapshot Agents:** Reside on application servers and ensure that active databases are fully protected. 100% data and transactional integrity is achieved through a robust and automated process that safely and reliably takes snapshots of databases for point-in-time copying.

6. What storage vendors does FalconStor CDP support?

FalconStor CDP storage appliances come with built-in storage. FalconStor CDP gateway appliances and SAKs support the widest range of disk arrays, including those from:

- > Adaptec
- > Compellent
- > EMC
- > Hitachi
- > HP
- > IBM
- > Fujitsu
- > NEC
- > StorageTek
- > Sun

A complete Certification Matrix can be found on www.falconstor.com under "Support & Services."

7. What connection protocols does FalconStor CDP support?

FalconStor CDP supports a variety of protocols including FC, iSCSI, and InfiniBand to deliver unparalleled performance across your business.

8. How many FalconStor CDP servers can I manage from one console?

As many as needed. The FalconStor CDP/IPStor Console can manage multiple CDP appliances, either individually or in groups, and allows administrators to perform comprehensive management tasks, including:

- > Create virtual volumes to act as data protection mirrors or CDP journal space
- > Set TimeMark snapshot schedules and policies
- > Set up replication and replication policies between CDP devices
- > Assign volumes to specific clients
- > Set up connections to external storage devices (gateway models only)

9. What kind of reports I can get with FalconStor CDP?

FalconStor CDP includes a number of preconfigured reports that cover a wide range of information. For example, reports are available for data throughput, disk utilization, replication status and performance, physical configuration information, and disk resource distribution.

Reports can be saved in various formats: Comma delimited (.csv), tab delimited (.txt) text, Microsoft Excel spreadsheet (.xls), PDF (.pdf), or HTML (.html), and can be sent via email. Each report can be created for a specific server or for multiple servers in a group, and can be scheduled to run at regular intervals.

10. What is the position of FalconStor CDP in the marketplace?

FalconStor CDP is a massively scalable solution designed to meet the needs of small-to-medium businesses (SMBs) as well as large enterprises. CDP appliances offer SMBs enterprise-class data protection in an easy-to-use appliance. For large enterprises, CDP gateway appliances and software appliance kits (SAKs) offer comprehensive disk-based data protection for heterogeneous environments. Geographically distributed organizations can use CDP appliances in remote/branch offices for local protection, and replicate to a CDP gateway appliance at a data center or remote disaster recovery (DR) site.

11. How can we purchase FalconStor CDP?

FalconStor CDP is available through system integrators and value added resellers (VARs) around the world. Because it is available in a variety of formats, prices vary.

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