Zerto Virtual Replication is installed in a site with virtual machines to be protected, as well as in the site where these virtual machines will be recovered.

This section describes Zerto Virtual Replication - Prerequisites and Requirements for vSphere Environments.

For AWS, Microsoft Azure or Microsoft Hyper-V protected sites requirements, go to myZerto > Technical Documentation portal.

- The Zerto Virtual Replication installation includes:
  - A Zerto Virtual Manager (ZVM): This is a Windows service and manages the replication at the site level, and the ability to install Virtual Replication Appliances (VRAs), virtual machines installed on each ESX/ESXi host to move the data to be replicated from the protected to recovery site.
  - A Virtual Backup Appliance (VBA): This is a Windows service that manages offsite backups within Zerto Virtual Replication on each site. The VBA service runs on the same machine as the Zerto Virtual Manager service.

- Zerto Virtual Replication can be installed at multiple sites and each site can be paired to any other site.

- All sites can be managed from a centralized user interface, the Zerto Cloud Manager (ZCM), a Windows service, or each site can be managed separately via a Zerto user interface, accessed from a browser or from within the vSphere Web Client or Client console.

- Zerto Virtual Replication is installed on both the protected and recovery sites.

- Zerto Virtual Replication also supports both the protected and recovery sites being managed by a single vCenter Server, for small branch offices.

  For example, from one datacenter to another datacenter, both managed by the same vCenter Server.

  - When the protected and recovery sites are the same site, only one installation of Zerto Virtual Replication is required.
  - When recovery is managed by the same vCenter Server as the protection, Zerto Virtual Manager is required to be installed once only.
  - When the protected and recovery sites are managed by different vCenter Servers, Zerto Virtual Manager is installed once per vCenter Server.
  - If Zerto Cloud Manager is used, vSphere Standard edition cannot be used. For details about Zerto Cloud Manager, see Zerto Cloud Manager Administration Guide.
  - When the vCenter Server is installed on a Linux machine via the vCenter Server Linux Virtual Appliance (vCSA), the Zerto Virtual Manager must still be installed on a Windows machine.

See the following sections:
- “Requirements for Each Site”, on page 1
- “Requirements for Virtual Replication Appliances”, on page 2
- “Requirements for Zerto Cloud Manager”, on page 3
- “Routable Networks”, on page 3
- “Minimum Bandwidth”, on page 3
- “Requirements for the Zerto Virtual Manager Web Client”, on page 3
- “Open Firewall Ports”, on page 4
- “Recommended Best Practices”, on page 5

Requirements for Each Site

- VMware vCenter Server version that is supported in the Interoperability Matrix with at least one ESX/ESXi host.
- The Zerto Virtual Manager must have access to the vCenter Server via a user with administrator level privileges to the vCenter Server.
When upgrading a vCenter Server, make sure:
- To close the ZVM UI.
- That the user entity that Zerto Virtual Replication is using is preserved in the user/permissions hierarchy.

On the machines where Zerto Virtual Replication is installed:
- 64-bit Operating System
- The Operating system version number must be 6.1 or higher
- The Windows operating system must be Server Edition
- Supported Operating Systems:
  - Windows Server 2008 R2 SP1 with KB3033929 and KB2864202
  - Windows Server 2012 base
  - Windows Server 2012 R2
  - Windows Server 2016
- Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5.2. or higher
  - The 4.5.2 installation executable is included as part of the Zerto Virtual Replication installation kit and it needs an additional 1.8GB of free disk space
  - If you install .NET Framework 4.5.2 as part of the Zerto Virtual Replication installation, you will be prompted to restart
- Reserve at least 2 CPUs and 4GB RAM for the machine
- The following CPU and RAM are recommended by Zerto for the machine running Zerto Virtual Replication, dependent on the size of the site:
  - Sites protecting up to 750 virtual machines and up to 5 peer sites: 2 CPUs and 4GB RAM
  - Sites protecting 751-2000 virtual machines and up to 15 peer sites: 4 CPUs or 2 Dual Core CPUs and 4GB RAM
  - Sites protecting over 2000 virtual machines and over 15 peer sites: 8 CPUs or 4 Dual Core CPUs and 8GB RAM
- The clocks on the machines where Zerto Virtual Replication is installed must be synchronized with UTC and with each other (the timezones can be different). Zerto recommends synchronizing the clocks using NTP.
- At least 4GB of free disk space
- It is required to exclude the Zerto Virtual Replication folder from antivirus scanning. Failure to do so may lead to the ZVR folder being incorrectly identified as a threat and in some circumstances corrupt the ZVR folder

**Requirements for Virtual Replication Appliances**

To install a VRA you require the following on the ESX/ESXi:
- 15GB storage space
- At least 1GB of reserved memory.
- The ESX/ESXi version must be 4.0U1 or higher.
- Ports 22 and 443 must be enabled on the host during the installation.

**Note:** For the duration of the installation of the VRA, the Zerto Virtual Manager enables SSH in the vCenter Server.

You must know the following information to install a VRA:
- The password to access the host root account, for ESXi 4.x and 5.x.
- The datastore the VRA will use and the local network used by the host.
- The network settings to access the peer site; either the default gateway or the IP address, subnet mask, and gateway.
- If a static IP is used, instead of DHCP, which is the Zerto recommendation, you need to know the IP address, subnet mask, and default gateway to be used by the VRA.

**Note:** In a non-production environment it is often convenient to use DHCP to allocate an IP to the VRA. In a production environment this is not recommended. For example, if the DHCP server changes the IP allocation on a reboot, the VRA does not handle the change.
Requirements for Zerto Cloud Manager

- Zerto Cloud Manager is installed on a machine running a Windows operating system with the following requirements:
  - A Windows operating system with one of the following:
    - Windows Server 2003 SP2 or higher
    - Windows Server 2008,
    - Windows Server 2008R2
    - Windows Server 2012
    - Windows Server 2012R2 with at least 1 CPU and 2GB RAM reserved
  - At least 4GB of free disk space.
  - Microsoft .NET Framework 4 or higher.

Routable Networks

The Zerto Virtual Replication architecture supports the following network configurations:

- In on-premise environments:
  - Flat LAN networks
  - VLAN networks, including private VLANs and stretched VLANs
  - WAN emulation
  - VPN IPsec
- In Cloud environments:
  - The instance (virtual machine) on which the Zerto Cloud Appliance is installed must use a subnet that is accessible from all Zerto Virtual Managers that may be connected to this instance.

The Zerto Virtual Replication architecture does not support NAT (Network Address Translation) firewalls.

Minimum Bandwidth

- The connectivity between sites must have the bandwidth capacity to handle the data to be replicated between the sites. The minimum dedicated bandwidth must be at least 5 Mb/sec.

The Zerto User Interface

- Zerto recommends using Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or later versions of Internet Explorer.
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 10 and all versions below, are not supported.
- The minimum recommended screen resolution is 1024*768.
Open Firewall Ports

The following architecture diagram shows the ports that must be opened in the firewalls on all sites.

- Zerto Virtual Replication can be installed at multiple sites and each of these sites can be paired to another site enabling protection across sites.
- Zerto Virtual Replication also supports protection and recovery on a site being managed by a single vCenter Server.
- If a proxy server is used at the site, specify the IP address of the Zerto Virtual Manager in the exception list in the Proxy Server settings.

The following scenarios are examples of protection and recovery with a single vCenter Server.

When a single vCenter Server is used, port 9081 shown in the above diagram is not used.

- From one datacenter, a branch office, to another datacenter, the main office, both managed by the same vCenter Server.
  Zerto recommends installing Zerto Virtual Replication in the main office site where protected machines will be recovered.
- From one host to a second host, both managed by the same vCenter Server.
- To the same host but using a different datastore for recovery.

The following table provides basic information, shown in the above diagram, about the ports used by Zerto Virtual Replication. Consider firewall rules if the services are not installed on the same network.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PORT</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Required between an ESXi host and the ZVM during installation of a VRA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>443</td>
<td>Required between the ZVM and the vCenter Server.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>443</td>
<td>Required between an ESXi host and the ZVM during installation of a VRA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4005</td>
<td>Log collection between the ZVM and site VRAs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4006</td>
<td>Communication between the ZVM and local site VRAs and the site VBA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4007</td>
<td>Control communication between protecting and peer VRAs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The default port provided during the ZVR installation which can be changed during the installation.*

**When the same vCenter Server is used for both the protected and recovery sites, ZVR is installed on one site only and this port can be ignored.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PORT</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4008</td>
<td>Communication between VRAs to pass data from protected virtual machines to a VRA on a recovery site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4009</td>
<td>Communication between the ZVM and local site VRAs to handle checkpoints.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5672</td>
<td>TCP communication between the ZVM and vCloud Director for access to AMQP messaging.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9779</td>
<td>Communication between ZVM and ZSSP (Zerto Self Service Portal).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9989</td>
<td>Communication between ZCM, and ZCM GUI and ZCM REST APIs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9080*</td>
<td>Communication between the ZVM, Zerto Powershell Cmdlets, and Zerto Diagnostic tool.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9081*</td>
<td>Communication between paired ZVMs**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9180*</td>
<td>Communication between the ZVM and the VBA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9669*</td>
<td>Communication between ZVM and ZVM GUI and ZVM REST APIs, and the ZCM.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The default port provided during the ZVR installation which can be changed during the installation.
**When the same vCenter Server is used for both the protected and recovery sites, ZVR is installed on one site only and this port can be ignored.

**Recommended Best Practices**

Zerto recommends the following best practices:

- Install Zerto Virtual Replication on a dedicated virtual machine with a dedicated administrator account and with VMware High Availability (HA) enabled. Avoid installing other applications on this machine. If other applications are installed, the Zerto Virtual Manager service must receive enough resources and HA must remain enabled.

- Install a VRA on every host in a cluster so that if protected virtual machines are moved from one host to another, there is always a VRA to protect the moved virtual machines. When protecting a vApp, you must install a VRA on every host in the cluster on both the protected and recovery sites and ensure that DRS is enabled for the clusters.

- Install VRAs using static IP addresses and not DHCP for a production environment.

- It is required to exclude the Zerto Virtual Replication folder from antivirus scanning. Failure to do so may lead to the ZVR folder being incorrectly identified as a threat and in some circumstances corrupt the ZVR folder.