Zerto - Prerequisites & Requirements for vSphere Environments

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ZVR-REV-7.0
Zerto - Prerequisites & Requirements for vSphere Environments

Zerto software 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 - Requirements for vSphere Environments. For AWS, Microsoft Azure or Microsoft Hyper-V protected sites requirements, go to myZerto > Technical Documentation portal.

- The Zerto 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): A Windows service that manages File Level Recovery operations within Zerto Virtual Replication. These repositories can be local or on a shared network.

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

- Zerto 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 is required.
  - When recovery is managed by the same vCenter Server as the protection, Zerto is required to be installed once only.
  - When the protected and recovery sites are managed by different vCenter Servers, Zerto 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 4
- Recommended Best Practices on page 5
- Requirements for Virtual Replication Appliances on page 6
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.

**Note:**
- When upgrading vCenter Server be sure that the user entity that Zerto Virtual Replication is using is preserved in the user/permissions hierarchy.
- When upgrading a vCenter Server, you need to close the ZVM UI.

- On the machines where Zerto 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
    - Windows Server 2019
  - Microsoft .NET Framework 4.7.2. or higher
    - The 4.7.2 installation executable is included as part of the Zerto installation kit and it needs an additional 4.5GB of free disk space
    - If you install .NET Framework 4.7.2 as part of the Zerto installation, you will be prompted to restart
  - Reserve at least 2 CPUs and 4GB RAM for the machine
  - For performing Search and Restore operations reserve at least 4 vCPUs and 10GB RAM for the machine.
  - The following CPU and RAM are recommended by Zerto for the machine running the Zerto solution, dependent on the size of the site.
    - Zerto recommends running with at least 16GB memory.
### Number of Virtual Machines or Peer Sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Virtual Machines or Peer Sites</th>
<th>Number of CPUs</th>
<th>RAM Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 150 virtual machines</td>
<td>4 CPUs</td>
<td>8GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And up to 2 peer sites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 150-750 virtual machines</td>
<td>4 CPUs</td>
<td>8GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And up to 5 peer sites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 750-5000 virtual machines</td>
<td>4 CPUs</td>
<td>16GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And up to 80 peer sites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 5000-10000 virtual machines</td>
<td>4 CPUs</td>
<td>24GB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or 80+ peer sites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The **clocks** on the machines where Zerto 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 **20GB** of free disk space
- You must **exclude** the following folders from **antivirus scanning**:

  - Zerto Virtual Replication
  - `%ProgramData%\Zerto\Data\zvm_db.mdf`
  - `C:\Program Files\Zerto\Zerto Virtual Replication\Zerto.Zvm.Service.exe`
  - `C:\Program Files\Zerto\Zerto Virtual Replication\Zerto.Vba.VbaService.exe`
  - `C:\Program Files\Zerto\Zerto Virtual Replication\Zerto Online Services Connector\Zerto.Online.Services.Connector.exe`
  - `C:\Program Files\Zerto\Zerto Virtual Replication\Embedded DB Manager Service\Zerto.LocalDbInstanceManagerService.exe`

Failure to do so may lead to the Zerto Virtual Replication folder being incorrectly identified as a threat and in some circumstances corrupt the Zerto Virtual Replication folder.

### Recommended Best Practices

Zerto recommends the following best practices:

- Install Zerto 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.

Requirements for Virtual Replication Appliances

In Hyper-V environments on page 6
In vSphere environments on page 7

In Hyper-V environments

To install a VRA you require the following on the Hyper-V host:

• 15GB storage space

• At least 1GB of reserved memory.

• Port 8100 must be enabled on SCVMM.

• Minimum PowerShell version: 4.0

• The following PowerShell cmdlet has been run

  Install-WindowsFeature -Name Hyper-V -IncludeManagementTools -Restart

You must know the following information to install a VRA:

• The storage 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.

In vSphere environments

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 5.1 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 5.x and higher.
- 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
• Windows Server 2016
• At least 4GB of free disk space.
• Microsoft .NET Framework 4 or higher.

Routable Networks

The Zerto 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 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

For supported browsers, see Interoperability Matrix for All Zerto Versions, in the section Supported Browsers.

The lowest supported screen resolution is 1366x768.

Open Firewall Ports

The following architecture diagram shows the ports that must be opened in the firewalls on all sites.
Zerto can be installed at multiple sites and each of these sites can be paired to any of the other sites.

Zerto supports both the protected and recovery sites being managed by a single vCenter Server or System Center Virtual Machine Manager. For example, in the following scenario:

- From a branch office, to the main office, both managed by the same System Center Virtual Machine Manager.
- From one host to a second host, both managed by the same System Center Virtual Machine Manager.
- To the same host but using different storage for recovery.

It is recommended to install Zerto in the main office site where protected machines will be recovered.

The following table provides basic information about the ports shown in the above diagram by Zerto.

Consider firewall rules if the services are not installed on the same network.

**Note:** UDP ports in the 444xx range for DHCP are not required and can therefore be blocked.

<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>Port</td>
<td>Purpose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>443</td>
<td>Required between an ESXi host and the ZVM during installation of a VRA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>445</td>
<td>Required between LTR service and a network shared repository on top of SMB protocol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2049</td>
<td>Required between LTR service and a network shared repository on top of NFS protocol.</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>
<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.
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