

IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft
Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service
Version 2.9.0.1

Release Notes

The IBM logo, consisting of the letters "IBM" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Each letter is composed of horizontal bars, with the "I" having three bars, the "B" having six bars, and the "M" having four bars.

First Edition (June 2018)

This edition applies to version 2.9.0.1 of the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service software package. Newer document editions may be issued for the same product version in order to add missing information or amend typographical errors. The edition is reset to 'First Edition' for every new product version.

© Copyright IBM Corporation 2009, 2018.

US Government Users Restricted Rights – Use, duplication or disclosure restricted by GSA ADP Schedule Contract with IBM Corp.

Contents

Overview	1
What's new in version 2.9.0.1	1
Compatibility and requirements	1
Supported Windows Server versions	1
Supported VMware platforms	2
Supported storage systems	2
Change log	2
Version 2.9.0.1 (June 2018)	2
Version 2.9.0 (June 2017)	2
Version 2.8.0.1 (October 2016)	3
Version 2.8.0 (April 2016)	3
Version 2.7.0.1 (September 2015)	3
Version 2.7.0 (June 2015)	3
Version 2.6.0.1 (March 2015)	4
Version 2.6.0 (September 2014)	4
Version 2.5.0 (December 2013)	4
Version 2.4.0 (June 2013)	4
Version 2.3.2.2 (April 2013)	5
Known issues	5
Known interoperability issues	8
Related information and publications	8
Getting information, help, and service	9
Notices	11
Trademarks	12

Overview

The IBM Spectrum Accelerate™ Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS) is a software module that runs as a service on Microsoft Windows Server and automatically creates snapshots of Windows-based or VMware-based applications.

The module uses the Windows Server VSS framework for its management interface, and the IBM® XIV® Storage System as the storage system on which snapshot data is stored and maintained.

You can download the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service software package at any time from the IBM Fix Central website(www.ibm.com/support/fixcentral).

What's new in version 2.9.0.1

Version 2.9.0.1 adds support for TLS 1.2.

Compatibility and requirements

This section specifies the compatibility and requirements of version 2.9.0.1 of the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service.

Supported Windows Server versions

The IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service is compatible with different versions of Microsoft Windows Server, as detailed in the following table.

Operating system	Service Pack	Architecture
Microsoft Windows Server 2008	SP1, SP2	x86, x64
Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2	None, SP1	x64
Microsoft Windows Server 2012	None	x64
Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2	None	x64
Microsoft Windows Server 2016	None	x64

Important:

- Refer to HyperSwap issues and limitations for Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2 under Known interoperability issues for important information about prerequisites for Windows Server support with HyperSwap®.
 - Microsoft .NET Framework 4.5 must be installed on all supported Windows Server versions.
 - Microsoft Windows Hyper-V host operating system (OS) supports Windows Server 2012 and later.
 - Microsoft Windows Hyper-V guest OS supports Windows Server 2008 and later.
-

Supported VMware platforms

The IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service supports different VMware platforms, as detailed in the following table.

VMware platform	Version
ESXi	5.0, 5.1, 5.5, 6.0
vCenter Server	5.0, 5.1, 5.5

Supported storage systems

The IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service supports different IBM storage systems, as listed in the following table.

Storage system	Microcode version
IBM FlashSystem® A9000 and A9000R	12.0.x, 12.1.0
IBM XIV Storage System	10.2.x 11.0.x, 11.1.x, 11.2.x, 11.3.x, 11.4.x, 11.5.x, 11.6.x
IBM Spectrum Accelerate	11.5.x

Note:

- A snapshot will not be created if the free snapshot space is less than or equal to 17 GB.
 - Newer microcode versions may also be compatible. When a newer microcode version becomes available, refer to the latest storage system release notes or the Lifecycle and support matrix on IBM Knowledge Center to check whether the new microcode version is also supported.
-

Change log

This section summarizes the changes made in different version releases of the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service.

Version 2.9.0.1 (June 2018)

Version 2.9.0.1 includes the following enhancement and fix.

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-261176	Enhancement: Support for TLS 1.2 added.
VSSP-261174	Fixed: The VSS Provider didn't support TLS 1.2 after disabling TLS 1.0/1.1 on Windows Server.

Version 2.9.0 (June 2017)

Version 2.9.0 added support for IBM FlashSystem A9000 and IBM FlashSystem A9000R 12.1.0, including IBM HyperSwap.

Additional enhancements in version 2.9.0:

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-261155	Enhancement: Support for high availability snapshots added.
VSSP-261159	Change: Product name changed from "IBM XIV Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service" to "IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service."
VSSP-261154	Enhancement: Private APIs for FlashCopy Manager (FCM) created to provide capability to manage a snapshot of a snapshot in order to perform mailbox level restores.

Version 2.8.0.1 (October 2016)

Version 2.8.0.1 added support for Microsoft Windows Server 2016.

Version 2.8.0 (April 2016)

Version 2.8.0 added support for IBM FlashSystem A9000 and A9000R 12.0.

Version 2.7.0.1 (September 2015)

Version 2.7.0.1 added support for IBM Spectrum Accelerate Storage System 11.5.1.c and resolved the following issues.

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-261125	Fixed: IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service (VSS) lost connection to XIV after temporary network disconnection and recovery, and the connection could only be restored by restarting VSS and IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider.
VSSP-261126	Fixed: Snapshots mapped by IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service in a Hyper-V passthrough iSCSI environment were sometimes mapped to the wrong host, in cases where FC ports did not exist or were disabled. Now snapshots are mapped to the correct host, whether FC Ports are available or not.

Version 2.7.0 (June 2015)

Version 2.7.0 added support for IBM XIV Storage System 11.6.0 and introduced the following changes.

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-261069	Enhancement: The service name for IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service is changed to "IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows VSS," and the service description is changed to "IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service."
VSSP-261105	Fixed: InstallShield is upgraded to 2014.

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-261109	Enhancement: Support for .NET Framework 4.5 is added.

Version 2.6.0.1 (March 2015)

Version 2.6.0.1 added support for IBM Spectrum™ Accelerate storage system deployments and introduced the following changes.

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-261094	Enhancement: Allows the XIV storage system to be managed by more than three nodes.
VSSP-261101	Fixed: Vulnerability in version 3 of the SSL encryption protocol allows an attacker to read information encrypted with this version of the protocol in plain text using a Man-in-the-Middle (MITM) attack.

Version 2.6.0 (September 2014)

Version 2.6.0 added support for version 11.5.0 of the XIV microcode.

Additional enhancements in version 2.6.0:

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-261054	Enhancement: Added support for the Hyper-V/MSFC Environment.
VSSP-261059	Enhancement: Added support for 3-way mirroring with the XIV Proxy LUN feature.
VSSP-261064	Enhancement: Added support for the XIV multi-tenancy feature.
VSSP-261065	Enhancement: In a VMware ESXi RDM environment, the user can configure a Soap timeout in the configuration file or in the MachinePoolCLI.exe file.

Version 2.5.0 (December 2013)

Version 2.5.0 added support for version 11.4.0 of the XIV microcode, as well as for VMware vSphere 5.5 and Microsoft Windows Server 2012 R2.

Additional changes in version 2.5.0:

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-261036	Fixed: When a volume is in the proxy phase and the destination pool name is different than the source pool name, the VSS provider cannot create a snapshot of that volume.

Version 2.4.0 (June 2013)

Version 2.4.0 added support for version 11.3.0 of the XIV microcode and for the IBM Hyper-Scale Mobility (online volume migration) feature.

Additional changes in version 2.4.0:

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-208026	Enhancement: The XIV Proxy LUN feature is now supported, allowing volumes to be mirrored in proxy state.
VSSP-240823	Enhancement: Replicated snapshots can now be enabled from the Machine Pool Editor GUI.
VSSP-240824	Change: The term <i>Replicated Snapshots</i> has been renamed to <i>Mirrored Snapshots</i> , in line with the XIV mirroring terminology.
VSSP-240826	Change: If incorrect parameters are entered upon the first configuration try, another configuration try is now allowed (the configuration interface no longer automatically closes upon incorrect data entry).
VSSP-256652	Fixed: Deleting old VSS Provider log files causes the following error to appear in the Windows event log: Unable to delete older log file, error code: 2
VSSP-261027	Fixed: On x64-based Windows Server 2003, snapshot creation fails on drive C.

Version 2.3.2.2 (April 2013)

Version 2.3.2.2 resolved the following issue.

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-258713	Fixed: If vCenter Server is installed on a non-English version of Windows Server, a redundant SCSI controller might be created for each target volume that is mapped as RDM.

Known issues

This section details the known issues in version 2.9.0.1, along with possible workarounds (if workarounds are available).

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-6698	<p>Warning message about storage identifiers that are not supported on Windows Server 2008.</p> <p>The following warning message is displayed for storage systems that support TPGS: The provider has reported a storage identifier that is not supported by VSS.</p> <p>This warning message does not affect the normal operation of VSS and you can ignore it. For more information, refer to the relevant Microsoft Support website(support.microsoft.com/kb/951793)</p>

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-8889	<p>Shadow set creation may fail on Windows Server 2008 R2 after LUN resynchronization.</p> <p>Shadow sets creation may fail after performing LUN resynchronization on Windows Server 2008 R2. This is a known Microsoft VSS issue.</p> <p>Until Microsoft releases a KB hotfix, you must restart the VSS service after each LUN resynchronization.</p>
VSSP-17662	<p>The VSS operation may fail during import on Windows 7 and Windows Server 2008 R2.</p> <p>A timeout may occur in the VSS process during an import of a shadow set. As a result, one or more snapshots may be missing from the system after a rescan, even if they are mapped to the host by the XIV system. The Microsoft hotfix 977096 (support.microsoft.com/kb/977096) resolves this issue:</p> <p>This issue was fixed in Windows Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1.</p>
VSSP-64302	<p>An exception occurs when trying to repair a working VSS Provider installation via the Repair option of the installation wizard.</p> <p>To resolve this issue:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Go to Control Panel > Programs and Features > Add or Remove Programs. 2. Select the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider entry and then click Uninstall or Remove. The uninstallation begins. Note: During the uninstallation, ignore any exception error message. 3. After the uninstallation is complete, the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider entry continues to appear in the list of installed programs. 4. Select the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider entry and then click Repair or Change > Repair 5. Follow the Repair wizard until the repair is complete.
VSSP-84189	<p>On VMware ESX servers, the VSS Provider does not rescan for Host Bus Adapters (HBAs) after unmapping Raw Device Mappings (RDMs).</p> <p>Because the unmapping of RDMs is performed in single mode, manually re-scanning for the HBAs of every single unmapped RDM is a time consuming procedure during which the VSS service may be timed out.</p> <p>To save time, wait for the VMware ESX server to automatically rescan for the HBAs instead of re-scanning manually.</p>

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-147364	<p>The VSS Provider DLL is left registered after an installation failure.</p> <p>When performing a rollback to an older version after an installation failure, the VSS Provider DLL may still be registered in DCOM.</p> <p>To remove the DLL from DCOM:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Click Start > Run and type dcomcnfg.exe in the command box. 2. Go to Component Services > Computers > My Computer > DCOM Config 3. On the right pane, click the Provider component, and then press Delete on the keyboard. A message box is displayed to confirm the deletion of the component. 4. Click Yes.
VSSP-164293	<p>On some occasions, when running Windows Server 2003 or Windows Server 2008 as a guest operating system on a VMware platform connected to XIV version 11.0.0, importing a VSS hardware snapshot created on a RDM device results in a VSS enumeration issue.</p> <p>To avoid this issue or to resolve it upon occurrence, perform the following procedure before importing VSS hardware snapshots:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open the command prompt window. 2. Enter: net stop xProv 3. Enter: net stop vss 4. Retry the import operation.
VSSP-243718	<p>The VSS Provider cannot be installed in a directory that is named with anything other than English characters.</p> <p>Currently there is no workaround for this limitation.</p>
VSSP-258222	<p>The VSS Provider snapshot map parameter (MapSnapshot) in the Windows registry might get a wrong host name.</p> <p>This occurs due to low-case characters that Windows Server might record in the DeviceIdentifierPage registry parameter, located at:</p> <pre>HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\HARDWARE\DEVICEMAP\Scsi\Scsi Port 3\Scsi Bus 0\Target Id 0\Logical Unit Id 0\DeviceIdentifierPage</pre> <p>To resolve this issue, restart Windows.</p>

Ticket ID	Description
VSSP-259229	<p>The VSS Provider service (named "xProv") and the Microsoft VSS service must be restarted on the Windows Server host after the status of mirrored snapshots is changed from Disabled to Enabled.</p> <p>In such a case, without a service restart, snapshots are not created on mirrored volumes.</p> <p>Currently there is no workaround for this limitation.</p>
VSSP-261047	<p>The VSS provider cannot unmap a volume when the unmap_vol_set_default_idle_time setting on XIV 11.4.0 is not zero.</p> <p>Workaround: Set unmap_vol_set_default_idle_time to zero (0) before deleting or masking a snapshot.</p>

Known interoperability issues

This section describes known issues or limitations that could arise when using this version of IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service in conjunction with other components in the production environment, such as hardware switches, host bus adapters (HBAs), other IBM products, or different software platforms such as operating systems, clustering solutions, virtual machine servers, multipathing solutions, and other third-party components.

HyperSwap issues and limitations for Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2

In Windows Server 2008 and 2008 R2, an attempt to failover a cluster group results in a Stop error on the new active node. This stems from the inability of the Microsoft Device-Specific Module driver to allocate sufficient memory from the Report Target Port Groups (RTPG) command.

IBM Technote S1010299, **IBM FlashSystem A9000 and A9000R HyperSwap support notes for Windows Server hosts**, provides important guidance for using HyperSwap with Windows Server 2008 and Windows Server 2008 R2.

Related information and publications

You can find additional information and publications related to the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service on the following websites.

- IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service on IBM Knowledge Center(ibm.com/support/knowledgcenter/SS4N3L/landing/SAF_VSS_welcome_page.html)
- IBM XIV Storage System on IBM Knowledge Center(ibm.com/support/knowledgcenter/STJTAG/com.ibm.help.xivgen3.doc/xiv_kcwelcomepage.html)
- IBM Spectrum Accelerate on IBM Knowledge Center(www.ibm.com/support/knowledgcenter/STZSWD/landing/IBM_Spectrum_Accelerate_welcome_page.html)

- IBM FlashSystem A9000 on IBM Knowledge Center(ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/STJKMM/landing/IBM_FlashSystem_A9000_welcome_page.html)
- IBM FlashSystem A9000R on IBM Knowledge Center(ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/STJKN5/landing/IBM_FlashSystem_A9000R_welcome_page.html)
- *IBM Hyper-Scale Mobility Overview and Usage* (www.redbooks.ibm.com/redbooks.nsf/redpieceabstracts/redp5007.html)
- Microsoft MSDN web page for Volume Shadow Copy Service(msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb968832.aspx)
- Microsoft Windows Server troubleshooting center (technet.microsoft.com/en-us/windowsserver)
- VMware ESXi and ESX Info Center(www.vmware.com/products/vsphere/esxi-and-esx)
- VMware Product Support for VMware vSphere (www.vmware.com/support/product-support/vsphere), including support for ESX, ESXi, and vCenter
- VMware knowledgebase (kb.vmware.com)
- Videos Related to IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Provider for Microsoft Windows Volume Shadow Copy Service(www.youtube.com/channel/UCRIw6cXxi--bHnMWG45VgNw)

Getting information, help, and service

If you need help, service, technical assistance, or want more information about IBM products, you can find various sources to assist you. You can view the following websites to get information about IBM products and services and to find the latest technical information and support.

- IBM website (ibm.com[®])
- IBM Support Portal website (www.ibm.com/storage/support)
- IBM Directory of Worldwide Contacts website (www.ibm.com/planetwide)

Notices

These legal notices pertain to the information in this IBM Storage product documentation.

This information was developed for products and services offered in the US. This material may be available from IBM in other languages. However, you may be required to own a copy of the product or product version in that language in order to access it.

IBM may not offer the products, services, or features discussed in this document in other countries. Consult your local IBM representative for information on the products and services currently available in your area. Any reference to an IBM product, program, or service is not intended to state or imply that only that IBM product, program, or service may be used. Any functionally equivalent product, program, or service that does not infringe any IBM intellectual property right may be used instead. However, it is the user's responsibility to evaluate and verify the operation of any non-IBM product, program, or service.

IBM may have patents or pending patent applications covering subject matter described in this document. The furnishing of this document does not grant you any license to these patents. You can send license inquiries, in writing, to:

*IBM Director of Licensing
IBM Corporation
North Castle Drive, MD-NC119
Armonk, NY 10504-1785
USA*

For license inquiries regarding double-byte character set (DBCS) information, contact the IBM Intellectual Property Department in your country or send inquiries, in writing, to:

*Intellectual Property Licensing
Legal and Intellectual Property Law
IBM Japan Ltd.
19-21, Nihonbashi-Hakozakicho, Chuo-ku
Tokyo 103-8510, Japan*

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION PROVIDES THIS PUBLICATION "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF NON-INFRINGEMENT, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. Some states do not allow disclaimer of express or implied warranties in certain transactions, therefore, this statement may not apply to you.

This information could include technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. Changes are periodically made to the information herein; these changes will be incorporated in new editions of the publication. IBM may make improvements and/or changes in the product(s) and/or the program(s) described in this publication at any time without notice.

Any references in this information to non-IBM Web sites are provided for convenience only and do not in any manner serve as an endorsement of those Web sites. The materials at those Web sites are not part of the materials for this IBM product and use of those Web sites is at your own risk.

IBM may use or distribute any of the information you supply in any way it believes appropriate without incurring any obligation to you.

Licensees of this program who wish to have information about it for the purpose of enabling: (i) the exchange of information between independently created programs and other programs (including this one) and (ii) the mutual use of the information which has been exchanged, should contact:

*IBM Director of Licensing
IBM Corporation
North Castle Drive, MD-NC119
Armonk, NY 10504-1785
USA*

Such information may be available, subject to appropriate terms and conditions, including in some cases, payment of a fee.

The licensed program described in this document and all licensed material available for it are provided by IBM under terms of the IBM Customer Agreement, IBM International Program License Agreement or any equivalent agreement between us.

The performance data discussed herein is presented as derived under specific operating conditions. Actual results may vary.

Information concerning non-IBM products was obtained from the suppliers of those products, their published announcements or other publicly available sources. IBM has not tested those products and cannot confirm the accuracy of performance, compatibility or any other claims related to non-IBM products. Questions on the capabilities of non-IBM products should be addressed to the suppliers of those products.

All statements regarding IBM's future direction or intent are subject to change or withdrawal without notice, and represent goals and objectives only.

Trademarks

IBM, the IBM logo, and ibm.com are trademarks or registered trademarks of International Business Machines Corp., registered in many jurisdictions worldwide. Other product and service names might be trademarks of IBM or other companies. A current list of IBM trademarks is available on the Copyright and trademark information website (www.ibm.com/legal/us/en/copytrade.shtml).

Microsoft, Windows Server, Windows, and the Windows logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.

VMware, ESX, ESXi, vSphere, vCenter, and vCenter Site Recovery Manager are trademarks or registered trademarks of VMware Corporation in the United States, other countries, or both.

Other product and service names might be trademarks of IBM or other companies.



Printed in USA