



VMBACKUP
Hyper-V | VMware

Altaro VM Backup vs. Windows Server Backup 2012 R2

Product comparison

Altaro VM Backup 6 vs. Windows Server Backup 2012 R2

Executive Summary

- Altaro is a polished professional product that supports both Hyper-V and VMware based workloads
- Windows Server Backup is a rudimentary accessory with limited scope
- Windows Server Backup is extremely feature-limited

Windows Server Backup 2012 R2 Weaknesses against Altaro VM Backup

- **Just the very basics** - Windows Server Backup is included with Windows Server and Hyper-V Server as an accessory. Microsoft has a full-blown backup application in their Data Protection Manager product, and as a result, has no real incentive to make WSB anything more than a very basic solution.
- **Difficult to configure and limited features** - WSB is difficult to configure and has gotten more difficult in recent version. It does not support any sort of centralized management. It can back up most clustered items, but it is rather clumsy about it; all items need to be selected on all possible nodes and it will simply skip items when they're not available. WSB's scheduling is extremely simplistic, and can't properly account for disparate hosts, especially when a guest might move during a backup window.
- **Difficult to manage storage & retention policies** - Reusing a single storage location in WSB is very tricky unless it is a dynamic volume. Retention policies are not easy to understand or implement. Anything more than a basic "backup everything nightly" plan requires custom scripting implementation.
- **Very little support available** - Support for WSB is very difficult to come by. Microsoft Product Support Services charges per-incident. Few people in the community use WSB as a primary solution and therefore, finding community support is difficult. Documentation for the product is sparse.
- **Not designed to be easy to use** - On a system only running Hyper-V, the only way to use WSB is via script.
- **No support for VMware workloads via the VMware APIs** - While Altaro VM Backup support both Hyper-V and VMware based workloads natively, the only way for Windows Server Backup to protect VMware based VMs is through the guest OS layer, which is cumbersome and makes backups of multiple systems difficult.

Windows Server Backup 2012 R2 Strengths over Altaro VM Backup

- **Free:** Windows Server Backup is a completely free product
- **Backup beyond Hyper-V:** It also allows for backing up just about any Microsoft server type as it is not Hyper-V-specific.



Feature comparison

	Altaro VM Backup	Windows Server Backup 2012 R2
Size of install files	183MB Main installer.	Small Built in Windows Feature Windows Feature
Time to Install	Less than 5 minutes If the .Net Framework is already installed.	Less than 10 minutes
Time to first backup	Less than 5 minutes Depends mainly on the speed in which the operator can configure a backup target.	Less than 10 minutes
Major Requirements	Hyper-V: No separate system necessary. The entire product can be installed on a Hyper-V host. VMware: The management console can be installed on any compatible Windows system, including a desktop operating system. Does not need to be a dedicated environment.	Windows OS Required
Ease of use	Very simple to use A novice user should be able to perform both backups and restores without much effort.	Moderately difficult to use. Very little support and overly basic controls.
Admin maintenance required	Minimal	Minimal Very little to manage with this solution, therefore very little management overhead.
Cost of ownership	Low Maximum \$585 per host.	Free Feature is baked into the Windows Server OS and provides very limited features



Price for 1 virtualization host (2 sockets)	\$395 - \$585 (Standard / Unlimited Edition, incl. 1 year SMA*)	\$0 – Included with Windows
Price for 5 virtualization hosts (2 sockets per server)	\$1,975 - \$2,925 (Standard / Unlimited Edition, incl. 1 year SMA)	\$0 – Included with Windows
Pricing structure	Straightforward Priced per host.	Free
Maintenance and Support cost	25% Of initial license fee First year included with initial license purchase.	Support cost is \$500 per incident via Microsoft product support
Quality of Support	99% client satisfaction 59s avg response time – phone 95m avg response time – email 76s avg response time - live chat	Moderate Although the per incident support price is high with Microsoft, there support has been known to be of moderate to high quality, with a fairly quick response rate.
Fit for SMB organizations (1-50 hosts)	Perfect fit Altaro provides a product with a feature set and pricing model that fits well with SMB needs and budgets.	Free, yet lacking in all but the most basic of features required by modern day businesses.
CSV-aware / Support for vCenter		 (No vCenter Support)
Agentless		
Offsite Replication w/ WAN Acceleration		
Start VM Directly from Backup		
Live Backups of Windows VMs		
Live Backups of non-Windows VMs		



Hyper-V and VMware Support		 (No VMware Support)
Tape Support		

* SMA = Software Maintenance Agreement that covers software updates and Technical Support.