

Zerto 5.5 – what's new?

Zerto 5.5 will be available for general release on 22 August (however if you're an existing Zerto customer it's already available). Here, Plan B explores the new features and benefits – some of which could be a game changer for businesses deciding on a replication technology.

Zerto is strategically positioning itself as a provider of 'IT resiliency', which carries its offering further than Disaster Recovery, and quite rightly so. The company understands that customers expect businesses to be available. Instead of just delivering a solution to help businesses recover from failure, it is looking to support businesses to protect themselves against downtime and prevent threats such as ransomware, migrations, moving to the cloud, and development projects from impacting customers. With Zerto, organisations can now reap the benefits of a second system on-demand without the prior limitations of cost.

According to Zerto, 58% of C-level decision makers are leveraging the cloud for new projects. Whilst often the front end is being built in the cloud, the data is often staying on-site which breeds an increase in hybrid applications that need hybrid

ways of being protected. 52% of CXO's are moving workloads to the cloud to leverage economies of scale, instead of being in data centers. 45% are using the cloud to add capacity to their business, where they may have data centers running out of space and are using the cloud for their business or DR. Disaster-Recovery-As-A-Service (DRaaS) is becoming a big initiative for such organisations, and rising in popularity.

Zerto is proving to be a company that demonstrates that it listens to both its customers and the MSP's/CSP's that are their distributors. Their newest release comes with a big game changer

Orchestrated failback from Azure

Having built a close working relationship with Microsoft, Zerto enabled customers to replicate their systems to Azure back in November 2016.

This offered the cost savings associated with the on-demand pricing of the cloud (you only pay for VMs when you spin them up for testing or during failover) as well as scalability and flexibility. The problem was, once in Azure, it was difficult to

migrate back again. Failover was excellent, fallback was seen as a migration project, which for businesses meant a reluctance to failover and use their DR in the first instance.

With Zerto 5.5, fallback is now fully orchestrated, enabling customers to come home to their production systems at the press of a button. No lengthy migration projects, no data loss, no hassle.

This drives a new mentality – businesses can now have the benefit of a second set of systems on-demand which is easy to switch over to, and easy to switch back from. Any work on your production systems can be tested first on your DR environment before risking it on your live system. The upshot? Less failures, better IT resilience.

AWS recovery enhancements

Recovery time objectives from AWS have been improved to be similar to what you experience with your VMWare environment, although there is not yet orchestrated failback to enable you to easily fallout of Amazon Web Services (AWS).

Analytics and new mobile widget

With a new Zerto Virtual Manager (ZVM) Analytics dashboard available for users via their Zerto portal, information that was previously accessible only if you were a Zerto cloud manager is available to everyone. Users can see across multiple environments – on prem and off prem, all in one place. More features such as journal history, RPO averages and capacity will be rolled out over time.

A new mobile widget is also within version 5.5 which gives users on iOS and Android an overview of their Virtual Protection Groups (VPGs) including status and RPO averages so they can get a quick view of their environment from their smartphone.

Easier upgradability

With Zerto 5.5 your Virtual Replication Applications (VRAs) automatically upgrade when you upgrade your ZVM. A simple checkbox within the ZVM installer will activate this process, making upgrades a whole lot easier.

API advancements

Zerto's API advancements are helping CSP's automate the on-boarding process, and in doing so enabling customers faster implementation. Plan B uses the API extensively for automated testing and failover enhancements.

Additional platforms

vSphere 6.5 and Hyper-V 2016 are now supported platforms with this latest release.

[Ready for Zerto 5.5? Talk to Plan B](#)

If you'd like to discuss Zerto 5.5 for your business and achieve zero data loss with instant recovery, talk to [Plan B](#)