

What's new in Continuous Data Protector (CDP) 6.0 and Network Storage Server (NSS) 6.0

The FalconStor® IPStor® platform is the TOTALLY Open™ storage virtualization engine behind solutions including FalconStor Continuous Data Protector™ (CDP) for business continuity/disaster recovery and FalconStor Network Storage Server (NSS) for storage virtualization, provisioning, and management. This document lists the new and enhanced features in the IPStor platform that impact version 6.0 of FalconStor CDP and FalconStor NSS.

New features

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 and CentOS Linux 5 support

FalconStor CDP and FalconStor NSS 6.0 support both Red Hat and CentOS Linux operating systems and come with CentOS Linux 5. FalconStor CDP and FalconStor NSS leverage open-source operating systems running on off-the-shelf servers to reduce management complexity and to expedite adoption of hardware improvements.

Thin Provisioning

Thin Provisioning allows a virtual disk to present more capacity to a server than is actually provisioned. Physical storage is automatically allocated only when needed, enabling more efficient storage utilization. Thin Provisioning can be used for primary disks, mirrors, snapshot volumes, and replicas.

IP Bonding

IP Bonding replaces the IP Trunking feature in previous versions. IP Bonding uses a free, open source facility for FalconStor CDP and FalconStor NSS appliance-to-appliance communications over multiple IP links with failover and load-balanced capability. This reduces costs and improves supportability.

Dual Active-Active controller array support

FalconStor IPStor technology supports H3C dual controller disk array and in turn provides a high availability (HA) solution in a single appliance.

Violin Solid State Disk (SSD) support

FalconStor CDP and FalconStor NSS support Violin SSD as cache or ultra-fast storage on demand. This significantly increases storage and retrieval performance.

InfiniBand support

For high-performance computing environments, FalconStor CDP and FalconStor NSS provide high-speed InfiniBand protocol support. These products integrate an InfiniBand target mode for clients supporting InfiniBand protocol, such as Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 or SUSE Linux Enterprise Server 10.

Central Client Manager™ (CCM)

Central Client Manager (CCM) provides centralized management of client-side applications and monitors client storage. The console can be run on Windows platforms and can also be accessed from FalconStor CDP via the FalconStor IPStor console. CCM enables administrators to create and manage groups of clients for efficient installation, licensing, activation, and upgrading of client-side applications. In addition, it simplifies management and monitoring of multiple clients, and reduces operator time and risk of error by consolidating operations across multiple servers.

1TB SATA drives for FalconStor CDP and NSS appliances

FalconStor CDP and FalconStor NSS storage appliances now include 1TB SATA drives—up from 750GB SATA drives—delivering higher capacity in each appliance.

Enhancements to existing features

Fibre Channel (FC) target enhancement

Supports Qlogic Multi-ID for 4GB HBAs, which allows a FC port to assume multiple worldwide names. FalconStor CDP and FalconStor NSS also support the Linux MPIO driver for Qlogic HBAs. This reduces the total HBA port count for HA configurations by eliminating the need for dedicated standby ports. This also reduces total HBA port count by sharing a single physical port both as an Initiator and as a Target.

Storage space management enhancements

The maximum supported physical and virtual disk size has increased from 2TB to 16TB per LUN. This enables the use of larger disk and volume sizes, and significantly increases total capacity of each FalconStor CDP and NSS gateway appliance to a total of 16 petabytes.

Mirroring

A throughput control feature in Synchronous Mirroring has been enhanced to control the throughput per device. Heavy I/O traffic can now pause the mirror resynchronization at pre-defined thresholds to prevent system overload. This prevents system overload during periods of high usage.

Reporting

FalconStor CDP and FalconStor NSS include a wide range of new reports as well as new sorting and scheduling options for existing reports. Centralized reporting simplifies management and enhances protection of the FalconStor storage environment by providing greater insight into the infrastructure, including reports to help identify unprotected assets.

FalconStor CDP/FalconStor NSS console

An enhanced Java-based console is now available via download from a FalconStor CDP or FalconStor NSS appliance. The Webstart console can be downloaded and launched from any machine connected to the FalconStor CDP or FalconStor NSS appliance/server using a web browser.

About FalconStor

FalconStor Software, Inc. (NASDAQ: FALC), the premier provider of TOTALLY Open™ Network Storage Solutions, delivers the most comprehensive suite of products for data protection and storage virtualization. Based on the award-winning IPStor® platform, products include the industry-leading Virtual Tape Library (VTL) with Single Instance Repository (SIR) for deduplication, Continuous Data Protector™ (CDP), Network Storage Server (NSS), and Replication option for disaster recovery and remote office protection. Our solutions are available from major OEMs and solution providers and are deployed by thousands of customers worldwide, from small businesses to Fortune 1000 enterprises.

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