



AppAssure v5.3.x Cloud Replication Guide



for AppAssure

Revised January 2016



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Solution Overview



Important: This document applies only to AppAssure v5.3.X

If you are using AppAssure v5.4.X, please refer to the companion document entitled [eFolder AppAssure v5.4.X](#).

Using the eFolder AppAssure cloud, you can replicate AppAssure v5 data to the eFolder Enterprise Storage Cloud, effortlessly scaling from terabytes to petabytes. In addition to providing you with high performing AppAssure v5 Core servers, you also have access to the eFolder Continuity Cloud that provides fast off-site virtualization of your replicated servers and networks.

Definitions:

- Each local Core that replicates data to the cloud is called a **source Core** or master Core.
- A hosted Core running in the eFolder AppAssure cloud is called the **target Core** or the slave Core.

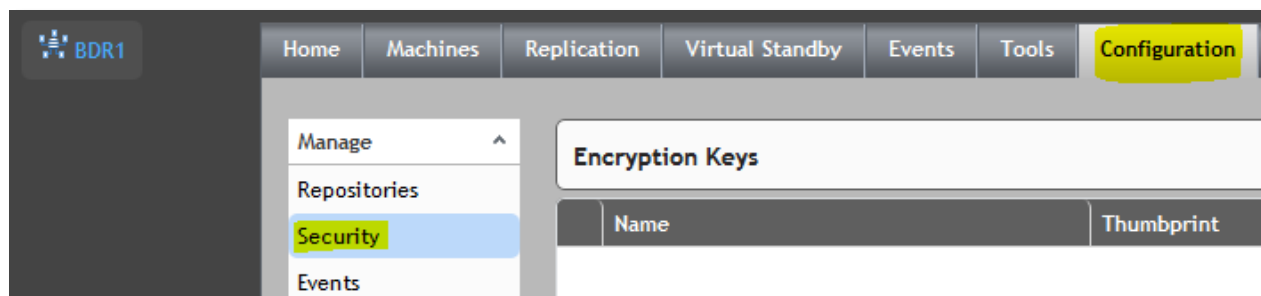
Enabling Encryption



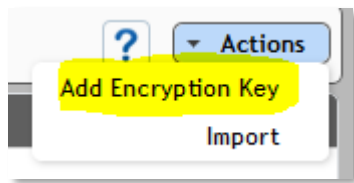
Important: Before setting up replication, please ensure that encryption is enabled on all agent recovery-point chains. We will not accept any unencrypted data.

Adding an Encryption Key:

1. Navigate to the AppAssure 5 source Core and then click the **Configuration** tab.
2. From the Manage option on the Configuration tab, select **Security**.



3. Click Actions and then click Add Encryption Key.



The Create Encryption Key dialog box appears.

A screenshot of a 'Create Encryption Key' dialog box. The dialog has a title bar with a question mark and a close button. It contains four input fields: 'Name:' with the text 'BDR1 Encryption Key', 'Description:' with the text 'Encryption Key for client A', 'Passphrase:' with a masked input (dots), and 'Confirm Passphrase:' with a masked input (dots). Below the fields is a paragraph of text: 'Make sure to store your passphrase in a secure location for future reference. Data recovery will not be possible without the passphrase. AppAssure 5 uses AES 256-bit encryption in the Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode with 256-bit keys. There are no known methods to compromise this type of encryption.' At the bottom right are 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons.

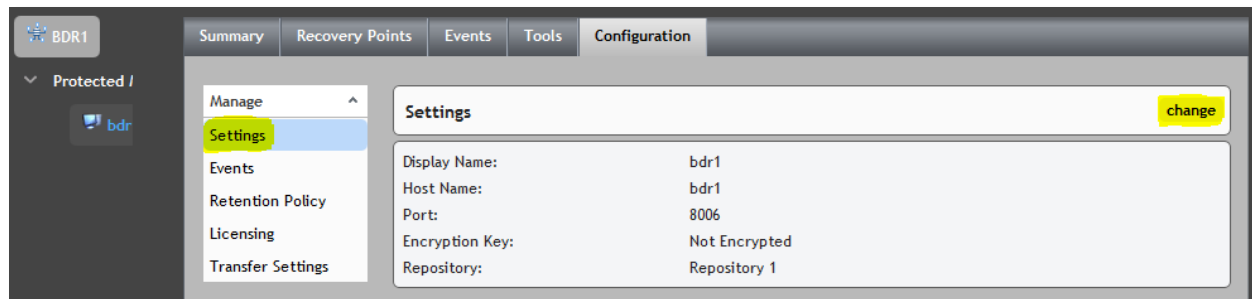
4. In the **Name** field, enter a name for the encryption key.
5. In the **Description** field, enter a comment for the encryption key.
6. In the **Passphrase** field, enter a passphrase.
7. In the **Confirm Passphrase** field, re-enter the passphrase.
8. Click OK.

Note: AppAssure 5 uses AES 256-bit encryption in the Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode with 256-bit keys. Using encryption is required for replication of data to eFolder. Store the passphrase in a secure location, as it is critical for data recovery.

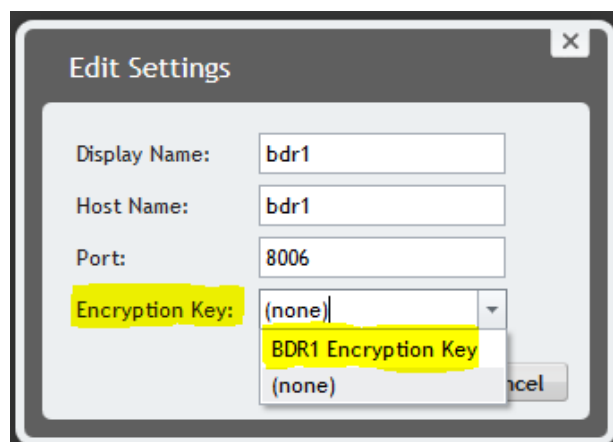
Without a passphrase, data recovery is not possible.

To apply this encryption key to an existing agent:

1. Choose an agent which needs to be encrypted from the left pane of the console in the Protected Agents section.
2. Click the **Configuration** tab for the agent and then click **change** in the Settings panel.



The *Edit Settings* dialog box appears.



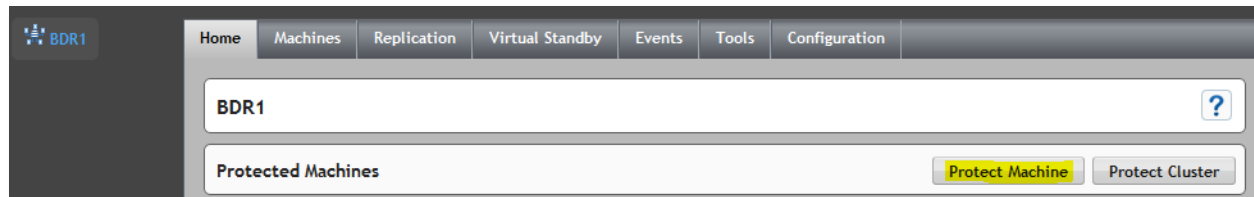
3. In the Encryption Key field, select the appropriate encryption key from the drop-down list.
4. Click OK.

Note: Only the subsequent snapshots (and Recovery Points) will be encrypted; earlier snapshots will remain unencrypted.

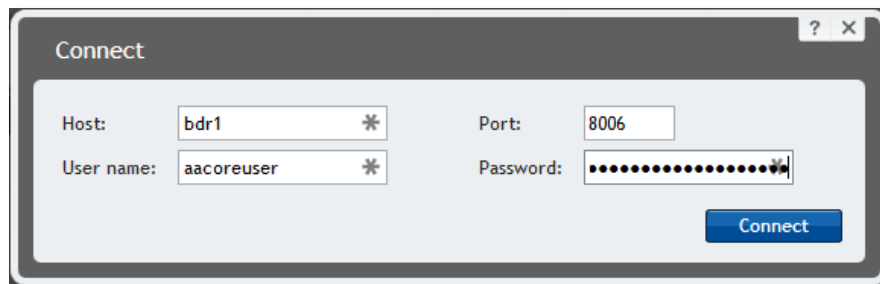
Note: After you apply the encryption key, the next snapshot will be a base image, which will be encrypted.

To apply this encryption key to a new agent during initial protection:

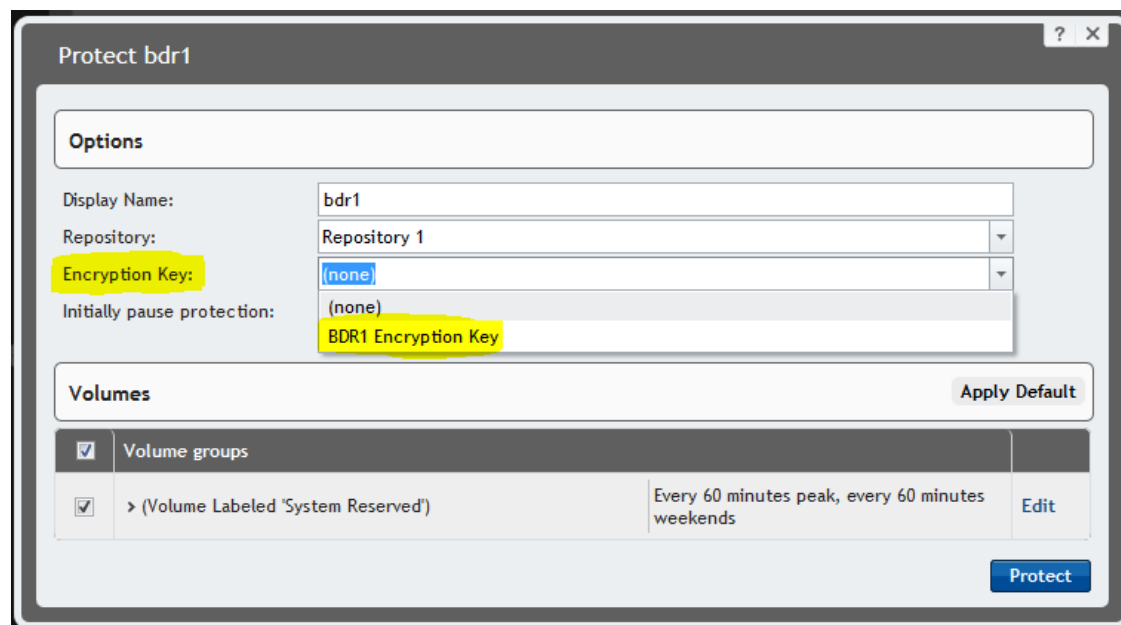
1. From the Home tab, under Protected Machines, click Protect Machine.



2. In the Connect dialog box, enter the information about the machine you want to protect.



3. Click Connect to connect to this machine.
4. In the Protect Machine dialog box, edit the Encryption Key setting by assigning the appropriate encryption key.

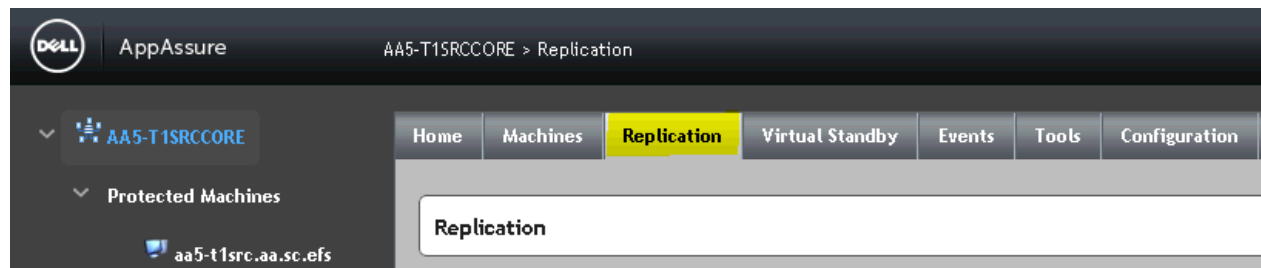


Replication Setup Instructions

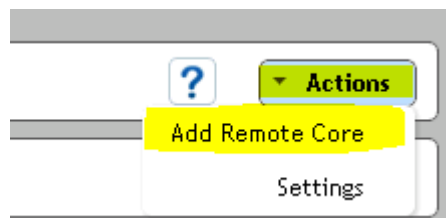
1. For each source Core, make sure that the Core is running a compatible version of AppAssure. **You should be using AppAssure version 5.3.7.68.** This version should be installed on all source Cores that replicate to the eFolder cloud and on all the agents they protect.

Note: If the source Core is running a version of AppAssure that is newer than the version running on your target Core, please contact Support and we will upgrade your target Core to a newer version. You can download our recommended version of the AppAssure software from the eFolder Knowledgebase by clicking AppAssure V5 Downloads and License Keys [here](#).

2. Next, configure replication on each source Core. To do this, log in to the source Core's administrative console and click the **Replication** tab.



3. After the page has loaded, in the top right corner, click the **Actions** button and select **Add Remote Core**.



The *Replication Setup* dialog box appears.

Select Replication type

☐ I have a subscription to a third-party providing off-site backup and disaster recovery services, and wish to replicate my backups to that service.

Host Name: Port:

☒ I have my own remote Core I wish to replicate to.

Host Name: Port:

User Name:

Password:

Continue **Cancel**

4. Check the option **I have my own remote Core I wish to replicate to.**
5. Enter the hostname that has been assigned to you.
(The example shown is aa5- myhostname1.aa.sc.efsccloud.net).
Also enter your assigned username and password. You should have received this information when your hosted target Core was provisioned for you.
5. Click **Continue**. After your credentials are validated, the *Add Remote Core* dialog box appears:

Add Remote Core

Choose the protected machine(s) whose backups you want to replicate to aa5-t1dstcore.aa.sc.efsccloud.net, and on which repository each Agent should be stored.

☐ Replace an existing replicated Core on aa5-t1dstcore.aa.sc.efsccloud.net:

☒ Add a new Core to replicate to aa5-t1dstcore.aa.sc.efsccloud.net:

Agent Host Names

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name	Repository
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	aa5-t1src.aa.sc.efsccloud.net	Repository 1

☒ Use a seed drive to perform initial transfer

Start Replication **Cancel**

- Check the box next to each agent that you want to replicate to the target Core. Additionally, if you want to ship a local hard disk with the initial set of data, check the **Use a seed drive** to perform initial transfer checkbox.

Note: If you are going to send an initial “seed” or “preload,” make sure you follow the latest set of instructions for performing an AppAssure preload [here](#).

- Click **Start Replication**. If you chose to use a seed drive for the initial data, the *Copy to Seed Drive* dialog box appears.

- Specify the path to the drive where the data should be stored in the *Location* field.

- Check the agents to be seeded in the **Agent Host Names** list and then click **Start**.

You can monitor the status of the copy (export) operation on the *Events* tab in the console.

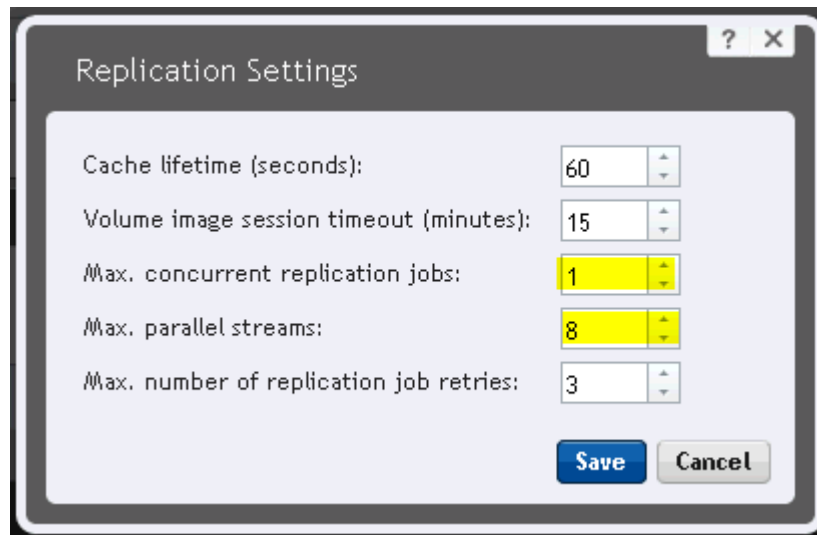
Also, please be sure to follow all of the directions listed [here](#) when performing a seed operation preload.

When the replication relationship has been established, the information on the *Replication* tab should be similar to this:

Outgoing Replication			
	Remote Core Name	State	Machine
	AA5-T1DSTCORE	Established	
	Agent Name	State	Status
	aa5-t1src.aa.sc.efsccloud.net	Established (paused)	Not yet replicated

Note: Replication of the base image (or incrementals, if you are doing a seed) will begin for each agent after their next recovery point is received into the source Core.

Note: Replication will proceed in parallel for many agents at the same time. The default level of concurrency is normally suitable for most customers. However, it can be customized by changing the settings in the *Actions > Replication Settings* menu:



Set the **Max. parallel streams** to a value that can be handled by the network. Each replication task opens this number of TCP streams. If the value is set too high, it can cause timeouts. If the value is set too low, then replication is slower than what it could be.

Rule of thumb: For every 1Mb of upload speed, increase Max Parallel Streams by 1.

- 1.5 Mbps Upload: 1 Max Parallel Streams
- 3 Mbps Upload: 2 to 3 Max Parallel Streams

Note that if you increase the **Max. concurrent replication jobs**, you may wish to decrease the number of parallel streams.

For example, you may want to use combinations of 2 and 4, or 4 and 2, and so forth. Having replication proceed in parallel to the cloud allows better utilization of WAN bandwidth.

Centralized Monitoring through Integration with the eFolder Web Portal

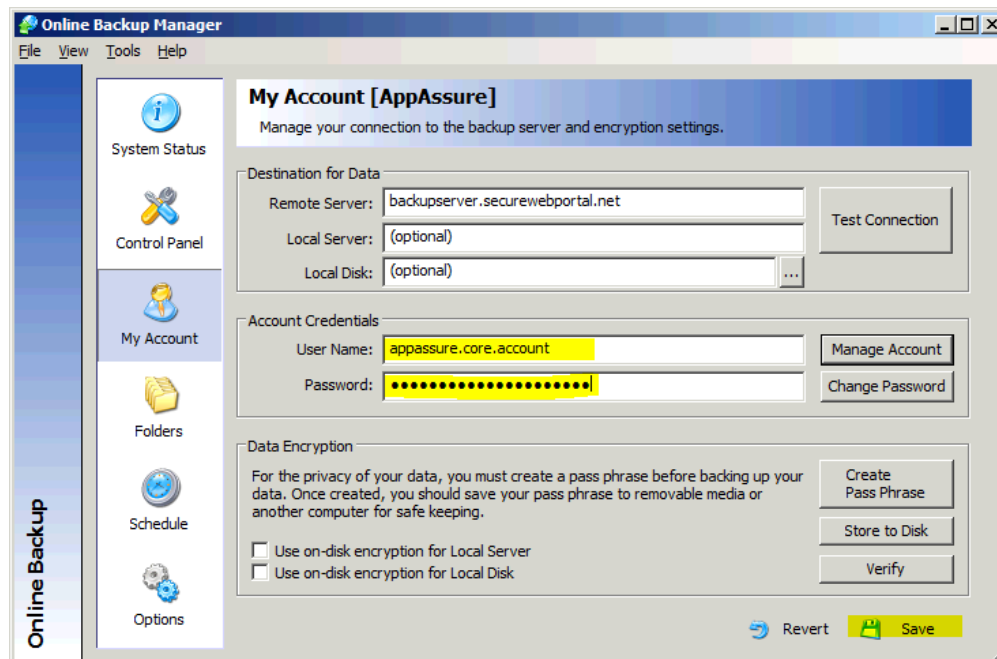
You can optionally use features that integrate data from your source AppAssure Core into the [eFolder Web Portal](#). This allows you to:

1. Centrally monitor the status of all of your Cores from one cloud-based web portal.
2. Set up global alerting rules that generate emails or PSA tickets on warning or error conditions.
3. Set up automated billing integration with supported PSA systems (coming soon).

We highly recommend utilizing the Web Portal integration functionality.

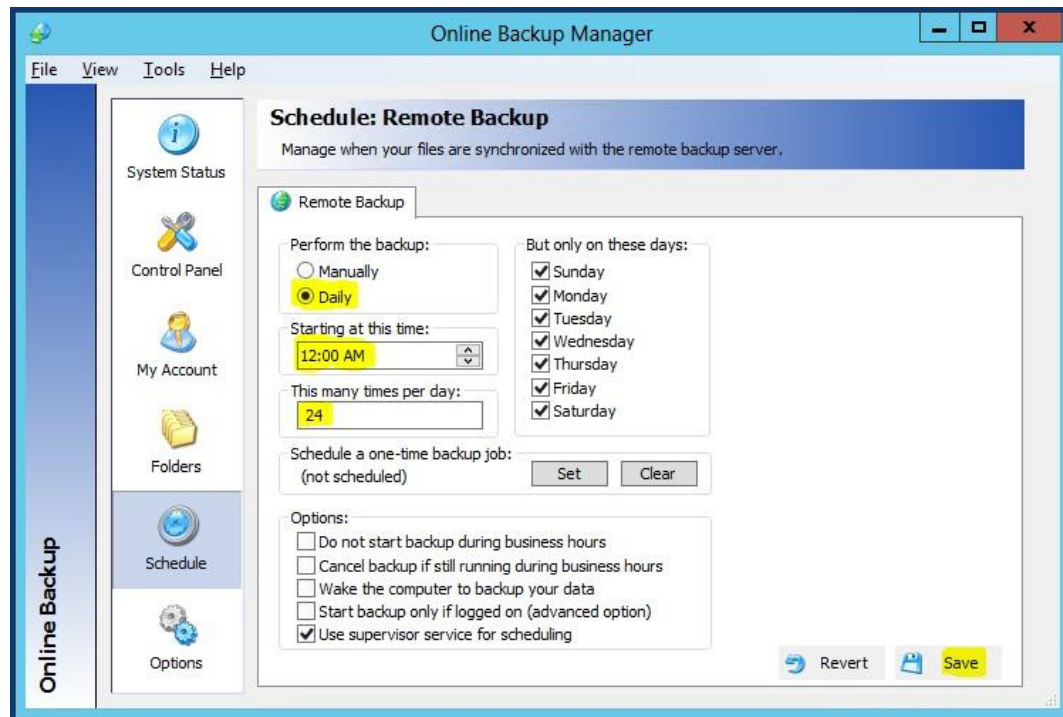
To use this functionality, you will first need a partner account created for you in the eFolder Web Portal. After you have gained access to the [eFolder Web Portal](#), follow these instructions for each source Core:

1. Use the Web Portal to create a new account with the AppAssure Core service plan.
2. On the source Core server, download and install the eFolder Backup Manager client program. **Note that you must use version 3.8.5 or later of the Backup Manager client.**
3. In the Backup Manager, on the *My Account* page, configure the Web Portal account User Name and Password credentials and then click Save.



Note: You do **not** need to create an encryption pass phrase unless you also plan to use the actual file-level backup features of the account instead of just the AppAssure Core integration features.

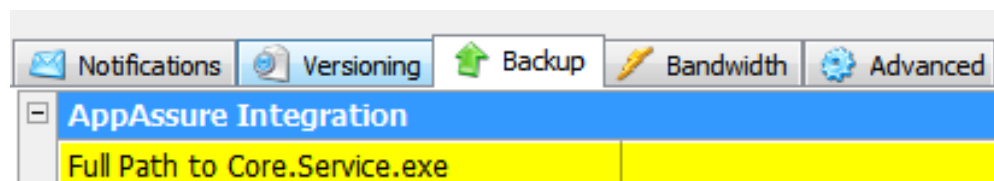
4. Configure the settings on the *Schedule* page to back up 24 times per day:



This will cause the Core information to be updated every hour in the Web Portal.
We do not recommend or support updating information more frequently than every hour.

5. If you have installed the AppAssure V5 Core in the default location, no further configuration is required.

If you have **not** installed the AppAssure V5 Core in the default location, you must use the **Backup** tab on the *Options* page to configure the location of the Core program.



After you have finished configuring the integration, the AppAssure Core information in the Web Portal will refresh every hour. The information for the status of each Core and each agent on each Core will appear on the Dash Panel report, allowing you to easily see the last snapshot date or completed replication date for each agent and the status of all backup, replication services, virtual standby services, and repository state and disk usage information.

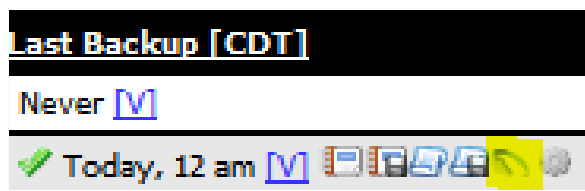
Additional detailed information is available in the Web Portal about each individual Core. You can view repository status, backup status, replication status, the progress of any snapshots, replication jobs, seeds, consumes, or virtual standby jobs, as well as detailed event log history.

To access this detailed Core information:

1. Click the **AppAssure** icon in the *Account Summary* tab of the *Account Details* pane in the *Account Center* page.



Alternatively, on the *Account List* page, click the **AppAssure** icon in the last backup column field for the account associated with your target Core.



2. The detailed Core dialog appears.
The *Home* tab displays the status of protected and replicated machines, and repositories.

Home Events Notifications

AA5-T1SRCCORE

✓ AppAssure CORE AA5-T1SRCCORE [5.2.1.46979]: 1 protected agent [33.07 GB]. 1 repository [385.18 GB; 2% used; dedup 4.27x]. CORE has 0 errors and 0 warnings.

Protected Machines

Status	Machine Name	Task Progress	Protected GB	# Recovery Points	Last Snapshot	Repository
✓	aa5-t1src.aa.sc.efsccloud....	(idle)	33.07 GB	460	2012-09-25 01:59:30 pm	Repository 1

Replicated Machines

Status	Machine Name	Task Progress	Protected GB	# Recovery Points	Last Snapshot	Repository
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Repositories

Status	Repository Name	Total GB	% Used	Protected GB	# Machines	# Recovery Points	Dedup Ratio
✓	Repository 1	371.34 GB	2% [8 GB]	33.07 GB	1	460	4.27

The *Events* tab displays the detailed status of backup, replication, or virtual standby jobs, plus the progress of active jobs.

The *Notifications* tab shows a history of the status state changes of this Core server (for example, when error alerts and error resolution alerts were sent, and which of your notification rules were triggered).

Tasks

Task	Status	Start Time	End Time
'Replicating 'aa5-t1src.aa.sc.efscld.net' to 'AA5-T1DSTCORE' OK [0.0 GB]	OK [0.0 GB]	2012-09-25 02:00:00 pm	2012-09-25 02:00:34 pm

Succeeded: 'Replicating 'aa5-t1src.aa.sc.efscld.net' to 'AA5-T1DSTCORE'

Start Time: Tue Sep 25, 2012 02:00:00 pm
End Time: Tue Sep 25, 2012 02:00:34 pm
Elapsed Time: 34 seconds
Rate: 0.11 MB/sec
Progress: 100%: 0.00 GB of 0.00 GB
Total Work: 0.00 GB

Child Tasks

Task	Status	Rate	Progress
Updating agent metadata	Succeeded	...	Succeeded
Transferring	Succeeded	0.11 MB/sec	OK [0.0 GB]
Updating agent and volume(s) metadata	Succeeded	...	Succeeded

Transfer of volumes [(Volume Labeled 'System Reserved'),C,... OK [0.0 GB] 2012-09-25 01:59:30 pm 2012-09-25 02:00:00 pm
 'Replicating 'aa5-t1src.aa.sc.efscld.net' to 'AA5-T1DSTCORE' OK [0.0 GB] 2012-09-25 01:54:58 pm 2012-09-25 01:55:29 pm
 Transfer of volumes [(Volume Labeled 'System Reserved'),C,... OK [0.0 GB] 2012-09-25 01:54:29 pm 2012-09-25 01:54:58 pm
 'Replicating 'aa5-t1src.aa.sc.efscld.net' to 'AA5-T1DSTCORE' OK [0.0 GB] 2012-09-25 01:49:58 pm 2012-09-25 01:50:28 pm
 Transfer of volumes [(Volume Labeled 'System Reserved'),C,... OK [0.0 GB] 2012-09-25 01:49:27 pm 2012-09-25 01:49:58 pm

Alerts

Date	Message
2012-09-25 03:00:00 am	Nightly attachability job has been skipped. Reason: There are no SQL Server instances configured for attachability check on the Core
2012-09-24 03:00:00 am	Nightly attachability job has been skipped. Reason: There are no SQL Server instances configured for attachability check on the Core
2012-09-23 03:00:00 am	Nightly attachability job has been skipped. Reason: There are no SQL Server instances configured for attachability check on the Core
2012-09-22 05:45:43 am	The Core service on AA5-T1SRCCORE was not shut down cleanly. The system is running checks to ensure data integrity.
2012-09-22 05:45:41 am	The Core service on AA5-T1SRCCORE has started

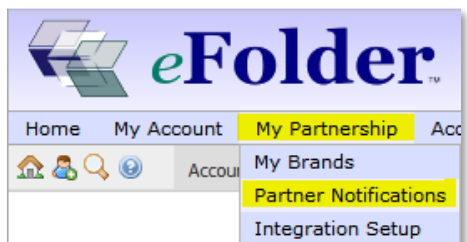
Note: If you prefer, eFolder technical support can set up the Web Portal integration for your target Core (if we have not already done so).

Simply submit a ticket with your Web Portal username and the hostname of your target Core, and we will take care of it for you.

Partner Notifications

We highly recommend setting up partner notification rules in the Web Portal so that you can be alerted when any of your Cores or agents have error conditions that need attention.

1. In the Web Portal, select **Partner Notifications** on the *My Partnership* menu.



2. On this page, click the **(create a new notification)** link.

Use this page to setup notifications for events generated by any account under your management. This simplifies monitoring as you only have to configure notifications once for your partnership, rather than for each account. Notifications are also used to push information to 3rd party systems, such as ConnectWise PSA (requires [integration setup](#)).

Showing 0-0 of 0 View ▾

Action <	Severities	Event Types	Action Details	Comments
(create a new notification)				

3. The *Create Partner Notification* page appears.

[Create](#)
[Cancel](#)
[Back to Partner Notifications List](#)

Setting	Value	Description
Notification Action	<input type="text" value="Send an email"/>	What will happen when this notification is triggered.
Email Addresses	<input type="text" value="support@mymssp.com"/>	Addresses where the email notification should be sent to. Separate multiple addresses with semicolons.
Include Sub-Brands	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	Whether or not to include notifications for accounts associated with sub-brands of your brand. Only relevant if you have more than one brand.
Subscribe to OK Events	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Whether events that represent successful actions should trigger this notification.
Subscribe to Warnings	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	Whether events that represent warnings should trigger this notification.
Subscribe to Errors	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	Whether events that represent errors should trigger this notification.
Subscribe to All Event Types	<input type="text" value="Yes"/>	Whether or not to subscribe to all types of events, except for integration failures (note that the restrictions on event severity configured above still apply).
Comments	<input type="text"/>	Any comments you want to make about this notification.

The notification engine is powerful and can be configured to meet complex needs. We show the simplest example above, wherein you can be notified when any warning or error event occurs.

To configure ticketing and billing integration with your PSA system, please refer to the corresponding eFolder integration guide for your PSA system, available in the [Knowledge Base](#) in the eFolder Web Portal.

Managing Your Off-site Core

- You can manage and monitor the state of your target Core running in the eFolder AppAssure Cloud by pointing your web browser to

<https://aa5-myhostname.aa.sc.efsccloud.net:8006/apprecovery/admin/Core>

(where aa5-myhostname is the name of your Core).

- You can also add your target Core to the AppAssure multi-Core management console software and manage it centrally with your other Cores.

Setting Up Virtual Standby Jobs

Virtual standby jobs allow you to keep updated Hyper-V or VMware virtual machines (VMs) that represent the latest version of your protected servers. These VMs are thus ready to be started quickly in case the original protected server is no longer available. Please note that virtual standby is only available for protected Windows servers at this time (version 5.3.7.68 or newer of AppAssure).

- If you are using a BDR appliance locally, we recommend setting up virtual standby jobs on the source Core so the BDR can nearly instantly virtualize your protected servers locally.
- If you are using a dedicated eFolder Continuity Cloud node, you can also set up virtual standby jobs on your hosted target Core. This allows any protected servers to also be virtualized in the cloud nearly instantly.
- If you are **not** using a dedicated eFolder Continuity Cloud node, you will only set up virtual standby jobs when you have a need to virtualize a server in the cloud, after you have been assigned your on-demand Continuity Cloud node(s).

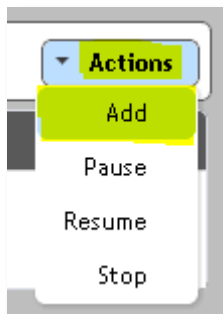
Virtual standby VMs are updated after each recovery point is received by a Core and thus are kept continuously up to date. Updates to VMs only need to apply the data blocks changed within the received incremental recovery point; thus, updates to VMs usually complete within a few seconds or minutes. The time required for the initial export depends on the amount of data and other factors and might take several hours.

To set up virtual standby jobs:

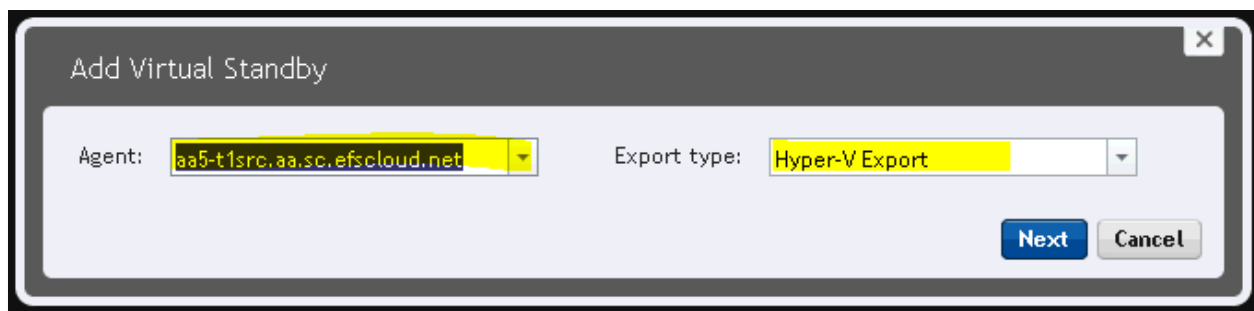
1. Log in to the source or target Core Admin Console and navigate to the *Virtual Standby* tab.



2. In the top right corner, click **Add** in the *Actions* menu.



The *Add Virtual Standby* dialog appears.



3. Select the **Agent** for which you want to add a virtual standby job and select the **Export type**.

For Hyper-V-powered BDR appliances and the eFolder Continuity Cloud, choose **Hyper-V Export**.

Then click **Next**.

Hyper-V Export

☐ Use local machine

☒ Remote host:

Hyper-V Host Name: 172.28.254.17

Port: 8010

User name: ContinuityCloud

Password:

VM Machine Location: X:\VMs\Machines\aa5-t1src

Export Volumes Options

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Volume
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C:\
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Volume Labeled 'System Reserved')

☒ Perform initial ad-hoc export

Save Cancel

- When configuring the Hyper-V export, for Hyper-V powered BDR appliances, click **Use local machine**.

For the eFolder Continuity Cloud, in the *Hyper-V Host Name* field, enter the AppAssure private IP listed in the Private- IPs.txt file on the desktop of your Continuity Cloud node.

In the *User name* and *Password* fields, use the credentials you were assigned for the Continuity Cloud node.

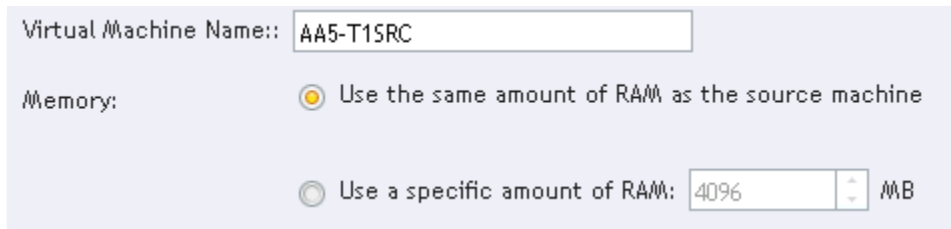
- In the *VM Machine Location* field, choose a path that is local to the Hyper-V server.

On eFolder Continuity Cloud nodes and eFolder BDR appliances, choose a directory on the "X" volume such as X:\VMs.

IMPORTANT: The directory should be unique to the name of the protected server for which you are configuring the virtual standby job. Make sure the server name is part of the directory path. For example, in this case, we are using X:\VMs\Machines\aa5-t1src.

- If you want the virtual standby export to begin immediately, check the **Perform initial ad-hoc export** checkbox. Otherwise, the export will begin after the next recovery point is received for this agent.

7. On the *Options* tab, if desired, customize vRAM assigned to the standby VM.



The screenshot shows a configuration window for a virtual machine. The 'Virtual Machine Name' field contains 'AA5-T1SRC'. Under the 'Memory' section, the radio button 'Use the same amount of RAM as the source machine' is selected. The second option, 'Use a specific amount of RAM', is unselected and shows a value of '4096' MB in a text box.

8. Click **Save** to finish setting up the virtual standby job.

9. Repeat these steps for all servers that need to use Virtual Standby.

You can monitor the progress of the virtual standby export jobs on the *Events* tab in the management console.

Note: For replicated agents on the target Core, the initial replication must fully complete (or the initial seed must be fully consumed) before you can configure virtual standby.

Increasing Your Available Off-site Storage

- To increase the amount of storage available on your hosted target Core, please send a request to aasupport@efolder.net and include your assigned Core hostname and how much storage you need.
- Storage is always provisioned in blocks that are multiples of 100 GB.
- Usually, additional storage can be added by our engineering team without needing to reboot your target Core server. Our team will notify you when the additional storage has been added; no additional work is required on your part.
- Please note that eFolder bills partners and end-users based on the total amount of storage that has been provisioned for your target Core.

eFolder Continuity Cloud

The eFolder Continuity Cloud is provided to partners and end-users which and is billed on a per-use, as needed basis.

To access the Continuity Cloud, send an email to aasupport@efolder.net to request access.

If your servers are down and you want after-hours access, be sure to follow the instructions in the ticket autoresponder email to escalate the ticket to the highest priority status.

When you are granted access, you will be given credentials and an IP address that gives you remote desktop access to one or more Continuity Cloud physical nodes. These physical nodes are running Hyper-V and allow you to quickly virtualize your Virtual Standby jobs. You will be assigned public IPs that are pre-routed into a WAN-DMZ network accessible by your Continuity Cloud nodes. You will have access to a virtual router and firewall that will allow you to easily route traffic from the WAN- DMZ to and from a custom virtual LAN.

For detailed instructions on how to use the eFolder Continuity Cloud, please refer to the eFolder article entitled [AppAssure Continuity Cloud Guide](#).

Additional Assistance

For issues or questions regarding **AppAssure V5 software**:

- If you purchase licenses from AppAssure directly, please contact AppAssure technical support at (703) 480-0100 or support@appassure.com
- If you purchase AppAssure V5 licenses through eFolder, please contact eFolder technical support by emailing support@efolder.net or calling 800-352-0248

For eFolder Continuity Cloud or to troubleshoot network, replication, or CORE servers:

- Email eFolder Support at aasupport@efolder.net
- Call us at 800-352-0248

Additional information is also available:

- [eFolder Partner Portal](#)
- Support Page at <http://www.efolder.net/support/>.

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