

# Re: How effective is Doubletake or similar HA software with SBS?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2006-08/msg05183.html>

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- *From:* "daveberm" <[david.bermingham@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:david.bermingham@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 26 Aug 2006 20:18:08 -0700
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Frank,

The idea is to have SBS running as a virtual machine on either MS Virtual Server 2005 R2 or VMWARE Server, bot of which are free and described below...

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsserversystem/virtualserver/software/default.aspx>

<http://www.vmware.com/products/server/>

Both of these products run inside of Windows 2003 R2. You can then run many "virtual machines" inside of this one physical machine. In this case, I am proposing just running one virtual machine, your SBS machine.

Your virtual machine consist of a configuration file and one or more virtual hard drives, which appear as normal files to the host operating system. Using SteelEye Data Replication, you can then replicate these files in real time to another host Windows 2003 R2 server. In the event of a disaster, you could then simply restart the virtual machine on your standby server which can be located on the same LAN or in your DR site on the other side of a WAN.

The catch here is that there is a performance penalty for running your SBS as a VM. How much of a penalty depends on the configuration of your server and the user demand on that server. I have many customers who use VM's and are quite happy with the performance and flexibility in regards to provisioning, backups and replication. In the end, you will have to determine if the benefits of running SBS in a virtual environment out weigh the performance hit you may receive.

The other downside to this solution is the costs. One of the benefits of SBS is the price point. To implement this DR solution, you will need to purchase SBS, plus two copies of Windows Server 2003 R2 and SteelEye Data Replication. You are probably looking at another 5-6k is software cost, which may make this solution unattractive to the person running SBS.

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With all that said, I can't imagine a better way for providing a DR plan for my SBS to provide the highest Recovery Point Objective and Recovery Time Objective.

If you are interested in talking to me directly, request information from [http://www.steeleye.com/forms/contact\\_us/presalesupport.html](http://www.steeleye.com/forms/contact_us/presalesupport.html) and be sure to ask to talk to me about replicating virtual machines.

David A. Bermingham, MCSE, MCSA:Messaging  
Senior Systems Engineer  
[www.steeleye.com](http://www.steeleye.com)

Frank wrote:

Dave, this is also of interest to my company.  
Could you elaborate?  
I'm not quite sure how VM fits into the equation.  
Go slow and use small words. )

Thanks,  
Frank

daveberm wrote:

The problem is that you can have additional DC's in a SBS environment, but you can only have one SBS in that environment! DoubleTake will work to replicate data, but only one of the boxes can be running SBS.

If you want a true replica of your SBS, you should look into installing SBS in a virtual environment (either VMWARE Server or MS Virtual Server 2005 R2) and replicate the entire virtual machine. This gets around the issue of only having one SBS because in fact you will only ever have one SBS running at a time.

As far as licensing, you will need to check with MS, but I am guessing you will only need one licence for SBS and 2 copies of Windows 2003 R2, which allows you to run Virtual Server 2005 for free.

The big question is how much bandwidth does your ADSL support vs. the rate of change on your virtual hard disk. Steeleye Data Replication has a competitive solution to DoubleTake and we are optimized to work in this environment.

I would be glad to discuss this with you further if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

David A. Bermingham, MCSE, MCSA:Messaging

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Senior Systems Engineer  
www.steeleye.com

Kevin Weilbacher [SBS-MVP] wrote:

According to this post from Susan Bradley's blog from 2 years ago quoting Nick Whittome, Double Take does work with SBS:  
<http://msmvps.com/blogs/bradley/archive/2004/08/09/11532.aspx>

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Kevin Weilbacher [SBS-MVP]  
"The days pass by so quickly now, the nights are seldom long"

"Tom Cutting"  
<TomCutting@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
<news:D06CEE89-9D82-43AE-AE9F-08116426DB65@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Having recently suffered the horror of losing our SBS to mainboard failure (power cut and spike that passed straight through the UPS...) I've been instructed by my boss to look into HA systems.

Server is only 2 years old, and fortunately I was able to borrow an identical box to transfer the drive array, but we were still without access to our data and mailboxes for 24 hours. Replacement parts are now on order, but without the spare box we would have been without it for weeks.

Ideally what we would like to do is mirror all the changed data between a new server as the main box and the current repaired box in a remote location via ADSL. The thought then would be in the event of losing the first box we could collect the reserve and be up and running in about an hour.

Firstly would this be allowed under the SBS

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licensing, as one box is effectively a cold reserve mirror, and perhaps more importantly would it work?

As always, TIA.

Tom.