



Reduce Downtime and Expense Associated with Disaster Recovery Using Joint Solution from Double-Take® Software and PlateSpin™

Business Value Whitepaper

Double-Take Software and PlateSpin Ltd.

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Abstract

Centralized backup and disaster recovery of entire servers can cause an enterprise considerable time and money. Double-Take® Software and PlateSpin have combined their expertise in order to ease the pain of back up and disaster recovery. The joint solution offers simple centralized backup and recovery for Windows® servers that are flexible and cost-efficient. By leveraging PlateSpin's OS Portability technology in PowerConvert and the replication technology within Double-Take, customers can reduce costs by achieving an unprecedented level of restore flexibility and speed over traditional restore procedures.

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About Double-Take Software, Inc.

NSI Software, Inc. (NSI®), doing business as Double-Take® Software, provides the world's most relied upon solution for accessible and affordable data protection for Microsoft® Windows® applications. The Double-Take product is the standard in data replication, enabling customers to protect business-critical data that resides throughout their enterprise. With its partner programs and professional services, Double-Take delivers unparalleled data protection, centralized back-up, high availability, and recoverability. It's the solution of choice for thousands of customers, from SMEs to the Fortune 500 in the banking, finance, legal services, retail, manufacturing, government, education and healthcare markets. Double-Take is an integral part of their disaster recovery, business continuity and overall storage strategies. Double-Take Software is privately held and headquartered in Southborough, MA. For more information, please visit www.doubletake.com.

About PlateSpin

PlateSpin provides the most advanced data center automation software designed to optimize the use of server resources across the enterprise to improve business service levels and lower costs. PlateSpin OS Portability technology liberates software from hardware platforms allowing servers to stream over the enterprise network from any source to any destination, ensuring best fit between server resource supply and application workload demands.

Global 2000 companies use PlateSpin solutions to lower costs and solve today's most pressing data center initiatives such as server consolidation, disaster recovery, hardware migration and test lab automation. Winner of the 2006 International Business Award for Best Company, PlateSpin was also named the fourth fastest growing IT company in Canada by Branham Group, and as one of the top five Movers and Shakers in the Canadian IT Sector for 2006.

Introduction

Though centralized backup of entire servers has never been an easy task, Double-Take® Software and PlateSpin have combined their expertise in order to ease the time, stress and expense of disaster recovery. Customers using Double-Take by Double-Take Software coupled with PlateSpin PowerConvert have simplified, hardware-independent, whole-server protection and bare-metal recovery capabilities, enabling them to restore business-critical data immediately, rather than manually installing everything from scratch, application by application.

What is Double-Take?

Double-Take protects data stored on Windows file servers and application data used by mission-critical applications like Microsoft® SQL Server and Microsoft Exchange Server. It combines continuous real-time backup and automatic failover capabilities for disaster recovery, high availability, and centralized backup. The real-time protection of Double-Take provides a Recovery Point Objective (RPO) of seconds rather than minutes or hours like other solutions provide.

Double-Take is Microsoft Windows® 2000 and 2003 certified at all levels, one of the few replication products to have achieved this level of certification. It delivers better protection than many hardware-based solutions, and it costs tens of thousands less.

Double-Take Benefits:

- Real-Time Data Protection - Replicates continuously at the byte level over any shared or private IP network, ensuring that changed data is protected and can be quickly restored at all times
- Application Agnostic - Works with existing hardware to protect applications such as Exchange, Microsoft SQL Server, and SharePoint.
- Continuous Data Protection - Guarantees business continuity and high availability by restoring access to data in minutes with failover capabilities to maintain a seamless working environment.
- Easily Installed and Maintained - Allows companies of any size looking for data protection solutions to install and maintain Double-Take.
- Cost Effective - Provides the best possible protection at the lowest cost with an accelerated return on investment - paying for itself within months.

What is PlateSpin PowerConvert?

PlateSpin® PowerConvert™ is a powerful, fully automated Operating System Portability™ solution that enables the complete interchange of data, applications, and operating systems (the software layer) across Intel infrastructure in the data center. It uniquely breaks the dependency between the physical infrastructure and server software installed on it.

With PlateSpin PowerConvert, you can freely move server workloads (OS, applications and data) in any direction, between any physical server, virtual infrastructure server, or image archive, without ever having to be in physical contact with the source or target machines. PlateSpin PowerConvert is ideal for server consolidations, business continuity, rapid provisioning and the for the ongoing data center optimization needs of an enterprise.

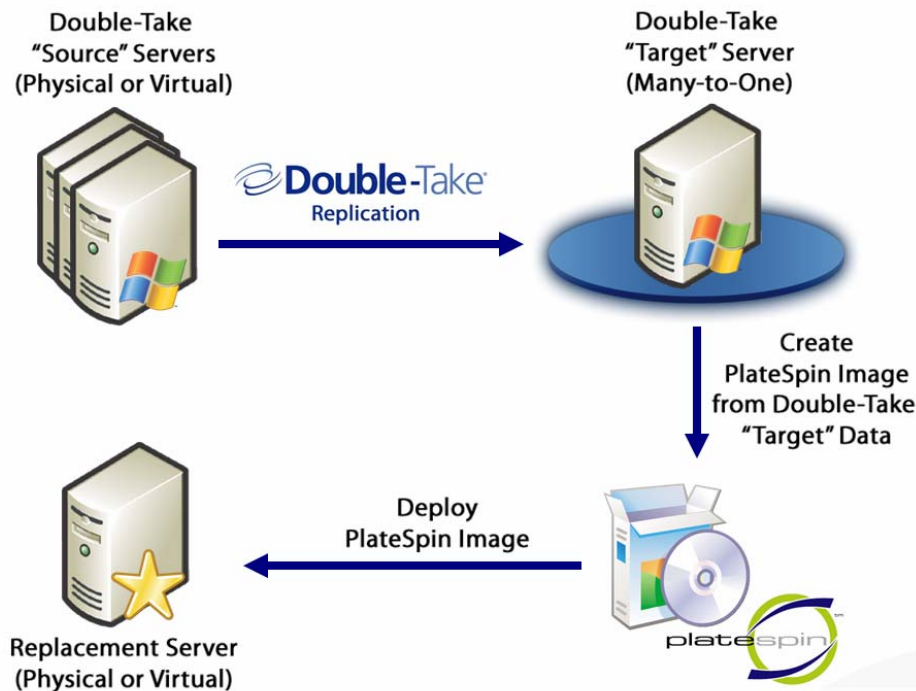
PlateSpin PowerConvert Benefits:

- Universal flexibility with Anywhere-to-Anywhere Migrations - Stream data, applications, and operating systems between physical servers, virtual machines, and image archives.
- 100% Automated Concurrent Recovery - Configure multiple recovery jobs to run concurrently, all from a single point of control. Maximum adaptability with On-the-fly configuration Reconfigure and right-size CPU, Disk, Memory and Network resources on the fly for target machines.
- Hardware Independent Images - Create and deploy PlateSpin Flexible Images™ from servers or connect directly to popular third party images or backups for easy provisioning and recovery to any physical or virtual infrastructure regardless of hardware configuration.

The Combined Power of Double-Take and PlateSpin PowerConvert

In a disaster, traditional backup solutions – like tape-based backup – require recovery to identical hardware. Typically, administrators spend hours or even days manually reinstalling and reconfiguring the server's OS and applications before they can start recovering the server data. A complementary solution from Double-Take and PlateSpin is optimal for disaster recovery because it creates a copy of an entire server, including the OS, applications and data. The server and its applications replicate locally or across long-distance WAN connections, to a central backup repository. Double-Take real-time protection capability then provides a continuously updated copy of data while PlateSpin PowerConvert's OS portability technology can be used to recovery the server to any physical or virtual hardware in the event of a failure or disaster at the primary site.

How it Works



The joint solution uses patented replication technology by Double-Take to provide continuous protection of live production servers to a centralized location. There, PlateSpin PowerConvert uses those images to perform bare metal recovery of the full environment to a new physical or virtual server. Double-Take maintains a continuously updated backup image of the entire production server and requires no production server downtime. PlateSpin's OS Portability allows that image to be easily recovered to the same or different hardware or even to a virtual machine that can be automatically created and provisioned for the user.

In this solution, Double-Take replicates both the entire system volume of the “Source” Double-Take server as well as any other data on the server that must be protected. Once the data has been replicated to a Double-Take “Target” server; the administrator can use PlateSpin PowerConvert to prepare the data for recovery. To recover the server from the replicated data, the Double-Take connection is disconnected and the PlateSpin Flexible Image can be deployed to a new or existing physical server or virtual machine.

Step	Double-Take	PlateSpin PowerConvert
Setup	Install Double-Take on the server(s) to be protected	Install PlateSpin PowerConvert and create a PlateSpin Image Server (Double Take “Target”) as a central backup repository
Initial Copy of Server	Use Double-Take to replicate the entire server(s) to a location on the PlateSpin Image Server (Double-Take “Target”)	Create a PlateSpin Flexible Image, pointing to the “Target” copy of the protected server
Replication	Set up Double-Take for continuous replication of the server(s) to be protected	
Recovery		Use PlateSpin PowerConvert to restore the protected server to a recovery physical server or virtual machine.

Summary

A server going down is very disruptive to a business; a complete loss of a datacenter can be catastrophic. Today's data center managers are under pressure to increase service levels and maintain robust recovery plans - all while reducing costs. By replicating and restoring full, up-to-date system and data backups, more aggressive recovery time objectives are achievable for a broader range of servers in the data center. By leveraging the unique features of both Double-Take and PlateSpin PowerConvert, customers can implement fast and flexible server protection and recovery, allowing them to cost effectively provide unprecedented levels of service.

Protect your enterprise from the stress and expense of out-dated disaster recovery methods by leveraging the power of Double-Take by Double-Take Software and PlateSpin PowerConvert.

See the following resources for further information:

- Double-Take Software
<http://www.doubletake.com>
- PlateSpin PowerConvert
<http://www.platespin.com/Products>

Double-Take Software may provide application notes and other documents that provide implementation guidelines on how to use Double-Take functions and replicas to manually or automatically failover or recover many popular third party applications and a general process to accomplish failover or recovery of many other third party applications. While these steps are believed to be accurate for the specific configuration, Double-Take version, and application versions originally tested, due to the number of possible configurations and variables, Double-Take Software can only test selected combinations and may provide only limited support for the operation and configuration of third party applications or the behavior of those applications before, during, or after failover, in its discretion. In cases where Double-Take Software has no direct access to or experience with a particular application or configuration, Double-Take Software support may also be limited to only the actual replication of the file system data and failover (name and IP address) of the server.

For assistance in validating, implementing or troubleshooting these or other possible configurations with third party applications, Double-Take Software and its partners may offer professional services on a fee basis to apply best practices for assisting with third party applications to recover automatically or manually using replicated data. This and any other application note is provided solely for the convenience of our customers and is not intended to bind Double-Take Software to any obligation. Although we try to provide quality information, Double-Take Software makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in this document.

PlateSpin Ltd. may provide application notes and other documents that provide implementation guidelines on how to use PlateSpin PowerConvert or PlateSpin PowerRecon with third party applications. While these steps are believed to be accurate for the specific configuration, PlateSpin PowerConvert or PlateSpin PowerRecon version, and application versions originally tested, due to the number of possible configurations and variables, PlateSpin Ltd. can only test selected combinations and may provide only limited support for integration with third party application.

PlateSpin Ltd. or its partners may offer professional service on a fee basis to assist in planning, implementing or troubleshooting various integrations with third party applications. This and any other documentation is provided solely for the convenience of our customers and is not intended to bind PlateSpin Ltd. to any obligation. Although we try to provide quality information, PlateSpin Ltd. makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information contained in this document.

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