

DiskSafe Agent

Reliable and secure data protection for Microsoft Windows Server

FalconStor® DiskSafe™ is a host-based replication software agent that delivers block-level data protection for a broad base of software and hardware platforms.

Highlights

- > TOTALLY Open™ architecture integrates seamlessly with storage infrastructure
- > Simplified block-level data protection
- > Support for both Fibre Channel (FC) and iSCSI
- > Cluster support for continuous protection
- > Minimal host overhead
- > Encryption capabilities for optimal security
- > Flexible protection configuration
- > Wide range of application-aware Snapshot Agents to ensure 100% transactional integrity
- > Agents certified for Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Exchange, and Microsoft SQL
- > Continuous or periodic data protection
- > Instant local recovery, 30-minute remote recovery

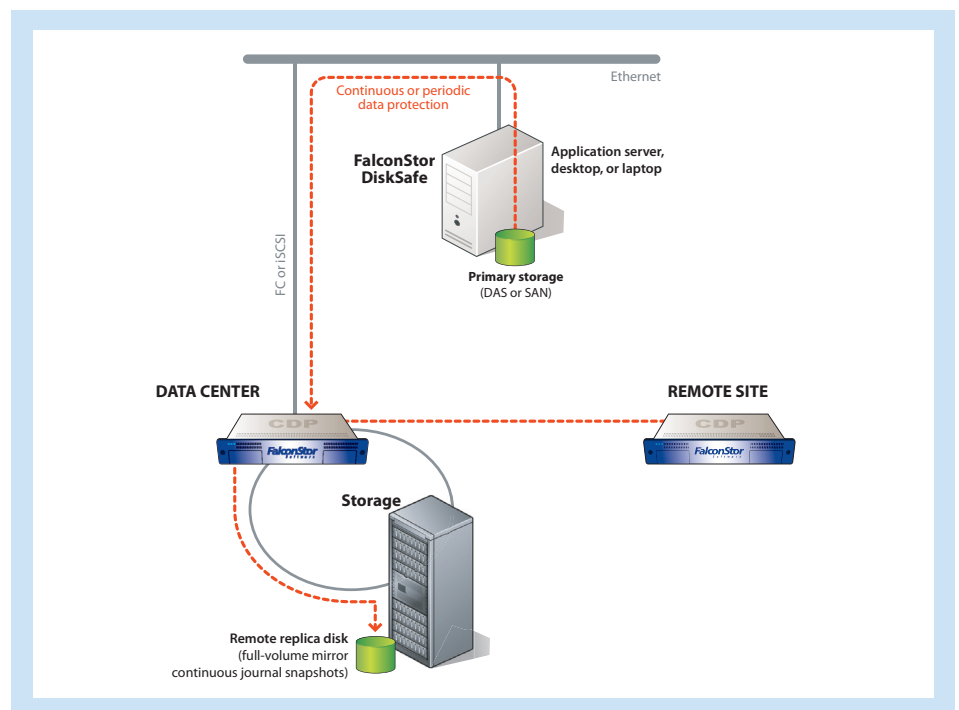


Continuous access to mission-critical data is essential to the success and operations of businesses. Loss of data, no matter how brief, has negative financial ramifications. The FalconStor DiskSafe agent protects data by replicating block-level data, either by partition or by entire disk, to the FalconStor Continuous Data Protector (CDP) solution. FalconStor DiskSafe offers two modes of data protection; continuous or periodic. They can be implemented separately or together. FalconStor DiskSafe delivers real-time data protection for either DAS or SAN storage. When combined with FalconStor CDP, it provides a comprehensive solution to meet your need for end-to-end data protection, remote disaster recovery (DR), and backup.

A new approach to data protection

Traditional DAS or SAN data protection environments load each server with lengthy periods of downtime for backup operations. Associated recovery methods are cumbersome, often go untested, and cause significant downtime for business application operations. As data volumes grow, administrators have increased difficulty completing backup operations within accepted backup windows; typically nights or weekends.

In contrast to this method, the FalconStor DiskSafe agent transfers business data to secondary storage, where backup operations are executed without any impact to production environments, completely eliminating the backup window and providing local or remote recovery data volumes. In addition to eliminating the backup window, FalconStor DiskSafe dramatically increases the granularity of data protection. Instead of being protected once a day or once a week, application data can be protected continuously.



FalconStor DiskSafe operation

The functionality of FalconStor DiskSafe is that of a block-level I/O WRITE-Splitter. That is, every WRITE I/O operation of a server, file system, or application to primary storage is duplicated to secondary storage behind a FalconStor CDP appliance. This block-level WRITE copy supports Fibre Channel (FC) or iSCSI networking. Therefore, FalconStor DiskSafe and FalconStor CDP easily fit into customers' existing network infrastructures.

This WRITE copy functionality can be set up for either continuous or periodic mode, accommodating any business requirement or network infrastructure. Data protection can extend from entire disks, disk partitions, or applications to target FalconStor CDP solutions in local or remote data centers. Implementation of the resulting physical recovery disk protection can be local, remote, or a combination of both. FalconStor CDP includes full backup, file or directory recovery, and individual email or database object recovery. Recovery or restoration operations are facilitated by an intuitive Restore Wizard. The Restore Wizard easily guides customers through recovery or restoration of files, partitions, snapshots, or entire disks.

Cluster support

FalconStor DiskSafe supports multi-node Microsoft Cluster Service in active-active or active-passive configurations. When a Microsoft Windows cluster node fails, FalconStor DiskSafe seamlessly continues mirroring from the remaining nodes. When the failed node is restored, mirroring resumes automatically.

Multiple protocol support

FalconStor DiskSafe enables customers to leverage either iSCSI or FC connectivity protocols, negating the need to purchase additional or different networking products. Additionally, FalconStor DiskSafe supports network fault-tolerant features such as Asymmetric Logical Unit Access (ALUA), which automatically switches data paths based on availability or failure.

Security benefits

FalconStor DiskSafe provides encryption of backup data onto secondary storage. The disk protection wizard guides users through the setup processes of encryption key naming, key strength setting, and secret phrase key recovery definition. This ensures that only authorized individuals and administrators can access and recover data.

Comprehensive data protection options

Since FalconStor DiskSafe is functionally a WRITE-splitter, users can leverage FalconStor CDP for continuous data availability. Protection policies enabled by FalconStor CDP include continuous mirroring, snapshots (up to 256 per volume), journaling (for individual transaction recovery), or a combination of all three methods. Intuitive configuration wizards guide the user into setting up schedules of snapshots, retention of snapshots, and size of journals (minutes to hours of protection). For example, a protection policy could include journal protection for the most recent two hours, and 24 hourly, seven daily, four weekly, and 12 monthly snapshots. Configuration flexibility includes the ability to exclude weekends and holidays if required. Additionally, remote replication or DR protection can be achieved with multiple FalconStor CDP servers. WAN-optimized remote replication supports any distance or transport bandwidth, and includes deduplication, compression, and encryption features.

Instant data recovery

Full integration with FalconStor CDP allows FalconStor DiskSafe to provide multiple benefits and configuration options for customers. Instant recovery of disks, partitions, files, or messages is enabled, as is complete bare-metal recovery, either locally or at the DR site.

TOTALLY Open™ Data Protection

The combination of FalconStor DiskSafe and FalconStor CDP enables centralized and intuitive management of local and remote applications, file systems, servers, and databases, with the flexibility to assign different protection policies for each customer application. The simplified and comprehensive capabilities of FalconStor technology help to increase IT staff productivity for overall business value and reduce the total cost of ownership (TCO). FalconStor storage solutions help eliminate backup windows, maximize disk capacity utilization, and enable customized data protection and recovery policies that satisfy even the most demanding business and service level agreements (SLAs).

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