How to Configure High Availability in XenServer

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This article describes how to enable High Availability on XenServer.

**Requirements**

Before configuring high availability (HA) on a resource pool, validate the requirements are satisfied for all servers and virtual machines in the pool:

* Shared storage is available, including at least one iSCSI or Fibre Channel LUN of 356MB or greater. This LUN will be used for the heartbeat SR.
* Adequate licenses are installed on all servers.
* Only agile virtual machines might be protected by HA. For VM this means:
	+ Virtual disks must be on shared storage. Any type of shared storage may be used; the iSCSI or Fibre Channel LUN is only required for the storage heartbeat and can be used for virtual disk storage if you prefer, but this is not necessary.
	+ Virtual network interfaces must be on pool-wide networks.
	+ Virtual machines must not have a connection to a local DVD drive configured.

We strongly recommend the use of a bonded management interface on the servers in the pool if HA is enabled, and multipathed storage for the heartbeat SR.

**Procedure**

To enable High Availability, complete the following procedure:

1. Select the pool in the **Resources** pane, click **HA** tab, and then click **Enable HA**.



Or

* 1. On the **Pool** menu, click **High Availability**.
	2. Right-click the **Resources** pane and click **High Availability**.

2. Click **Next.** XenCenter scans the pool for a shared iSCSI or Fibre Channel LUN that can be used as the pool's heartbeat Storage Repository (SR) before displaying the next wizard page.



1. If no suitable SR is found, configure the new storage before continuing to configure HA.
2. Choose a heartbeat SR from the list, and click **Next**.
3. For each virtual machine you wish to protect, set the protection level by completing any of the following steps:
Selecting the VM and then click one of the buttons to the right of the list.
Or
Right-clicking in the list and using the shortcut menu.



* 1. To select more than one virtual machine, click at the start of the selection, press and hold the SHIFT key, and scroll to the end of the selection.
	2. To select several virtual machines that are not adjacent in the list, select the first VM, press and hold the CTRL key, and then click the additional virtual machines that you want to select.
	3. Select **Protect** to ensure HA protection for the selected VM.
	4. Select **Restart if Possible** if it is not essential to restart the virtual machine automatically. Virtual machines with this protection level are not guaranteed to be restarted. However, if they are believed to have failed and if there is sufficient resource available after all other protected virtual machines have been successfully started, they will be restarted on a live server. **Restart if possible** is the only restart priority available to non-agile virtual machines, that is, virtual machines that have local storage or that have a connection to a local DVD drive configured or that have local virtual network interfaces.
	5. Select **Do Not Restart** if you never want the virtual machine to be restarted automatically.
	6. The failover capacity for the pool, the resources available, and the protection levels you have specified are shown on the right of the list of virtual machines.
1. Click **Next** when you have finished virtual machine protection configuration.
2. On the last page of the wizard, you can review your HA configuration.
Click **Back** to go back and change any of the settings.
Click **Finish** to close the wizard and enable HA for the pool.



**This document applies to:**

* [XenServer 5.0](http://support.citrix.com/product/xens/v5.0/)
* [XenServer 5.0 Update 3](http://support.citrix.com/product/xens/v5.0/)
* [XenServer 5.5](http://support.citrix.com/product/xens/v5.5/)
* [XenServer 6.0](http://support.citrix.com/product/xens/v6.0/)
* [XenServer 6.1.0](http://support.citrix.com/product/xens/v6.1.0/)
* [XenServer 6.2.0](http://support.citrix.com/product/xens/v6.2.0/)