

PlateSpin Forge 3.1 Release Notes

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Novell®

1 About This Release

Version 3.1 provides several new features, enhancements, and bug fixes.

For Release Notes documents that accompanied previous 3.x.x releases, visit the [PlateSpin Forge 3 Documentation Web Site \(http://www.novell.com/documentation/platespin_forge_3\)](http://www.novell.com/documentation/platespin_forge_3) and go to *Previous Releases* at the bottom of the main TOC page.

2 New in Version 3.1

- ♦ **New Workload Types:** This release supports the protection of new workload types/versions:
 - ♦ Open Enterprise Server (OES) 2
 - ♦ SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES) 9
 - ♦ Oracle Enterprise Linux (OEL) 5.3, 5.4
- ♦ **Bandwidth Throttling:** This release provides greater control over the amount of network resources used by PlateSpin Forge.
See “[Bandwidth Throttling](#)”.
- ♦ **Compression:** This release provides ways to reduce your networking costs by enabling you to have volume data compressed on the source workload before it is replicated to the target.
See “[Data Compression](#)”.
- ♦ **Support for NAT:** This release provides support for network configurations that use Network Address Translation (NAT). This removes the requirement to have TCP port 3725 open on target workloads.
See “[Protection Across Public and Private Networks Through NAT](#)”.
- ♦ **Support for GPT:** This release provides support for source workloads (Windows Server 2008 and later) that use the GUID Partition Table (GPT) disk partition layout standard.
- ♦ **Support for Thin Disks:** This release supports thin (thin-provisioned) virtual disks that appear to the VM to have a set size but only consume the amount of disk space that is required by that disk.
- ♦ **Enhanced support for VMware networking:** This release supports VMXNET 2 and VMXNET 3 virtual network adapters.
- ♦ **Improved Failback-to-Physical Experience:** The mechanism of failback to a physical machine has undergone several improvements and now provides a much broader support for vendor-specific driver management. In addition, the PlateSpin boot ISO image includes new tools, including a Windows driver injection utility for more robust driver management.
- ♦ **Support for Linux Failback to a Paravirtualized VM:** You can now do a failback of a Linux workload to a paravirtualized VM on XEN-on-SLES (version 10).
See “[Linux Failback to a Paravirtualized VM on Xen-on-SLES](#)”.

- ♦ **International Language Support:** This release provides international language support (Chinese Simplified, Chinese Traditional, French, German, and Japanese) for the product interface and the documentation.

The English version of the documentation at the [PlateSpin Forge 3 Documentation Web Site](http://www.novell.com/documentation/platespin_forge_3) (http://www.novell.com/documentation/platespin_forge_3), which is updated on a regular basis, should be considered as the most up-to-date version.

3 Bugs Fixed in Version 3.1

Version 3.1 addresses a multitude of bugs, including these:

- ♦ **640618 Failback failure of Windows workloads with dynamic disks:** An incremental Failback operation fails if the protected workload has dynamic disks with no drive letters assigned.
- ♦ **677413 Target VM blue screens with ‘Stop 7B’ error:** A target VM might blue screen with a `Stop 7B` error after attempting to create the initial workload replica through syncing a Windows 2008 x64 and a Windows 2008 R2 workload.
- ♦ **684192 Resizing disks causing blue screen:** Windows workloads protected through block-level replication blue screened when their disks were resized.
- ♦ **Improper job state:** Jobs remained in a running state even though they had completed or failed.
- ♦ **694925:** Block-level replications with the encryption or compression option enabled failed after 24 hours.
- ♦ **688471:** Linux replications failed if they took more than 24 hours.

4 Known Issues in Version 3.1

- ♦ **No failback to GPT:** Protected workloads with disks that use the GPT standard cannot be failed back to the original hardware or other GPT-enabled hardware.
- ♦ **704953 Erroneous localhost.localdomain hostname in Linux failback:** On failback, if the target hostname is set to No Change, the workload is assigned a `localhost.localdomain` hostname. The issue is under investigation.

Workaround: For the target hostname in Linux failback details, select the *Change to* option and specify a target hostname explicitly.
- ♦ **595490 Preserving boot partition on failback causes failback to stall:** In some failback scenarios, the system improperly allows you to preserve an active (or boot) partition on the target, preventing the target from booting properly. This issue is under investigation.

Workaround: In Failback Details, do not opt to preserve any boot partitions on the target.
- ♦ **698611 Full cluster replication failure under certain circumstances:** If a Windows 2008 R2 Cluster protection contract is set up through the *sync to an existing VM* method, and if the active cluster node flips prior to the full replication, the full replication job fails.

See [KB Article 7008771](http://www.novell.com/support/viewContent.do?externalId=7008771) (<http://www.novell.com/support/viewContent.do?externalId=7008771>).
- ♦ **506154 Special character in datastore name causing replication problems:** Protection fails if it is attempted on ESX datastores that have the character '+' in the datastore name.

See [KB Article 7008750](http://www.novell.com/support/viewContent.do?externalId=7008750) (<http://www.novell.com/support/viewContent.do?externalId=7008750>).

- ♦ **655828 Failure to mount NSS volumes:** Upon failover or test failover, NSS volumes with snapshots enabled are not automatically mounted as expected.

See [KB Article 7008773](http://www.novell.com/support/viewContent.do?externalId=7008773) (<http://www.novell.com/support/viewContent.do?externalId=7008773>).

- ♦ **680259 (VMware 4.1) Poor networking performance by traffic-forwarding VMs:** In some scenarios, the replica of a workload that is forwarding network traffic (for example, if the workload's purpose is to serve as a network bridge for NAT, VPN, or a firewall) might show significant network performance degradation. This is related to a problem with VMXNET 2 and VMXNET 3 adapters that have LRO (large receive offload) enabled.

Workaround: Disable LRO on the virtual network adapter. For details, see the [VMware vSphere 4.1 Release Notes](http://www.vmware.com/support/vsphere4/doc/vsp_esxi41_vc41_rel_notes.html) (http://www.vmware.com/support/vsphere4/doc/vsp_esxi41_vc41_rel_notes.html) (scroll down to the bulleted item Poor TCP performance...).

- ♦ **No software RAID support for Linux workloads:** PlateSpin Forge does not support Linux workloads with volumes on software RAID.

- ♦ **590635 Inconsistent failover results after upgrading:** Following an upgrade to PlateSpin Forge, a failover operation might fail to complete or might not apply the correct failover parameters, such as the proper hostname and workgroup settings.

Workaround: Before performing a failover, manually run an incremental.

- ♦ **581860 Browser exception in the Chinese edition of the product:** Attempting to connect to the PlateSpin Forge Server with a browser that does not have a specific version of Chinese added might result in Web server errors. For correct operation, use your browser's configuration settings to add a specific Chinese language (for example, Chinese [zh-cn] or Chinese [zh-tw]). Do not use the culture-neutral Chinese [zh] language.

- ♦ **610918 Unresponsive Expand and Collapse icons in integrated help:** On some systems with enhanced browser security settings (such as Internet Explorer 8 on Windows Server 2008), the Expand and Collapse icons (+ and -) in the Table of Contents might fail to work. To fix the issue, enable JavaScript in your browser:

- ♦ **Internet Explorer:** Click *Tools > Internet Options > Security* tab > *Internet zone > Custom level*, then select the *Enable* option for the *Active Scripting* feature.

- ♦ **Firefox:** Click *Tools > Options > Content* tab, then select the *Enable JavaScript* option.

- ♦ **558937 Failure of block-level replications that use VSS (Windows):** If you are using third-party VSS-based backup software, block-level replications might occasionally fail.

Workaround: Use blackout windows (see your *User Guide*).

- ♦ **611105 Missing protection contracts after upgrade:** After upgrading your Forge appliance to version 3, protection contracts with workloads in a *Ready for Failback* or a *Ready for Reprotect* state might be missing from the user interface. This issue is under consideration for an upcoming fix.

- ♦ **705907 Localized versions of integrated online help systems unavailable:** When attempting to launch the integrated online help system (WebHelp) in a non-English installation, an English version of the system is launched instead of the target language.

Workaround: For the most up-to-date version of localized product information, visit the PlateSpin Forge 3 Documentation Web site.

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