IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter 3.2.0

Release Notes

First Edition (September 2021)

This edition applies to IBM® Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter 3.2.0 software package. Newer document editions may be issued for the same product version in order to add missing information, update information, or amend typographical errors. The edition is reset to 'First Edition' for every new product version.

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Overview

The IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter (SRA) is a software add-on that integrates with the VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager (SRM) platform and enables site-to-site failovers together with supported IBM storage systems.

The IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family SRA extends the VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager capabilities by allowing it to employ the storage system's replication and mirroring features for continuous storage availability at both the protected site and recovery site.

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What's new in 3.2.0

IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter 3.2.0 introduces the enhancements detailed in the following section.

New Python 3 support

IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family SRA 3.2.0 now includes Python 3 support.

General availability date: 24 September 2021

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Download site

VMware certification for IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter software will be available soon. When certified, the package will be available for download from http://www.vmware.com/go/download-srm. Until then, the software can be obtained from IBM Fix Central.

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Compatibility and requirements

This section specifies the compatibility and requirements of IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter 3.2.0.

Note: For information about the compatibility and requirements of a previous version, refer to its relevant release notes. In addition, refer to the VMware compatibility matrix in IBM Documentation for information about supported combinations of IBM storage system software versions and various VMware cloud platforms.

Supported storage systems

The IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter supports the following storage systems.

Storage system	Microcode version
IBM FlashSystem A9000	12.3.0.a or later
IBM FlashSystem A9000R	12.3.0.a or later

Note: Newer microcode versions may also be compatible. When a newer microcode version becomes available, refer to the latest storage system release notes to check whether the new microcode version is also supported.

Required VMware server software

Any of the following VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager releases must be installed at both the protected (primary) site and recovery (secondary) site: **SRM 8.2, 8.3, 8.4: VMware Site Recovery Manager Appliance Management (Photon OS)**.

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Change log

This section summarizes the changes made in different version releases of the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter.

Note: New functional features of these versions are only briefly summarized. For a detailed summary of the new functional features of a specific version, refer to the 'What's new' section of its release notes.

3.2.0 (September 2021)

IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter 3.2.0 now includes Python 3 support and introduces the following fix:

Ticket ID	Description
SRA-259108	**Fixed**: In some cases, during a testfailover or failover scenario, storage LUNs are exported to undesired Hosts during the failback process.

3.1.0 (December 2020)

IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family SRA 3.1.0 added compatibility with VMware Site Recovery Manager (SRM) Virtual Appliance (Photon OS).

3.0.1 (November 2018)

IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter 3.0.1 added compatibility with Multi-site HA/DR solution, as introduced by the FlashSystem A9000 and A9000R 12.3.0 storage systems.

3.0.0 (June 2017)

IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter 3.0.0 added integration with IBM HyperSwap solution, as introduced by the FlashSystem A9000 and A9000R 12.1.0 storage systems.

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Known issues

This section details the known issues in IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter 3.2.0, along with possible solutions or workarounds (if available).

Ticket ID	Description
SRA-167578	In some cases, the VMware vCenter SRM messages might be very general and not specific to the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family SRA. When a volume mapping operation fails (for example, when the specified FC ports do not belong to any host), the 'Test' and 'Failover' operations fail as well, but SRM does not provide an appropriate message regarding the failure. An indication regarding the mapping failure and any subsequent operation failure can be found in the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family SRA log file.
SRA-258768	IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter does not support IPv6. Currently there is no solution or workaround for this limitation.
SRA-258773	If a consistency group used for replication has a mix of locked and unlocked volumes, device rescanning may fail. To avoid this situation, before rescanning the storage system, verify that all consistency group volumes are in the same state (locked or unlocked).
SRA-258914	When the storage system fails at the protected site, while the VMware environment is still operational, a volume in the IBM HyperSwap solution becomes a preferred volume at the recovery site. As a result, the SRM-protected VMs appear as not-protected and cannot be migrated to the recovery site. This issue is caused by the VMware SRM (6.5) fault, described in the release notes for this version. Currently there is no solution or workaround for this limitation.
SRA-258923	Planned failover without VMotion may fail during storage synchronization stage. This issue is caused by the fault in VMware SRM 6.1 and 6.5, as detailed in the VMware SRM 6.1 release notes and VMware SRM 6.5 release notes. To resolve this issue after the planned migration fails in the first attempt, discover the storage systems manually and run the planned failover operation again.
SRA-258969	When a mirrored volume in an SRM protection group is converted to a stretched one on FlashSystem A9000 or A9000R storage system in a HyperSwap relation, the volume appears as stretched on the discovered devices. However, the VMs on the volume are displayed as no longer protected. To resolve this issue, recreate the protection group and recovery plan, according to the instructions for the specific protection type (high-availability or mirror).

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Ticket ID	Description
SRA-258972	The SRM Discover Devices and Failover operations on the specific array manager pair fail, if: • Test Failover operation was initiated on a recovery plan, which includes FlashSystem A9000 or A9000R with HyperSwap (stretched) consistency group. • Cleanup operation was not initiated yet. **Note:** Other operations, such as Test and Unplanned Failover for recovery plans, are not affected and can be initiated. To avoid this issue, run the Cleanup operation on the relevant recovery plans before executing further Discover Devices or Planned Failover operations on the same array manager pair.
SRA-259083	When a Multi-site HA/DR solution is being configured or dismantled, the SRM Discover Devices action might return an error, informing about failure to find matching protected entity. To avoid this issue, make sure that only one protection method (SRM or Multi-site HA/DR) is used for relevant volumes or consistency groups. Thus, complete the Multi-site HA/DR solution configuration for the volume; or dismantle the Multi-site HA/DR and use the SRM protection only.

Related information and publications

You can find additional information and publications related to the IBM Spectrum Accelerate Family Storage Replication Adapter on the following information sources.

- IBM Docmentation (www.ibm.com/docs/en)
- IBM FlashSystem® A9000 in IBM Docmentation (www.ibm.com/docs/en/flashsystem-a9000)
- IBM FlashSystem A9000R in IBM Docmentation (www.ibm.com/docs/en/flashsystem-a9000r)
- VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager Documentation (www.vmware.com/support/pubs)
- VMware Support Offerings and Services (www.vmware.com/technical-resources)
- VMware Knowledge Base (kb.vmware.com)
- For SRA deployment with IBM HyperSwap® solution, also refer to the following VMware documents:
  - VMware - The Cloud Platform Tech Zone
  - Site Recovery Manager and Stretched Storage: Tech Preview of a New Approach® to Active-Active Data Centers

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- IBM website (ibm.com®)
- IBM Support Portal website (www.ibm.com/support/home)
- IBM Directory of Worldwide Contacts website (www.ibm.com/planetwide)

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