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The Spectrum Protect Checklist

Are you getting the best
from IBM Spectrum Protect?

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The Spectrum Protect Checklist

Just minutes of downtime can significantly impact your business. Having a reliable backup and recovery strategy is essential to keeping your business up and running.

An outage can deliver a damaging blow to your company's finances and reputation and the risks of this are increasing when you consider the high likelihood of downtime caused by Ransomware attacks.



As an IBM Spectrum Protect user, you know that you have one of the best solutions on the market for enterprise data protection but you also know that you need to keep everything running efficiently if you are to meet your RTO and RPO targets.

But, with such a complex solution, how can you assess whether you're doing everything you can to ensure success?

That's where this checklist comes in. It covers 10 of the key areas we examine when our experts run a Spectrum Protect (TSM) Healthcheck for new clients. It highlights the main criteria businesses should use to evaluate whether they are getting everything they should from Spectrum Protect (and whether their solution is adequately protecting their data).



10 questions to ask

Are you backing up everything you should?

While this sounds basic, a surprising number of companies are regularly missing key data in their back ups. Others assume that everything is being backed up successfully only to find out that key data is failing on a regular basis. So yes it's basic but it's also the first thing to check.

Are you able to restore data successfully?

Backing up data is little use if you cannot restore it when you need to. Again, it's important to not simply assume that this will happen effectively. For real peace of mind, you should regularly run tests to restore at least a random portion of your data.

Are your back ups running efficiently?

Every business must be able to back up its data on time. And with the exponential growth in data volumes, these back-up windows are becoming ever tighter. So you need to ensure your housekeeping is as efficient as possible to be confident of meeting your targets.

Is all data being copied offsite?

Even perfectly backed up data will fail to protect your business if it remains in the same location as your primary data. This is true even if it is placed in a protected environment such as a fireproof safe. What if, for example, you cannot access your building due to a disaster scenario (either within your building itself or in the local area)?

Are all servers scheduled for back up?

With the volume of information you need to deal with, automating as much of the back-up process as possible is key to success. However, it's important to ensure not just that all servers are scheduled but that all filespace on each server are included. Otherwise, the automatic nature of scheduled back-ups can mask weaknesses in the entire process.

Do you have room to grow?

It is extremely unlikely that you are dealing with less data than you did 10 years, 5 years or even a few months ago. In fact, you are almost certainly seeing the direct opposite. So before you run foul of capacity issues, you should be checking that you can deal both with expected long-term data growth and with sudden spikes in volume.

Are you clear on what to retain and for how long?

Not all data needs to be retained forever. However, to meet ever more stringent compliance requirements, you need to know exactly what data you're keeping and how long you need to keep it. Clearly documenting these requirements will help ensure you a) retain the right data and b) are able to delete redundant data to free up time and space.

Is your software compatible?

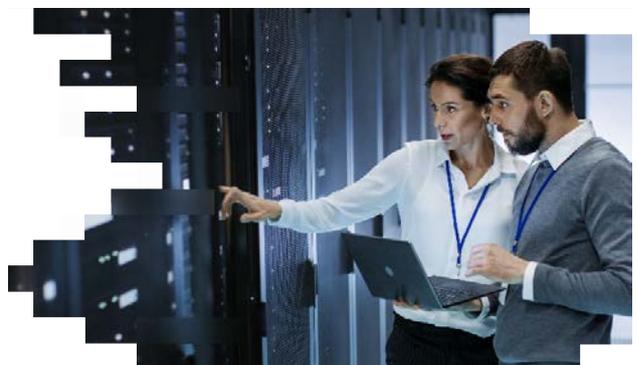
A lot has changed in recent years with new applications and operating systems going mainstream. To protect your business, Spectrum Protect needs to be able to interoperate with everything that must be backed up. So make sure you check just how compatible your Spectrum Protect version is with the other software your business now relies upon.

Is your hardware and firmware up to date?

In today's dynamic IT environment, vendors regularly update firmware and drivers. This may be to deliver simple bug fixes or to support different operating systems or, most importantly, to address potential security vulnerabilities. So it pays to ensure that your hardware is fully up to date.

Are you licensing Spectrum Protect in the most efficient way?

Speak to many IT professionals about licensing and they will sigh and roll their eyes. However, with Spectrum Protect, there are a variety of ways you can license the solution based on your current environment and the tasks you are carrying out. Reassessing your licensing and getting it right can save you a significant amount of money.



Isn't it time you took a Spectrum Protect Healthcheck?

While the 10 areas above offer a good place to start in assessing the health of your Spectrum Protect solution, there's a lot more we can help you with.

Speak to us about a full Spectrum Protect Healthcheck. This comprehensive service will help you ensure your data is protected and that your business is ready to face the future. Every healthcheck is carried out by our team of dedicated Spectrum Protect (TSM) experts and will deliver concrete, actionable recommendations within just 7 days.

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