



Microsoft

| ALTARO

Solution brief

# Back up virtual machines running on [Azure Stack HCI](#) with ease

# Altaro VM Backup provides award-winning virtual-machine backup and replication for Hyper-V environments that seamlessly integrates with Azure Stack HCI.

Microsoft Azure Stack HCI extends the datacenter into the cloud, allowing you to manage your on-premises workloads through Azure with a service available as an Azure subscription. But with the complexities of managing a virtualized environment, a backup strategy can be tricky. How do you protect and quickly restore data on virtual machines (VMs) hosted on hybrid infrastructure during an outage or disruption?

Altaro VM Backup is a modern backup and recovery solution that unlocks the full potential of hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) and hybrid-cloud deployments, especially Azure Stack HCI. Designed with IT admins in mind, Altaro VM Backup provides robust, enterprise-

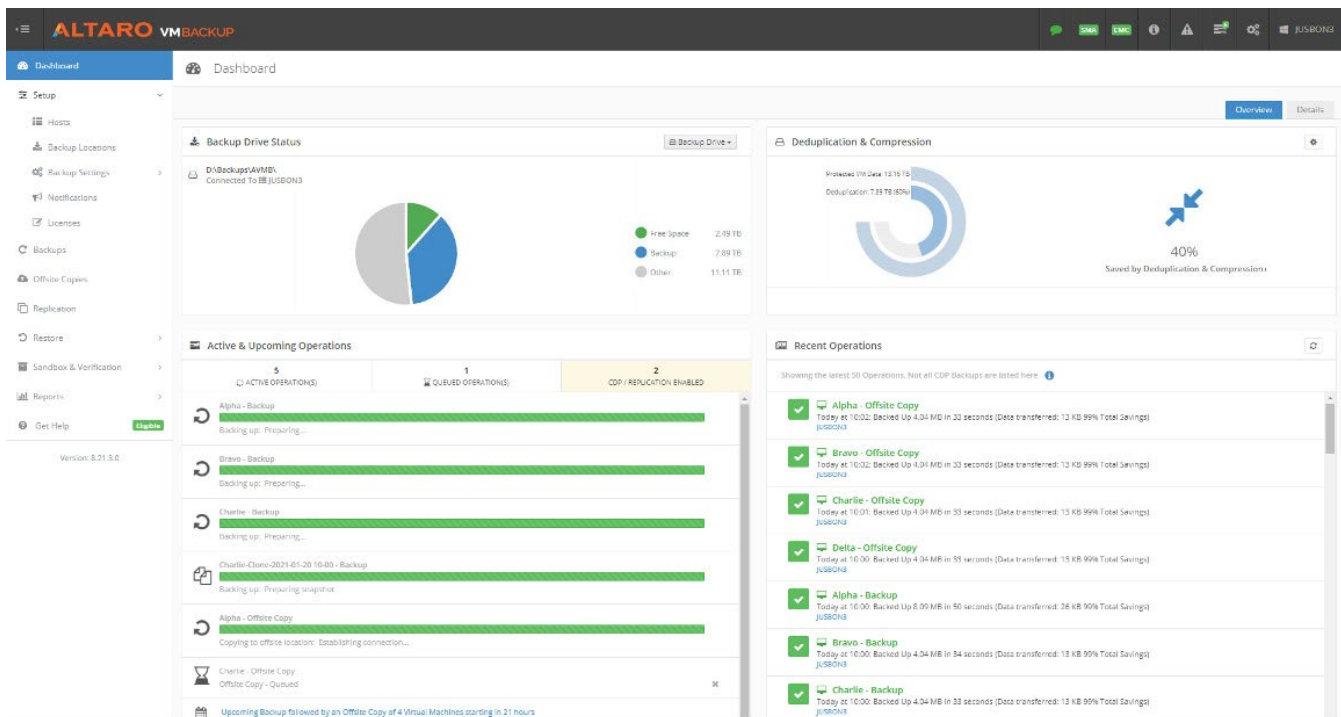
level functionality that is also easy to use, affordable, and fast. Aided by an intuitive user interface (UI), users can typically install the solution and run their first backup in less than 15 minutes.<sup>1</sup>

## Azure Stack HCI

Perhaps your organization wants the power of cloud-based management, yet must also retain some workloads on-premises for performance or regulatory reasons. Or perhaps your organization wants a hybrid-cloud solution that empowers both on-premises and cloud applications.

Regardless of your strategic IT destination, Azure Stack HCI makes powerful Azure management services available for your on-premises workloads, together with the familiar tools and operations in Windows Server. Azure Stack HCI provides a world-class HCI stack for more secure, efficient virtualization of Windows and Linux guests. Because Azure Stack HCI is delivered as an Azure service, it has built-in hybrid capabilities with Azure, and it provides up-to-date software and support. You can extend your datacenter to the cloud and manage Azure Stack HCI hosts, VMs, and Azure resources side by side in the Azure portal.

Azure Stack HCI also enables you to save money and increase efficiency. With it, you can modernize your infrastructure of aging servers and storage, consolidate virtualized workloads, and gain cloud efficiencies on-premises. Best of all, you can build your HCI using IT skills that your organization has already invested in. These skills include working with Microsoft Hyper-V and Windows Server, but they also extend to a number of third-party software solutions, including Altaro VM Backup. Altaro further enhances the cost and efficiency benefits of Azure Stack HCI with a fully supported application that is delivered under simple subscription-based licensing.



**Figure 1.** Designed to be intuitive and simple, Altaro VM Backup provides users with at-a-glance information on backup capacity, recent VM backup operations, efficiency gained through deduplication and compression, and more

## Run, manage, and monitor VM backups in Azure Stack HCI

IT administrators can get greater peace of mind with automated backups and recovery that help minimize disruption and data loss through a natively integrated Azure Stack HCI solution.

### Easy and reliable full VM backup

You can install Altaro VM Backup and run your first backup in as little as 15 minutes without any special training or custom configurations for Azure Stack HCI,<sup>1</sup> which is helpful for businesses with tight resources. In addition to the intuitive UI, Altaro provides a cloud-based, convenient central view of all installations if you have multiple sites to manage. If you're a managed service provider (MSP) using Altaro VM Backup, this capability also gives you a centralized multitenant view across all your customers. Backups can be local or offsite, including offsite servers or Azure, regardless of your business-continuity/disaster recovery strategy.

When disaster strikes, Altaro VM Backup helps your organization get back up and running in minimal time. It provides live, 100 percent VM backups with zero downtime. Altaro VM Backup provides WAN-Optimized Replication and Continuous Data Protection (CDP), which enable VMs to be continuously replicated to a remote site, in addition to a wide range of offsite backup location choices, such as your own hosted offsite server and Azure Blob Storage. This approach can radically improve your recovery-time objective (RTO) and recovery-point objective (RPO). With CDP, VMs can be backed up as frequently as every five minutes, ensuring only a few minutes of data are lost during an outage.

Being able to restore any workload to Azure Stack HCI also provides a simple and rapid avenue for migrating workloads to Azure Stack HCI. You can back up and deploy workloads within Azure Stack HCI deployments or datacenter locations to quickly and efficiently shift workloads. You can also back up virtualized workloads running on VMware ESXi, Nutanix AHV, or Microsoft Hyper-V with Windows Server

or Azure Stack HCI and restore them to Azure Stack HCI using Altaro VM Backup. Additionally, you can back up physical Windows Servers using Altaro Physical Server Backup.

### **Affordable and cost-effective, with 24/7 support**

With Altaro VM Backup, you can save on storage costs by making use of Altaro's signature augmented inline deduplication, which dramatically reduces your backup storage space. Customers also benefit from faster backups due to smaller data transfers. Overall, the intuitive and streamlined design of Altaro VM Backup makes it a simple solution with no extraneous features that increase costs.

Altaro VM Backup also is priced per host or per VM (depending on the licensing model you choose), not per CPU, to help improve savings and remove the hassle of complicated licensing. Altaro provides businesses with a free backup solution for two VMs per host.<sup>2</sup> For licensing costs, you have the flexibility to buy a perpetual license (with a renewable software-maintenance agreement) or an annual subscription per VM, allowing you to purchase the right option according to your organization's needs.

Customer support is available at no extra cost. Altaro provides premium 24/7 help—you can speak to a live Hyper-V expert within 30 seconds, without having to plow through bots or gatekeepers, and that expert will be your one point of contact for your entire journey.

## **Altaro VM Backup on Azure Stack HCI**

Altaro is a Microsoft-first solutions provider, so no configuration changes are required during installation. Altaro VM Backup is designed to work optimally with Azure Stack HCI out of the box. Altaro has also been validated as part of the independent software vendor (ISV) program for Azure Stack HCI. The ISV program spotlights those partners with supported applications that host, manage, and service validly licensed VMs running directly on the Azure Stack HCI operating system.

Altaro also supports MSPs through a monthly subscription program that includes all the features for direct customers. MSPs can quickly and easily provide their customers with backup and replication services for Hyper-V and VMware VMs and Windows physical servers. Altaro VM Backup includes a ground-breaking multitenant cloud-based console that allows MSPs to centrally and easily manage backups and billing across all their customers. No upfront costs or binding contracts are needed; MSPs simply pay per VM (and per physical server) per month, with the flexibility to set their own pricing. This solution enables MSPs to earn incremental revenue by providing replication and offsite storage services.



# Use case

## **Backup and disaster recovery**

For true preparedness, your backup infrastructure for Azure Stack HCI should be secure and comprehensive. Altaro VM Backup supports a range of backup/ recovery activities:

- Instantly boot any VM version from the backup location without affecting backup integrity.
- Use the Altaro Backup Health Monitor, which proactively monitors the health of your backup storage, including corruption detection, which helps to self-heal compromised blocks on the next backup.
- Browse through your exchange database and restore individual emails.
- Use granular restore options for full VM, single disk, or individual files.
- Restore one VM or a group of VMs to a different host.
- Restore or spin up replicas from multiple points in time rather than from only the most recent backup.
- Benefit from automatic 256-bit AES encryption of offsite backup copies through the secure passphrase that you configure upon initial setup. Encryption is optional for local backups.

Altaro enhances your investment in Azure Stack HCI with easy-to-deploy backup, disaster recovery, and central data-management capabilities designed for the hybrid cloud.

# Use case

## Cloud management

From the Altaro Cloud Management Console, which is a single dashboard accessible on a web browser, you can monitor and manage the state of backups and restores on your Azure Stack HCI infrastructure. Altaro VM Backup complements Azure Stack HCI and the Azure cloud with automated and proven tools designed to meet the needs of even the most complex organizations.

- Monitor VM backup/offsite copy-verification results and health.
- Monitor the status and progress of all VMs configured for replication.
- Monitor missed scheduled tasks.
- View the progress of VM backup/offsite copy/restore/verification jobs.
- Report on VM backup/offsite copy/restore/verification operation history.
- Create backup setting templates to apply to different groups of VMs.

If you're an IT reseller, MSP, or value-added reseller (VAR):

- Provide backup as a service (BaaS) by centrally managing, monitoring, and billing all your customers' VM and physical Windows Server backups from a single, easy-to-use multitenant console.
- Store customer backups on your servers and manage their backup storage through the console.
- View backup storage used per customer.
- Register multiple Altaro VM Backup installations



# Protect and manage your VMs, applications, containers, and storage in Azure Stack HCI

Azure Stack HCI simplifies your operations as an easy-to-manage solution that integrates with your environment and with popular third-party solutions like Altaro VM Backup. Licensing is also simple with Altaro VM Backup and Azure Stack HCI: the same license applies to Azure Stack HCI as to on-premises deployments. In fact, you can use your existing Altaro VM Backup licenses with Azure Stack HCI.

Altaro VM Backup is currently used by 10,000+ partners and MSPs, and by 50,000+ businesses worldwide, offering full support for Hyper-V with fewer complexities so that users can quickly accomplish advanced tasks. The solution has won numerous industry awards, including Best Server Backup Software Company 2021 from Digital.com, Best Data Protection and Disaster Recovery 2020 and Backup Solution of the Year 2020 from AI Publishing, and many more.

To try Altaro VM Backup for yourself, download a free 30-day trial at [www.altaro.com/hyper-v-backup](http://www.altaro.com/hyper-v-backup)—this also includes free backups to Azure Stack HCI until June 30, 2021.<sup>3</sup>

To learn more about Azure Stack HCI, visit [www.azure.com/hci](http://www.azure.com/hci).



<sup>1</sup> Altaro Software. "An Introduction to Altaro VM Backup v8." November 2018. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRHRU2BfS1E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mRHRU2BfS1E).

<sup>2</sup> When signing up for a free trial, you can choose to purchase a license or subscription at the end of the trial, or you can opt for Altaro VM Backup Free Edition, which allows you to back up two VMs per host at no cost indefinitely. For more information, visit [www.altaro.com/free-virtual-machine-backup-solution.php](http://www.altaro.com/free-virtual-machine-backup-solution.php).

<sup>3</sup> When you add an Azure Stack HCI host, Altaro automatically assigns it a trial license so that all VMs on that host will have complete Altaro VM Backup functionality available without the need to pay for the duration of the trial license.

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