Rocket® Data Recovery for Dell® zDP

Overview
Identifying datasets with Dell zDP

Dell Data Protector for zSystems® (zDP) is a Dell Technologies z/OS®-based application that uses TimeFinder SnapVX snapshots to enable rapid recovery from logical data corruption. When zDP creates a cyclic snapset within the data storage hardware, the snapset is comprised of snapshot images of individual DASD volumes. Between snapset creations, it is possible, even likely, that datasets may move from one volume to another or become multi-volume datasets over time.

In addition, the relationships between volume serial number and device may change as new devices are added, moved, or removed. The catalog environment is also dynamically updated to reflect such changes.

Since zDP replicates data at the volume level, and logical datasets may move from one volume to another over time, identifying which volume in a snapset contains a specific dataset can be a challenge.
Selectively Retrieve Dell zDP snapset datasets

Rocket Data Recovery for Dell zDP, a capability within Rocket Data Recovery Manager, provides an adapter interface to Dell™ VMAX and PowerMax arrays and zDP software offering, enabling users to selectively retrieve datasets from zDP snapsets in an automated fashion that would normally take hours or even days to manually recover.

Data Recovery for Dell zDP gives z/OS customers the ability to perform granular, point-in-time recovery at the dataset level. Restored datasets can be renamed and made available to a z/OS image, and a new copy of the data is created that can be used as input to a production application recovery process.

This enables recovery of data which has been logically corrupted or encrypted because of a cyber-attack or operational error.
One of Data Recovery for Dell zDP's functions is to record the state of the production DASD volumes and devices, along with user catalog information from the current production system’s master catalog, allowing potentially dynamic information to be made available for each snapshot point-in-time.

Data Recovery for Dell zDP employs the concept of a staging pool of target devices with pre-determined volume serial numbers that do not conflict with any currently mounted DASD volumes. Each staging pool volume is assigned an SMS-Managed volume serial (VOLSER) number and a Non-SMS VOLSER number that is implemented as needed.

With a snapshot date and time and a dataset name, Data Recovery for Dell zDP navigates through point-in-time catalogs, translates VOLSER numbers to Symmetrix device numbers, retrieves the device snapshots into the local staging pool of DASD devices, and ultimately presents the requested datasets in their historical state, renamed, and cataloged for immediate use.

The figure below represents the Data Recovery for Dell zDP architecture for a topology where zDP snapsets are created at a Dell VMAX or PowerMax SRDF/A secondary site. Data Recovery for Dell zDP components run at both the primary and secondary site to provide the capability to identify where a dataset exists within a snapset and to interface with the Dell storage array function to make the correct volumes available and perform dataset recovery.
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