

KEY CRITERIA FOR SELECTING A REPLICATION PRODUCT

	TYPE OF REPLICATION		
Criteria	Array based	Host based	Network based
Storage infrastructure	Requires homogeneous storage or storage virtualization	Storage agnostic	Storage agnostic; fabric-based products require intelligent switches
Server infrastructure	Equally suitable for small or large number of servers and multi-OS environments	Very attractive for a small number of hosts; unfavorable for a large number of servers and multiple OS infrastructures	Equally suitable for small or large number of servers and multi-OS environments
Management	Very good, as replication is simply an extension of array management	Complexity increases with the number of hosts	One additional storage component to manage; complexity is independent of the number of hosts and arrays
Scalability	Good; it's directly linked to scalability of the arrays	Very good, as replication runs on hosts	More prone to becoming a performance bottleneck
Robustness	Very robust, as it's part of the storage array	Less robust, as problems on hosts and in applications can impact replication	Very robust because of dedicated appliances
Cost	Very good for existing arrays; unfavorable if new arrays need to be added	Cost increases proportionally with the number of hosts	Fixed cost for variable number of servers and arrays