PlateSpin Forge

High-performance Disaster Recovery Appliance for Server Workloads

By dramatically reducing the time and specialized technical resources needed to implement and test a recovery environment, PlateSpin Forge puts workload protection and recovery within reach for small and medium-sized enterprises, and for departments and branch offices within larger enterprises. For larger implementations, you can deploy multiple PlateSpin Forge appliances and centrally manage them through a single-pane-of-glass management console.

Historically, disaster recovery for backing up and protecting server workloads came in two extremes: slow but inexpensive tape backup, and expensive infrastructure duplication for zero or near-zero downtime. But increasingly, organizations are looking for an affordable middle ground, for the growing "middle class" of physical and virtual workloads that have Recovery Time Objectives (RTO) and Recovery Point Objectives (RPO) between thirty minutes and four hours. Overnight tape backups can't meet these metrics, and mirroring duplicate infrastructures is too costly for all but a small number of the most mission-critical workloads. NetIQ bridges this gap with PlateSpin Forge, capable of delivering on RTOs and RPOs of less than one hour, for a fraction of the cost of duplicate servers.

Product Overview

PlateSpin Forge is an affordable yet powerful all-in-one disaster recovery hardware appliance that provides a smarter, faster way to replicate and protect whole server workloads—including data, applications and operating systems. PlateSpin Forge delivers high-performance protection for up to 40 or more physical or virtual workloads, running either Windows or Linux. PlateSpin Forge features a fully sandboxed virtual test environment to ensure that virtual backups will run as needed, if needed. In the event of a production server outage or disaster, you can rapidly power on exact virtual machine copies of production workloads and continue to run them as normal inside the

PlateSpin Forge recovery environment, until you restore the production servers. When you've replaced or repaired your production environment, you can then restore the workloads back to physical servers or virtual hosts... even across different server models and hypervisors. PlateSpin Forge ships with everything you need to begin protecting your servers, literally straight out of the box.
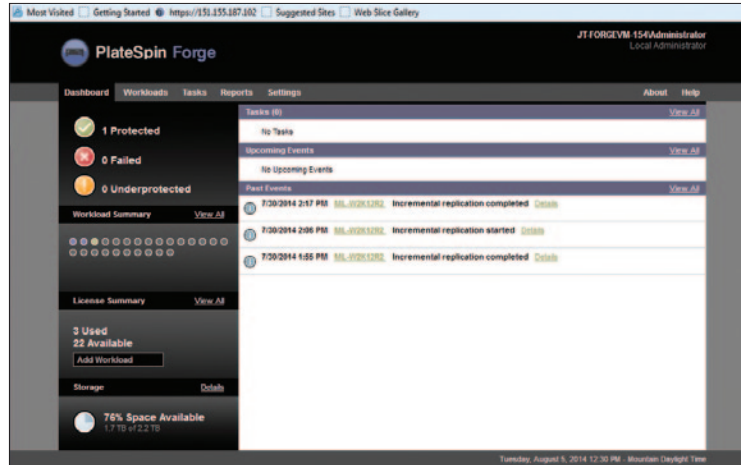
Key Benefits

• **Simplified Disaster Recovery** – In many organizations, disaster recovery (or business continuity, or continuity of operations) is so complex that it has become a separate discipline, with dedicated staff and specialized titles. The turnkey appliance packaging of PlateSpin Forge gives customers an easy-to-use and easy-to-deploy disaster recovery solution that doesn't require specialized training or advanced technical expertise. Unlike other more complex solutions, PlateSpin Forge includes everything you need for robust disaster recovery right out of the box. It can be configured and running in just a few hours. Once up and running, the intuitive interface in PlateSpin Forge has virtually no learning curve and can be maintained by just about anyone.

• **Lower DR Costs** – When given the choice between costly infrastructure duplication-based mirroring solutions and tape backup solutions, IT administrators are forced to use expensive mirroring for any workload for which the 24-hour RPO of tape is unacceptable, even if those workloads

The PlateSpin Forge web-based management interface lets you view the status of your recovery plan at all times and manage, monitor and report on all aspects of workload protection and recovery.

don't truly need zero or near-zero RPO. PlateSpin Forge allows you to achieve most of the performance benefits of mirroring your environments, with RPOs and RTOs of under an hour, at a price point approaching tape. You can significantly reduce disaster recovery infrastructure costs by using the most expensive solution, mirrored duplication, for fewer workloads – only the ones that truly need it.

• **Improve Performance** – At the same time, having spent up to 80% of the DR budget on duplication-based mirroring solutions for truly mission-critical workloads, many organizations are forced to settle for poor-performing tape backup for all remaining workloads. PlateSpin Forge dramatically reduces RTOs compared to tape. While a backup tape must first be retrieved and restored to a separate recovery environment, the warm standby virtual machines used by the NetIQ solutions can be quickly booted in place to run directly within the virtual recovery infrastructure. This approach delivers vastly improved performance over traditional backup, allowing you to improve recovery times for a greater percentage of your workloads while avoiding costly duplicate hardware and software investments.

• **Reduce Risk** – Regular testing is a critical but often overlooked component of disaster recovery planning. PlateSpin Forge allows you to rapidly and easily test the integrity of protected workloads. With a single click, you can take a virtual snapshot of the recovery workload, boot it into a safe sandbox test network, and quickly validate the recovery plan to ensure that recovery metrics, including recovery time objective and recovery point objective, are met. And because the test snapshot is fenced off from the production network, you can work without impacting the production environment. PlateSpin Forge gives you a very easy, fast—and more importantly, safe—testing mechanism. The more regularly disaster recovery solutions are tested, the more confidence you (and the organization) have that they are up-to-date and will function correctly and as expected if a disaster actually occurs.

• **Eliminate Guesswork** – Because it can be difficult to predict how production workloads will perform in a recovery environment, it's often a guessing game to balance how many workloads to protect against the acceptable performance hit in a recovery situation. All PlateSpin Forge 700 Series appliances include licenses for PlateSpin Recon, to replace this guesswork with concrete data. PlateSpin Recon analyzes the resource utilization of production workloads, recommending how many and which workloads to protect, and also accurately predicting performance in the recovery environment.

Model Number	510	525	710	725	740
Workloads					
Number of workloads	10	25	10	25	40
Expandable workloads*	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Storage					
Internal backup storage	4.5 TB	4.5 TB	20 TB	20 TB	20 TB
Expandable (iSCSI or fiber channel)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Physical					
Rack Units	2U	2U	2U	2U	2U

*Additional licenses are available in five-workload add on packages. The PlateSpin Forge 510 supports a maximum of 25 workloads. There are no workload license restrictions for the PlateSpin Forge 710, 725, or 740 models.

Key Features

High-performance, low-risk protection

Under an hour RPO/RTO
Replicate production workloads to warm-standby virtual machines, which can be powered on and run directly within your virtual infrastructure in minutes. Virtual machines deliver incredibly fast recovery performance because the backup media is also the recovery environment. PlateSpin Forge delivers mirror-like performance at tape backup prices, protecting workloads with frequent user-configurable incremental replications, allowing RPO as low as 30 minutes, and RTO as low as an hour or less.

Live whole workload replication
PlateSpin Forge enables you to protect entire server workloads (data, applications and operating systems) within a single bootable recovery environment, without taking the source servers offline or having to reboot. Replication uses minimal resources on the source servers, so users can continue to use production servers even while they're being backed up, with little or no impact on performance. Whole workload protection allows you to avoid the hassles of manual system rebuilding, system and data restore.

Easy failover testing
One-click test failover allows you to rapidly test the integrity of workload replication. With a mouse click, you can take a virtual snapshot of the recovery workload, power it on within a private internal sandbox network and quickly validate the recovery plan. PlateSpin Forge provides an easy, fast, auditable—and more importantly, safe—testing mechanism so you can be sure your recovery – and not just your backup – is working properly.

Multiple recovery points
PlateSpin Forge supports multiple recovery points, allowing you to revert back to the last known good state of a protected workload. This eliminates the risk of recovering a corrupted workload. You can customize the number of recovery points to achieve an optimal balance between storage allocation and protection requirements.

Broad platform support
PlateSpin Forge enables streamlined disaster recovery for mixed datacenter environments, with support for protection of physical and virtual workloads running Windows or Linux.

"With PlateSpin Forge, we no longer have to worry about whether we'll be able to fully recover our systems in the event of a failure. This allows us to concentrate on more pressing matters and work more productively."

Michael Leggiero
Enterprise Technology Manager,
The Miller Group

NetIQ®

To learn more about Plate Spin Forge, go to **www.netiq.com/forge.**

Economical disaster recovery

"Plug in and protect" server workloads

PlateSpin Forge provides complete protection for up to 40 or more physical or virtual workloads straight out of the box. All necessary hardware, storage, disaster recovery software and virtualization technology are prepackaged, preconfigured and ready to go, reducing the time and effort required to deploy a disaster recovery solution.

Failback flexibility

Leveraging the multi-platform Workload Portability technology also found in PlateSpin Migrate, PlateSpin Forge provides flexible restore options to close the loop of disaster recovery by "failing back" or restoring your workloads to any available server. With the broadest support of x86 hardware and virtual platforms, there's no need to keep identical duplicate hardware on standby "just in case". PlateSpin Forge gets you back to business as usual with ultimate flexibility: workload failback can be rapidly executed to any physical or virtual host regardless of manufacturer, make or model.

Easy management

Automatic discovery

Automatically discover existing physical or virtual machines throughout the network for complete visibility into the data center landscape—including hardware, operating systems, services and application inventory. This feature allows you to quickly identify workloads that should be protected using discovered workload details.

Events, tasks and actionable alerts

PlateSpin Forge creates, distributes and logs events to facilitate better management of the disaster recovery plan. You can be notified of events through e-mail so you don't have to actively monitor systems to stay on top of the disaster recovery plan. When an event occurs that requires user interaction, such as executing a workload failover, a task is created that includes associated actions, so users know exactly what they must do to rectify the issue. Finally, event logging provides a comprehensive audit trail so you can validate, review and report on the recovery plan.

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