



# Advanced Storage Snapshot Integration with Everpure FlashArray and Veeam Data Platform





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# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Veeam's Everpure Integration</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Configuring USAPI Plugin</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Configuring Storage Snapshot Integration</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>USAPI Integration Examples</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>7</b>

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## Introduction

The Veeam® Data Platform API-based integration with storage systems helps decrease the impact data protection can have on the production environment and significantly improves recovery point objectives (RPOs) and recovery time objectives (RTO). Storage vendors, in turn, have leveraged the Veeam Universal Storage API (USAPI) framework to integrate their storage solutions with Veeam. With this powerful integration, customers can use storage snapshots to enable a range of valuable capabilities.

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## Veeam's Everpure Integration

Everpure has been working with Veeam since 2017 to provide storage snapshot integration leveraging Veeam's Universal Storage Application Programming Interface (USAPI). The Everpure plugin for Veeam's USAPI has been downloaded and used by thousands of Veeam and Everpure customers.

The USAPI framework includes the orchestration of replicated snapshots and the ability to offload/archive storage snapshots in their native snapshot format to secondary storage for longer term retention.

### Capabilities:

- **Backup from Storage Snapshots.** Use storage snapshots to create backups and replicas of VMware vSphere VMs hosted on FlashArray storage systems. Backup from Storage Snapshots speeds up backup and replication operations and reduces the impact of backup on the production environment by offloading the backup I/O directly to the FlashArray storage.
- **Veeam Explorer™ for Storage Snapshots.** Restore VM data directly from FlashArray storage snapshots. Veeam Explorer for Storage Snapshots automates the process of VM data recovery and reduces recovery time for storage snapshots orchestrated by Veeam or snapshots created by other means, like FlashArray Protection Groups.
- **Snapshot Orchestration.** Configure backup jobs to periodically create storage snapshots on the primary storage arrays for more frequent restore points (e.g., hourly). In addition to improving RPOs, Veeam is able to create application-consistent storage snapshots on the FlashArray. This enables fast granular recovery of data, right down to the application-item level. This key capability enables Everpure and Veeam customers to reduce their RPOs and RTOs without investing in additional compute and storage resources.
- **Backup from Storage Snapshots with Snapshot Retention.** Configure backup jobs to create Veeam backup files in the backup repository and to create supplemental, application-consistent storage snapshots for more frequent recovery points on the primary FlashArray.
- **On-Demand Sandbox™ for Storage Snapshots.** Start and test VMs from FlashArray storage snapshots in On-Demand Sandbox. On-Demand Sandbox can be used for use cases, including validating snapshot recovery points, testing and troubleshooting.

Additionally, with Veeam's USAPI and the Everpure Plugin, these capabilities are extended to include advanced snapshot orchestration, including:

- **Snapshot Orchestration to Secondary FlashArrays.** Configure Veeam jobs to periodically create storage snapshots and replicate to secondary FlashArrays leveraging either asynchronous or synchronous array-based replication.
- **Backup from Storage Snapshots with Snapshot Retention on secondary FlashArrays.** Configure Veeam backup jobs to create Veeam backup files on a remote backup target from the replicated storage snapshots. These backup jobs can be extended to include supplemental storage snapshot retention on the secondary FlashArray.
- **Snapshot Offload to Object Storage.** Portable snapshots encapsulate metadata along with the data so the snapshots can be offloaded by a Veeam job from the primary FlashArray to object storage, like FlashBlade//S. Simply download the snapshot back to any FlashArray for recovery.

With these additional capabilities, Everpure and Veeam customers can leverage advanced data protection services that not only maximize their investments but are also easy to use.

## End-to-end immutability

No conversation about storage integration and protection would be complete without mentioning how it impacts the customer's ability to protect against ransomware and other cyberthreats. Ransomware is an existential threat to organizations and a major source of anxiety for IT organizations. Everpure and Veeam provide end-to-end immutability as one way to protect against malicious threats like ransomware. Everpure can protect both production and backup data residing on FlashArray with SafeMode immutable storage snapshots. Veeam provides an additional layer of immutability with Veeam Hardened Repository, which works seamlessly with SafeMode snapshots on the backup FlashArray storage.

Immutable snapshots on both primary and secondary FlashArrays, combined with immutable backup repositories, provide Everpure and Veeam customers with remarkable capabilities and value. To achieve this level of cyber-protection with other vendors would require more storage and security products and would dramatically increase the cost and complexity of the data protection implementation.

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## Configuring USAPI Plugin

To access the Everpure USAPI plugin, please follow these steps:

1. Use this [link](#) to navigate to the Veeam Storage Plugin download page.
2. Click on the download icon next to the Plug-in for Veeam.
3. Once you have unzipped the compressed folder, run the plugin executable. Use this [link](#) for the instructions to install the plugin.
4. Please refer to Veeam Support Knowledge Base article [KB4129](#) for the most recent release information about the plugin.

# Configuring Storage Snapshot integration

The Veeam Help Center documentation on [Integration with Storage Systems](#) provides descriptions and details on how to set up Veeam storage snapshot integration.

## USAPI Integration Examples

As mentioned earlier, there are several new major capabilities added to the Pure Storage plugin for Veeam USAPI:

- Snapshot Orchestration with FlashArray Asynchronous Replication
- Snapshot Orchestration with FlashArray Synchronous Replication
- Snapshot Archive

Here are examples of each of these new capabilities:

### Snapshot Orchestration with FlashArray asynchronous replication

Asynchronous replication is a snapshot-based asynchronous replication solution that leverages space-efficient snapshots to replicate point-in-time consistent copies of FlashArray volumes.

**There are two main use cases for this capability when combined with Veeam:**

1. Keep storage snapshot retention on both the primary and the remote FlashArray
2. Create the backup from the remote storage snapshot

The steps for creating Veeam jobs for each of these use cases are very similar. Use case #1 is explained in detail below. Use case #2 is explained by the pointing out the differences to the job configuration in use case #1.

**Use case #1:** Use Veeam snapshot-only jobs to create a chain of storage snapshots on the secondary FlashArray (for detailed step-by-step instructions, please refer to the [Veeam Help Center documentation](#) for snapshot-only jobs).

**Use case #2:** Create the backup from the remote storage snapshot. For this use case, create a backup job rather than a snapshot-only job. The difference with the Snapshot-only Job (detailed above) is determined by specifying a backup repository in the Veeam backup job.

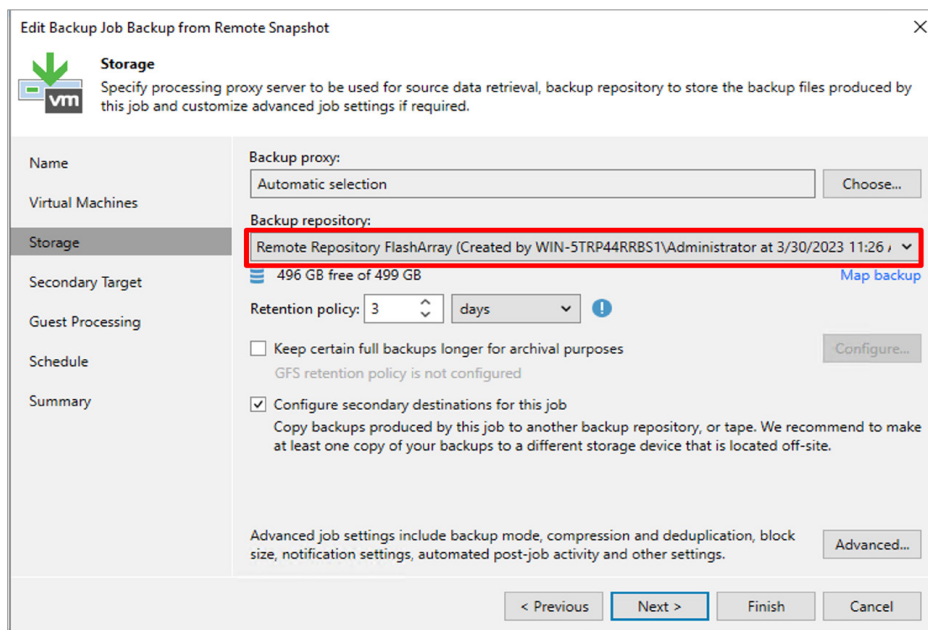
**NOTE:** The snapshot replication relationship between FlashArrays must be established prior to leveraging USAPI snapshot replication.

## Snapshot Orchestration with FlashArray synchronous replication

Everpure Storage FlashArray synchronous replication provides a symmetric active-active replication solution that enables mirroring of volumes at the storage layer. A storage snapshot created from either array is synchronously maintained on both arrays. The main use case for synchronous replication, when combined with Veeam, is creating a backup at the remote site from the remote storage snapshot.

Use a Veeam backup job to create the storage snapshot synchronously on both the local and the secondary FlashArray, then use the secondary snapshot as the source for the backup.

**NOTE:** The snapshot replication relationship between FlashArrays must be established prior to leveraging USAPI storage snapshot replication.



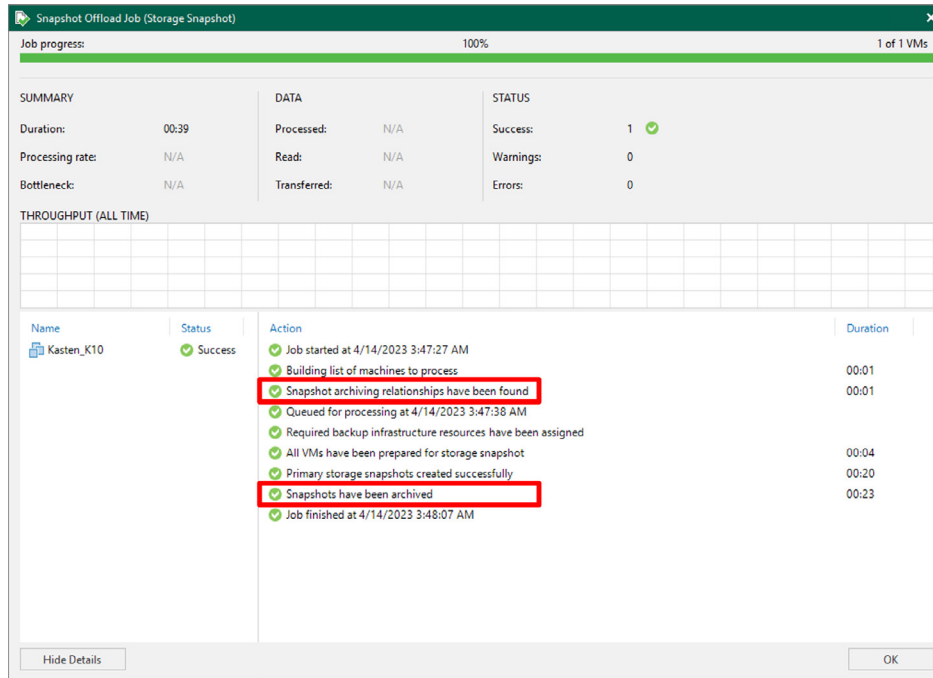
## Snapshot archive

Portable snapshot technology enables FlashArray to offload snapshots to FlashBlade or to other object and file targets. Snapshots offloaded to FlashBlade enable long term retention of storage snapshots on secondary storage tiers, like FlashBlade//E and //S. This capability is important for customers in compliance-centric industries, like financial and healthcare.

Creating a Snapshot Offload to Object Storage job is very similar to creating a Veeam Snapshot-only Job. The key difference is when you add the secondary target, you will choose the Storage FlashArray Offload option.

Please note that the Everpure Storage FlashArray Offload application and configuration must be done in advance through the FlashArray web-based user interface.

Veeam Job Actions for this storage snapshot offload job.



Please keep in mind that these offloaded, or archived, snapshots must be “onloaded” back to a FlashArray before they can be used as the source of Veeam recovery operations.

## Conclusion

Veeam Data Platform, along with the plugin for USAPI, provide powerful new storage snapshot orchestration capabilities to the thousands of existing Veeam customers, as well as to the countless organizations looking for powerful-yet-simple ways to protect the lifeblood of their organizations — their data. Veeam customers get more out of their storage investment than they could with virtually any other storage vendor on the market today.

For more information on Veeam partnership and solutions, please visit [Everpure Alliance page](#) on [veeam.com](#) or the [Veeam Software Alliance page](#) on [www.everpuredata.com](#).

### About Veeam Software

Veeam is the Data and AI Trust Company, specializing in helping organizations ensure their data and AI are fully understood, secured, and resilient to enable the acceleration of safe AI at scale. As the market leader in both data resilience and data security posture management, Veeam is built for the convergence of identity, data, security, and AI risk. Headquartered in Seattle, with offices in more than 30 countries, Veeam protects over 550,000 customers worldwide, including 82% of the Fortune 500. Learn more at [www.veeam.com](http://www.veeam.com) or follow Veeam on LinkedIn [@veeam-software](#) and X [@veeam](#).

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