

## EMC enhances ControlCenter:

### 6.1 supports virtual provisioning, security and better usability

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**Abstract:** Following on a very successful EMC ControlCenter (ECC) 6.0 launch last year, EMC is rolling out version 6.1. This release provides support for Symmetrix Virtual Provisioning, tighter integration with Symmetrix Management Console (SMC) and significantly enhanced security. IT administrators that have EMC Symmetrix environments will find the support for Symmetrix Virtual Provisioning, Flash drives, Cascading SRDF and integration with ControlCenter useful for maintaining better control of their storage.

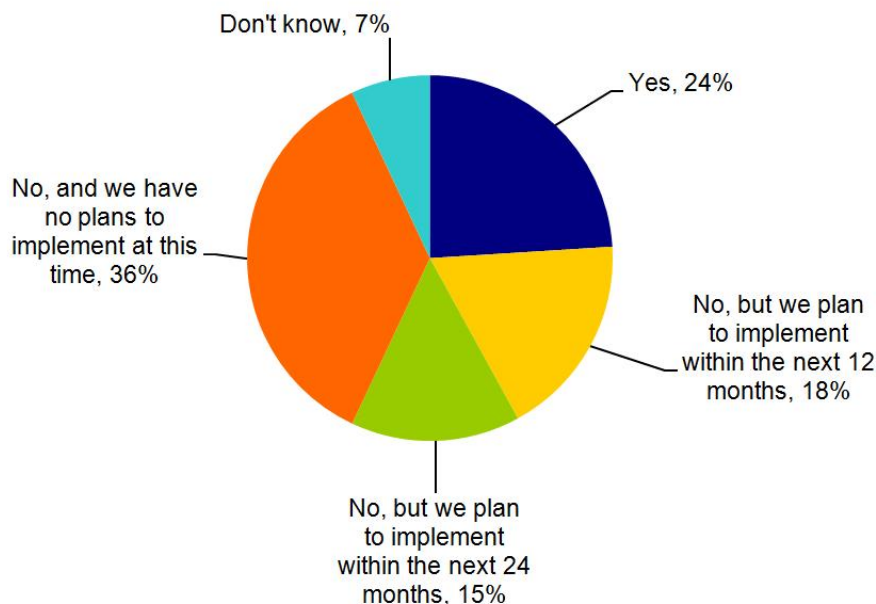
#### Introduction

EMC recently announced the availability of ControlCenter 6.1. This dot release follows the very successful launch of ControlCenter 6.0 in which EMC added support for virtual server environments, unified and open reporting, extended storage platform support (both within EMC and other vendors), improved user interfaces and better upgrade abilities (not forklift upgrades). With only a year since the launch and almost 1/3 of EMC's customers adopting the new technology, this release provides a clear validation that support for virtualized environments is very relevant. Virtualization technologies (server and storage) continue to be a major catalyst for change in the data center and their adoption continues to grow. The benefits of server virtualization are well documented and include reduced capital and operational costs, higher availability and rapid application provisioning. However, even retaining the same storage infrastructure companies may still be delayed by lengthy storage provisioning times. This has led many organizations to consider leveraging storage virtualization technologies ranging from thin provisioning to appliance- or network-based virtualization in order to keep pace with accelerated server provisioning processes.

In fact, a recent ESG global survey found that organizations deploying server virtualization are likely to deploy storage virtualization as well (Figure 1). Of 332 respondents who have already deployed server virtualization, 24% have also deployed storage virtualization and another 33% plan to in the next 12-24 months.

FIGURE 1. STORAGE VIRTUALIZATION

**Has your organization deployed a storage virtualization solution in conjunction with its virtual server environment?**  
(Percent of respondents, N = 332)



Source: ESG Research Report, *The Impact of Server Virtualization on Storage*, December, 2007

Of those that had already deployed storage virtualization, 45% had specifically implemented storage virtualization to complement a server virtualization initiative and another 53% reported that while they had started as separate projects, the benefits of using the technologies together were clear. In order to increase the service levels to the business, a combination of server and storage virtualization technologies need to be implemented. For storage administrators accustomed to dealing in absolutes, inserting a layer of abstraction can be concerning. The ability to have complete visibility into the environment will be a must.

It is with those issues in mind that ControlCenter 6.1 was released. This version provides support for EMC Symmetrix Virtual Provisioning available on Symmetrix DMX 3 and 4. Continuing the trend that 6.0 started, this release also provides tighter integration with the element managers and strong enhancements to security features.

### What's new in ControlCenter V6.1

ControlCenter version 6.1 includes support for:

- Symmetrix DMX-3 and DMX-4 Virtual Provisioning
  - Based on feedback from EMC's extensive user community, this version provides a complete end-to-end view as well as control of the environment from virtual machines or physical hosts down to the common pool of storage located on the array. Detailed information includes:
    - Alert monitoring, free space views and relationship views, including the ability to determine the impact of a virtual or physical host on thin devices and pools
    - The ability to track consumption with StorageScope to forecast maximum capacity for both device and common storage pool
    - The ability to establish chargeback based on consumed capacity
    - The ability to leverage Performance Manager to set user-defined performance thresholds delivered via web-based reporting
    - The ability to customize reports or queries on virtual provisioning based on user-defined fields or groups.

- While Virtual Provisioning will bring many benefits to users, including predictable performance and much faster dynamic provisioning of storage, the key to its widespread acceptance will be monitoring tools like those found in 6.1 that provide the requisite visibility and control over the abstracted layers of storage. Although 6.1 is a free upgrade to those customers on a maintenance agreement, there will be an additional charge for the Virtual Provisioning functionality.
- Advanced security features
  - After acquiring RSA, EMC created a product security office, whose function is to create common security policies that need to be integrated into all EMC product lines. This ensures that security is considered across the entire lifecycle of a product—from creation to deployment through ongoing maintenance and support. Some of the security enhancements include:
    - Authorization and encryption leveraging RSA.
    - Default settings which ensure maximum security (users can disable).
    - Security compliant audit logging, including compliance with EMC Product Security Policy.
  - Security is playing a more important role in the data center and EMC is leveraging its resources to ensure its products are built, deployed and supported in the most secure way possible.
- Enhanced usability and support
  - EMC has tightly integrated Symmetrix Management Console with ControlCenter 6.1 and now provides in-context launch capabilities. This feature will save administrators time trying to navigate through a secondary application by opening the appropriate screen for executing contiguous tasks between ControlCenter and the Symmetrix Management Console.
  - ControlCenter V6.1 provides enhanced coverage of sophisticated BC/DR and high performance environments by including support for Cascaded SRDF(multi-site DR) and Tier 0, Symmetrix Flash drives.
  - This version will also support communications to host agents over IPv6 networks

## The Bottom Line

There is a definite need for solutions to the problems of managing virtualized environments. It is difficult to manage your storage environment when your applications are playing hide and seek and you are left uncertain as to how much storage you actually have. Having end-to-end visibility and control of these virtualized server and storage environments is critical for storage administrators to be able to manage them effectively. In ControlCenter 6.1 EMC extends its coverage to include the Symmetrix Virtual Provisioning which should help accelerate the adoption of that product as well. This is a good first step and ESG would like to see EMC extend its support to include other storage and server virtualization programs in the future.

EMC continues to execute against its vision of providing cross domain visibility, management and intelligence from applications through servers, network and storage. The end goal is to provide customers with solutions that correlate infrastructure issues to business impact. In fact, EMC continues to leverage its user groups to map the ControlCenter portfolio to customer use cases in order to leverage software to instill best practices and discipline that will enable IT to deliver better service levels to the business. ControlCenter 6.0 was a big step in the right direction and the 6.1 release extends that forward momentum.