Quorum®

onQ Release Notes

Version 3.6 HF1

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Table of Contents

Preface 1

Online Help 1

Chapter Organization 1

1. **What's New** 3

2. **Support** 5

   2.1 Platform Support 5

   2.2 Hypervisor Support 6

   2.3 Browser Support 6

   2.4 Bare Metal Restore Support 7

3. **Limitations** 9

   3.1 Linux RN Limitations 9

   3.2 Windows 2012 Limitations 10

   3.3 Volume Mount Point Limitations 11

   3.4 File-only Backup Limitations 11

   3.5 Bare Metal Restore Limitations 12

   3.6 Windows Cluster Services Limitations 13

4. **Updates** 15

   4.1 Upgrade Support 15

   4.2 Update Appliance software 16

Preface

This guide is intended for System Administrators who need to keep abreast of new onQ features and ongoing support and who want to upgrade their onQ Appliance.

Online Help

Online Help for onQ and Archive Vault products are available through their respective portals. Online documentation is available at:

Help	Where to go...
onQ	http://www.quorum.net/help/3.6HF1/onQ/wwhelp/wwhimpl/js/html/wwhelp.htm#href=Getting%20Started/Welcome.html
AV	http://www.quorum.net/help/3.6HF1/Vault/wwhelp/wwhimpl/js/html/wwhelp.htm#href=Getting%20Started/Welcome.html

Chapter Organization

The chapters and appendices of this manual are as follows:

- Chapter 1, *What's New*
- Chapter 2, *Support*
- Chapter 3, *Limitations*
- Chapter 4, *Updates*

1

What's New

3.6 HF1 doesn't not include any new features. However, the previous release, 3.6, includes the following new features and enhancements:

- **Linux PNs**: Extended support, including backup and RN creation, for RHEL 5.x and Oracle 5.8 (for a complete support matrix, go to "Support" on page 5).
- **onQ Monitor**: Provides status information on all onQ Appliance from a "single pane of glass." From onQ Monitor, you can view and evaluate the protection of your enrolled onQ Appliances, Protected Nodes, and Recovery Nodes, as well as disk and other resource utilization, critical alerts, and much more.For more information, go to the Online Help.
- **Bare Metal Restore (BMR)**: The BMR wizard provides for easier restoration of your physical and virtual servers. You can perform a BMR without leaving the Quorum Ultimate Automated Recovery Kit (QUARK) wizard. This workflow includes a platform upgrade to use Windows 2012-based WinPE, ensuring the availability of driver cache for a wide range of physical hardware and virtual environments. Additionally, the new QUARK enables the target server to be booted in EFI and BIOS mode. The wizard also provides greater error handling.For more information, go to the Online Help.
- **Protected Node Configuration**: Ability to modify protected node configuration with protection ON.
- **Bandwidth Throttling**: onQ now supports specifying high, mid, and low bandwidth limits for DR replication based on an hourly basis. The feature also adds the ability to completely turn off replication for any specified hour or for the entire day.For more information, go to the Online Help.
- **Windows X-drive**: Ability to protect X-drive for Windows PNs. The number of volumes or drives protected continues to be 15.
- **Support Info File**: Added a Support button (Appliance Config > Advanced > Downloads tab) to generate a Support Info file for sending log information when requested by Quorum Support.

- **VSS Copy Mode**: Added a VSS Copy option to allow onQ backups to co-exist with other applications that use VSS flags. For more information, go to the Online Help.
- **NTP**: onQ now enables NTP configuration from the Appliance Config tab > Hypervisor page.
- **AV Alerts**: Archive Vault now sends alerts when configuration changes are pushed from protected onQ Appliances.
- **Backup processing**: Improved visibility of internal backup processing in the onQ Portal.
- **Remote backups**: Improved behavior of remote backups of PNs on slow network connections.
- **Windows 7, 64-bit**. Added support for PNs running Windows 7 64-bit.

2

Support

- Platform Support
- Hypervisor Support
- Browser Support
- Bare Metal Restore Support

2.1 Platform Support

Both phsyical and virtual PNs are supported on the following platforms:

Operating System	Backup Supported	RN Supported
Windows		
Windows 2012 Server 64 bit	Yes	Yes
Windows 2008 R2, 64 bit	Yes	Yes
Windows 2008, 32 and 64 bit	Yes	Yes
Windows 2003 R2, 32 and 64 bit	Yes	Yes
Windows 7, 64 bit	Yes	Yes
Linux		
Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 6.0, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3; 32 and 64 bit.	Yes	Yes
Oracle Enterprise Linux 5.8, 32 and 64 bit	Yes	Yes

2.2 Hypervisor Support

The guest operating systems outlined in “Platform Support” on page 5 are supported on the following hypervisors:

Hypervisor	Version
VMWare ESX	4.0
VMWare ESXi	5.0 and 5.1.0
Hyper-V	6.x
XenServer	5.0, 5.5, and 6.0.2

2.3 Browser Support

onQ supports the following browsers:

Browser	onQ Portal	PN Installation (“Protect Me” button)
Mozilla Firefox 10.0 and above	Yes	No[a]
Internet Explorer 8, 9 and 10	Yes	Yes
Internet Explorer 7	No	Yes

a.Firefox is not supported for enrollment on 64-bit operating systems because Firefox is unable to retrieve the node information that’s required.

In addition:

- JRE (Java) 1.5 or above must be installed to use the RN console from the UI.
- You might need to modify security and popup settings for proper RN console operations from the UI.

2.4 Bare Metal Restore Support

A Bare Metal Restore (BMR) is supported on the following platforms:

Operating System	To Same Hardware	To Dissimilar Hardware
Windows 2012, 64 bit	Yes	Yes
Windows 2008 R2, 64 bit	Yes	Yes
Windows 2008, 32 and 64 bit	Yes	Yes
Windows 2003 R2, 32 and 64 bit	Yes	Yes

3

Limitations

- Linux RN Limitations
- Windows 2012 Limitations
- Volume Mount Point Limitations
- File-only Backup Limitations
- Bare Metal Restore Limitations
- Windows Cluster Services Limitations

3.1 Linux RN Limitations

RNs running Linux have the following limitations:

- To support booting of recovery nodes for RHEL 5.x servers, it is required that you download the appropriate version of xen compatible kernel packages and installed them on the protected nodes before enrolling or attempting to build the recovery nodes for such clients. The installed xen kernel will not be an active kernel on protected node but will be used for booting recovery nodes. For more information, go to the Online Help.
- The file system format is required to be set in protection node configuration for each RN disk in order for onQ protection to start correctly.
- For RHEL 5.x, the root disk partition (`/`) must be set to Format (file system type) parameter `ext3` for the RN to boot correctly. The enrollment procedure, outlined in the Online Help, accounts for this limitation.
- After upgrading the onQ to 3.6, you need to do the following to upgrade your Linux nodes:
  - For 32-bit Linux nodes, after performing an automatically upgrade you must restart protection twice to upgrade the client services.
  - For 64-bit Linux nodes, the client services will not automatically upgrade; therefore, you must run the `install.py` utility as outlined in

the Online Help.

- Network Manger on RHEL 5.9 (Tikanga) is required to be turned off to have self-test work correctly. Similar action need be taken if Kudzu services are running on the RHEL 5.x versions.
- BMR and incremental failback for Linux nodes are not supported in this release.

3.2 Windows 2012 Limitations

RNs running Windows 2012 have the following limitations:

- When a REFS volume in Windows 2012 is protected the Recovery Node for the same will be in standard NTFS. This is also true in case of Bare Metal Restore.
- When a deduplicated volume in Windows 2012 is protected, the Recovery Node for the same will again be a standard NTFS. This is also true in the case of a Bare Metal Restore. Additional caution should be used in allocating RN disk space as the Quorum agent on the Protected Node will report actual disk usage which may be far less than when data is stored in its normal form.
- Kroll OnTrack Power Controls for Exchange application version 7.0.x is required for using with Exchange 2013.
- Windows 2012 Essentials and server core are not tested/supported.

3.3 Volume Mount Point Limitations

- Volumes only reachable through a GUID path are not supported.
- Backup source arguments that aren't drive letters or volume mount paths that begin with a drive letter are not supported.
- Paths as backup source arguments to onQ that are not volumes or volume mount points are not supported when using with VSS.
- Volume mount points cannot contain the characters outside of A-Z, a-Z, 0-9, underscore and a dash. Volume mount points with spaces are not supported.
- Total string length of drive letter mounts and volume mount points, including separators in excess of 250ch/s, are not supported.
- Volume mount point that are based on a volume that has other mount points that refer to it (multiple mount points) are not supported.
- Volume mount points used to protect MS cluster environment on onQ are not supported.
- Volume mount points might not be visible on the RN under certain circumstances if the folder that contains the mount points is hidden or in a system folder. You might need to set the folder attributes to display system/hidden folders so as to display mount points.
- A maximum of 15 logical drives can be protected per PN.

3.4 File-only Backup Limitations

File-only backup continues to be a hidden feature in this release. To enable run the following on the onQ:

```
# touch /var/www/html/ENABLEBACKUP
```

Use the new 'Include List' feature in PN protection configuration to add volumes, folders, and files for backing up.

3.5 Bare Metal Restore Limitations

- When you perform a failback to restore a VMware-based protected node to a dissimilar hardware or virtual environment, Windows might require reactivation.
- When a Windows 2008 system with a system hidden partition is restored, Windows might require manual intervention before starting the restored node. For more information, go to the Online Help.
- When a Windows 2008 system with an EFI partition is restored, you will need to manually perform some pre and post BMR tasks. For more information, go to the Online Help.
- BMRs that are performed to the same or new hardware require that you upload specific drivers for any disk, network adapter, and any other hardware.
- After an incremental failback to a non-Xen PN (physical PN, ESX PN, Virtual PC PN), users are required to reinstall drivers.
- For a Windows 2012 server, a REF's partition/volume will be restored as standard NTFS.
- For a Windows 2012 server, if you choose to restore a volume with deduplication enabled, the data will be restored to its full size. Simply enable deduplication after the BMR completes.
- For restored images of Windows 2008 and later, the boot correction script needs to be manually executed while in the QUARK environment. Failure to do so will result in the restored image not booting with its operating system.
- Volume Mount Points need be configured manually before starting to restore the image. Volume Mount Points created this way are not listed in the disk configuration interface along with other volumes.
- Disk configuration interface does not display the file format type for a volume created without a drive letter assigned.
- When adding each volume in the disk configuration interface, you might need to wait a short period of time while the volumes are being created.
- There is a maximum allowed duration of 72 hours for a restore to complete. Exceeding 72 hours might result in a reboot of QUARK and a loss of the restored image to that point.

3.6 Windows Cluster Services Limitations

- Suppose cluster nodes A and B are configured to use the same disks for their operation. If both of them are enrolled for protection, along with their shared disk configuration, only the cluster node that is currently using the shared disks can be backed up. If you attempt to back up the cluster node that does not have access to the shared disks, the backup will fail. Because the IP address of all the cluster nodes in the host table are set to the IP address of the cluster, any passive node in the cluster will indicate a RED status and backups will fail.
- When you start a cluster RN, you must select the RN for the node that was active at the time your desired backup was generated. For example, if you want the most recent data, then select the node with the most recent backup.The RN for the other nodes will contain stale information. If you want to roll back to a previous backup, you must select the RN that was active at that point in time.
- Recovery Node disks used in this context are basic disks, each with a maximum size limit of 2TB. The logical volume size for these disks is not expandable.
- If the PN configuration is switched between a standard and a cluster, the RN will be reinitialized and rebuilt.
- A cluster node that is protected with this configuration whose RN is brought in production can only be configured to work with virtual SAN. Registry modifications are done in the RN from the information provided in the onQ Portal for the specific node.
- A cluster node protected with this configuration is not suitable for a Bare Metal Restore as cluster service configurations are modified on the RN to work with a virtual SAN. Also, the failover cluster node is evicted from the configuration while preparing the RN. Only application data (SQL database, for example) can be retrieved/restored.

4

Updates

- Upgrade Support
- Update Appliance software

4.1 Upgrade Support

Upgrading directly to version 3.6 HF1 is supported for onQ Appliances and protected nodes for 3.6 only. Directly upgrading to 3.6 is supported for the following versions:

- 3.2SP2, GA and HF3
- 3.2SP3
- 3.4, 3.4HF1, 3.4HF2, 3.4HF3, and 3.4HF4

When upgrading, take note of the following:

- After an upgrade, you must refresh your browser using CTRL-F5. If you don't, portal changes will not be activated and some user actions will not work.
- You must manually reboot the onQ Appliance after the upgrade completes.
- Neither 3.6 nor 3.6 HF1 involves any major repository migration or restructuring.
- Upgrade packages are deployed through onQ Central. onQ and AV will auto-download the necessary onQ packages when the daily cron job runs. This job runs between 10pm and 2am each day. This deployment occurs for all onQ Appliances for which onQ Central is set to allow download of the latest software packages.

4.2 Update Appliance software

Quorum releases a new version of appliance software, service pack and hot fixes as required from time to time. If the onQ appliance is registered with Quorum's onQ Central system for licensing, alert redirection and receiving updates, then updates are automatically downloaded on to the onQ appliance between 10pm and 2am when the updates become available.

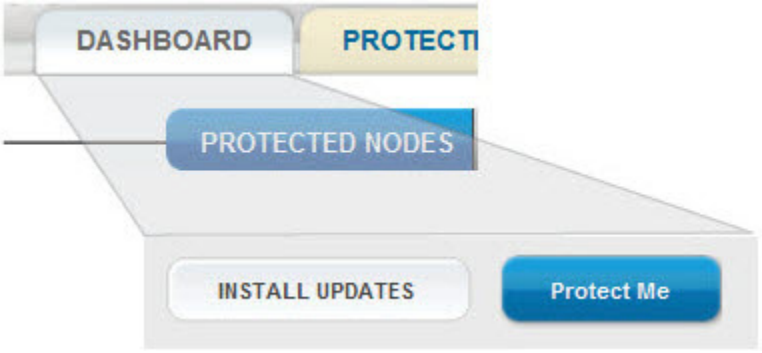
To *automatically* install an update:

Before you begin, verify that your upgrade path is supported.

1. Trigger the download of the onQ package, if it hasn't already downloaded.
   a. Go to **APPLIANCE CONFIG** tab > **ADVANCED** button > **Software Upgrades** page.
   b. Click the **Check for Updates** button.

   Mouse-over the Check for Updates button to display the status of the download.

   The onQ Portal's **DASHBOARD** displays an **Install Updates** button after the new onQ Archive VaultonQ Appliance software downloads from onQ Central.



   There is no need to stop protection to apply the updates. If protection is on, onQ quiesces the system, stops protection, applies the new software, then restarts protection. The upgrade process reboots the onQ, if required. The length of time that onQ requires to complete the upgrade depends on the number of active jobs currently running.

2. Apply the new software:

a. Go to the **DASHBOARD** tab.

b. Scroll down and click the **Install Updates** button.

c. Click the **Upgrade** button when prompted to initiate the upgrade.

From the **DASHBOARD**, mouse-over the Install Updates icon  to display the status of the upgrade.

3. Restart protection.
4. From your browser, press CTRL-F5 to load and activate the onQ Portal changes.