

Solution brief:

Restoring Microsoft® SharePoint® RBS and Shredded Storage.

Microsoft® Office SharePoint® Server challenges

Microsoft® SharePoint® is used widely across a broad range of industry segments to support a variety of uses. From intranet portals and document and content management, to social networks and extranets and websites, over 125 million SharePoint licences have been sold to date, making SharePoint one of the industry's highest volume software products. Over 80 percent of all Fortune 500 companies use some version of SharePoint, making it imperative that IT administrators have best-in-class tools to manage the dramatic data storage demands as users build more sites and create more content.

BLOB externalisation and SharePoint/ SQL optimisation

A major challenge all SharePoint administrators face is the requirement to store BLOBs on the most expensive tier of storage when alternative, less-expensive tiers of storage can be used. Since SQL Server is designed for structured data rather than unstructured (BLOB) data, organisations with large and growing SharePoint environments often encounter significant performance challenges. Content must be accessed through the database instead of the file system, which does a better job at storing files in contiguous blocks and minimising fragmentation. Alternatively, BLOBs stored in databases become increasingly fragmented. Ultimately, poor performance often results in missed Recovery Time Objectives and Recovery Point Objectives, particularly if native SharePoint and SQL backup tools are used to access content.

SharePoint® 2013 Shredded Storage

Microsoft introduced a new platform improvement called Shredded Storage in SharePoint Server 2013. Shredded Storage focuses on the management of documents, but more specifically, BLOBs. Shredding reduces the amount of data passed across a network and improves performance. By storing the incremental changes made to a document, rather than saving an entire copy of the document each time it is edited and saved, shredding can also reduce storage on the SQL Server side. However, this introduces new complexities when trying to granularly restore the externalised shredded data.

KEY BENEFITS

Extending the granular search and restoration functionality of Ontrack PowerControls to support third-party RBS solutions allows IT administrators to locate and granularly restore externalised SharePoint content with ease and efficiency.

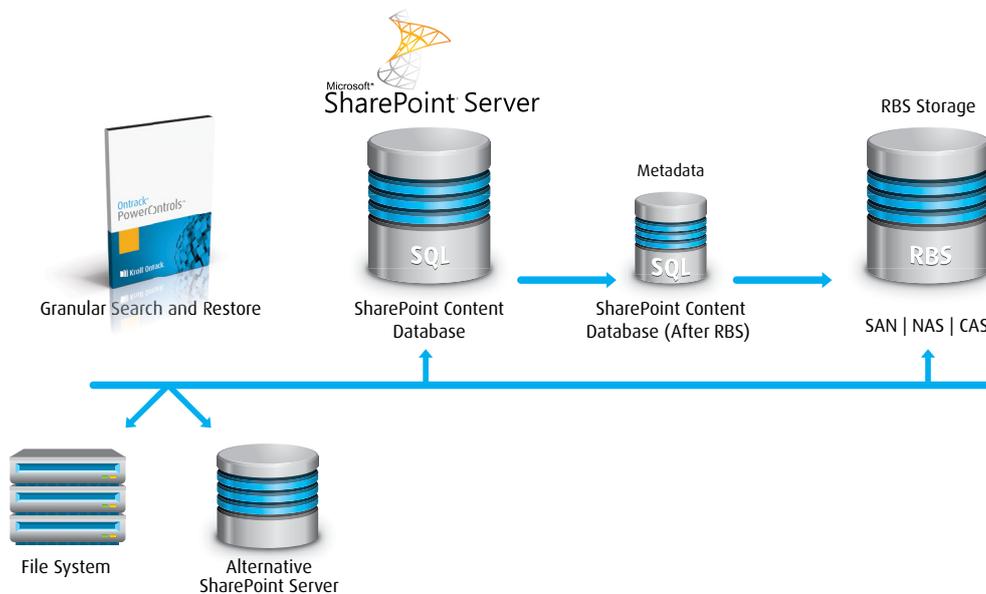
- 1 SIMPLE DEPLOYMENT**, easy to use, and fast
- 2 PROVIDES AN EFFICIENT METHOD** for granular search, recovery, and restoration of externalised SharePoint data
- 3 SPEND LESS TIME SEARCHING** and quickly locate and restore SharePoint items
- 4 ONTRACK POWERCONTROLS** is forensically sound and does not change the contents of the metadata of the SharePoint source data, ensuring that data integrity is always preserved
- 5 IT ADMINISTRATORS ARE ABLE TO REBUILD EXTERNALISED DATABASES** during the granular restore process and effectively locate and restore critical files
- 6 LOCATE AND COLLECT** critical externalised files that may have otherwise been inaccessible

Completing the solution with Ontrack® PowerControls™ – granular search and restoration

Ontrack PowerControls is designed to make granular restoration of SharePoint items or entire sites a much faster and easier process. By eliminating the need to restore the entire SharePoint site, just to recover a few items, Ontrack PowerControls makes it simple for an administrator to locate, collect, copy and export the required items back into the production SharePoint environment or to an alternate location. By directly reading your existing content database backups, and allowing you to find and restore only the items you need, Ontrack PowerControls saves you significant time and eliminates the need for a recovery server.

Externalising SharePoint content to less expensive storage through third-party RBS solutions dramatically reduces SQL database volumes and costs and keeps databases responsive. Extending the granular search and restoration functionality of Ontrack PowerControls to support third-party RBS solutions allows IT administrators to rebuild externalised databases during the granular restore process and effectively locate and restore critical files.

Additionally, Ontrack PowerControls is currently one of the only tools on the market that can search, reassemble, and restore SharePoint 2013 Shredded Storage, allowing IT administrators to locate and collect critical externalised files that may have otherwise been inaccessible.



The bottom line

As more organisations utilise SharePoint for document management and adopt RBS to externalise their data to increase performance, the need for an efficient data restoration tool has never been greater. Ontrack PowerControls meets this need by reducing the time and cost required to restore individual SharePoint items, lists, libraries and folders, or full sites, and eliminating the need for a recovery server. In the end, the time and hardware costs saved by using Ontrack PowerControls to conduct document restoration, data collection, and migration yield an ROI well beyond the cost of the tool itself.

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