

ovm-bkp: Oracle VM 3.4 Backup Utilities

Installation and User Guide

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Summary

The objective of this document is to describe and show how-to install, implement and use Virtual Machines Backup Utilities for Oracle VM 3.4; those backup utilities are grouped into a project named "ovm-bkp" and are dedicated to the backup management for Virtual Machines running on Oracle VM 3.4.

Oracle VM is a platform that provides a fully equipped environment that enables you to leverage the benefits of virtualization technology and enables you to deploy operating systems and application software within a supported virtualization environment.

Oracle VM enables rapid enterprise application deployment, such as Oracle Database, Middleware, and Applications as well as many non-Oracle applications.

Oracle VM supports Oracle Linux, Microsoft Windows, Oracle Solaris, and many other Linux distributions.

The components of Oracle VM are as follows:

Oracle VM Server for x86

Oracle VM Server for x86 (Oracle VM Server) is a self-contained virtualization environment designed to provide a lightweight, secure, server-based platform to run virtual machines on x86 hardware. Oracle VM Server is based upon an updated version of the underlying Xen hypervisor technology, and includes Oracle VM Agent. It also includes a Linux kernel with support for a broad array of devices and file systems. The Linux kernel is run as Dom0 to manage one or more DomU virtual machines, each of which could be Linux, Oracle Solaris, or Microsoft Windows.

Oracle VM Manager

Oracle VM Manager is an application that allows you to configure and manage your Oracle VM environment. Oracle VM Manager includes both a command line interface and a web-based user interface, which is a standard Application Development Framework (ADF) web application. Oracle VM Manager provides virtual machine management facilities, including creating virtual machines from installation media or from templates. It provides features such as power on, power off, deleting, importing, deploying, and live migration of virtual machines. Oracle VM Manager also manages resources, including ISO files, virtual machine templates, and shared virtual disks.

For further details about Oracle VM Server and Oracle VM Manager, see the Oracle VM 3.4 documentation Library.

Assumptions

Oracle VM 3.4 Backup Utilities for Virtual Machines have following requirements:

- "ovm-bkp" Backup Utilities have to be installed on Oracle VM Manager machine; no other option is actually supported.
- "ovm-bkp" Backup Utilities are supported on Oracle VM 3.4.
- "ovm-bkp" properly works on environments where resources do not contain spaces in their names:
 - o Oracle VM Pool(s) Name
 - Oracle VM Virtual Machine(s) Name
 - Oracle VM Repository(ies) Name

If this is the case, please rename your resource-name and replace the "space" with characters like "-" or ".

- Oracle VM Manager machine hostname has to be correctly associated to an IP address (managed by /etc/hosts or DNS server).
- Running Virtual Machines backups can be taken only if virtual-disks reside on OCFS2 repositories (iSCSI
 and Fiber Channel storage); Virtual Machines running on NFS repositories have to be stopped.
- Backup obtained from a running Virtual Machine is always a crash-consistent backup of the running vm.
- If the Virtual Machine also owns physical-disks, the backup taken will contain only virtual-disks and so, a manual intervention may be required to have it correctly restored and consequently booted.
- Having a dedicated NFS repository for Virtual Machines backups is strongly suggested; OCFS2 repository
 can be used and possibly also shared to external systems by "Repository Exports" feature.

Solution Architecture

Target of the ovm-bkp utilities is to get a crash-consistent backup of a running Virtual Machine and, between the others, give the option to get this backup shared to external systems like Storages or Media Server.

As shown in the picture below, thanks to the utility, so, you can get a real backup of your Virtual Machines and constantly share the same to your media server:

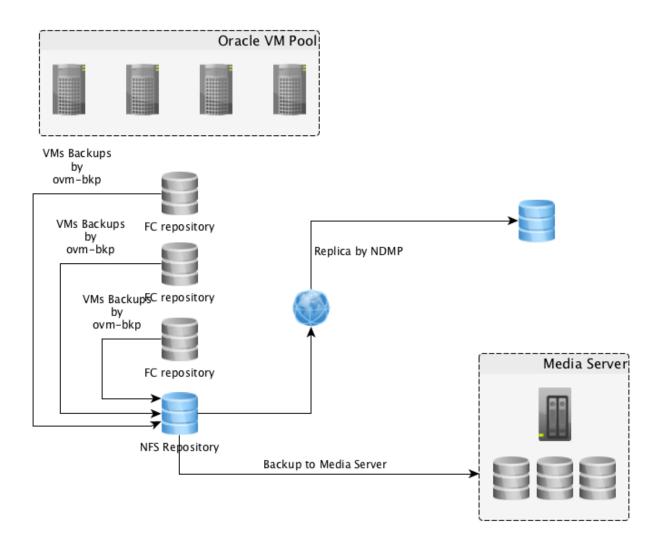


Figure 1. ovm-bkp flowchart

All the backup operations will be executed starting from Oracle VM Manager machine managing the Oracle VM Pool(s); the entire solution is based on scripts and Oracle VM CLI interface.

On the picture above operations like "Replicas by NDMP" or "Backup to Media Server" have to be managed by your own existing solution; "ovm-bkp" utilities will manage backups taken and saved on the dedicated "NFS Repository".

What's new in Release 1.1.0-20190221

- "ovm-backup.sh" script is now able to exclude specific virtual-disks from the backup
- "ovm-setup-vm.sh" now includes the option to configure virtual-disk exclusion for VM backups

Preinstallation Tasks and Requirements

"ovm-bkp" is based on a single RPM, built for Oracle Linux 6 and 7, with following dependencies:

- <u>expect.x86_64</u>: A program-script interaction and testing utility
- openssl.x86 64: Utilities from the general purpose cryptography library with TLS implementation
- nmap-ncat.x86_64: Nmap's Netcat replacement

"ovm-bkp" uses the Oracle VM CLI (Command Line Interface) to execute operations on Oracle VM Pool(s)/Server(s) so following Oracle VM Manager Linux services have to be enabled and running:

- ovmm_mysql
- ovmm
- ovmcli

Installing "ovm-bkp" Backup Utilities for Oracle VM 3.4

As already said, "**ovm-bkp**" consists of one RPM build for Oracle Linux 6 and 7; this RPM can be downloaded from OTN (Oracle Technology Network) at the following link:

http://www.oracle.com/technetwork/server-storage/vm/downloads/ovm-tools-3604795.html

Once downloaded, please copy this RPM on your Oracle VM Manager machine and, by "Yum", execute following command:

yum install ./ovm-bkp-1.1.0-20190221.noarch.rpm

Yum will take care of missing dependencies and will install everything required to get "ovm-bkp" correctly installed.

Example:

```
Installing:
ovm-bkp noarch 1.0-20180208 /ovm-bkp-1.1.0-20190221.noarch 99 k
Installing for dependencies:
expect x86_64 5.45-14.el7_1 ol7_latest_x86_64 262 k
nmap-ncat x86 64 2:6.40-7.el7 ol7 latest x86 64 200 k
Transaction Summary
Install 1 Package (+2 Dependent packages)
Total size: 561 k
Total download size: 462 k
Installed size: 1.1 M
Is this ok [y/d/N]: y
Downloading packages:
(1/2): expect-5.45-14.el7 1.x86 64.rpm | 262 kB 00:00:00
(2/2): nmap-ncat-6.40-7.el7.x86 64.rpm | 200 kB 00:00:00
Total 3.8 MB/s | 462 kB 00:00:00
Running transaction check
Running transaction test
Transaction test succeeded
Running transaction
Installing: 2:nmap-ncat-6.40-7.el7.x86 64 1/3
Installing : expect-5.45-14.el7 1.x86 6\overline{4} 2/3
Installing: ovm-bkp-1.1.0-20190221.noarch 3/3
Verifying: expect-5.45-14.el7 1.x86 64 1/3
Verifying: 2:nmap-ncat-6.40-7.el7.x86 64 2/3
Verifying: ovm-bkp-1.1.0-20190221.noarch 3/3
Installed:
ovm-bkp.noarch 0:1.0-20180208
Dependency Installed:
expect.x86 64 0:5.45-14.el7 1 nmap-ncat.x86 64 2:6.40-7.el7
Complete!
```

Figure 2. ovm-bkp installation

Once the RPM has been installed on Oracle VM Manager system, you can proceed to configure the Oracle VM Manager access for "ovm-bkp" utilities.

To accomplish this step, execute following commands:

cd /opt/ovm-bkp/bin

./ovm-setup-ovmm.sh

This script will proceed to configure the ssh-key exchange required to get all the "ovm-bkp" scripts working with Oracle VM CLI without the need to supply any password; the same script will create a configuration file dedicated to

the Oracle VM Manager instance running; this is an operation required only during the configuration of the utility and does not have to be executed anymore; the only case where you could be required to re-execute "ovm-setup-ovmm.sh" is to recover a broken or lost Oracle VM Manager configuration file.

Example:

```
[root@ovmm34 bin]# ./ovm-setup-ovmm.sh
Enter Oracle VM Manager administrator User: admin
Enter Oracle VM Manager administrator Password:
Enter Oracle VM Manager administrator Password (again):

New configuration file /opt/ovm-bkp/conf/ovmm/ovmm34.conf created:

# Oracle VM Manager Command Line Interface User
ovmmuser=admin

# Oracle VM Manager Command Line Interface Password - Encrypted
ovmmpassenc=U2FsdGVkX1/OVmiqZfrAHjwkkZXIFDpal2eVpKhOJ9I=

# Oracle VM Manager Host
ovmmhost=ovmm34

# Oracle VM Manager CLI Port
ovmmport=10000

# Oracle VM Manager UUID
ovmmuuid=0004fb00000100000b0b42638e45f5b9
```

Figure 3. Oracle VM Manager Setup: ovm-setup-ovmm.sh (interactive)

To get a backup configured you have to execute the "ovm-setup-vm.sh" script for each Virtual Machine; this script is required *before* executing a backup for a Virtual Machine.

This script will create a dedicated configuration file for each Virtual Machine with following information:

- ovmpool: Oracle VM Pool that guest the Virtual Machine
- vmname: Oracle VM Virtual Machine Name
- vmuuid: Oracle VM Virtual Machine Unique ID
- retention: Backup retention for the Virtual Machine; retention can be time-based or redundancy-based
 - o d: days (ex. 8d is to keep a retention of 8 days)
 - o c: count (ex. 4c is to keep a retention of 4 copies)
- targetrepo: Target Repository where the backup will be saved
- disktoexclude: Disk slots that have to be excluded while executing the backup

Example:

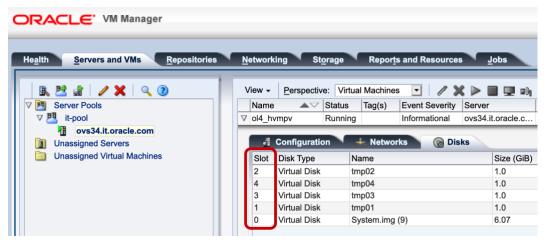
```
[root@ovmm34: /opt/ovm-bkp/bin]# ./ovm-setup-vm.sh ol4_hvmpv 4c it-
nfs-backup 3,5
New configuration file for VM ol4 hvmpv has been created at /opt/ovm-
bkp/conf/vm/ol4 hvmpv-0004fb00000600005e4ec501b59878c4.conf:
# Oracle VM Pool
ovmpool=it-pool
# VM Details
vmname=ol4 hvmpv
vmuuid=0004fb00000600005e4ec501b59878c4
vdiskstoexclude=3,5
# Retention to Apply
retention=4c
# Target Repository
targetrepo=it-nfs-backup
```

Figure 4. Virtual Machine Setup: ovm-setup-vm.sh (interactive)

"ovm-setup-vm.sh" has to be executed for each Virtual Machine you want to manage backups with "ovm-bkp" utilities.

Existing VM configuration files can be edited to add the "vdisktoexclude" option or recreated by re-executing the "ovm-setup-vm.sh" binary.

Disk slots can be easily identified by using the Oracle VM Manager UI:



Using "ovm-bkp" Backup Utilities for Oracle VM 3.4

"ovm-bkp" utilities are composed of different scripts where each one has a specific function:

- common.sh
- ovm-backup.sh
- ovm-delete.sh
- ovm-listbackup.sh
- ovm-preserve.sh
- ovm-restore.sh
- common.sh

"common.sh" script does not have to be executed; this script only contains different functions that are used by other scripts part of the tool.

ovm-backup.sh

"ovm-backup.sh" script is the real executor of Virtual Machines backups; by executing the script without any option you can get information required:

Figure 5. ovm-backup.sh syntax

- "guest name": name of the Virtual Machine you want to get backup
- "backup type": type of backup that has to be taken
 - FULL: the backup will be a full sparse copy of the virtual machine configuration file and all virtual disks saved to the Oracle VM repository specified into the Virtual Machine configuration file (see "ovm-setup-vm.sh")
 - SNAP: the backup will be a copy of the virtual machine configuration file and an OCFS2 reflink of all virtual disks; the backup will remain on same repository as source Virtual Machine

- OVA: the backup will be an OVA file created from the Virtual Machine (see Virtual Appliances for Oracle VM 3.4)
- "preserve": this option allows to declare a backup as "preserved"; a preserved backup will be ignored by the retention policy applied and so "preserved".

All other information, required to get the virtual machine backup, will be picked up from the configuration file created by "ovm-setup-vm.sh"

Example:

```
[root@ovmm34 bin]# ./ovm-backup.sh ca-osbovm SNAP n
Oracle VM 3.4 CLI
Adding VM ca-osbovm information to bkpinfo file /opt/ovm-bkp/bkpinfo/info-
backup-ca-osbovm-SNAP-20180208-1800.txt
Creating Clone-Customizer to get VM snapshot....
_____
Getting VM snapshot....
_____
Backup Type: SNAP....
Adding propert TAG to backup VM....
Moving backup VM to the Unassigned Folder....
Retention type is Redundancy-Based
Actual reference is: 20180208-1800
Latest 8 backup images will be retained while other backup images will be
deleted!!!
All backupped guests that:
1) aren't in a stopped state
2) have physical disk configured
3) have configured vNIC
Won't be removed by the automatic retention even if are obsolete backups.
=====>> GUEST BACKUP EXPIRED AND REMOVED: <<======
______
Based on retention policy any quest backup will be deleted!!!
 ====> Backup available for guest ca-osbovm (sorted by date) :
= BACKUP TYPE == BACKUP DATE == BACKUP TIME == BACKUP NAME == PRESERVED ==
```

Figure 6. ovm-backup.sh example

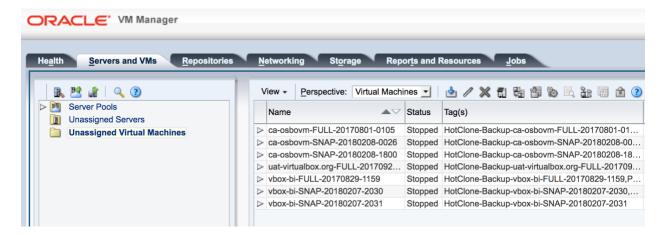
where, information gathered by the configuration file are:

```
[root@ovmm34 bin] # cat ../conf/vm/ca-osbovm-
0004fb000006000086804eee76850b0c.conf
# Oracle VM Pool
ovmpool=ca-pool
# VM Details
vmname=ca-osbovm
vmuuid=0004fb000006000086804eee76850b0c
vdiskstoexclude=
# Retention to Apply
retention=8c
# Target Repository
targetrepo=ca-nfs-backup
```

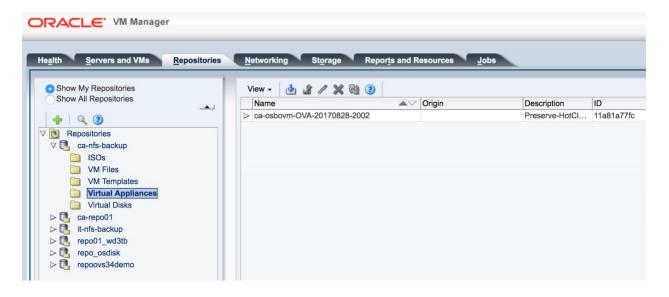
Figure 6. Virtual Machine configuration file example

"ovm-backup.sh" executes following steps:

- 1. Collect all the information required: Virtual Machine name, id and configuration.
- 2. Create a dedicated "Clone Customizer" based on the info of the Virtual Machine.
- 3. Create a clone of the Virtual Machine on the same ocfs2 repository (using ocfs2-reference-link) where it excludes possible physical disks associated to the Virtual Machine.
 - If the "backup type" declared is "SNAP" it goes to step (4).
 - If the "backup type" declared is "FULL" then it moves the cloned Virtual Machine to the target
 Oracle VM Repository (that could be NFS and/or OCFS2) reported into the configuration file.
 - on step (3) and saves it to the target Oracle VM Repository reported into the configuration file.
- 4. Move the cloned Virtual Machine under folder "Unassigned Virtual Machine" on Oracle VM Manager
 - All "SNAP" and "FULL" backups will be displayed under "Unassigned Virtual Machines"



"OVA" backups will be displayed on "Repository Tab", "Virtual Appliance" folder



to get the complete list of backups available see "ovm-listbackup.sh" script on this document.

 Apply retention policy declared into the configuration file and proceed to delete obsolete backups that are not "preserved".

All Virtual Machine backups recognized as obsolete that:

- are running
- own physical disk(s)
- own vNic(s)

won't be removed and will only be reported as candidate.

ovm-delete.sh

"ovm-delete.sh" script is dedicated to delete a specific Virtual Machine backup.

Figure 6. ovm-delete.sh syntax

So, by this script you can force the deletion of a specific Virtual Machine backup (preserved or not).

Example:

• Preserved (Confirmation required):

Figure 7. ovm-delete.sh example on preserved

Normal (Confirmation not required):

Figure 8. ovm-delete.sh example on normal

ovm-listbackup.sh

"ovm-listbackup.sh" script is dedicated to get the list of backups available for a specific Virtual Machine.

Figure 9. ovm-listbackup.sh syntax

So, by this script you can evaluate all the backups available for a specific Virtual Machine ordered by date; information available are:

- Backup Type (OVA, FULL or SNAP)
- Backup Date and Time
- Backup Name (that reflects the Virtual Machine name for Oracle VM)
- Preserved (Y/N)

Example:

Figure 10. ovm-listbackup.sh example

ovm-preserve.sh

"ovm-preserve.sh" script is dedicated to change the "Preserve" option for a specific Virtual Machine backup.

Figure 11. ovm-preserve.sh syntax

By this script you can change the "Preserve" option for an existing backup, where:

- <u>Preserve=y</u> means that the backup will be preserved from the retention policy so, even if the backup is an obsolete one, the same won't be deleted while applying the retention policy.
- <u>Preserve=n</u> means that the backup will be treated by the retention policy and if obsolete will be according
 deleted

Example:

```
[root@ovmm34 bin]# ./ovm-listbackup.sh vbox-bi
_____
====> Backup available for guest vbox-bi (sorted by date) :
= BACKUP TYPE == BACKUP DATE == BACKUP TIME == BACKUP NAME == PRESERVED ==
_____
= FULL == 20170829 == 1159 == vbox-bi-FULL-20170829-1159 == YES
= SNAP == 20180207 == 2030 == vbox-bi-SNAP-20180207-2030 == YES
= SNAP == 20180207 == 2031 == vbox-bi-SNAP-20180207-2031 == NO
[root@ovmm34 bin]# ./ovm-preserve.sh vbox-bi-SNAP-20180207-2031 y
______
Backup name vbox-bi-SNAP-20180207-2031 has now proper Tag and is configured as
-Preserved-!
[root@ovmm34 bin]# ./ovm-listbackup.sh vbox-bi
====> Backup available for guest vbox-bi (sorted by date) :
= BACKUP TYPE == BACKUP DATE == BACKUP TIME == BACKUP NAME == PRESERVED ==
= FULL == 20170829 == 1159 == vbox-bi-FULL-20170829-1159 == YES
= SNAP == 20180207 == 2030 == vbox-bi-SNAP-20180207-2030 == YES
= SNAP == 20180207 == 2031 == vbox-bi-SNAP-20180207-2031 == YES
```

Figure 12. ovm-preserve.sh example

ovm-restore.sh

"ovm-restore.sh" script is dedicated to restore the Virtual Machine backup; this script is interactive.

Figure 13. ovm-restore.sh syntax

Questions that the user has to answer:

- Please choose the VM <vm name> backup you want to restore
 - On this step a list of backups will be displayed; by the number associated you have the option to decide which backup will be picked-up.
 - On the example below you have so supply (1) to get backup named "ca-osbovm-FULL-20170801-0105" or (2) to get backup named "ca-osbovm-OVA-20170828-2002".

Figure 14. ovm-restore.sh: choose "Backup Name"

- Please choose the Oracle VM Pool where to restore <backup name>
 - On this step a list of Oracle VM Pool(s) will be displayed; to get a specific Oracle VM Pool
 showed up on this step you need, at least, one Oracle VM Server (part of the pool) that mounts
 the Oracle VM Repository where the backup resides; consider that an Oracle VM Repository can
 be shared between more Oracle VM Pools only if it's of NFS type.

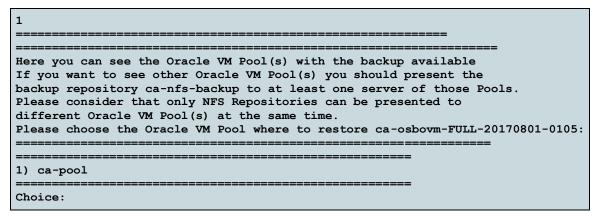


Figure 15. ovm-restore.sh: choose "Oracle VM Pool"

- Please choose the Oracle VM repository where to restore the backup named <backup name>
 - On this step a list of Oracle VM repositories will be displayed; the script will also check the free disk-space required to get the Virtual Machine restored and will propose only the Oracle VM repositories that can guest the restore.
 - If an Oracle VM Repository is available but the free disk-space is not enough, the same won't be selectable (see "it-nfs-backup" in the example below); at the same time, the Virtual Machine backup size will be displayed.

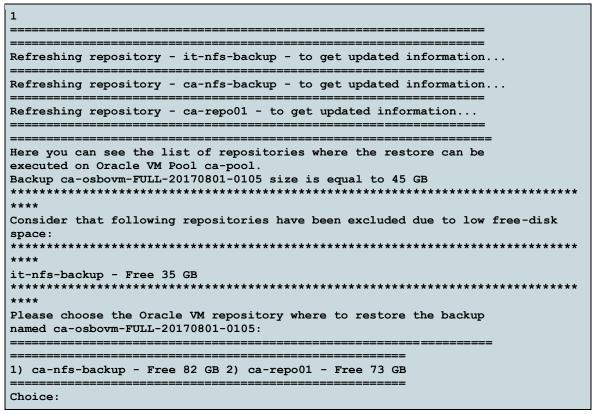


Figure 16. ovm-restore.sh: choose "Repository Name"

- [OPTIONAL] Do you want to keep the same vNICs HWADDR for the restored VM ? (y/n)
 - This step is optional; only if the source VM is not more available the script will ask the confirmation to restore the same vNIC HW-ADDR (MAC Address) on the Virtual Machine restored.

Figure 17. ovm-restore.sh: optional feature on vNIC HW-ADDR

With proper confirmation, vNICs of the restored Virtual Machine will be the same used by the source one:

Figure 18. ovm-restore.sh: vNIC HW-ADDR used for the restore

At this point the restore process starts; you'll get an update each 10 seconds:

Figure 19. ovm-restore.sh: restore process started

- Once the restore process is completed you'll get further information related like:
 - vNIC(s) added to the Virtual Machine restored
 - If source Virtual Machine owns physical-disks you'll also see which physical-disks were associated; thanks to this option, by Oracle VM Manager web console or Oracle VM CLI, you'll get the chance to re-associate physical-disks that were used by the source Virtual Machine.

```
Please consider that source VM was configured with also physical-disks; here the details:

VmDiskMapping 1 for disk-id 0004fb00001800008e3f20471f3ee3e0 of size 50 GB
```

Figure 20. ovm-restore.sh: output for restore completed

The same restored Virtual Machine, will be also displayed on Oracle VM Manager web-interface:

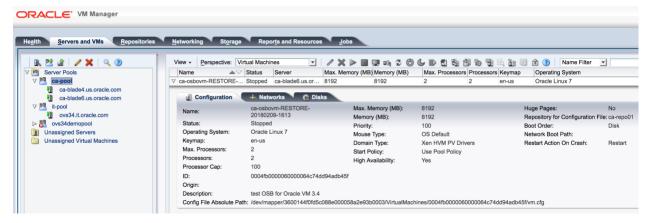


Figure 21. ovm-restore.sh: restore completed on Oracle VM Manager

Further options and Conclusion.

A possible further solution could be to have low-retention backups available on the NFS Oracle VM Repository and medium/long retention on a Tape-Library / Further solution (see NDMP)

So the retention can be managed between the two solutions (ovm-bkp Utilities and Tape Library/NDMP) where:

- ovm-backp.sh manages low-retention on the NFS Repository
- Third party tools manage long-retention on the Tape Library/NDMP
- Low-retention on the NFS allows faster restore for Single Virtual Machine or a list of them

So, this script can be also integrated to further backup solutions that work on Tape Library and/or any other support type.

Feel free to leave your feedback at https://blogs.oracle.com/scoter/hands-on-backup-utilities-for-oracle-vm-34 .



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