

## Essential feature checklist when evaluating high availability software

### Ease of use

It should rarely take more than half an hour a day to monitor and manage the system. Be sure to verify this.

### Autonomics

Is the High Availability (HA) solution self-correcting and self-healing (does it have autonomic capabilities)? In other words, are mirrored objects automatically audited, and are detected problems automatically resolved?

### What is replicated?

Are the replication of spooled files, MQ Series, IFS, device configurations, data areas, scheduled jobs, data queues, job queues and the jobs within the queues supported? The replication of IFS should occur incrementally at the record level where possible.

### Doesn't make changes to the operating system

Ensure the HA software is installed independently of the operating system, i.e. IBM commands are not modified to handle replication.

### Simple, reliable role swap is crucial

One of the most critical features of HA software is the ability to execute a reliable and automated role-swap (moving users and processes to the backup machine during downtime on the production machine). It is crucial to a fast return on investment (ROI).

### Auditing

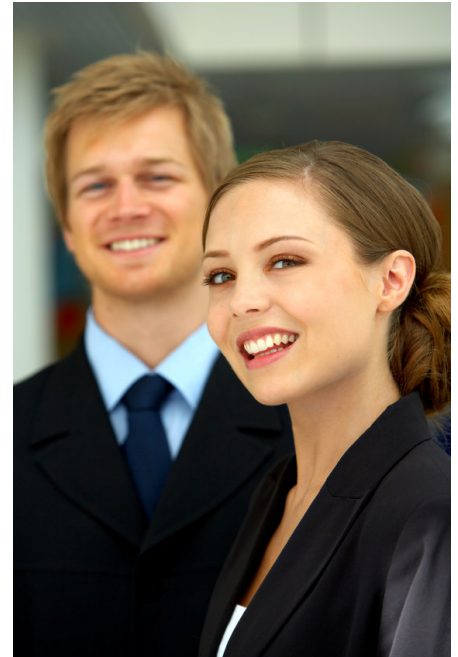
How well does the HA solution audit objects to ensure they are truly in sync? Audits for data should include a continuous, record-by-record comparison between the production and backup environments and include all necessary objects including IFS.

### Speed of replication

Does the solution use remote journaling to transport mirrored data between systems? IBM studies show that HA solutions that don't use remote journaling incur 7 to 10% additional overhead on the production system.

### Compatibility

- Is the solution built natively on remote journaling, or has RJ simply been retrofit? Solutions natively built on a new technology typically utilise the technology more efficiently.
- You should not have to modify applications to work with your HA solution. HA solutions should work with custom written journals or do it for you.



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