

ROSS 2.1 GA Release April 2009

Release Notes

RepliWeb Operational Synchronization for SharePoint (ROSS) provides multi-stage deployment and multi-farm replication for enterprise SharePoint® environments.

SharePoint's adoption as a mission-critical business platform is requiring IT to maintain rapidly growing infrastructures, content and application structures. RepliWeb's ROSS addresses the challenges SharePoint-enabled organizations face when managing content deployment and replication processes across multi-staged topologies and multiple farms.

Agnostic to environment variations, ROSS is a scalable solution built for critical enterprise deployment processes including comprehensive scheduling, recovery and transactional deployment capabilities, efficient transfer engines, and much more.

NOTE: This is a pre-release version; functionalities included in it might change / added / removed for the final release. This version should not be used in production and / or critical environments. Your feedback and comments on this version are appreciated.

Features

This version includes the following features:

Replication Jobs – ROSS provides Upload, Download and Distribution jobs for replicating SharePoint elements. These replication jobs enable the replication of:

- **Content** – Library items, List items, Files and Web Pages
- **Structure** – Site Columns, Content Types, Library & Lists, Views, Folders, Web Parts, Sub-Sites, etc.
- **Look & feel** – Title, Description & Icon, Master pages, page layouts, themes and CSS
- **Navigation** - Top and Quick Links
- **Galleries** – Templates

- **Security** – Modifiers & Permissions
- **Version History** – Major & Minor

Solution Deployment Jobs – ROSS provides Upload and Distribution jobs for replicating and deploying SharePoint Solutions.

Environments – Replication is supported between MOSS environments and between WSS 3.0 environments.

Synchronization Logic – ROSS supports Mirror and Backup synchronization types to increase efficiency and maximize flexibility, and support business processes.

Scheduling – ROSS facilitates a totally unattended, background distribution process. Automation is rooted in a master fire-and-forget scheduler that supports priority, time and logic as policy definitions.

Rollback – In the event of failure or unintentional publishing, ROSS's Rollback feature will allow administrators to roll back replicated content to the previous state.

Include / Exclude Filter – Increase business flexibility using the Filter option; specify selection criteria on what to include in / exclude from the SharePoint replication process. ROSS now enables you to select specific entries (documents, lists, items, etc.) or sets of entities (when using wildcards) to include / exclude from replication.

Web UI – The ROSS Web UI is a web based user interface enabling users to launch reconfigured jobs and publish approved content. The Web UI can be used on both IIS 6 and IIS 7.

Replication Scope– ROSS provides a granular replication of individual sites or site collection.

Run As – Have different users see and manage their jobs along with enabling jobs to run under designated accounts. In addition, where applicable, the job log now includes the creating user, the demanding user and the run-as user.

Comprehensive Replication - Content, content types, structure, galleries, web parts, permissions, views, and navigation elements. No need to manually create sites or site collections on target prior to replication.

Rollback – In the event of failure or unintentional publishing, ROSS's Rollback feature will allow administrators to roll back replicated content and deployed Solution to a previous state.

Recovery – ROSS has the ability to identify difficulties and make recovery decisions based on network events, as well as from other external sources.

Content Integrity - ROSS's Transactional Deployments overcomes content inconsistency over lengthy replication processes. It enables performing publishing on all servers at a future set date and time after content has been completely transferred. ROSS ensures no incomplete content is accessed on the target farms.

Console - The Console is the main means for an end-user to interact with ROSS. Whether using the ROSS Console command-line interface (CLI), the ROSS Console graphical user-interface (GUI), or the ROSS Web UI, the Console is a "window" to the Center. ROSS's Application Interface (API) provides integration of the replication process with other enterprise systems.

Command Line & Application Interface – ROSS's Command Line Interface (CLI) and Application Interface (API) enable submission and automation of Replication processes, integrating SharePoint deployment into the enterprise's business flow.

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ROSS's SharePoint replication is based on the SharePoint API. It is agnostic to hardware variations, database versions, Operating Systems, or Service Packs differences. This version provides both **32 bit** and **64 bit** applications.

Known Issues

- In some cases few parts of the content may be replicated redundantly; this does not affect the accuracy of the results.
- In some scenarios, first time replication of a site that did not exist on the target before may show duplicated entities (like quick link items), the following replication will fix this.
 - Blog Sites that are a sub-site of a non-blog site are not replicated correctly. This is a minor issue as it fixes itself during the following replication.
- In some specific cases when a source site has been created using custom templates, such as custom template containing content type linked to InfoPath form file, the replication may fail. Note that if the site on the target was created using that same template the replication will succeed.
- In some cases, Meeting Workspace entities may not replicate correctly.
- Content Types with Attachments may not replicate correctly.
- The same Blog may not be replicated more than once - to different targets under the same target Site Collection.
- ROSS cannot be installed together with R-1 on the same server.
- Not in the scope of this version: State Replication (Checked in / Checked out), My Site Replication and Workflows Replication.
 - Personal Sites - it is possible to replicate data and sub-sites created under a personal site to a non-personal site or to another personal site that already exists, however it is not possible to replicate an entire personal site collection / personal profile.

Pre-Requisites

It is recommended to install the following prior to installing and activating ROSS:

- MOSS SP1
- Microsoft hotfix [KB941422](#) or the [SharePoint Services 3.0 cumulative update package](#).

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For any additional information, contact us at support@repliweb.com