

# What's New in Catalogic® ECX™ 2.4

Catalog. Automate. Transform.

This document summarizes the major enhancements in the latest release of Catalogic's software-defined copy data management platform, ECX 2.4.

## Key Enhancements:

### Oracle application support

Application-aware support for Oracle databases, including point-in-time recovery, data masking, RMAN integration and other Oracle-specific capabilities.

### EMC Unity storage support

ECX now supports the full EMC Unity storage family, both All-Flash and Hybrid Flash systems.

### Amazon Web Services (AWS) support

ECX integrates with AWS S3 for backup, archive and other long-term, cloud storage needs.

A complete list of major enhancements is in the following table. For a comprehensive list of all the new features, feature enhancements and fixes, please consult the Catalogic ECX 2.4 Release Notes at the Catalogic ECX My Support portal.

<https://mysupport.catalogicsoftware.com/>

Feature	Description	Benefit
<b>Oracle Application Support</b>		
Simple Deployment	ECX is delivered as a VMware OVA that is easily deployed on demand in a matter of minutes. ECX eliminates deployment of application agents to Oracle servers. A lightweight application aware agent is automatically injected and removed to/from the required Oracle servers as needed.	ECX eliminates the complexity of manually deploying and maintaining application agents on Oracle Servers.

Feature	Description	Benefit
Storage and OS Platform Support	<p>Supported platforms include Oracle 11gR2 and Oracle 12c on a physical or virtual machine running the following OS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL)/CentOS 6.5+, RHEL/CentOS 7.0 and above</li> <li>Oracle Enterprise Linux (OEL) 6.0+, 7.0+</li> <li>SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES) 11.0+, 12.0+</li> </ul> <p>Supported storage platforms include:</p> <p>IBM storage systems running IBM Spectrum™ Virtualize Software version 7.3 and later, including IBM SAN Volume Controller, IBM Storwize, and IBM FlashSystem V9000.</p> <p>IBM storage systems must be registered by an IBM user with administrator-level privileges.</p>	Supports a range of IBM storage platforms and Oracle OS platforms.
<b>Oracle Copy Data Management</b>		
Self-Service Provisioning for Oracle	RBAC-controlled self-service operations allow designated users to control their own Oracle snapshot processes, including taking, using and deleting snapshots, based on rights provided by the administrator.	Data consumers, such as DBAs or reporting teams, can access their own data as needed without IT intervention, improving productivity and time-to-market.
Oracle 12c Multi-Tenant Feature Support	ECX supports the Oracle Database 12c Multi-tenant option for backup or clone of a container database (CDB). Alternatively, users may leverage RMAN for finer point-in-time recovery of individual pluggable databases (PDB).	Enables recovery of container and pluggable databases.
Data Masking	ECX includes integrated data masking workflows with the ability to leverage third party masking tools.	Enhances security of confidential data; assists with meeting compliance requirements.
Consistency Group Support	ECX supports consistency groups for related storage volumes.	Facilitates application-consistent snapshot copies across the consistency group.
<b>Oracle Data Use and Recovery</b>		
Multi-Purpose Snapshots	Each ECX snapshot can be used for multiple purposes, instantly and with no server impact.	Uses include TestDev, DevOps, Recovery, Business Analytics, Auditing, and Reporting.
Oracle Log Management for Point-in-Time Recovery	ECX supports fully automated archive log backups to support point-in-time recovery.	Point-in-time recovery from logs enables recovery of transactions that occur between hardware snapshots.
RMAN Integration	You can optionally leverage the RMAN catalog to enable RMAN-supported recoveries – with local or remote RMAN catalog creation built into ECX policies.	Leverage well understood RMAN procedures and expertise while making use of rapid ECX database recovery.

Feature	Description	Benefit
<b>New Storage Array Support</b>		
Copy Data Management for EMC Unity Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copy and Use Data policies for EMC Unity platform storage</li> <li>VMware Copy Data Management for VMware hosted on EMC storage</li> <li>VMware Copy Data Services (VADP) for EMC storage targets</li> </ul> <p>Supported EMC storage platforms include EMC Unity 300, 400, 500, 600 (All-Flash and Hybrid Flash) and EMC Unity VSA.</p>	Utilize automated Copy Data Management workflows for snapshots, replication and intelligently reusing copies in your EMC environment.
Incremental FlashCopy support for IBM Storage Workflows	Incremental FlashCopy functionality is supported in IBM storage workflows for use with ECX Copy Data policies.	Provides the ability to refresh a volume in a FlashCopy relationship.
<b>DevOps</b>		
DevOps Platform Integration	Integration with DevOps platforms and automation tools through sample scripts and API.	Enhance DevOps support through integrating with tools such as IBM Bluemix, IBM UrbanCode, and Puppet.
<b>AWS Storage Gateway Support</b>		
AWS Copy Destinations	<p>ECX VADP copy policies can now be directed to Amazon Web Services (AWS) S3 destinations via the AWS Storage Gateway.</p> <p>Easy registration is accomplished through AWS access keys and secret keys.</p>	Make use of popular and cost-effective AWS storage repository for long-term data retention.
<b>Enhanced Administrative Support</b>		
Multi-Tenancy	Multi-Tenancy allows administrators to create tenants and assign resources and administrators for each tenant.	Enhances administrative oversight and resource allocation for large organizations.
VMware RBAC	Enhanced granularity is supported when configuring role-based access control for VMware providers, allowing administrators to give permissions to users at the following levels: folder, vApp, VM, and datastore.	Enhances administrative control.
Enhanced Credential Support	Adding credentials and keys to allow access for ECX providers is supported. For example, connecting to Oracle servers as a local operating system user to perform tasks like cataloging, data protection, and data restores.	Simplifies access to resources.
Pre- and Post-script support	<p>Additional Pre- and Post-scripts are now supported for Copy Data workflows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pre/Post VM snapshot</li> <li>Pre/Post Storage snapshot</li> </ul> <p>This feature enables further customization for application integration support.</p>	Improves flexibility and customization of Copy Data workflows.



Feature	Description	Benefit
<b>Job Management and User Interface Improvements</b>		
Job Monitor Enhancements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Columns on the job monitor are sortable.</li> <li>Job monitor search feature is provided.</li> <li>Job calendar view is enhanced.</li> </ul>	Improves job monitoring experience and event visibility.
User Interface improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECX interface consistency and theme are improved.</li> <li>ECX Help system interface is redesigned with enhanced Search functionality and top navigation.</li> </ul>	Improves overall user experience and solution manageability.
<b>Scalability Enhancements</b>		
ECX Cluster Option (ECO)	A new clustered ECX installation, which distributes ECX functionality across scalable hosts, is provided.	Increases scale of a single ECX functional instance.
<b>Supportability Improvements</b>		
Log Entry Correlation	Simplified log entry correlation based on date and time is supported.	Simplifies log analysis and improves supportability.
<b>Reporting</b>		
Application-based Reports	Two new application-based reports, Application Configuration Report and Application RPO Compliance Report, are provided.	Tracks application resources.
Reporting Enhancements	Existing reports are updated to support AWS, Oracle, and Microsoft SQL nodes.	Provides vital information for newly support platforms.

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