

ROSS 2.1.1 June 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.

Features

This version includes the following features:

Replication Jobs – ROSS provides Upload, Download and Distribution jobs for replicating SharePoint assets. 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 or deployed solution to the previous state.

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

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

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.

Web UI – The ROSS Web UI is a web based user interface enabling task delegation to non-privileged users who can launch preconfigured jobs and publish approved content. The Web UI can be used on both IIS 6 and IIS 7.

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 includes the creating user, the demanding user and the run-as user.

Rollback – In the event of failure or unintentional publishing, ROSS's Rollback feature allows 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 or other interrupting events.

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 is provided as both **32 bit** and **64 bit** application.

Highlights

ROSS version 2.1.1 is an update to version 2.1. This update includes bug fixes and additions. Some highlights of this version’s improvements include:

- Disk Space – Users are now able to configure disk space thresholds and the system’s behavior whenever a disk space problem or shortage occurs.
- Bulk Change – ROSS now provides the ability to modify multiple jobs at the same time. This saves considerable amount of time and management efforts.
- Report Pane – ROSS’s GUI has been enhanced with the Reports Pane. The Report Pane extends report viewing capabilities on the Center by providing a pane where users can view reports of the jobs that appear in the Console jobs list.
- Added replication of user defined permission levels
- Added replication of Document Templates for Document Libraries and Content Types
- Added validation of root template between source and target
- Reduced redundant files and items replication
- Improved replication of
 - Meeting workspaces view and content
 - SharePoint Calculated fields
 - Lookup items
 - Custom pages
 - Publishing portals
 - Hidden entities

- Meeting Workspaces
- Collaboration portals when files were in Draft and Published status
- Improved solution deployment features activation
- ROSS can be installed together with R-1 on the same server

This version also includes internal improvements and improved error messages, documentation and reporting.

Known Issues

- 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.
- 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.
- Replicating meetings that had a workspace which was later deleted may fail, running the job with 'no about on transfer error' option will enable a successful job completion.
- Replication of a Meeting Workspace linked to more than one meeting may fail.
- Using ROSS and R-1 on the same server, please note that R-1 needs to be installed first and then ROSS 2.1.1. However, if ROSS is already installed, install R-1 and then upgrade to ROSS 2.1.1.
- Bulk Change does not enable to override specific Edges. Edge Override is disabled in the Bulk Change GUI.
- 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 2007 and WSS 3.0 SP1
- [SharePoint Services 3.0 cumulative update package](#)
- It is recommended to have the same ROSS version installed on all participating Centers / Edges.

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