

ROSS 2.2 October 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.

This ROSS version extends replication coverage (replication scopes, workflows replication, sites variations and hidden lists), provides even more flexibility and ease of use & management and improves performance and scalability.

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
- **Workflows** - Workflows built using the standard Microsoft tools (native SharePoint workflows), workflows that were built using SharePoint Designer and Visual Studio as well as Workflows built using Nintex Workflow 2007.

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.

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 Object Model. 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 2.2 includes enhancements and bug fixes. Some highlights of this version’s improvements include:

- **Additional base Replication scopes**
 - Specify specific Lists to replicate, enabling simplified replication of a list to a target list, in addition to replication of sites to sites and site collections to site collections
 - Replicate all Site Collections of a selected Web Application in a single job, providing easier management of an entire Web Application content deployment
 - Replicate a sub Site to a Site Collection, supporting migration of Sites from overloaded Site Collections to a dedicated higher level Site Collection.
- **Target Rename** – Users can now choose to set a different name to the target replication root element (list, site, or site collection). This also enables replication of a list to another list on the same site.
- **Workflow Replication** - ROSS 2.2 supports workflows replication including Workflows built using the standard Microsoft tools (native SharePoint workflows), workflows that were built using SharePoint Designer and Visual Studio as well as Workflows built using Nintex Workflow 2007. The replication sets the target environment for using the workflow, and does not replicate source tasks to avoid duplicated assignments.
- **Site Variations** – ROSS 2.2 supports replication of Site Variations (different language sites).
- **Hidden Lists** – This version now enables browsing and selecting hidden lists for filter definition (include / exclude) as well as defining a hidden list as the source of a replication.

- **Rollback –**
 - Rollback for multiple instances is now available for all types of scheduled jobs.
 - Rollback of last instance is now available from Web UI, along with not requiring the job abort.
- **API –** This version provides COM API improvements as well as API .NET C# samples.
- **Meeting Workspaces –** This version introduces improved replication of different elements in Meeting Workspaces.

This version includes multiple improvements addressing performance, scalability and recovery.

Known Issues

- When replicating site collection with site variations, the URL of the variation source site should not contain spaces, otherwise access to the variation source site URL on the target must be done using its full URL.
- Replication of sites that were created using on non-English templates has some limitations. Specifically for French sites; meeting workspaces replication is not supported, and Navigation replication requires that a target site exists before replication.
- It is not possible to replicate blog, search center, site directory and meeting workspace sites to the same (source and target) site collection.
- The same language packs may need to be installed on source and target.
- Personal sites association is supported only for personal sites created based on personal site templates.
- Tags defined in hierarchy may show duplicated entries when displayed in the Web UI left pane.
- In some scenarios, first time replication of a site that did not exist on the target may show redundant, automatically created entities, the following replication will fix this.
- In some scenarios, a few elements might be redundantly replicated to the target. This redundancy is negligible and does not affect target operability.

Pre-Requisites

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

- MOSS 2007 and WSS 3.0 SP1 (12.0.0.6219)
- [SharePoint Services 3.0 cumulative update package](#) (12.0.0.6327)
- It is recommended to have the same ROSS version installed on all participating Centers / Edges.

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