

## COSprint FailOver module

Failover and redundancy capability is available for your business-critical document output and printing environment.

**COSprint functionality can be extended to support the automatic failover of critical objects in the event of server failure by using the COSprint Failover module.**

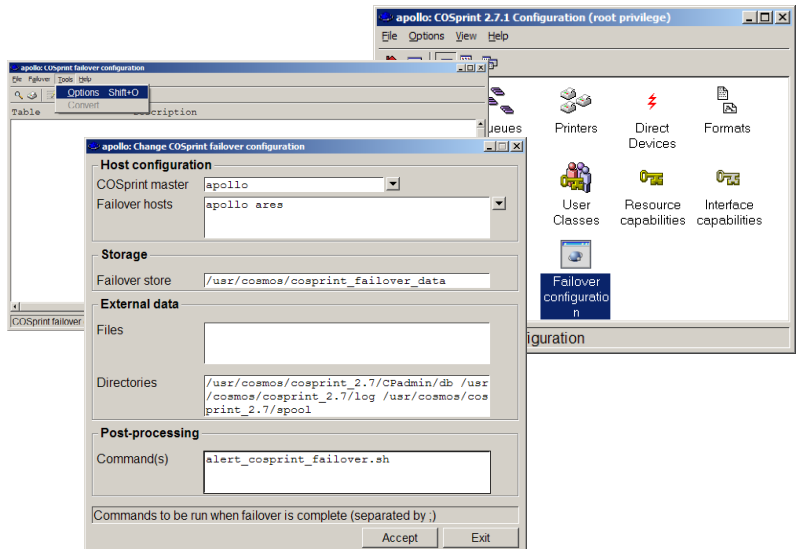
COSprint administrators usually choose to configure their system(s) so that all COSprint objects (printers, queues, etc.) in a COSprint domain are held on one or a small number of COSprint Servers. In the event of a failure – the most vulnerable case being when there is only one server which becomes unavailable for some reason – the printing service for the enterprise then fails. The COSprint FailOver module solves the problem by providing a failover capability such that printing can continue, with a backup server acting as a replacement for the COSprint Server that failed.

In the situation where there is more than one COSprint Server in a domain, either a single backup server can be configured to cover all production servers, or several servers can provide the backup service.

### Deploying the COSprint FailOver module

A COSprint domain is configured with one or more COSprint Servers. Between them, the servers host all the COSprint printers, queues, formats, defaults, default locks and resource capabilities. All printing is therefore driven through these servers, and no other nodes in the COSprint domain host COSprint objects.

When the COSprint FailOver module is employed, one or more nodes in the COSprint domain may be designated as Backup



*Choosing a failover host*

COSprint Servers (BCSs) and are configured with a backup disk area. The master COSprint database tables are backed up and copied to this location on the BCS(s).

In the event of the loss of a COSprint Server, the administrator has the option to initiate the failover of COSprint from that server to one of the BCSs.

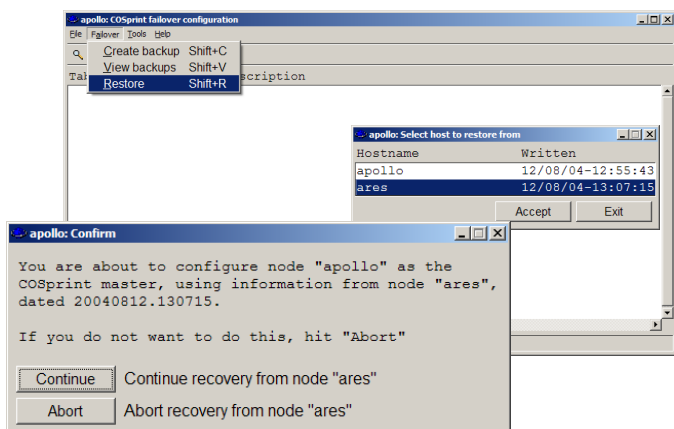
The failover process involves COSprint being shut down on all remaining nodes and the failover program being run on a selected BCS. This modifies all tables as necessary so that the BCS now hosts the COSprint objects which have become its responsibility. The BCS has now become an active COSprint Server. This process takes only a few minutes to complete.

COSprint is then restarted and a check is run on the COSprint master designation file. If this file specifies a server different from that when COSprint was last running (the

usual situation following a server failure), a process is run which adjusts the COSprint tables to point to the new COSprint master.

When the original server becomes available again, a process resets its data, now obsolete, to reproduce that held in the new COSprint master designation file. The original COSprint Server may then restart as a slave node and avoid contention.

In addition to the print file descriptions (table en-



*Preparing to invoke a COSprint failover*

tries), which are backed up by default, it is also possible (but not a standard feature) to execute a procedure to restore the spool files themselves to the BCS as part of the cleanup after a failover event.

This, however, is likely to impose a heavy system overhead because spool directories are often large. A preferable mechanism is to use a facility such as NFS or a shared file system (such as that provided by Veritas) to allow the spool files to be accessed by the BCS without having to transfer them between systems.

For more information:

please visit [www.cosprint.com](http://www.cosprint.com)

---

SAP, R/3 and the SAP logo are registered trademarks of SAP AG. PATROL, BMC Software, the BMC Software logos and all other BMC Software product or service names are registered trademarks or trademarks of BMC Software, Inc. All trademarks and registered trademarks are recognized by OSM.

---



[www.cosprint.com](http://www.cosprint.com)

**OPEN SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT, INC.**  
1511 Third Avenue, Suite 905  
Seattle WA 98101  
USA

Tel: (866) 601 8011 (toll-free, USA)  
Fax: (206) 583 8374  
[info@osminc.com](mailto:info@osminc.com)

[www.osmcorp.com](http://www.osmcorp.com)



**OPEN SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT LTD**  
Kings Ride Court  
Kings Ride  
Ascot, Berkshire SL5 7JR  
UK  
Tel: +44 (0)1344 638000  
Fax: +44 (0)1344 638011