

Hyper-V checkpoints

Virtual machine checkpoints (formerly known as virtual machine snapshots) capture the state, data, and hardware configuration of a running virtual machine.

Checkpoints provide a fast and easy way to revert the virtual machine to a previous state. For this reason, virtual machine checkpoints are intended mainly for use in development and test environments. Having an easy way to revert a virtual machine can be very useful if you need to recreate a specific state or condition so that you can troubleshoot a problem.

There are certain circumstances in which it may make sense to use checkpoints in a production environment. For example, you can use checkpoints to provide a way to revert a potentially risky operation in a production environment, such as applying an update to the software running in the virtual machine.

Keep the following considerations in mind, especially if you plan to use checkpoints on a virtual machine in a production environment:

- The presence of a virtual machine checkpoint reduces the disk performance of the virtual machine.
- We do not recommend using checkpoints on virtual machines that provide time-sensitive services, or when performance or the availability of storage space is critical.

◆ Important

Microsoft does not support the use of checkpoints on virtual machines running the Active Directory Domain Services role (also known as “domain controllers”) or the Active Directory Lightweight Directory Services role in Windows Server 2008 or Windows Server 2008 R2.