Truth conquers all things, but loose claims confuse

By Andrew Glinka | July 2021

Recently, Veritas announced their long-awaited release of NetBackup 9.1 with some claims about their latest NetBackup 5350 Flex backup appliance and newly introduced ransomware protection.

Some of those claims appear to be squarely aimed at our industry leading and proven PowerProtect DD series appliances and PowerProtect Cyber Recovery. Veritas does not provide any specific examples or data to support their claims. In our view, this could be misleading. I want to set the record straight regarding Veritas’s misleading claims, particularly against the PowerProtect DD series appliances.

In the spirit of the Latin definition of Veritas, “Truth”, let’s talk about the “truth” to these claims.

PowerProtect DD9900 max throughput is 94TB/hr

Our high end [DD9900 with optional DD Boost has a max throughput of 94TB/hr]. Veritas claims their 5350 appliance has twice the throughput of Dell EMC DD9000.

Does their new NetBackup 5350 appliance really crank out 2x the throughput? The Veritas spec sheet for the prior 5340 appliance lists 58TB/hr., which means they would need a 3.2x improvement over their previous appliance to double the max throughput of the PowerProtect DD9900. Without a complete spec sheet or test results from Veritas, we will never know if this is the “truth”.

PowerProtect DD appliances backup and restore faster than the competition

Veritas claims their 5350 appliance has “3 times faster backup and restore performance”. Faster than what…or whom? We assume this “3x faster backup and restore” refers to performance improvements
over their 5340 but we can’t be sure, particularly because it’s sandwiched between two claims about the Dell EMC DD9000.

If Veritas is comparing performance numbers to a competitive target storage appliance without backup software, then they’re comparing apples to oranges and this simply doesn’t make sense. Since a backup and restore claim would rely on software to measure performance, they would need to compare it with another software and target appliance -- not a target-only appliance. Only then could an accurate performance comparison and claim be made.

Bottom line, what was Veritas comparing against here? Since no specific appliance model was called out, no spec sheet was provided and no source of the claim, we assume Veritas is comparing against their old 5340 appliance vs their new 5350. This 3x claim is confusing, misleading and doesn’t necessarily represent the “truth”.

**PowerProtect DD9900 offers 1.5PB max useable storage capacity, all dedupable**

PowerProtect DD series appliances have been a pioneer in the purpose-built backup appliance (PBBA) industry for data protection and has been an industry leader for an over a decade. Our storage capacity and overall throughput performance has continually increased as new, more powerful and efficient follow-on DD appliance models have been introduced.

Veritas claims their NetBackup 5350 appliance has “50% More Capacity than Dell EMC DD9000”. 50% greater than what?

The DD9900 has a usable storage capacity range of 576TB – 1.5PB. All this usable capacity is in a single ‘dedupable’ pool which provides more efficient deduplication compared to smaller or multiple dedupe pools.

What is Veritas basing this claim on? Their 5350 appliance starts at 120 TB usable minimum and expands up to 1.92PB usable capacity, with a max of 4 storage shelves.

1.92PB is more than the DD9900’s 1.5PB max usable number. But is all of that capacity dedupable? We think not, based on Veritas’s 5350 appliance having a 1,056TB MSDP deduplication pool max limitation. Have they fixed or expanded that? Just having more usable capacity does not help store data more efficiently and reduce datacenter space and cost if it can’t all be used for deduplication. Without any hard efficiency data or further details on dedupe capacities, Veritas’ additional claim of a 40% lower TCO may not represent the “truth”.

![Cyber-Recovery VAULT PRINCIPLES](image)
PowerProtect Cyber Recovery is a true, isolated air gap vault solution

Let's shift gears and talk about Cyber Recovery. Veritas is entering the cyber security arena with NetBackup 9.1 claims of “features enhanced resiliency and ransomware Protection”.

Enhancements over what? NetBackup 9.0?

Dell Technologies’ PowerProtect Cyber Recovery is a true, isolated air gap vault solution with robust immutability and intelligence built in. Dell Technologies is the first solution provider to be endorsed by Sheltered Harbor and provides thorough and reliable anomalous data/activity detection, alerting, and recovery from malware and ransomware attacks. Our isolated vault solution has been protecting customers’ data for over 4 years.

PowerProtect DD has built-in data integrity checking and remediation (Data Invulnerability Architecture) as well as data immutability (Retention Lock), and additional hardening such as inability to change the NTP server and prevent a time attack to unlock retention. This hardening provides first-line defense for production backups against cyber-attacks.

PowerProtect Cyber Recovery solution is a true, physically and logically isolated air gap vault. The isolated vault contains immutable copies and strict access protocols, controlled from within the Cyber Recovery vault itself. In addition, CyberSense intelligent software scans, detects and sends out alerts on anomalous data or activities as well as verifies recoverable clean copies for quick recovery. This minimizes downtime, expense, and lost revenue by providing a resilient backup of critical data and a quick path to recovery from cyber attacks.

Combine DD series hardening with PowerProtect Cyber Recovery’s vault and CyberSense software, and you get reliable and resilient purpose-built cyber security and protection from attacks, accidental deletions, and bad actors.

Veritas joins other vendors in claiming they have sufficient protection from malware, ransomware and other types of attacks. However, NetBackup 9.1’s ‘immutable hardening’ of their appliances do not give comprehensive cyber protection against malicious attacks. Though snapshots and read-only backups can’t be changed or written to, they still can be deleted, usually through administrative access. This leaves data vulnerable to a compromised system or bad actors who would be able to delete an immutable copy.

Additionally, what happens when your production data is already hacked, breached and infected with a ‘stealth’ virus or malicious code? Sorting it all out and recovering to your last known “clean” snapshot or backup can take a lot of time and effort, let alone disrupt business operations for an extended period. That’s where an isolated air gap vault solution with intelligent scans from PowerProtect Cyber Recovery and Cyber Sense help ensure you can recover, and one of the reasons Sheltered Harbor endorsed it.

In closing, Veritas is taking a lot of liberties with the “truth” and the NetBackup 9.1 story which can be misleading.

Remember, Veritas vos liberabit! the “Truth will set you free”, and Dell Technologies’ industry leading PowerProtect DD series appliances combined with PowerProtect Cyber Recovery and Cyber Sense provides efficient, high-performing appliances built to protect your mission critical data from ransomware as well as internal threats and keep your business up and running.