



Setting up Dell™ vRanger™ on the Dell DR Series System

Dell Engineering
April 2015

Revisions

Date	Description
April 2015	Initial release

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Executive summary

This whitepaper provides information about how to set up the Dell DR Series system as a backup to disk target for Dell vRanger backup software. This paper is a quick reference guide and does not include all DR Series system deployment best practices.

For additional information, see the DR Series system documentation and other data management application best practices whitepapers for your specific DR Series system at:

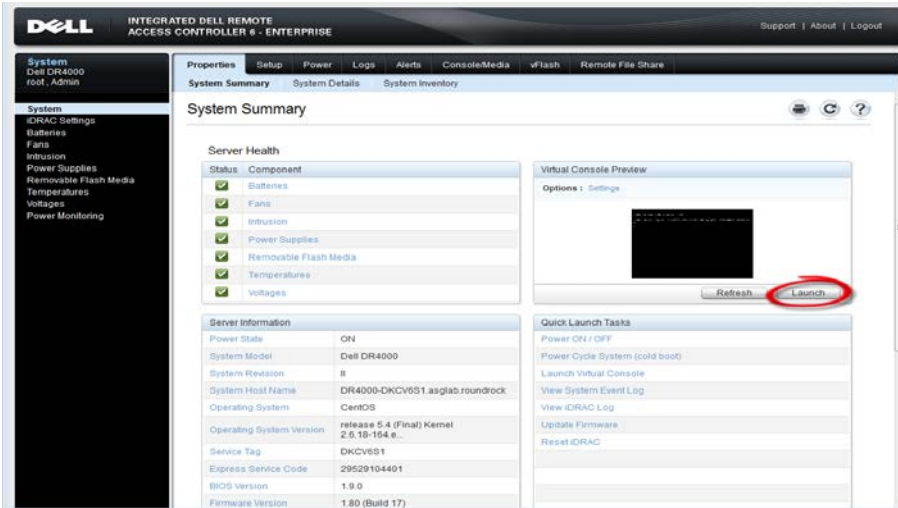
<http://www.dell.com/powervaultmanuals>

NOTE: The DR Series system and the vRanger build version and screen shots used for this whitepaper may vary slightly, depending on the version of the DR Series system or vRanger software version you are using.

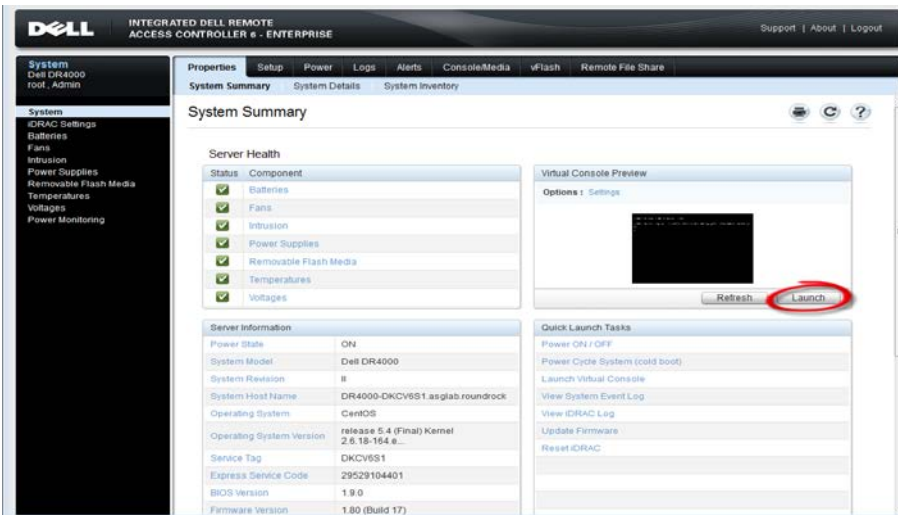


1 Installing and configuring the DR Series system

1. Rack and cable the DR Series system appliance, and power it on.
2. Log onto iDRAC using the default address, **192.168.0.1**, with the username: **root** and password: **Calvin**.



3. Launch the virtual console.



- When the virtual console opens, log on to the system as:
user: **administrator**, password: **St0r@ge!**

NOTE: The "0" in the password is the numeral zero.

```
Ucarina release 1 (EAR-1.00.00) Build: 32850
Kernel 2.6.18-164.el5 on an x86_64

localhost login: administrator
Password: St0r@ge!
```

- Set the user-defined networking preferences as needed.

```
Would you like to use DHCP (yes/no) ?
Please enter an IP address:
Please enter a subnet mask:
Please enter a default gateway address:
Please enter a DNS Suffix (example: abc.com):
Please enter primary DNS server IP address:
Would you like to define a secondary DNS server (yes/no) ?
Please enter secondary DNS server IP address:
```

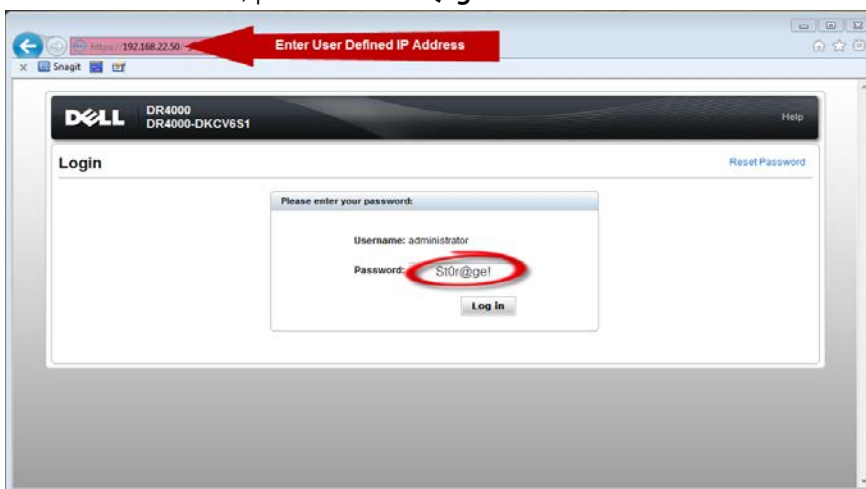
- View the summary of preferences and confirm that the settings are correct.

```
=====
                          Set Static IP Address
IP Address      : 10.10.86.108
Network Mask    : 255.255.255.128
Default Gateway : 10.10.86.126
DNS Suffix      : idmdemo.local
Primary DNS Server : 10.10.86.101
Secondary DNS Server : 143.166.216.237
Host Name       : DR4000-5

Are the above settings correct (yes/no) ? _
```



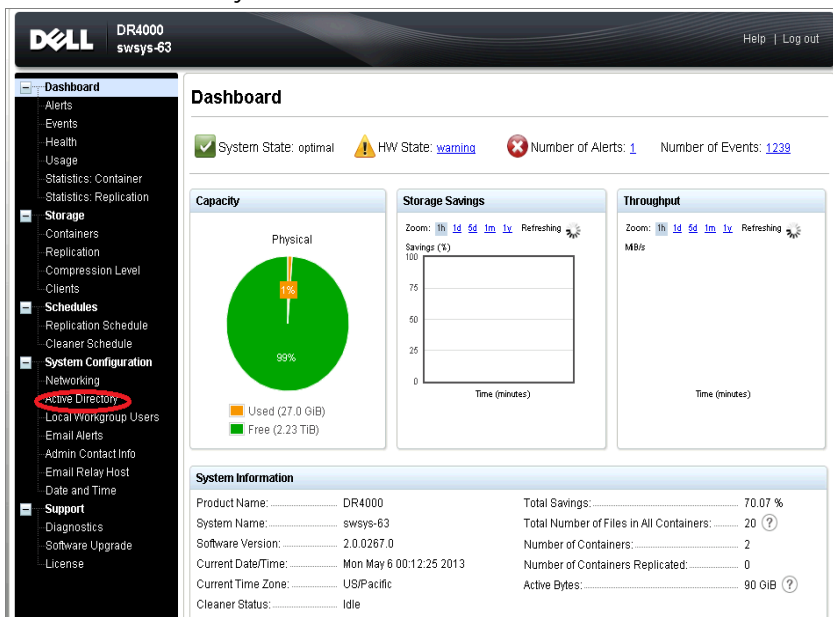
7. Log on to the DR Series system administrator console, using the IP address you just provided for the DR Series system as:
user: **administrator**, password **St0r@ge!**



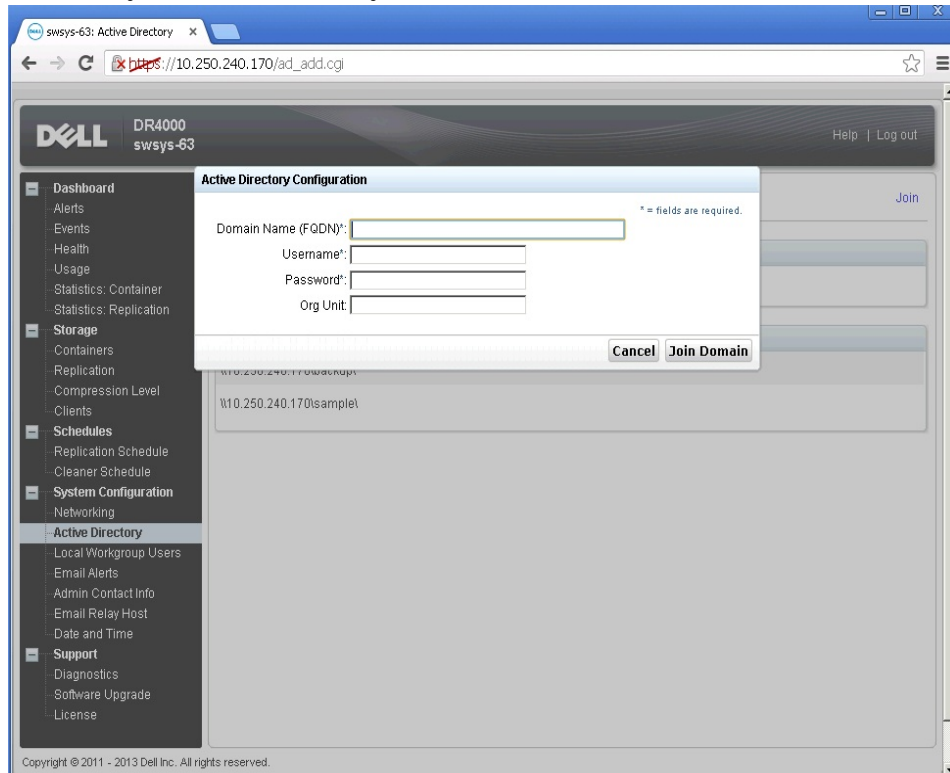
8. Join the DR Series system to Active Directory as described below.

NOTE: If you do not want to add the DR Series system to Active Directory, see the *Dell DR Series Owner's Manual* for guest logon instructions.

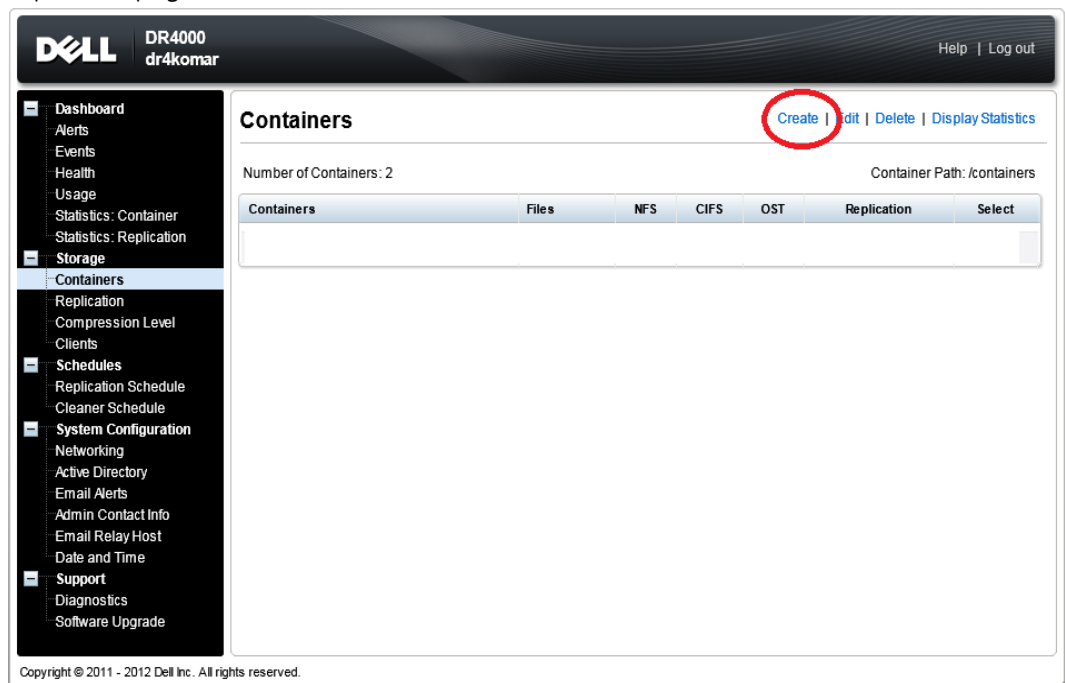
- a. Click **System Configuration > Active Directory** in the left navigation area of the DR Series system GUI.



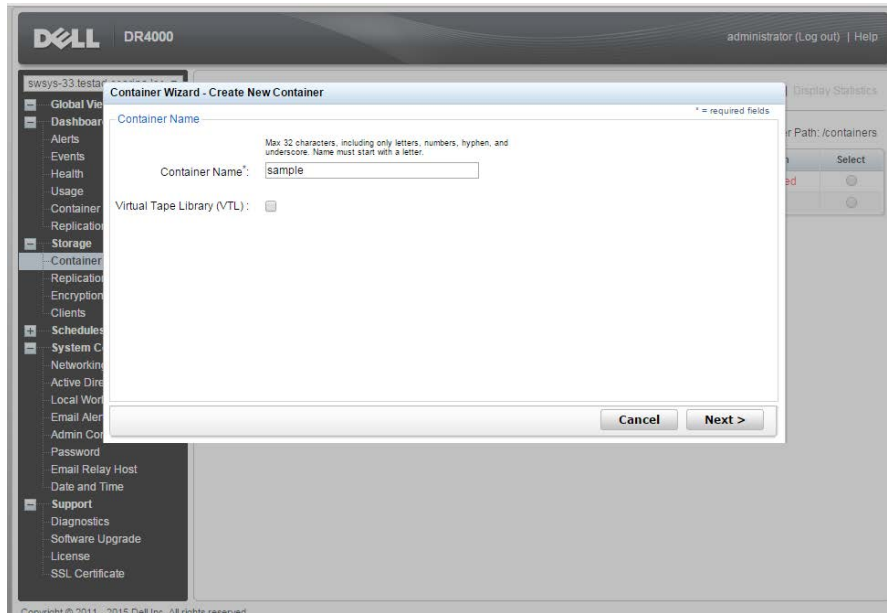
b. Enter your Active Directory credentials and click **Join Domain**.



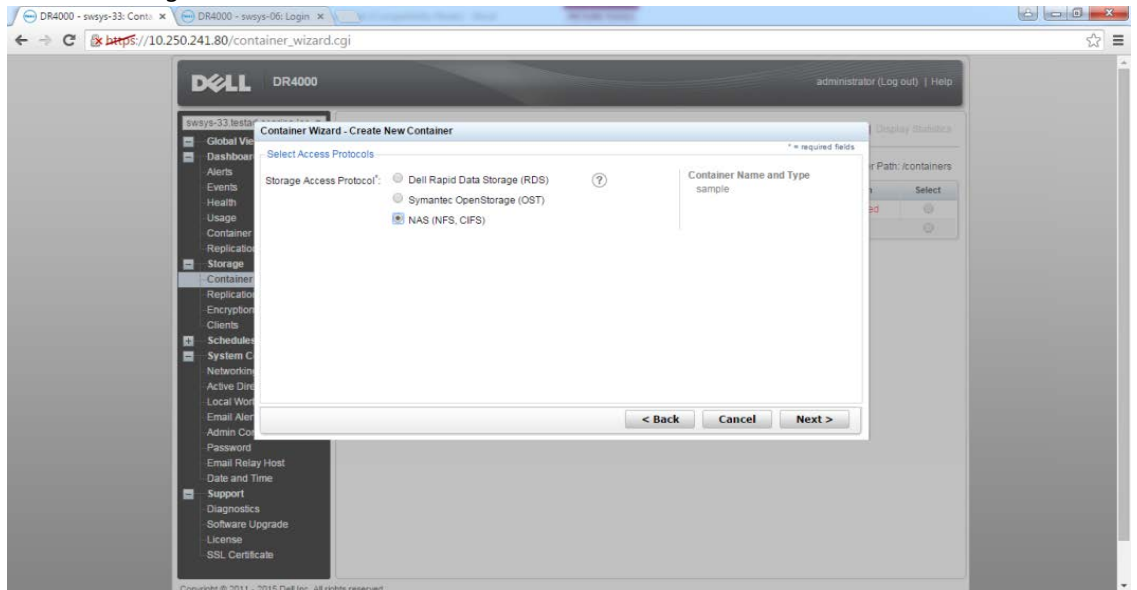
9. Select **Containers** on the left navigation area, and then click the **Create** link at the top of the page.



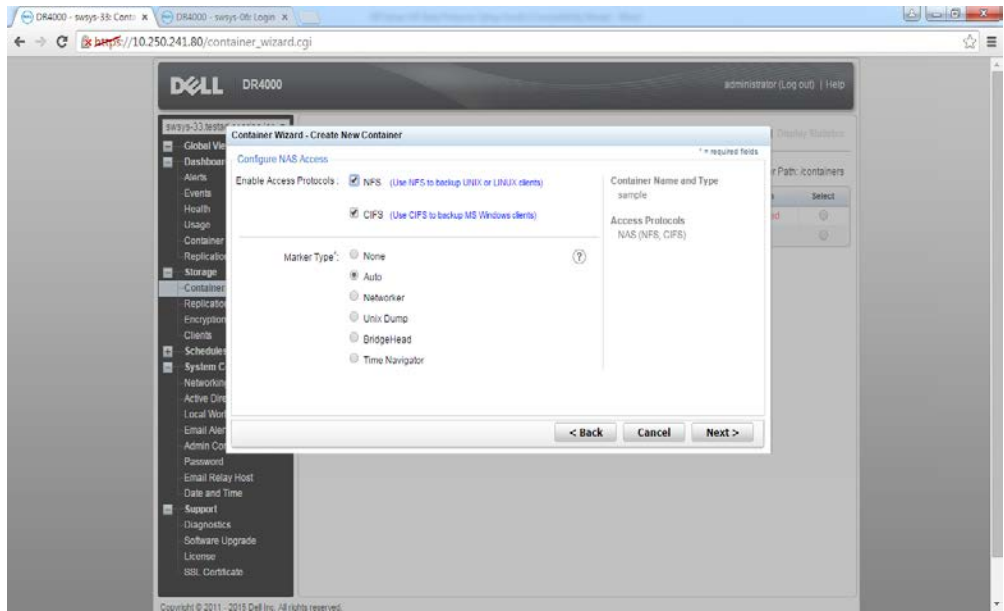
10. Enter a Container Name and click **Next**.



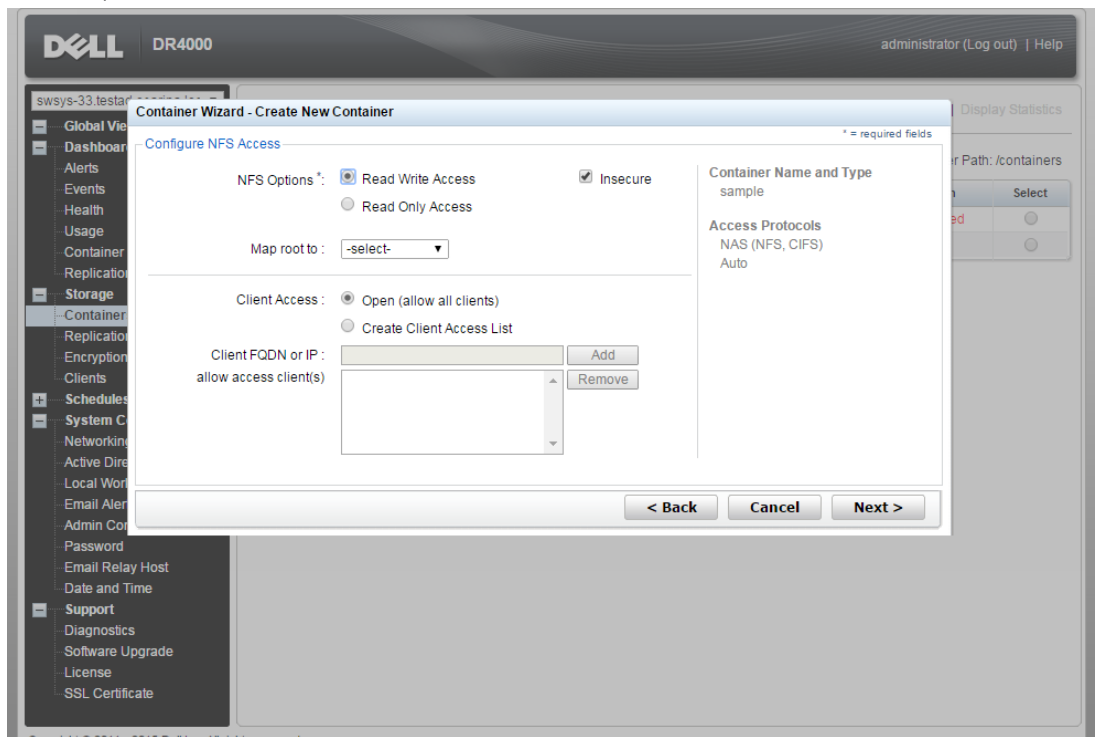
11. For the Storage Access Protocol, select **NAS (NFS, CIFS)** and click **Next**.



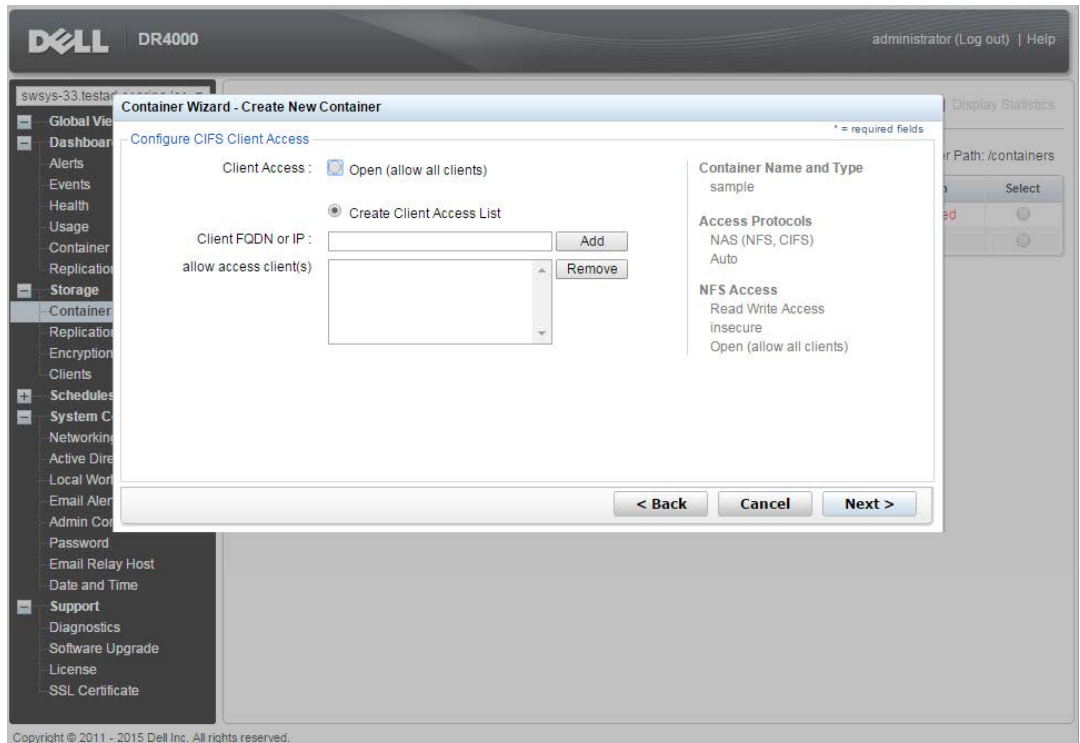
12. Select **NFS** and **CIFS** as appropriate. (vRanger supports both CIFS and NFS protocols.)



13. For NFS, set the client access credentials and click **Next**.



14. For CIFS, set the client access credentials and click **Next**.



NOTE: For improved security, Dell recommends adding IP addresses for the following components (Not all environments will have all components):

- Backup console (vRanger Server)
- ESXi hosts (as vRanger backs up these VMs)
- Backup proxies (for vSphere environments)



15. Click **Create a New Container**, and then confirm that the container was added.

The screenshot shows the Dell DR4000 swsys-63 web interface. The browser address bar shows <https://10.250.240.170/main.cg?success=1>. The page title is "Containers" and it includes links for "Create", "Edit", "Delete", and "Display Statistics".

A green message box displays the following information:

- Successfully added container "sample".
- Successfully enabled container "sample" with the following marker(s) "Auto".
- Successfully added CIFS connection for container "sample".

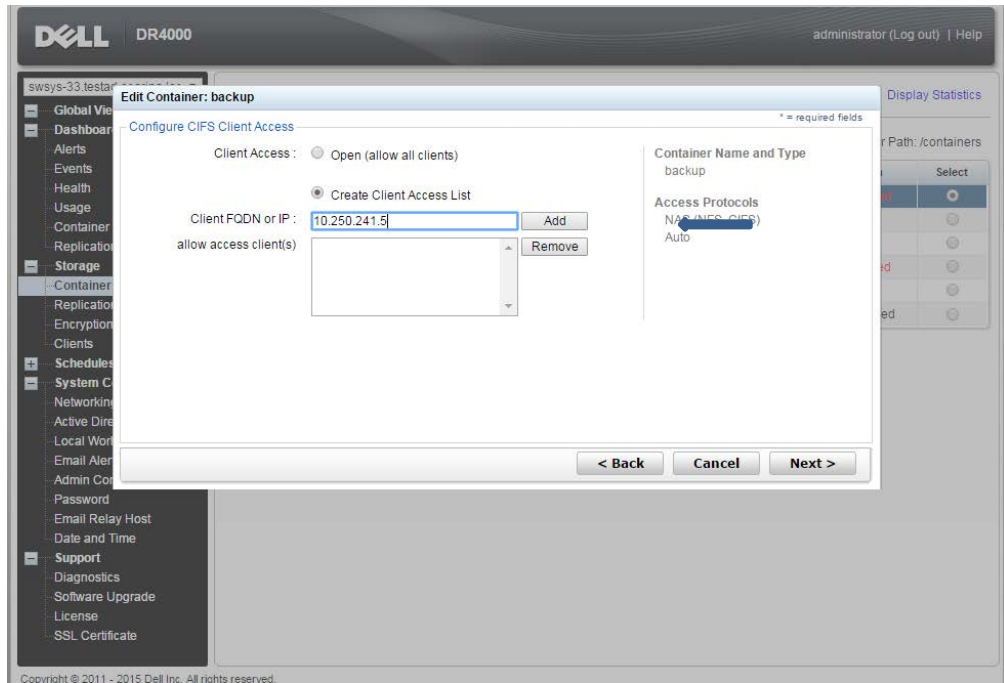
Below the message, it states "Number of Containers: 2" and "Container Path: /containers". A table lists the containers:

Containers	Files	NFS	CIFS	OST	Replication	Select
backup	19	✓	✓		Not Configured	<input type="radio"/>
sample	0		✓		Not Configured	<input type="radio"/>

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16. Select the container and then click **Edit**. Reconfigure client access permissions, if required, and click **Next**. Make a note of the container path, which you will use later to target the DR Series system.



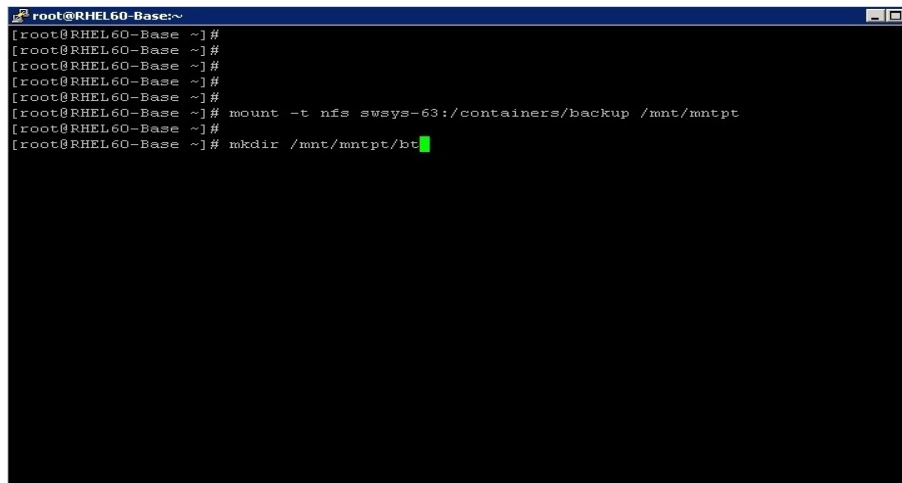
17. Click **Modify this container** to save any changes you made, or click **Cancel** to exit.



2 Configuring an NFS share for backup using vRanger

For NFS backup using vRanger, you need to create a target folder under the NFS share directory. This folder is a subdirectory of the NFS Export directory and is the location to which save points will be written. (This configuration is not required when adding a CIFS share.)

1. Mount the NFS share onto any of the NFS clients available in the environment.
2. Create a directory by using the `mkdir` command inside the mounted directory.



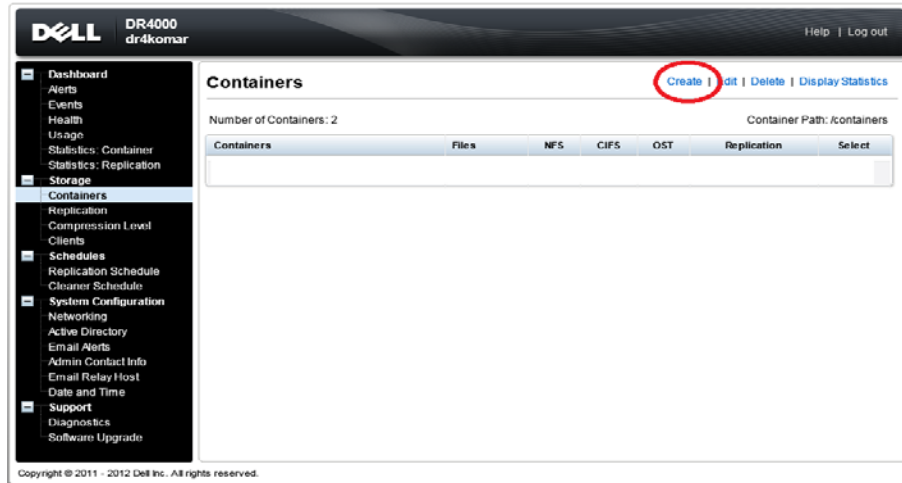
```
root@RHEL60-Base:~  
[root@RHEL60-Base ~]#  
[root@RHEL60-Base ~]#  
[root@RHEL60-Base ~]#  
[root@RHEL60-Base ~]#  
[root@RHEL60-Base ~]#  
[root@RHEL60-Base ~]# mount -t nfs swsys-63:/containers/backup /mnt/mntpt  
[root@RHEL60-Base ~]#  
[root@RHEL60-Base ~]# mkdir /mnt/mntpt/bt
```



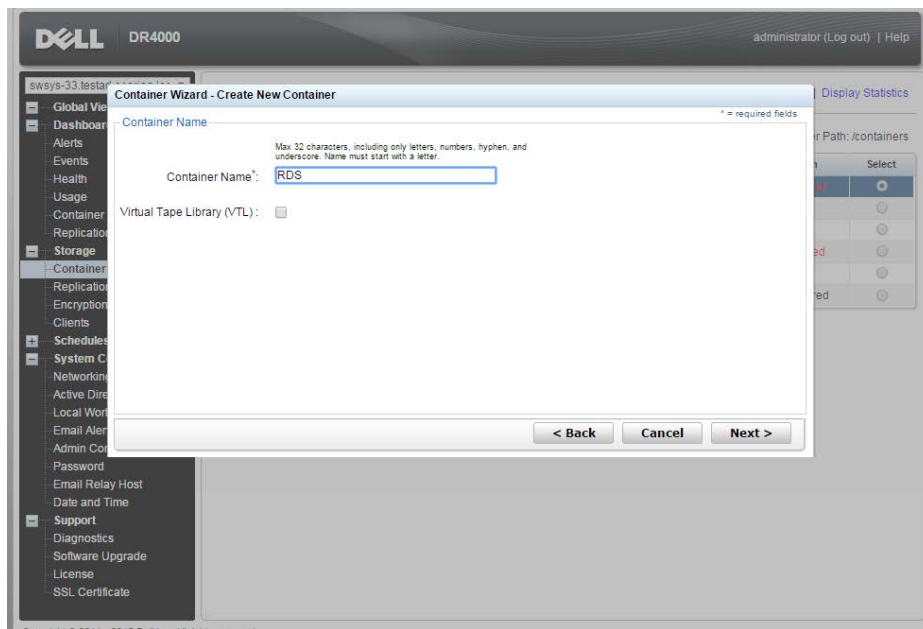
3 Configuring an RDA container for backup

3.1 Create an RDS container

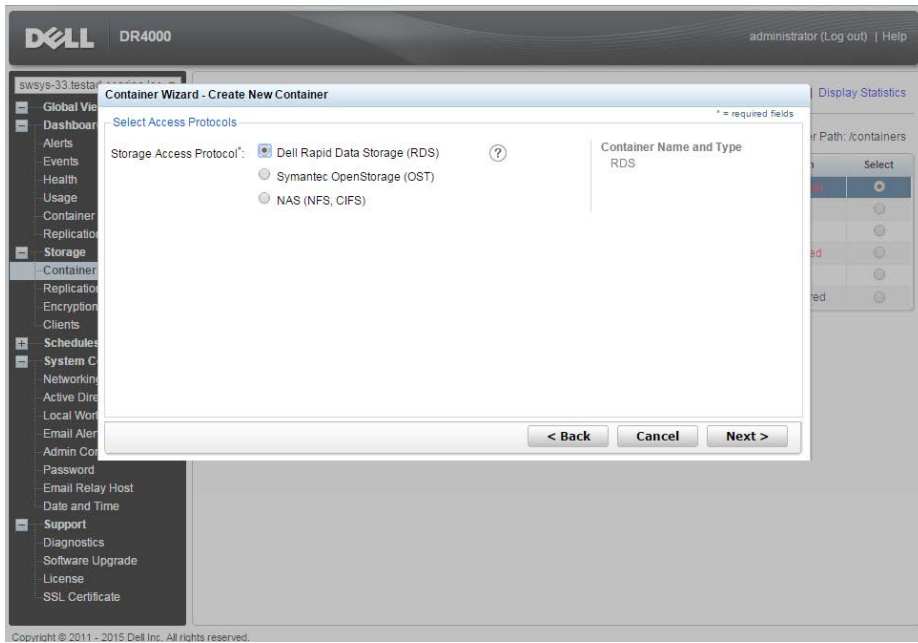
1. Select **Containers** in the left side of the DR Series system GUI, and then click **Create**.



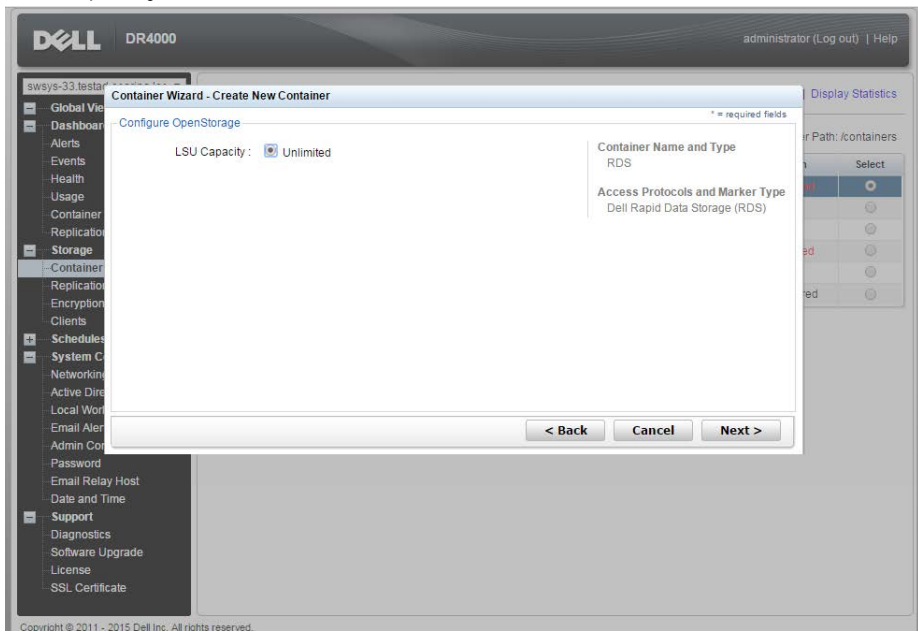
2. Enter a container name and then click **Next**.



3. For the Storage Access Protocol, select **Dell Rapid Data Storage (RDS)**.



4. LSU capacity is set as **Unlimited**. Click **Next**.



5. Click **Create New Container**, and then confirm that the container was added.

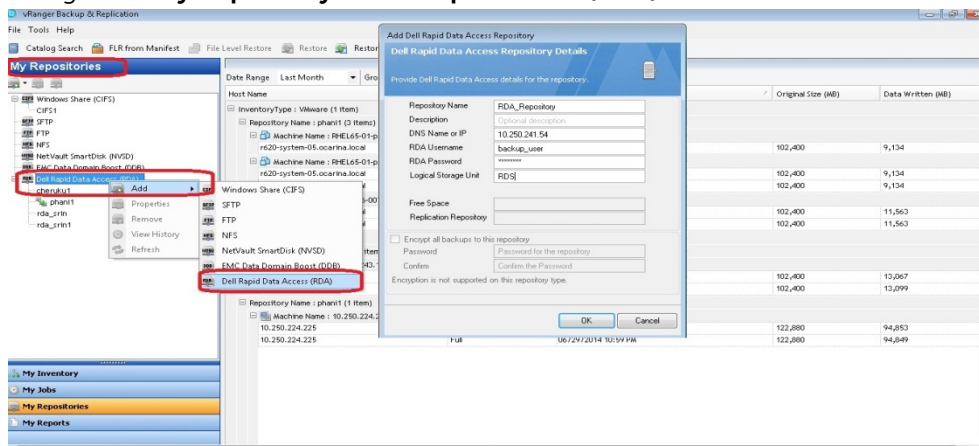




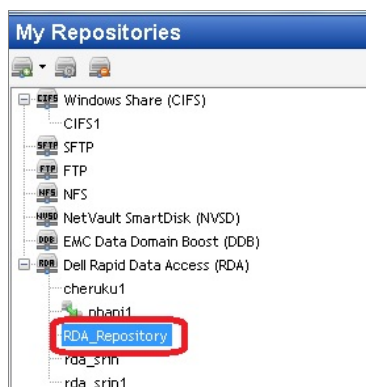
3.2 Configure the Dell RDA device in vRanger

Configure the Dell RDA device in vRanger as follows:

1. Navigate to **My Repository > Dell Rapid Access (RDA)**.



2. Confirm that the RDA devices are added.



3. In the DR Series system GUI, navigate to **Storage > Client** and click the **RDA** tab to review the configured RDA device details.

IBM Business Transfor... w3 IBM Home Page w3 IBM Standard Softwar... Movies_booking Testing Home Google Resigning to protest ... Home Lo

Events
Health
Usage
Container Statistics
Replication Statistics
Storage
Containers
Clients

NFS CIFS **RDA** DR2000v

Number of RDA Clients: 1

Name	IP Address	Type	Plug-In	Backup Software	Idle Time	Connection	Mode	Select
Babuk-Win7-01	10.250.224.175	RDS	3.1.66	vRanger 7.0	--	0	Dedupe	<input type="radio"/>

***To see the client OS type and version, please mouse over the entry in the "Name" column.

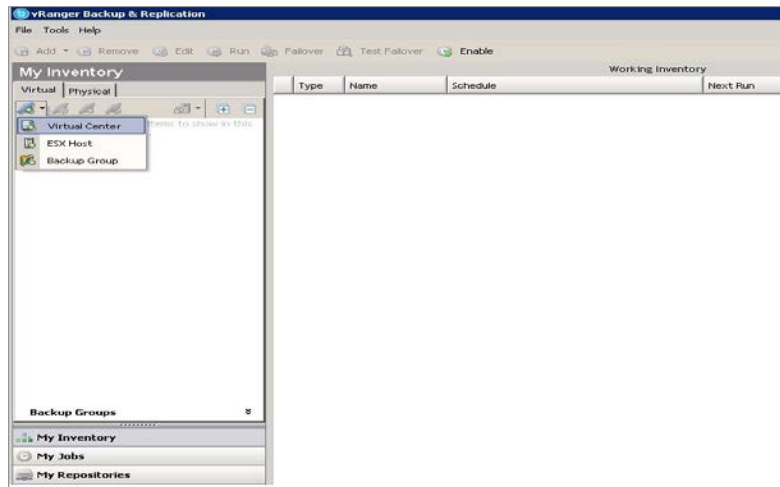


4 Setting up vRanger

NOTES:

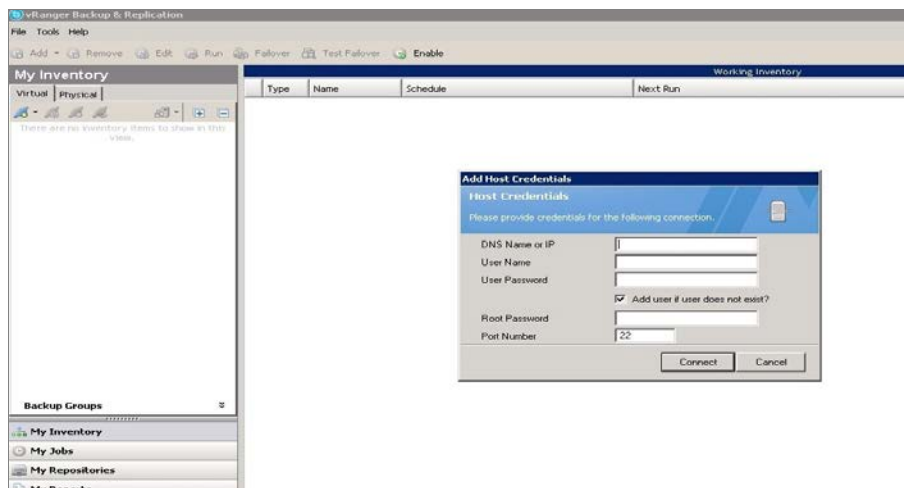
- To maximize DR Series system vRanger storage capacity savings, Dell recommends that you adhere exactly to the following setup settings.
- The backup formats differ completely when setup settings are changed. Hence, all savings on vRanger installations that had settings changed in between are null and void.

1. Open the vRanger Backup and Replication Console.
2. Go to **My Inventory > Virtual > Add** and add either your vCenter or ESX host.



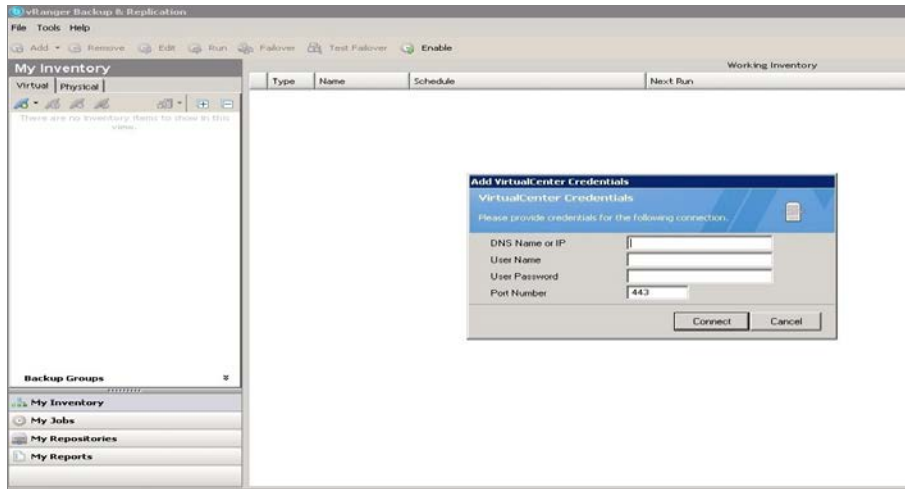
- **Adding ESX host**

For ESX, you need to add the ESX host with root credentials.

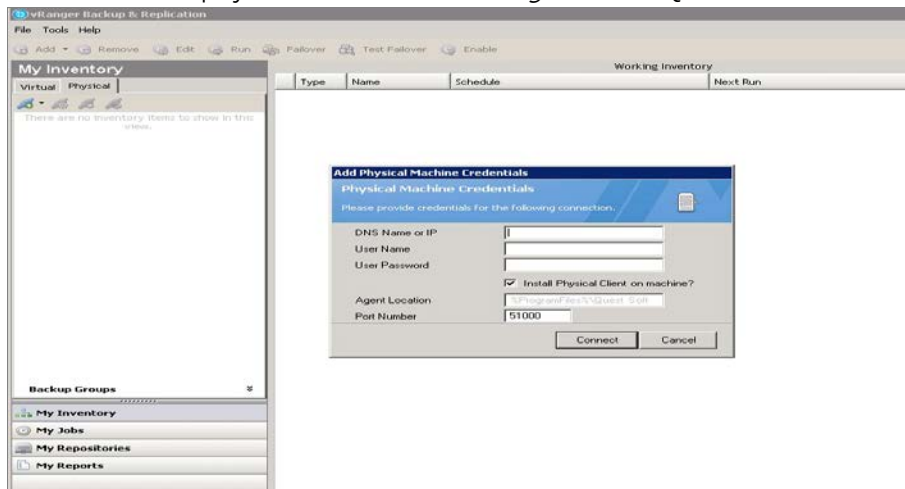


- **Adding Virtual Center**

When adding the vCenter host you need to provide the IP/Hostname and the logon credentials of the Virtual Center.

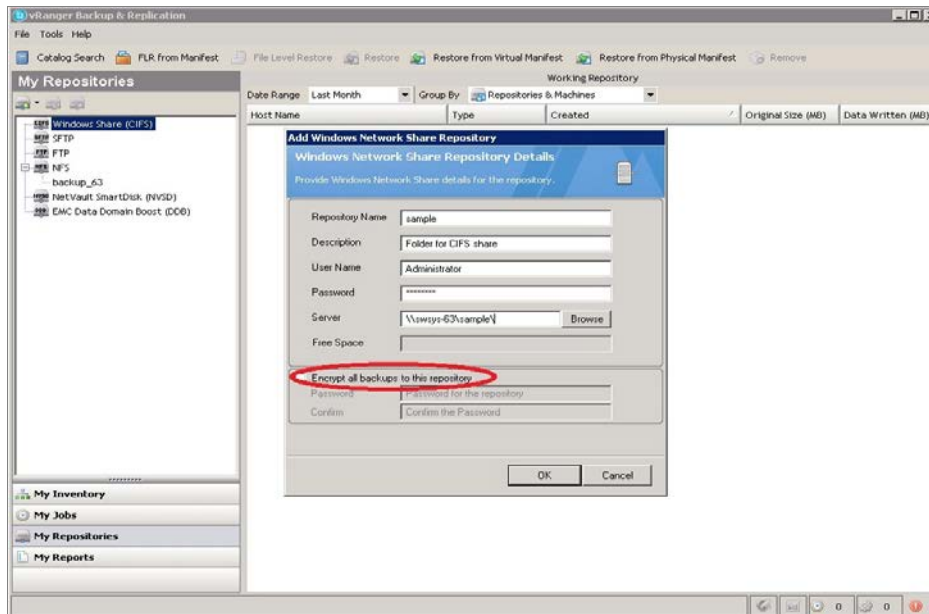


3. To add the physical server, go to **My Inventory > Physical > Add**, and then select the option, **Install physical client on machine?**. By default, the physical client is installed on the physical machine at *C:\Program Files\Quest Software*.

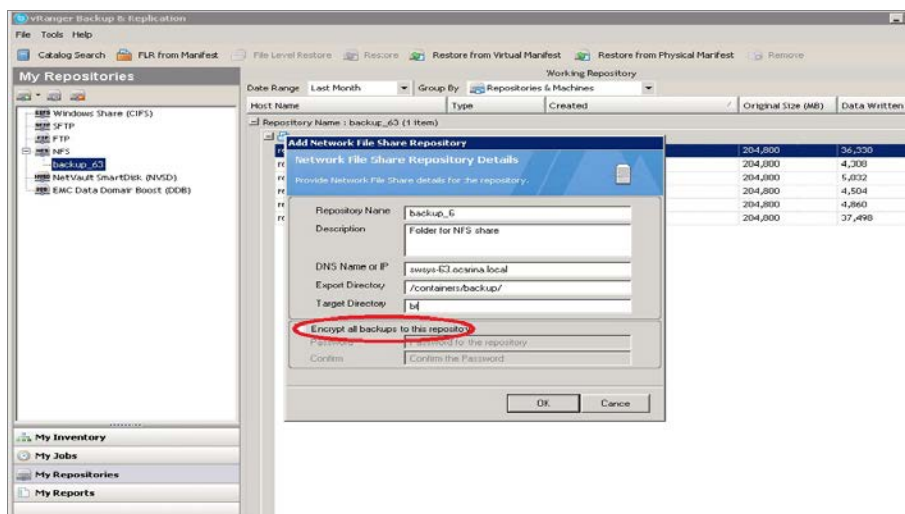


4. You need to map the CIFS/NFS share to vRanger. (vRanger supports both CIFS and NFS protocols).
 - **Mapping a CIFS share**
To map a CIFS share, go to **My repository > Add > Windows Share (CIFS)**, enter the required details, and then click **OK**.

Note: Dell recommends that you do **not** enable encryption.

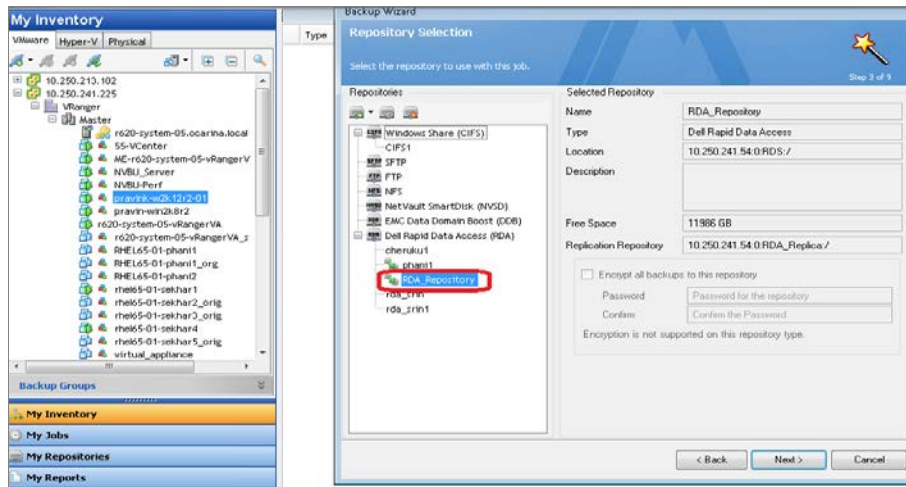


- **Mapping an NFS share**
To map an NFS share, go to **My repository > Add > NFS**, enter the required credentials, and then click **OK**.

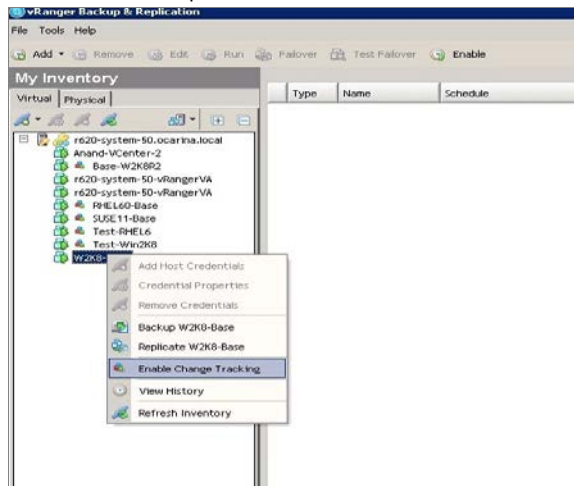


Note: **Export Directory** lists the export directory but not the complete share path (that is, it does not provide IP/hostname of the DR Series system). **Target Directory** lists the target directory name that was created under the share directory [Mentioned above in section 2].

- For RDA, select the RDA device configured in the previous section, "Configure the Dell RDA device in vRanger."

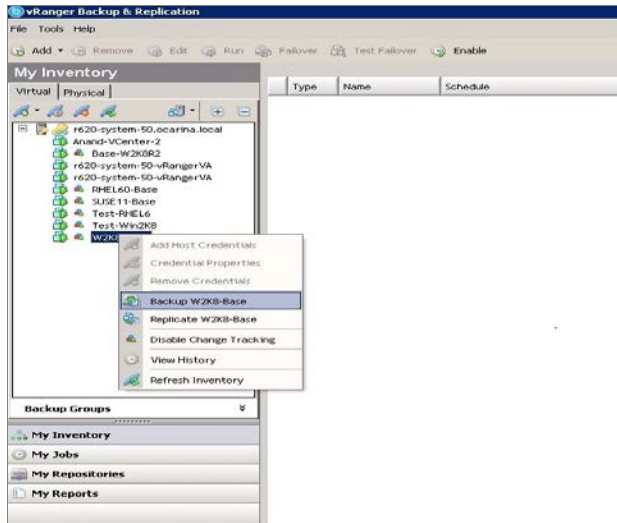


5. Right-click and enable change tracking (**Change Block Tracking**) on the VM you want to back up.

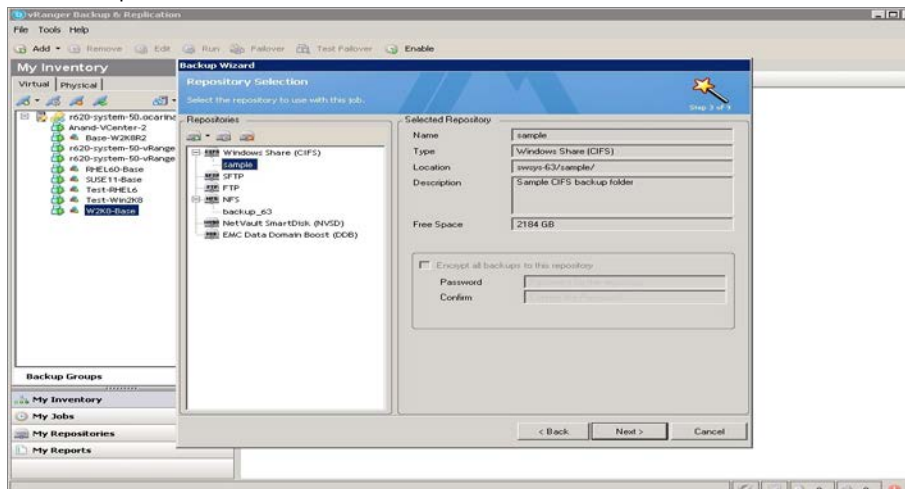


6. Select a virtual machine for backup, and right-click **Backup**, which opens the backup wizard.

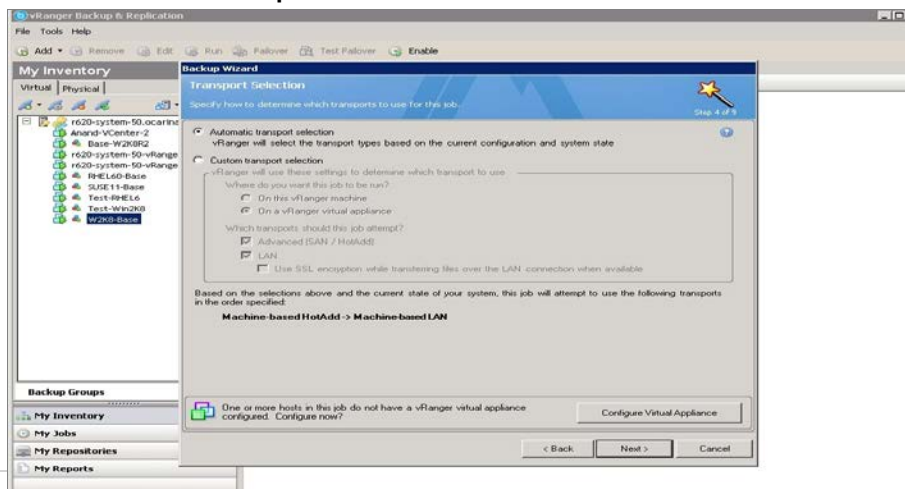




7. Select disks to back up, and then select the repository to which the VM is to be backed up.



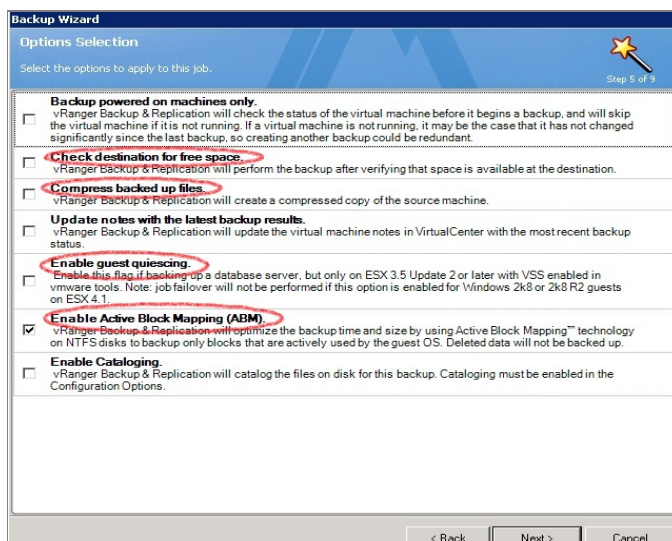
8. Select the appropriate Transport type according to the setup. If you are unsure, click **Automatic Transport Selection**.



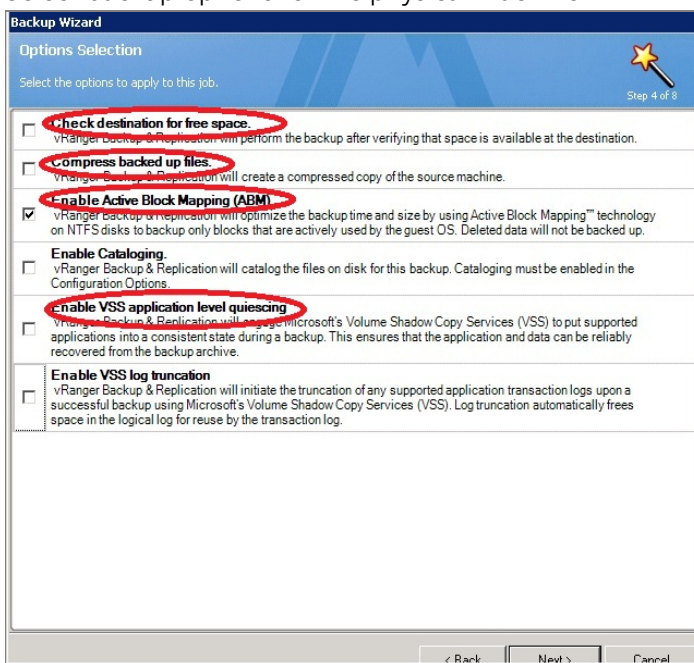
9. Select backup options for the VM.

NOTES:

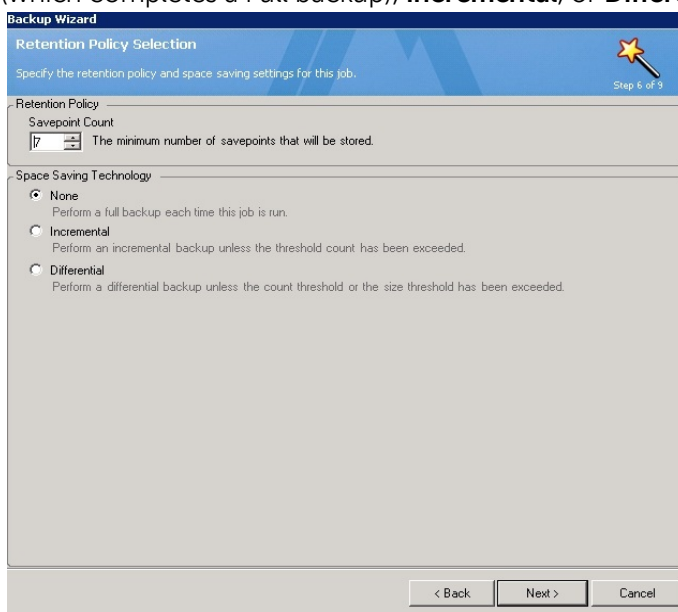
- Always Disable 'Check destination for free space' since the DR Series system supports deduplication and so the overall space that is occupied is less.
- Always enable ABM (Active Block Mapping) for better overall results from both vRanger and DR.
- vRanger recommends enabling 'Guest quiescing' in case of backing up a database (Example: Exchange server).
- Disable 'compress backed up files' for better savings.



10. Select backup options for the physical machine.

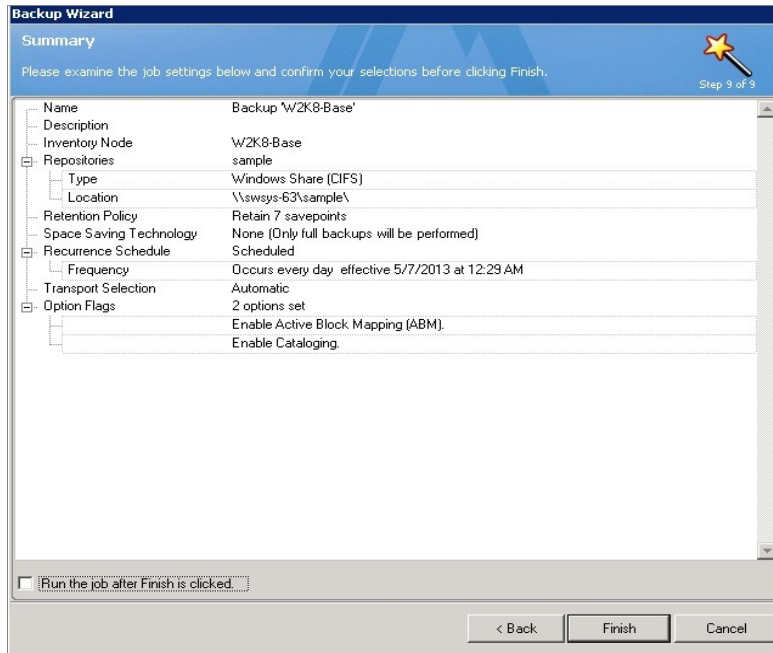


11. For the Retention Policy, select the type of backup technology as either **None** (which completes a Full backup), **Incremental**, or **Differential**.

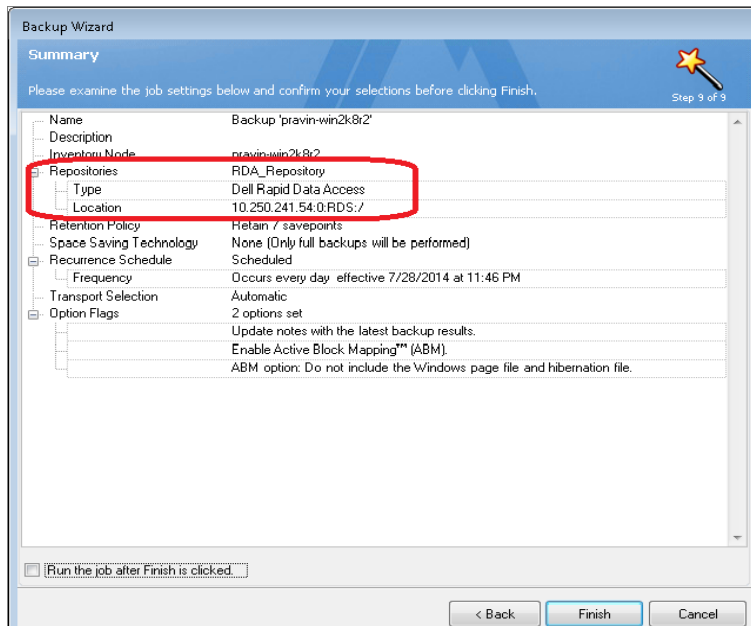


- Schedule the backup and then provide the mail server details for sending mail.

The following example shows a backup summary page that opens when the target is a CIFS repository.



The following example shows a backup summary page that opens when the target is a RDA repository.



5 Viewing a history of optimized copies in the DR Series system GUI

In the DR Series system GUI, go to the **Container Statistics > Duplication** tab to view a history of optimized VM copies, as shown in the following example.

The screenshot displays the 'Duplication' tab in the DR Series system GUI. At the top, it shows 'Marker Type: None' and 'Connection Type: RDS'. Below this, there are tabs for 'Capacity', 'Duplication', and 'Client Statistics'. The 'Duplication Statistics' section is divided into 'Inbound' and 'Outbound' metrics. The 'Active Optimized Copies' section is currently empty. The 'History of Optimized Copies' section is highlighted with a red box and contains a table with the following data:

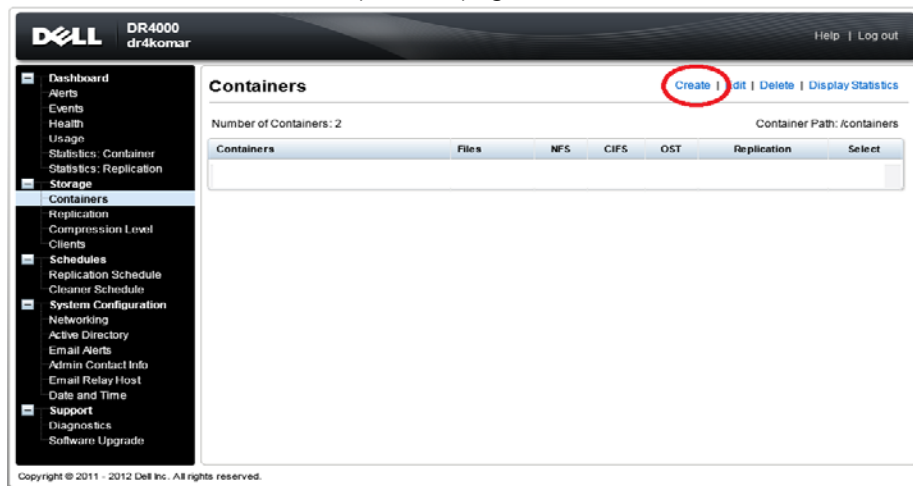
File Name	Peer IP	Peer ID	Logical Bytes to Send	Rep. Rate	Savings	Replicated at	Encryption
/rhe65-01-sekhar2_orig_42016af2-bcb0-f1b4-5fa6-48e70992934c/rhe65-01-sekhar2_orig_20140728_232917_65a188ba-63b0-41d1-ada3-587939ac45c3/rhe65-01-sekhar2_orig_20140728_232917_F1_rhe65-01-sekhar2_vmdk.var	10.250.241.54	5	9578719655Bytes	7806617KiB/s	99.99%	2014-07-28 2 3:38:51	None

6 Configuring replication at the source

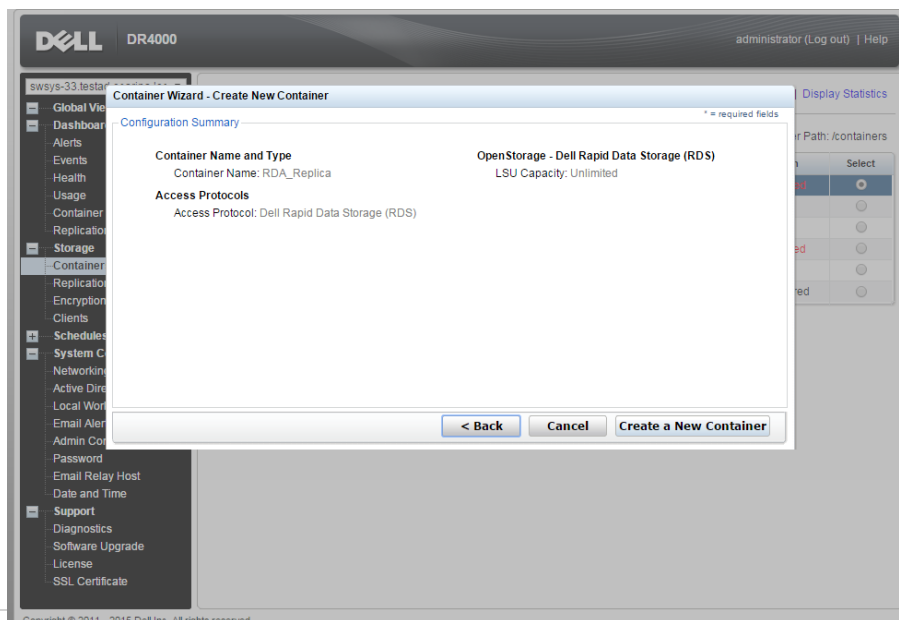
This configuration enables source-side deduplication to reduce the amount of data moved over the network to the appliance.

6.1 Create an RDS container in the Dell DR Series system for the replication target

1. Select **Containers** in the left navigation area of the DR Series system GUI, and then click the **Create** link at the top of the page.

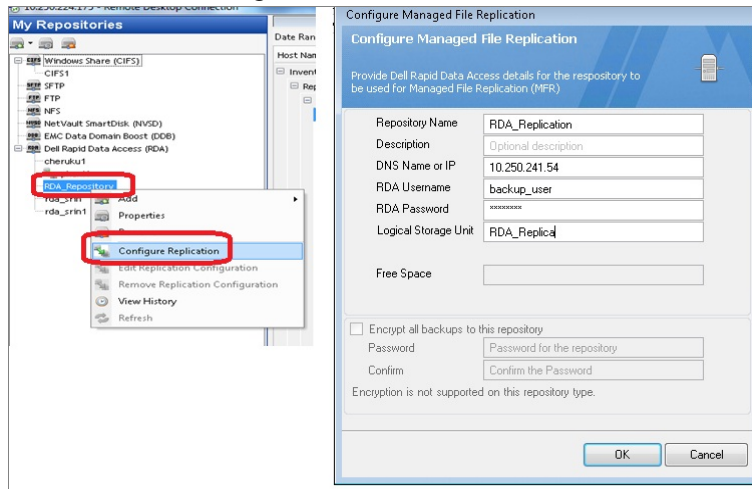


2. Enter a Container Name, and then click **Next**.
3. For Storage Access Protocol, **select Dell Rapid Data Storage (RDS)**. Follow the steps described in the previous section to create a container. Confirm the container details and click **Create a New Container**.

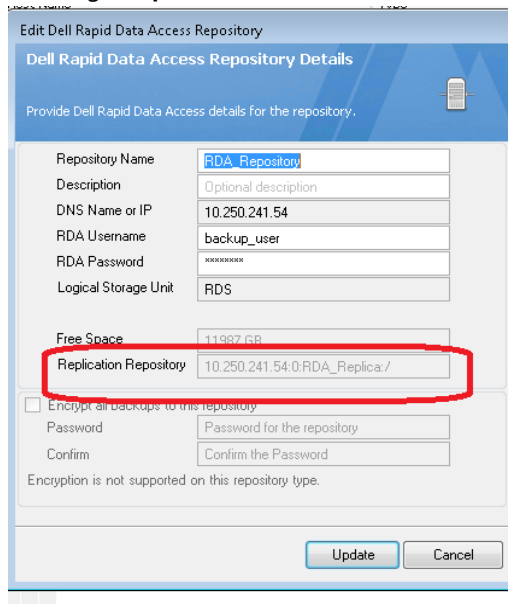


6.2 Configure replication at the target container in vRanger

1. Select the RDA device, right-click **Configure Replication**, and then enter the DR Series server and target container details.



2. Confirm the replication configuration by right-clicking the RDA repository and clicking **Properties**.



7 Setting up the DR Series system cleaner

Performing scheduled disk space reclamation operations are recommended as a method for recovering disk space from system containers in which files were deleted as a result of deduplication.

The system cleaner runs during idle time. If your workflow does not have a sufficient amount of idle time on a daily basis, then you should consider scheduling the cleaner to force it to run during a scheduled time.

If necessary, you can perform the procedure shown in the following example screenshot to force the cleaner to run. After all of the backup jobs are set up, the DR Series system cleaner can be scheduled. The DR Series system cleaner should run at least six hours per week when backups are not taking place, and generally after a backup job has completed.

The screenshot shows the Dell DR Series system cleaner configuration interface. The navigation menu on the left includes sections like Dashboard, Alerts, Health, Usage, Statistics, Storage, Schedules, System Configuration, and Support. The 'Cleaner Schedule' option is highlighted in the Schedules section. The main content area is titled 'Cleaner Schedule' and displays the following information:

System time zone: US/Pacific, Fri Jul 5 05:00:41 2013

Note: When no schedule is set, the cleaner will run as needed.

Day	Start Time	Stop Time
Sun	--	--
Mon	--	--
Tue	--	--
Wed	--	--
Thu	--	--
Fri	--	--
Sat	--	--

At the top right of the main content area, there are two buttons: 'Schedule Cleaner' (highlighted with a red arrow) and 'Edit Schedule' (highlighted with a red box).

8 Monitoring deduplication, compression, and performance

After backup jobs have run, the DR Series system tracks capacity, storage savings, and throughput on the DR Series system dashboard. This information is valuable in understanding the benefits of the DR Series system.

Note: Deduplication ratios increase over time. It is not uncommon to see a 2-4x reduction (25-50% total savings) on the initial backup. As additional full backup jobs are completed, the ratios will increase. Backup jobs with a 12-week retention will average a 15x ratio, in most cases.

