

# ROSS 2.6.1

## September 2011

### Release Notes

RepliWeb Operations Suite for SharePoint (ROSS) enables organizations to effectively manage Content and Application lifecycles within SharePoint® environments, resulting in accelerated release cycles and reduced administrative and operating expenses.

ROSS provides selective or comprehensive replication of SharePoint content throughout multi-stage (Development, Staging, and Production) and multi-site (distributed) environments. ROSS manages the deployment / replication of site collections, sites, content, solutions, workflows, structure, look and feel, navigation, features, content types, etc. Recognized for its ability to accelerate deployment timelines, ROSS ensures production readiness of sites and invokes 'best practices' for change control processes.

Agnostic to environment variations, ROSS is a scalable solution built for critical enterprise deployment processes. It includes comprehensive features, such as different synchronization logics, scheduling options, a variety of replication scopes, rollback, recovery and integrity mechanisms, robust APIs, and tools for the delegation of ROSS jobs to task owners.

ROSS 2.6.1 includes performance enhancements and new features. To help manage and automate complex deployments, a new job-chaining monitor window helps to keep track of the jobs involvd in a certain chain. Additionally, ROSS job commands and Center configurations can now be audited for further analysis using the new Audit Trail feature. ROSS 2.6.1 offers major performance improvements focused on faster replication processes.

ROSS 2.6.1 also introduces the new Connector for Microsoft's Team Foundation Server. The TFS Connector further improves Development Teams' ability to execute, manage and monitor their respective code pushes to test and staging environments. The TFS Connector enhances and accelerates "build-deploy" methodologies, allowing ROSS Solution Deployment jobs to be executed straight from the TFS interface. The ROSS TFS Connector also addresses auditing requirements to link delivery stages/status with specific builds.

## ROSS Basic Feature Set

ROSS delivers enterprise-strength replication and deployment capabilities with enhanced layers of control and governance. Functionalities include:

- **Automation Controls** – With ROSS, organizations can use a combination of controls to schedule and kick-off jobs. These options allow for greater publishing control and accelerated release cycles.
- **Data Management** – Providing selective or comprehensive replication capabilities of functional elements and content throughout multi-stage (development, staging, production) and multi-site (distributed) environments, ROSS manages the deployment/replication of sites, site collections, content, solutions, workflows, structure, look and feel, navigation, features, content types, etc.
- **Solution Deployment** – From one central Console, organizations can deploy, upgrade, or retract multiple SharePoint solutions (.WSPs) in a defined sequence across Farms.
- **Rollback** – Enables Administrators to quickly "undo" deployment errors in the event of failure or unintentional publishing, ROSS's Rollback feature allows administrators to roll back any content, code, or configuration change to a previous state.
- **Incremental Updates** – ROSS efficiently determines deltas, transferring only the differences between source and target environment(s). This intelligent approach to deployment saves time and bandwidth, dramatically shortening content release cycles.
- **Guaranteed Delivery** – ROSS's proprietary transfer engine accelerates and guarantees the delivery of assets from source to target(s). It also includes options for recoverability, compression, and security.
- **Job Delegation** – Enables Administrators to accelerate release cycles and govern changes by assigning pre-configured jobs to non-privileged users (developers) to submit on-demand through a user-friendly Web UI.
- **Reporting** – Detailed reporting that is useful for peace-of-mind, trouble-shooting and auditing.

## New Features

ROSS 2.6.1 introduces the following new features:

### ROSS Performance

Extensive performance improvements made for ROSS 2.6.1 achieve reduced job replication process time and ensure content integrity and completeness on the target. These improvements address the efficiency of building new sites, now utilizing an advanced skeleton pre-creation process, and the speed of transfer & merging of large data sets.

### Viewing Job Chains

Users can now view and track job chains including the jobs involved and their properties through a new chain viewing dialog.

Chain	Run on Center	ID	State	Stage
Chain Head (Reports from Front Office)	staging_srv	3		
Reports from Front Office	staging_srv	3	Completed	Completed
Updates to Branches	sp2010pm03	4	Running	Transferring to
Edge Jobs				
Updates to Branches - dev		5	Running	Transferring to
Updates to Branches - marketing		6	Running	Transferring to
Updates to Branches - productio...	sp2010pm03	7	Running	Metadata Impor
Updates to Branches - sales	sp2010pm03	8	Running	Metadata Impor
Updates to Branches - support	sp2010pm03	9	Running	Transferring to

### Auditing Center Information

The new Audit Trail tab helps organizations keep track of their ROSS job and Center configuration activity. Using this tab, administrators can audit job commands (e.g., Abort, Resume and Submit);

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**Audit Trail**

- Audit Center Management changes
  - Maintain information for: 36 days
- Audit Job definitions and changes
  - Maintain information for: 5 days
- Audit Scheduler operations
  - Maintain information for: 29 days

Buttons: Save, Undo

Scheduler-initiated commands; and configuration changes performed on the Center (e.g., new hosts, Exclude Filter specifications and modified security rules). This information can then be retrieved using Web Service API.

## Enhancements

The following enhancements have been implemented for ROSS 2.6.1:

### Solution Deployment

Wildcards support - solution deployments can now be defined based on wildcards; enabling to use the same job definition for many solution versions.

### Network Paths

To support replication to and from UNC paths, source and target Browse windows in ROSS Solution Deployment jobs now enable selecting content located in network directories.

### Preview Window

Job Preview windows now show target entities that have been created since the job was submitted.

## New Connectors

### RepliWeb TFS Plug-in: ROSS Build Activity

The ROSS TFS Build Activity extends Application Lifecycle Management by automating distribution of solutions from the development tier to the testing tier. ROSS Build Activity seamlessly integrates with the Microsoft Visual Studio Team Foundation Server 2010 workflow, using standard TFS tools.

**Note:** The TFS Plug-in is available as a separate kit. If you would like to receive it please contact our support.

## Known Issues

The following is a list of known issues in this version, some of these issues have already been fixed and will be covered in the version released:

### Replication Issues

- Using the ROSS Filter wizard's *Metadata Filtering* option to replicate items with a specific "Moderation Status" may sometimes fail. (2007)
- "InfoPath" forms may not be properly replicated.
- ROSS may sometimes not replicate changes made to existing "InfoPath" templates.
- Sandboxed solutions originating from "InfoPath" templates are not replicated properly.
- Republishing "InfoPath" templates may sometimes not be replicated.
- During site replication, source "InfoPath" templates (\*.xsn) and data connection files (\*.udc and \*.udcx) that point to Secondary Data Connection URLs may become invalid as these data connections refer to data sources that are not relevant for the target. Therefore, the target "InfoPath" elements must point to Secondary Data Connection URLs that match their respective target.

So, to substitute secondary data connection URLs in "InfoPath" elements, under ~RepliWeb\ROSS\Config, create a `DataConnections.xml` file with the xml format in the example below and specify the desired substitutions.

Where each `Pair` node indicates the source Secondary Data Connection URL prefix and the URL that will replace it on the target.

For example, an xml file with two substitutions:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8" ?>
<DataConnections>
  <FileTypes types="xsn;udc;udcx"><!--currently hardcoded-->
    <Pair source="http://dev-service"
          target="http://prod-service"/>

    <Pair source="http://dev-report-server"
          target="http://prod-report-server"/>
  </FileTypes>
</DataConnections>
```

- During the replication of Microsoft documents, updates in the source documents may sometimes not be applied to the target documents.

- Replications including “Record Center” elements may fail.

### **Rollback Issues**

- When specifying a root drive (e.g. C: or D:) as a Rollback job’s recording directory, make sure to add a backquote “\”.

### **GUI Issues**

- When using the *Failover* feature, if you have an R-1 Center installed on one server, make sure the same R-1 Center version is also installed on the other server.

### **Miscellaneous Issues**

- ROSS 2.6.1 formally supports English language packs only since other language packs have not yet been tested and approved.
- For non-English languages, the same language packs may need to be installed on source and target.

## Fixes since ROSS 2.6

The following issues and improvements were addressed for this version:

- ROSS Console would crash when opening the Center Management's SSL tab.
- Replication jobs with Transactional Deployment and Rollback enabled would redundantly replicate source files on the target.
- ROSS Rollback jobs would not remove sub-sites that existed in the site being rolled back.
- Agenda lists in Meeting Workspace sites would not be replicated properly.
- General reports for Solution Deployment jobs would incorrectly inform that the job solutions were activated even if they were not.
- Resized column widths in Rollback Job Details windows are now retained .
- For jobs with a large number of transfer streams that are set to email On Completion notifications, some of the job transfer reports would sometimes not be visible.
- Trying to replicate taxonomy of lists where taxanomy was not set in the source would fail.
- ROSS now supports replicating and mapping SSRS data source bindings.
- Replicating a *Web Application's Site Collections* within SharePoint Foundation (SPF) server is now supported. (2010)
- In some scenarios, "Quick Menu" navigation links would sometimes be visible to unprivileged anonymous users.
- "Content Approval Status" would sometimes not be properly replicated.
- Workflows are associated on the target even if the SharePoint web service is unavailable.
- In replications involving "InfoPath" forms, promoted fields would not be replicated to the target.
- Replicating a web application's root site collection with a ROSS filter would fail.
- Replicating content types with invalid field links would fail.
- Submitting a job with a UNC path as its Rollback Recording directory is now supported.

- A problem with the ROSS COM API report reader has been fixed.
- Changes made to data source bindings would sometimes not be detected by ROSS *Snapshot*. (2010)
- The issue with *Include Only* and *Exclude Every* specifications in jobs submitted through CLI has been resolved.
- Document library folders would not retain their “Modified by” and/or “Created by” information on the target.
- Replicating SharePoint content would fail if the following SharePoint registry was missing from the farm server:  
“*HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall\WSS*”.
- Replicating SharePoint content in environments that had been upgraded to SharePoint 2010 would sometimes fail.
- Some 3<sup>rd</sup> party web parts with insufficient trust levels could interfere with ROSS operation. This issue is resolved by deploying RepliWeb’s “*Repliweb.Ross.Service.wsp*” solution on the farm before replication. For a copy of the solution, please contact [Support](#).
- The issue regarding the replication of “Discussion” folders with version history has been resolved.
- When replicating document libraries, certain properties would not be replicated.
- In scenarios where both ROSS and R-1 components were installed on the same machine, ROSS jobs would sometimes not work as expected.
- “SharePoint Designer” workflows would sometimes be replicated to the target but not associated to their respective entities.
- The problem with replicating SharePoint content from a secured path (https://:) has been resolved.
- Lists would not be replicated with all their RSS settings to the target.
- In Download site replication jobs set to a *Transactional Deployment* policy of *All files are one transaction*, the *General* report would display an incorrect number of transferred entities.

- Checked out documents on the target sometimes could not be updated by replication jobs.
- In replication jobs where the *Contents - Version History* option is unchecked, document “Draft” versions would be replicated without the last published version (major, approved). This issue has been resolved, the last major version is always replicated.
- In some scenarios, replication jobs with only the *Contents - Features* option checked would also replicate certain list item properties like “Description” and “Title”.
- “Quick Launch” and/or “Navigation” links of Publishing Portal pages would not be replicated.
- The issue with replicating sites that use “Alternate Access Mappings” has been resolved.
- Replicating SharePoint entities whose URLs contained certain characters would fail.
- ROSS licenses now support both “Single Server” and “Multi Server” SharePoint farm installations.
- The issue with submitting Solution Deployment Upload job templates through CLI has been resolved.
- The issue with activating “Sandbox” solution features on the target has been resolved.
- Custom made ASPX pages would sometimes appear corrupted on the target.
- After replication, Wiki pages would become inaccessible on the target.
- Site-level “Global Reusable” workflows would not be associated with the target site’s content type if the source workflow’s history list and/or task list were missing.
- List content types would sometimes not be replicated properly. A subsequent replication would fix the problem.
- The issue with replicating “Site User” web parts has been resolved.
- The issue with replicating “System Page Layout” content types has been resolved.
- In some scenarios, jobs replicating site collections that contained thousands of SharePoint entities would sometimes fail.
- For Solution Deployment jobs, wildcards can now be used in Solution filenames when using the *Specified Solution file* option.
- In some scenarios, scheduled jobs and their instances would fail.

- Replicating a list that included multiple items with the same name but different case would fail.
- “Blog Post Category” columns would not be replicated properly.
- Jobs replicating lists or document libraries from a meeting workspace would fail.
- “Link to a Document” content types that were replicated along with their document libraries would not work on the target.

## Prerequisites

It is recommended to install the following prior to ROSS installation and activation:

- For MOSS 2007 and WSS 3.0:
  - To utilize ROSS’s performance enhancements, it is recommended to use SharePoint 2007 SP2.
  - Otherwise, SP1 (12.0.0.6219) and [SharePoint Services 3.0 cumulative update package](#) (12.0.0.6327) are mandatory.
- It is recommended to have the same ROSS version installed on all participating Centers/Edges.
- Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 SP1 is required on the ROSS Console machine for using the new Preview functionality.

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