

Antivirus Exclusions for StarWind VSAN-based Clusters

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StarWind Documents



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About StarWind

StarWind is a pioneer in virtualization and a company that participated in the development of this technology from its earliest days. Now the company is among the leading vendors of software and hardware hyper-converged solutions. The company's core product is the years-proven StarWind Virtual SAN, which allows SMB and ROBO to benefit from cost-efficient hyperconverged IT infrastructure. Having earned a reputation of reliability, StarWind created a hardware product line and is actively tapping into hyperconverged and storage appliances market. In 2016, Gartner named StarWind “Cool Vendor for Compute Platforms” following the success and popularity of StarWind HyperConverged Appliance. StarWind partners with world-known companies: Microsoft, VMware, Veeam, Intel, Dell, Mellanox, Citrix, Western Digital, etc.

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Problem

Some antivirus and endpoint protection solutions—such as **Sophos**, **CrowdStrike**, **SentinelOne**, and others—may not be **cluster-aware**, leading to potential issues when used with a StarWind Virtual SAN (VSAN) cluster:

- Cluster communication disruptions
- Performance degradation
- Service instability
- Data inconsistencies when antivirus snapshotting features are enabled

Non-cluster-aware software may block or delay critical service operations, lock or quarantine vital files, and interfere with the snapshotting process. This can lead to synchronization issues and affect the overall reliability of the cluster.

Resolution

To avoid mentioned issues, follow the recommendations below:








1. **Contact your antivirus vendor** for guidance on configuring the software in a **cluster-aware** manner. Many vendors offer best practices or advanced settings to avoid interference with high-availability setups.
2. **Configure antivirus exclusions** for critical paths, services, and files used by StarWind VSAN and the cluster. Add the following to your antivirus exclusions list:
 - StarWind VSAN service: `starwindservice.exe`
 - `C:\Windows\system32\config`
 - `C:\Windows\Cluster`

- Folder and volume path where StarWind virtual disk files (.img) are stored.
3. **Refer to Microsoft's official guidance** on antivirus configuration for clustered environments:
- [Issues with Non-Cluster-Aware Antivirus Software](#)
 - [Microsoft Defender Antivirus: Server Exclusions](#)

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