



ABMR For Linux

Bare Machine Recovery for Dell EMC Avamar™

User Guide

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1 Document Conventions

The following typographical conventions are used throughout this guide:

	represents command-line commands, options, parameters, directory names and filenames
Next >	used to signify clickable buttons on a GUI dialogue
Note:	describes something of importance related to the current topic

2 Introduction

Bare Machine Recovery for Dell EMC Avamar™ (ABMR) provides disaster recovery capability for Dell EMC Avamar™ (for Linux).

It is possible to recover the original system to the same or dissimilar hardware. To protect a system, backups can be taken periodically, along with configuration information, which includes details of hard disks, network interfaces, etc.

This Guide shows the user how to save system configuration information, backup and recover a Linux machine using ABMR. More detailed information is available from man pages for the ABMR components. The man pages are available after installation of ABMR.

This guide relates to ABMR for Linux version 9.6.1 only.

Note: ABMR can only be used in conjunction with Dell EMC Avamar™.

This guide describes how to:

- Save Configuration data using abmrcfg
- Configure and run your Dell EMC Avamar™ Client backup
- Perform a Disaster Recovery

2.1 Limitations

There are limits to what this version of ABMR for Linux will support. It will NOT support:

- Platforms other than Intel.
- Multi-boot operating systems
- Recovery of files that are being written to at the time of backup.

2.2 Further Information

Further information and advice on using ABMR may be found in the **Cristie Knowledge Base** (https://kb.cristie.com) or the **Cristie Forum** (https://forum.cristie.com).



3 System Requirements

ABMR for Linux can only be installed on a x86_64 Linux (i.e. 64-bit) machine.

ABMR requires that EMC Avamar client version 19.1 or later is already installed.

A minimum memory of **6 GB RAM** is required for booting the recovery environment and running a recovery.

Please refer to this web page https://www.cristie.com/support/matrix/ to determine the latest OS and Dell EMC Avamar[™] client/server support for ABMR Version 9.6.1.

Before ABMR can be used it must also be correctly licensed. Cristie provides a 30 day trial license with the product.



4 Supported Filesystems

Please refer to this web page https://www.cristie.com/support/matrix/ to determine the latest file system support for ABMR Version 9.6.1.



5 uEFI and MBR BIOS Support

Note: recovery support is provided for conversion from uEFI to MBR BIOS. Conversion from legacy MBR BIOS to uEFI is not currently supported.

The recovery ISO is configured for both MBR (legacy) and uEFI boot. It can therefore boot into either environment. There are no special considerations that need to be made by the customer for uEFI machines. If your machine boots with elilo, prior to performing a backup please run:-

abmrcfg -b elilo

All Cristie Bare Metal Recovery software handles the recreation of the uEFI partitions during the recovery of the machine, this is transparent to the user.

When recovering an uEFI enabled OS you must recover to uEFI capable hardware.

When recovery is to a different machine, you may need to manually configure the uEFl boot stanza in order to boot the recovered uEFl OS. Please refer to the Cristie Knowledgebase for further information on editing the boot stanza.

Note: when recovering an uEFI enabled OS, it is recommended that the recovery environment is booted in uEFI mode.



6 Using ABMR For Disaster Recovery

This section describes the steps involved in using Dell EMC Avamar™ in conjunction with ABMR for disaster recovery.

This description assumes that the Dell EMC Avamar™ client software has already been installed and configured.

To ensure your system is protected observe the following steps:

- 1. Install ABMR on the system you wish to protect.
- 2. Use the ABMRcfg program to capture and store the configuration of the system.
- 3. Backup the system with the Dell EMC Avamar™ client to an Dell EMC Avamar™ server.

6.1 Saving the System Configuration

Configuration is always saved to /ABMRCFG - it can't be saved anywhere else. This guarantees it is always stored in the backup.

When saving the configuration information to the backup location, this must be done **before** the backup is run.

To save the configuration information for each machine, the supplied command line program <code>abmrcfg</code> is used. It is recommended that this is run prior to running each backup to ensure the configuration is up to date.

6.2 ABMRcfg

To use the command line configuration saving program, type abmrcfg. The configuration will automatically detect the machine boot loader and boot partition, however, if either are incorrectly detected you may specify additional options.

The available options of abmrcfg can be shown using:

```
abmrcfg --help
```

Some examples are shown here:

To save configuration information from a machine that boots using *grub* installed on / dev/sda to the backup location, use:

```
abmrcfg -b grub -d /dev/sda
```

To save configuration information from a machine that boots using *grub* installed on / dev/hda, use:

```
abmrcfg -b grub -d /dev/hda
```

There is a full manual page for abmrcfg available by typing man abmrcfg.



This is a full list of options:

Option Description

-b<name>, --bootloader=<name> Set boot loader to <name> (default is grub)

-d<name>, --bootdevice=<name>
Set boot device name to <name>
-l<file>, --log file=<file>
Set log file (default is cbmrcfg.log)

-o<file>, --output=<file> Set output file (default is disrec.ini)

-p<permissions> Set output file permissions (default 0600)

-v, --verbose Verbose mode

--autorelabel=<n> Automatically relabel SELinux if <n>!= 0

--cobmr_boot_backup CoBMR only. Intended to be used where the system is backed up

using Cohesity's block based backup. Cohesity only snapshots LVM

partitions and in most cases '/boot' will be on a standalone partition and be missed. This switch will perform a simple TAR based backup of '/boot' and put it in '/COBMRCFG' so it's included

in the backup.

Note: It should never be on for standard file based backups

--disk_pattern=<pattern>
--disk_regex=<regex>
--disk_skip=<pattern>
Only include disks matching <regex>
--disk_skip=<pattern>
Don't include disks matching <pattern>

--disk_skip_regex=<regex> Don't include disks matching <regex>

--disshw=<n> Use dissimilar hardware support if <n>!= 0

--filedev_mount_options=<string> Set file device mount options --filedev_mount_target=<string> Set file device mount target

--format_pattern=<pattern>
 --format_regex=<regex>
 --format_skip=<pattern>
 --format_skip=regex=<regex>
 Don't format devices matching <pattern>
 --format_skip_regex=<regex>
 Don't format devices matching <regex>

--mpath=<n> Don't scan for mpath devices if <n> = 0

--partition_pattern=<pattern>
 --partition_regex=<regex>
 --partition_skip=<pattern>
 --partition_skip=<pattern>
 --partition_skip_regex=<regex>
 Don't partition devices matching <pattern>
 Don't partition devices matching <regex>

--local_fs Don't include remote filesystems
--local_disks Don't include remote disks, e.g. iscsi

--rc=<n> Set return code to <n>

--rescale_pattern=<pattern>
 --rescale_regex=<regex>
 --rescale_skip=<pattern>
 --rescale_skip_regex=<regex>
 Don't rescale devices matching <pattern>
 --rescale_skip_regex=<regex>
 Don't rescale devices matching <regex>

--save_mpath_list Save mpath details

--vg_pattern=<pattern> Only create VGs matching <pattern>

--vg_regex=<regex>
Only create VGs matching <regex>
--vg_skip=<pattern>
Don't create VGs matching <pattern>
--vg_skip_regex=<regex>
Don't create VGs matching <regex>
--help, --usage
Print this message and exit
--version
Print the version and exit

6.3 Creating a ABMRcfg Pre-scheduled

The pre-schedule command is to run the ABMR configuration program (abmrcfg) on the source machine automatically when the EMC Avamar scheduled backup has triggered, this makes sure the config file used in the backup is up to date.

This works by adding a script to the source machine and modifying the Client Properties in the EMC Avamar administrator console to point to the script.

Once this is completed, EMC Avamar will run the script on the client that triggers abmrcfg, then the EMC Avamar backup starts.

There are certain conditions that must be met:

The script name must be a .sh extension.

The script must reside on the client in the '/usr/local/avamar/etc/scripts/' directory on the source machine.

All commands within the program file must complete successfully. Otherwise, the EMC Avamar server cannot complete the remaining instructions e.g. the actual backup. However a script failure can be ignored by un-ticking 'abort backup if script fails'.



Create a .sh file and copy to /usr/local/avamar/etc/scripts/ with a script name e.g. abmrcfg.sh

Make sure the appropriate permissions are applied to the file:

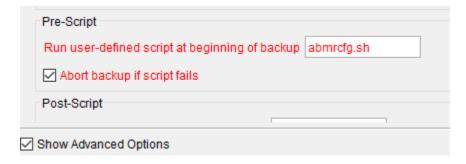
permissions required - -rwxr-x-. 1 root nsr_nbmr.sh (chmod 750 /usr/ local/avamar/etc/scripts/abmrcfg.sh)

A basic script would look like the below: Make sure to use the \$PATH variable from your system.

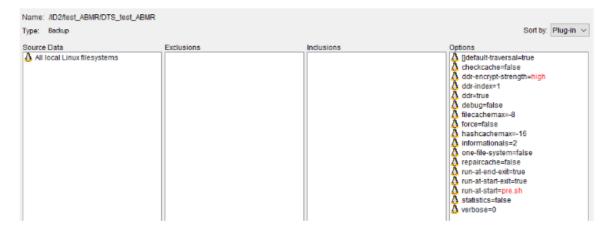


```
#!/bin/sh
SHELL=/bin/bash
PATH=/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/root/bin:
abmrcfg
```

On the Avamar Administrator console add the script name to the appropriate dataset or backup advanced options plugin. e.g.



The script can also go into the plugin to be trigger on the schedule at: 'run-at-start=<script.name>'



The script will then be triggered on backup schedule or one off backup.



7 Avamar Client Backup

If executed from the client, the backup can be performed using the Dell EMC AvamarTM command line tool **avtar** assuming the client is already registered and enabled on the server (use **avregister** to do this). For example:

```
cd /usr/local/avamar/bin
avtar -cv --account=/<Domain>/<Client> --id=<ID>
```

where <Domain> is the domain name you want the backup saved in (on the Dell EMC AvamarTM server where the backup is stored). The <Client> is the hostname of the client you wish to backup. Use the '-id' option to authenticate an account name. So for example:

```
avtar -cv --account=/nigel/np-rhel9 --id=MCUser
```

You will likely be prompted for the password associated with the account (MCUser in the above example).

The backup can also be run from the Avamar server - this is the preferred option.

Please refer to your **Dell EMC Avamar™** documentation for a full discussion of the backup options.

7.1 Housekeeping

In order to ensure that you can recover to the latest version of the operating system that was installed on your Linux machine, you must ensure that a Dell EMC Avamar™ backup is performed every time the operating system files change. In addition you should also configure a run of the ABMRCfg.exe program using a pre-script on the server (if supported) prior to the backup.

This is not always possible, so **Cristie Software Ltd.** recommends that the Dell EMC Avamar[™] backup be performed regularly. However, you should choose a period which reflects the rate of change of data in your own organisation. Although the configuration data will change less frequently than the operating system, it is a wise precaution to update this regularly. For example, this can be achieved by creating a cron job for your schedule or by defining a scheduled backup for the required client machine on the Dell EMC Avamar[™] server.



8 Performing a Recovery

When a machine has failed, it can be recovered using the XBMR bootable product CD/DVD-ROM or DR ISO (if your host supports this capability). This is the same CD/DVD from which you installed the software. You should ensure your machine's BIOS is set up to boot from CD/DVD-ROM or ISO.

The process encompasses the following stages:

- Boot into Recovery Environment and configure as required
- Read Configuration Data from your backup
- Restore Files from your backup
- Load additional drivers (if necessary)
- Reboot into recovered OS

Boot the machine using the XBMR bootable CD/DVD ROM or ISO. You will be presented with the screen below:

```
X-Windows based Linux recovery environment

Text based Linux recovery environment

Use the ↑ and ↓ keys to change the selection.

Press 'e' to edit the selected item, or 'c' for a command prompt.

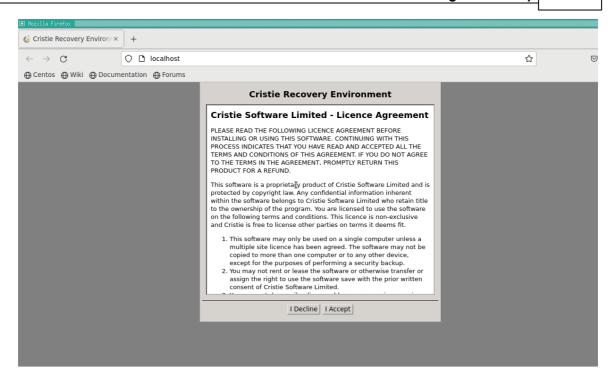
Press Escape to return to the previous menu.

The selected entry will be started automatically in 13s.
```

Cristie recommend that you choose the graphical X-Windows recovery environment mode which loads the **Cristie Recovery Environment**.

You will be presented with the **license** screen. Click **Accept** if you agree with the XBMR licencing terms.





The Product Selection drop-down menu will then be shown. Now select the Cristie product used during the backup - ABMR in this case.



You will then see the **Recovery Environment** main menu:

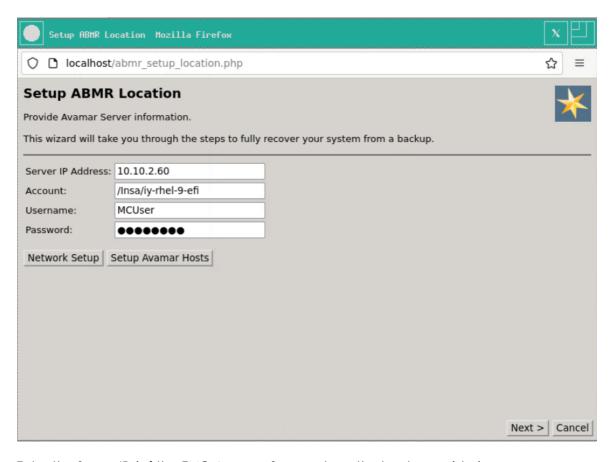




Cristie recommends using the **Automatic Recovery Wizard** option from the **Recovery Environment** main menu.



This will then display the **Setup ABMR Location** dialogue box, where you can specify the Dell EMC Avamar™ Server information.

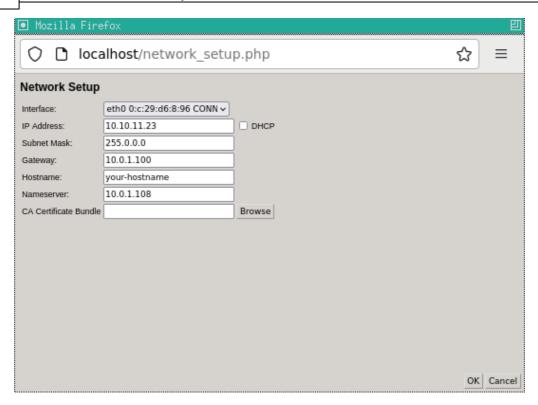


Enter the Server IP (of the EMC Avamar Server where the backup resides).

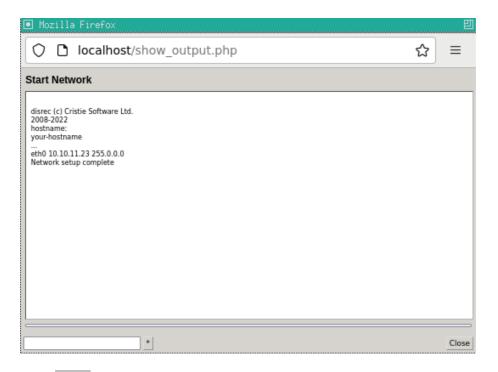
Enter the Account (in the format /DomainName/ClientName). (Contact your Dell EMC AvamarTM administrator if you are unsure of any of the settings)

Enter the Username and Password (of the EMC Avamar Server where the backup resides). If it is required to configure the network settings, click the Network Settings button. Enter your desired network settings.





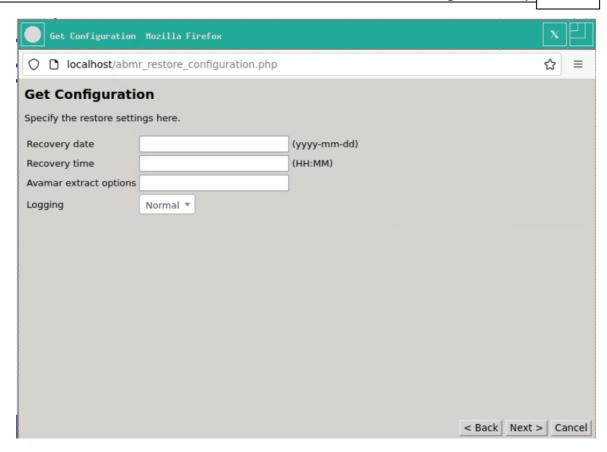
Select OK to save your changes. The Start Network screen will then display the network changes being implemented.



Click Close to return to the **Setup ABMR Location Wizard**. Upon returning to the **Setup ABMR Location** Wizard, click the **Next** > button to proceed with the recovery.

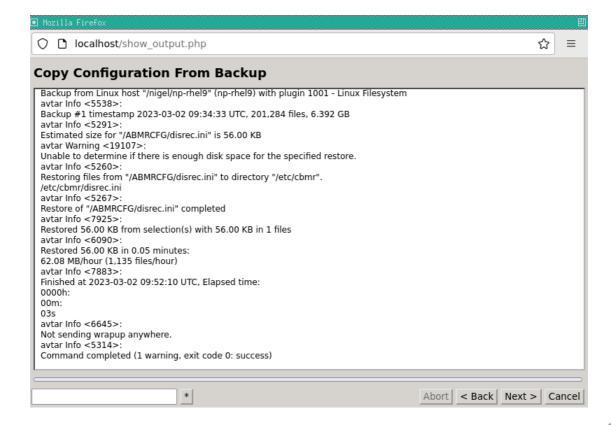
Next the **Get Configuration** dialogue will be shown. Entering a recovery date and time will use an available backup before the specified date/time.



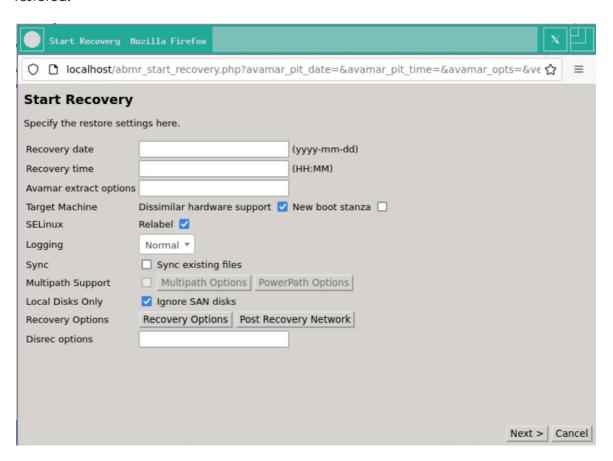


Note: for a list of these parameters and how to use them you should consult the relevant Dell EMC Avamar™ User Guide.

Click Next> to continue. This will then restore the configuration from the backup.



Click Next> to continue to the **Start Recovery** phase. You will then be presented with the **Start Recovery** options. Here you can change the configuration of the system being restored.



If you are **not** recovering to dissimilar hardware, you should **un-check** the box for **Dissimilar Hardware Support**. Not doing so can cause problems when restoring to similar hardware.

Ensure that you un-tick the **SELinux Relabel** option, to ensure that your original SELinux settings are maintained. Only leave this box ticked, if you know that your SELinux settings need to be reset.

New boot stanza means a new initial ramdisk is created rather than overwriting the existing one and also create **Cristie Recovered System** as a new boot menu item.

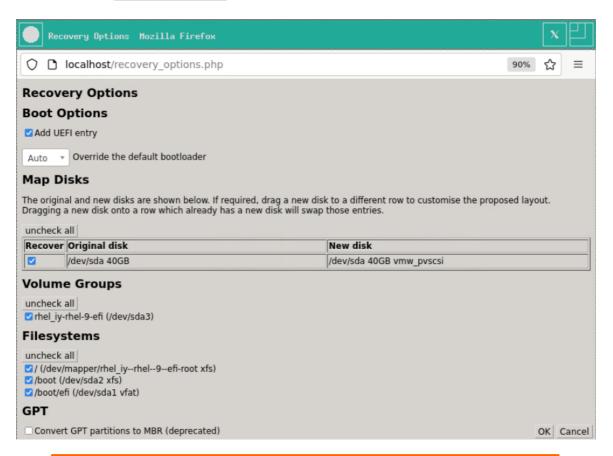
Select the **Sync** tick-box if you wish to sync existing files. This option will then run a recovery sequence of everything from the restore phase onwards - so a file restore, then a dissimilar hardware step and finally a make bootable step. If the client supports incremental restores, this will save a lot of time.

If you are recovering Multipath or PowerPath disks, you must **check** the tick-box for **Multipath/PowerPath Support**. Not doing so will cause the disks to be treated as non-Multipath/PowerPath disks. You can then select and customise your Multipath/PowerPath disk layout by clicking on the Multipath Options or PowerPath Options buttons as appropriate. Note the tick-box and buttons will only become active if such disks are actually present and recorded in the DR configuration.





If you wish, you may customise your disk layout, volume group or filesystem selection by clicking on the Recovery Options button.

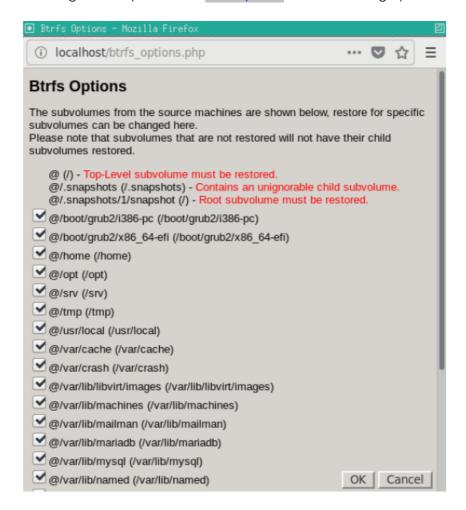


Note: disks that have been configured in the Multipath/PowerPath Options menu will not be visible on the Recovery Options menu.

Note 2: de-selecting a filesystem will disable filesystem creation and file restore.



If the system to be recovered contains BTRFS subvolumes you may configure whether they are recreated during recovery. Click the Btrfs Options button to bring up the menu.

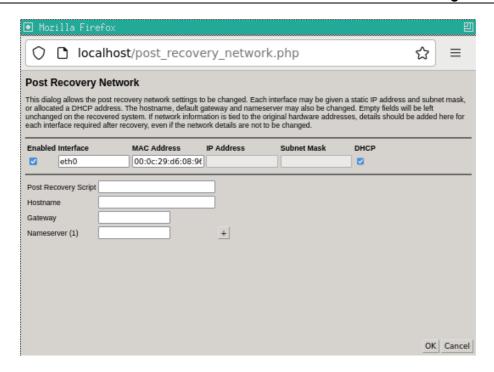


De-selecting a checkbox will prevent the recovery from recreating the subvolume. Click OK to save and continue.

Note: Some subvolumes can not be de-selected due to a child subvolume dependency or if it is a root subvolume.

If you wish to change the Network Settings in advance of recovery, select **Post Recovery Network**: This option is only available for SLES 11 or later, and Red Hat 6 or later.



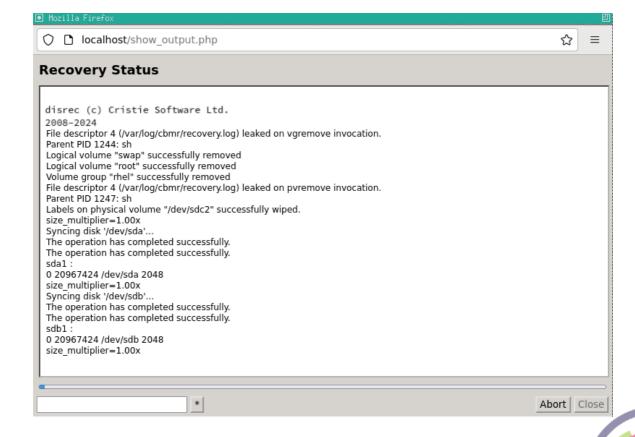


When you are satisfied that all options are correct, click OK to confirm.

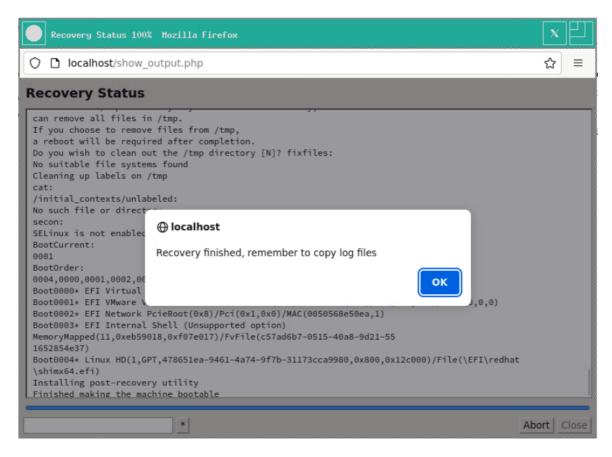
Note: The Post Recovery Network button will only be displayed if the functionality of this feature can actually be performed on the restored system.

When you are satisfied that all options are correct, click OK to confirm and return to the Start Recovery dialogue.

Finally select Next> to start the recovery, which will begin with a dialog like this:



The completion of the recovery is signified with a pop-up box like this:



Cristie recommends that the log files are always saved. If the machine fails to boot after the restore Cristie Support will require copies of the log files to diagnose any problems. Details on how to save log files are described in the section Copy Log Files.

Note: if you are recovering to dissimilar hardware: ABMR will find the required module (s) automatically. Normally this will happen with no further user intervention.

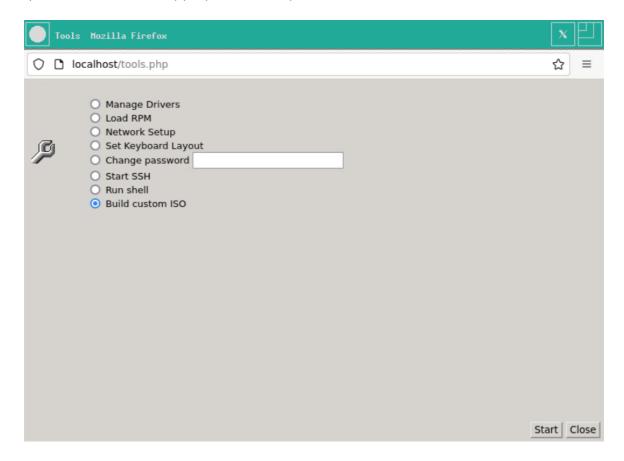
Click OK to close the pop-up box, followed by the Close button to return to the Main Menu.

Finally select **Reboot** from the Main Menu to boot the restored machine, if post recovery options are not required.



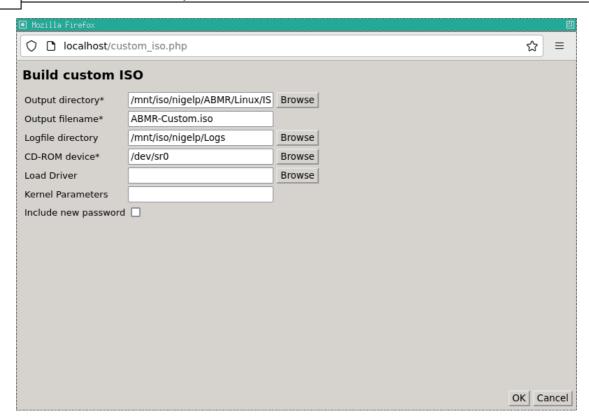
8.1 Build Custom ISO

To create a custom recovery ISO, firstly boot the supplied XBMR DR ISO on a suitable host system and select the appropriate XBMR product. Then select the **Tools** menu.



Now select Build custom ISO and click Start. The main build ISO dialogue is shown:



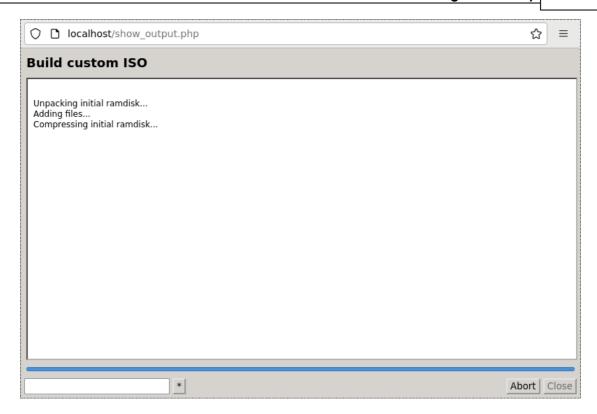


You will need to configure the following fields:

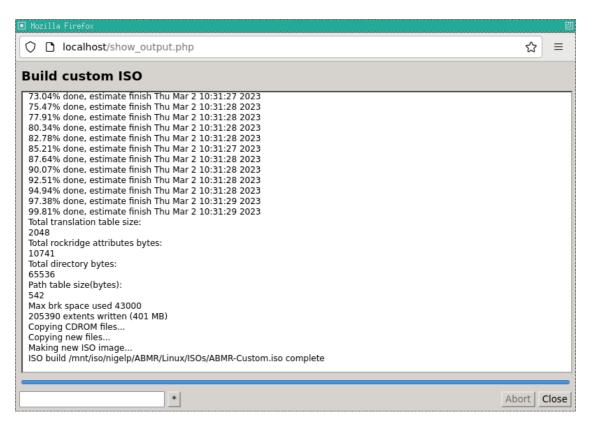
- Output directory is a network share (use Browse to select and mount a share).
- Output filename must include the .iso extension.
- Logfile directory is a network share (use Browse to select and mount a share).
- CD-ROM device (use Browse to select a CD/DVD-ROM device from /dev).
- Load Driver select the path to an optional driver file. Ensure this is compatible with the system being recovered.
- **Kernel Parameters** specify any extra parameters to be passed to the kernel at boot time. Be careful this is not syntax checked.
- Include new password option will include your new ssh/http password if you have changed it in the tools menu prior to building the custom ISO.

Populate the fields as required, for example. Then click **OK** to begin the ISO creation.





The following progress screen will show when the ISO is successfully built.



Click Close to complete the operation. At this point you may either cancel the recovery operation or continue as required.

The created ISO may now be used to directly recover the host from the backup. However operator intervention will be required to specify the backup location details.

8.2 Command Line Recoveries

XBMR also has the ability to control all aspects of a DR sequence without using the web or curses based GUIs. To do this it uses a script based command line manually run from the built-in bash prompt. This is an advanced feature and should not be used until the User becomes familiar with ABMR DR principles and procedures.

The command line parameters supplied to the script are divided into 4 groups, **Network**, **Mount**, **Avamar** and **General**, as follows:

Network options:

--network_number=<number> Set network number (default is 0)

--route_number=<number> Set route number (default is 0)

--ip_address=<ip_address> Set recovery environment IP address

--netmask=<ip_address> Set recovery environment network mask

--hostname=<string> Set recovery environment hostname

--gateway=<ip_address> Set recovery environment default gateway

--ethtool=<command> Pass options to ethtool

Mount options:

mount_number=<number>
Set mount number (default is 0)

mount_path=<path>Set mountpointmount_share<device>Set mount devicemount_username=<name>Set mount usernamemount_passwd=<passwd>Set mount passwordmount_ip_addressSet mount IP address

Avamar options:

--avamar_server=<ip_address> Set Avamar server IP address
--avamar_account=<string> Set Avamar client account
--avamar_username=<string> Set Avamar username
--avamar_password=<string> Set Avamar password

forces a tar backup of /boot - this is needed for block based backups to

work

General options:

--help Show help message and exit
--sshd=<1|0> Start ssh daemon if value=1
--reload=<string> Reload module with options
--passwd=<string> Set password for SSH and HTTP

--find_multipaths=<yes|no> Set find_multipaths option in multipath.conf --disshw=<1/0> Turn on dissimilar hardware support if value=1



--mpath=<1|0> Turn on multipath support if value=1

--sleep=<number> Sleep for <number> seconds
--log_dir=<path> Copy logs to mounted <path>
--bootloader=<name> Set bootloader to <name>

--autorelabel=<1|0> Turn on SELinx autorelabel if value=1

--convert_to_mbr Supply when recovering an EFI system to an MBR target

--product=<type> One of abmr, cbmr, cbmr, nbmr, rbmr or tbmr

Example (a TBMR recovery)

```
restore --product=tbmr --reload="ibmveth old_large_send=1" --ethtool="-K eth0 tso on"

--ip_address="10.10.10.186" --netmask="255.0.0.0" --
hostname="cristie1"

--gateway="10.0.1.100" --tsm_ip_address="10.10.11.98" --
convert_to_mbr

--tsm_node="chrisw-sles11-hyperv-mpath" --tsm_passwd="chrisw"

--find_multipaths="no" --mpath="1" --disshw="1" --sshd="1"

--log_dir="/mnt/log/log" --bootloader="yaboot" --autorelabel="0"

--mount_path="/mnt/log" --mount_share="//10.1.1.26/chris$"

--mount username="chris" --mount passwd="mypassword"
```

Since this is a complex command line, and easy to get wrong during data entry, we advise preparing the command line in an editor elsewhere and pasting it into the bash prompt.



9 Post Recovery Options

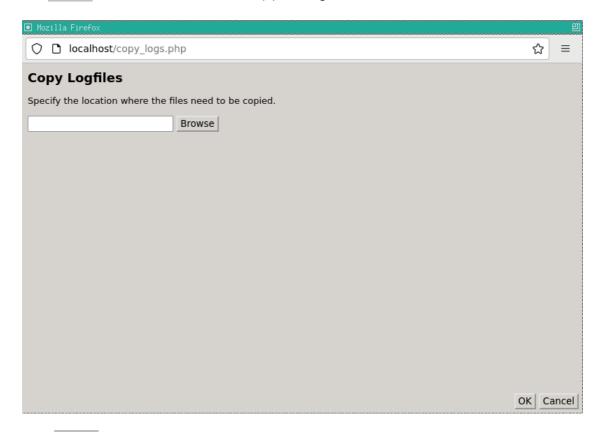
After performing a recovery, it is possible to undertake the following actions:

- Copy Log Files (Cristie recommends that this action is always undertaken after a recovery)
- View Log Files

9.1 Copy Log Files

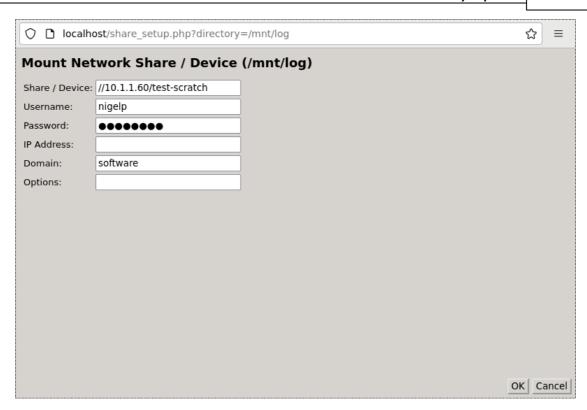
Select the icon from the **Cristie Recovery Environment** main menu.

Click Browse to select a location to copy the log files to.

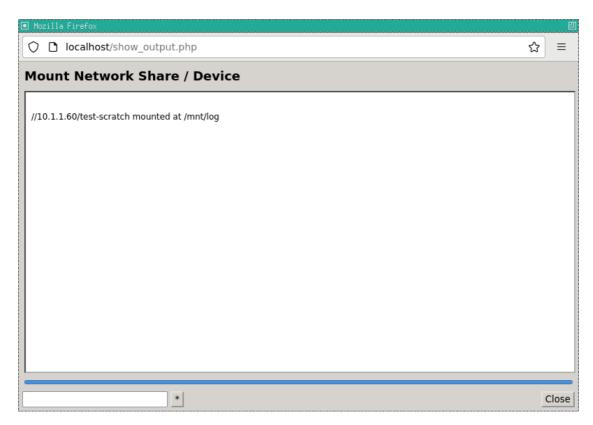


Select Browse to mount a network drive.



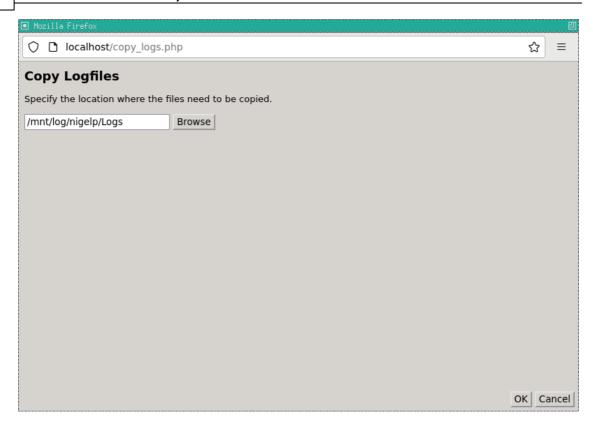


A successful mount is signified by:

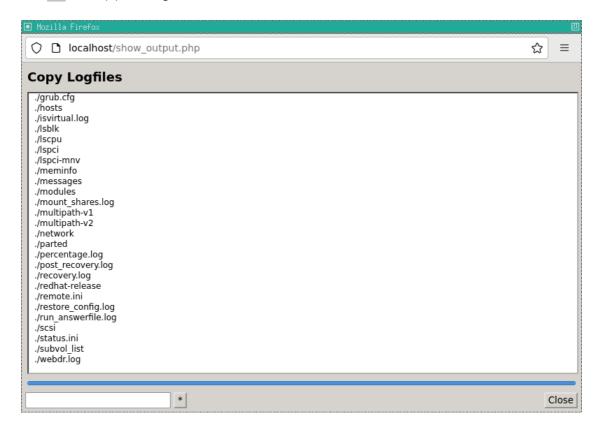


Select a directory on the mounted share:





Click OK to copy the logfiles.



Ensure this is a location which can be easily accessed in case there is a need to email the log files to Cristie for support purposes.

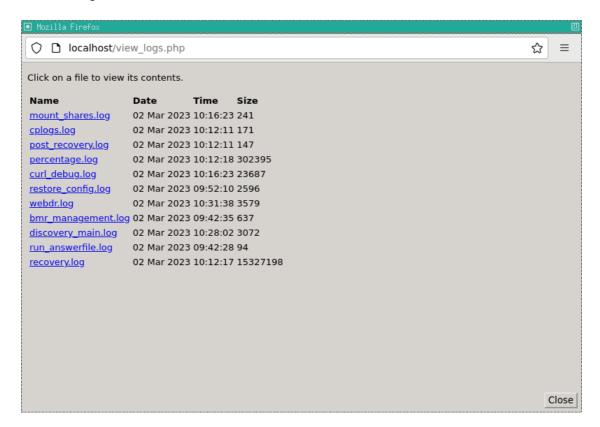
Click Close to return to the Recovery Environment Main Menu.



Note: log files are essential if you require support from Cristie. They detail exactly what has happened during the recovery on your system. Without them, it is very difficult for Cristie to offer meaningful support.

9.2 Show Log Files

To view log files, select the icon from the Main Menu. This will display the list of available logfiles:



Click on the log you wish to view. Check the summary information at the bottom of the recovery status report for any errors.

Click Close to finish.



10 Cristie Technical Support

If you have any queries or problems concerning your Bare Machine Recovery for Dell EMC AvamarTM product, please contact Cristie Technical Support. To assist us in helping with your enquiry, make sure you have the following information available for the person dealing with your call:

- ABMR Version Number
- Installed OS type and version
- Any error message information (if appropriate)
- Description of when the error occurs
- All Cristie log files relating to the source or recovery machine. This is very important to help us provide a quick diagnosis of your problem

Contact Numbers - Cristie Software (UK) Limited

Technical Support +44 (0) 1453 847 009

Toll-Free US Number 1-866-TEC-CBMR (1-866-832-2267)

Knowledgebase kb.cristie.com

Forum forum.cristie.com

Sales Enquiries sales@cristie.com

Email support@cristie.com

Web www.cristie.com

Support Hours

05:00 to 17:00 Eastern Standard Time (EST) Monday to Friday

Out-of-Hours support available to customers with a valid Support Agreement - Severity 1 issues* only

UK Bank Holidays** classed as Out-of-Hours - Severity 1 issues only.

Cristie Software Ltd. are continually expanding their product range in line with the latest technologies. Please contact the Cristie Sales Office for the latest product range.



^{*}Severity 1 issues are defined as: a production server failure, cannot perform recovery or actual loss of data occurring.

^{**}For details on dates of UK Bank Holidays, please see www.cristie.com/support/