



# **Disks and aggregates**

ONTAP 9

NetApp  
February 28, 2022

# Table of Contents

- Disks and aggregates. . . . . 1
  - Disks and aggregates overview . . . . . 1
  - Aggregates and RAID groups . . . . . 1
  - Root-data partitioning . . . . . 2

# Disks and aggregates

## Disks and aggregates overview

*Aggregates* are containers for the disks managed by a node. You can use aggregates to isolate workloads with different performance demands, to tier data with different access patterns, or to segregate data for regulatory purposes.

- For business-critical applications that need the lowest possible latency and the highest possible performance, you might create an aggregate consisting entirely of SSDs.
- To tier data with different access patterns, you can create a *hybrid aggregate*, deploying flash as high-performance cache for a working data set, while using lower-cost HDDs or object storage for less frequently accessed data. A *FlashPool* consists of both SSDs and HDDs. A *FabricPool* consists of an all-SSD aggregate with an attached object store.
- If you need to segregate archived data from active data for regulatory purposes, you can use an aggregate consisting of capacity HDDs, or a combination of performance and capacity HDDs.



*You can use a FabricPool to tier data with different access patterns, deploying SSDs for frequently accessed “hot” data and object storage for rarely accessed “cold” data.*

## Aggregates and RAID groups

Modern RAID technologies protect against disk failure by rebuilding a failed disk’s data on a spare disk. The system compares index information on a “parity disk” with data on the remaining healthy disks to reconstruct the missing data, all without downtime or a significant performance cost.

An aggregate consists of one or more *RAID groups*. The *RAID type* of the aggregate determines the number of parity disks in the RAID group and the number of simultaneous disk failures the RAID configuration protects against.

The default RAID type, RAID-DP (RAID-double parity), requires two parity disks per RAID group and protects against data loss in the event of two disks failing at the same time. For RAID-DP, the recommended RAID group size is between 12 and 20 HDDs and between 20 and 28 SSDs.

You can spread out the overhead cost of parity disks by creating RAID groups at the higher end of the sizing recommendation. This is especially the case for SSDs, which are much more reliable than capacity drives. For HDD aggregates, you should balance the need to maximize disk storage against countervailing factors like the longer rebuild time required for larger RAID groups.

## Root-data partitioning

Every node must have a root aggregate for storage system configuration files. The root aggregate has the RAID type of the data aggregate.

A root aggregate of type RAID-DP typically consists of one data disk and two parity disks. That's a significant "parity tax" to pay for storage system files, when the system is already reserving two disks as parity disks for each RAID group in the aggregate.

*Root-data partitioning* reduces the parity tax by apportioning the root aggregate across disk partitions, reserving one small partition on each disk as the root partition and one large partition for data.



*Root-data partitioning creates one small partition on each disk as the root partition and one large partition on each disk for data.*

As the illustration suggests, the more disks used to store the root aggregate, the smaller the root partition. That's also the case for a form of root-data partitioning called *root-data-data partitioning*, which creates one small partition as the root partition and two larger, equally sized partitions for data.



*Root-data-data partitioning creates one small partition as the root partition and two larger, equally sized partitions for data.*

Both types of root-data partitioning are part of the ONTAP *Advanced Drive Partitioning (ADP)* feature. Both are configured at the factory: root-data partitioning for entry-level FAS2xxx, FAS9000, FAS8200, FAS80xx and AFF systems, root-data-data partitioning for AFF systems only.

## Copyright Information

Copyright © 2022 NetApp, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S. No part of this document covered by copyright may be reproduced in any form or by any means-graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or storage in an electronic retrieval system- without prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Software derived from copyrighted NetApp material is subject to the following license and disclaimer:

THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED BY NETAPP "AS IS" AND WITHOUT ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, WHICH ARE HEREBY DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT SHALL NETAPP BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE.

NetApp reserves the right to change any products described herein at any time, and without notice. NetApp assumes no responsibility or liability arising from the use of products described herein, except as expressly agreed to in writing by NetApp. The use or purchase of this product does not convey a license under any patent rights, trademark rights, or any other intellectual property rights of NetApp.

The product described in this manual may be protected by one or more U.S. patents, foreign patents, or pending applications.

RESTRICTED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subparagraph (c)(1)(ii) of the Rights in Technical Data and Computer Software clause at DFARS 252.277-7103 (October 1988) and FAR 52-227-19 (June 1987).

## Trademark Information

NETAPP, the NETAPP logo, and the marks listed at <http://www.netapp.com/TM> are trademarks of NetApp, Inc. Other company and product names may be trademarks of their respective owners.