



# **Configure the metadata cache for SMB shares**

**ONTAP 9**

NetApp  
January 25, 2023

This PDF was generated from <https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/ontap/smb-admin/metadata-caching-concept.html> on January 25, 2023. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

# Table of Contents

- Configure the metadata cache for SMB shares ..... 1
  - How SMB metadata caching works ..... 1
  - Enable the SMB metadata cache ..... 1
  - Configure the lifetime of SMB metadata cache entries ..... 2

# Configure the metadata cache for SMB shares

## How SMB metadata caching works

Metadata caching enables file attribute caching on SMB 1.0 clients to provide faster access to file and folder attributes. You can enable or disable attribute caching on a per-share basis. You can also configure the time-to-live for cached entries if metadata caching is enabled. Configuring metadata caching is not necessary if clients are connecting to shares over SMB 2.x or SMB 3.0.

When enabled, the SMB metadata cache stores path and file attribute data for a limited amount of time. This can improve SMB performance for SMB 1.0 clients with common workloads.

For certain tasks, SMB creates a significant amount of traffic that can include multiple identical queries for path and file metadata. You can reduce the number of redundant queries and improve performance for SMB 1.0 clients by using SMB metadata caching to fetch information from the cache instead.



While unlikely, it is possible that the metadata cache might serve stale information to SMB 1.0 clients. If your environment cannot afford this risk, you should not enable this feature.

## Enable the SMB metadata cache

You can improve SMB performance for SMB 1.0 clients by enabling the SMB metadata cache. By default, SMB metadata caching is disabled.

### Step

1. Perform the desired action:

If you want to...	Enter the command...
Enable SMB metadata caching when you create a share	<code>vserver cifs share create -vserver <i>vserver_name</i> -share-name <i>share_name</i> -path <i>path</i> -share-properties attributecache</code>
Enable SMB metadata caching on an existing share	<code>vserver cifs share properties add -vserver <i>vserver_name</i> -share-name <i>share_name</i> -share-properties attributecache</code>

### Related information

- [Configuring the lifetime of SMB metadata cache entries](#)
- [Adding or removing share properties on an existing SMB share](#)

# Configure the lifetime of SMB metadata cache entries

You can configure the lifetime of SMB metadata cache entries to optimize the SMB metadata cache performance in your environment. The default is 10 seconds.

### Before you begin

You must have enabled the SMB metadata cache feature. If SMB metadata caching is not enabled, the SMB cache TTL setting is not used.

### Step

1. Perform the desired action:

If you want to configure the lifetime of SMB metadata cache entries when you...	Enter the command...
Create a share	<code>vserver cifs share -create -vserver <i>vserver_name</i> -share-name <i>share_name</i> -path <i>path</i> -attribute-cache-ttl [<i>integerh</i>] [<i>integerm</i>] [<i>integers</i>]</code>
Modify an existing share	<code>vserver cifs share -modify -vserver <i>vserver_name</i> -share-name <i>share_name</i> -attribute-cache-ttl [<i>integerh</i>] [<i>integerm</i>] [<i>integers</i>]</code>

You can specify additional share configuration options and properties when you create or modify shares. See the man pages for more information.

## Copyright information

Copyright © 2023 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.

LIMITED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subparagraph (b)(3) of the Rights in Technical Data -Noncommercial Items at DFARS 252.227-7013 (FEB 2014) and FAR 52.227-19 (DEC 2007).

Data contained herein pertains to a commercial product and/or commercial service (as defined in FAR 2.101) and is proprietary to NetApp, Inc. All NetApp technical data and computer software provided under this Agreement is commercial in nature and developed solely at private expense. The U.S. Government has a non-exclusive, non-transferrable, nonsublicensable, worldwide, limited irrevocable license to use the Data only in connection with and in support of the U.S. Government contract under which the Data was delivered. Except as provided herein, the Data may not be used, disclosed, reproduced, modified, performed, or displayed without the prior written approval of NetApp, Inc. United States Government license rights for the Department of Defense are limited to those rights identified in DFARS clause 252.227-7015(b) (FEB 2014).

## 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.