



Namespaces and junction points

ONTAP 9

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Namespaces and junction points

Namespaces and junction points overview

A NAS *namespace* is a logical grouping of volumes joined together at *junction points* to create a single file system hierarchy. A client with sufficient permissions can access files in the namespace without specifying the location of the files in storage. Junctioned volumes can reside anywhere in the cluster.

Rather than mounting every volume containing a file of interest, NAS clients mount an NFS *export* or access an SMB *share*. The export or share represents the entire namespace or an intermediate location within the namespace. The client accesses only the volumes mounted below its access point.

You can add volumes to the namespace as needed. You can create junction points directly below a parent volume junction or on a directory within a volume. A path to a volume junction for a volume named “vol3” might be /vol1/vol2/vol3, or /vol1/dir2/vol3, or even /dir1/dir2/vol3. The path is called the *junction path*.

Every SVM has a unique namespace. The SVM root volume is the entry point to the namespace hierarchy.



To ensure that data remains available in the event of a node outage or failover, you should create a *load-sharing mirror* copy for the SVM root volume.



A namespace is a logical grouping of volumes joined together at junction points to create a single file system hierarchy.

Example

The following example creates a volume named “home4” located on SVM vs1 that has a junction path /eng/home:

```
cluster1::> volume create -vserver vs1 -volume home4 -aggregate aggr1
-size 1g -junction-path /eng/home
[Job 1642] Job succeeded: Successful
```

What the typical NAS namespace architectures are

There are several typical NAS namespace architectures that you can use as you create your SVM name space. You can choose the namespace architecture that matches your business and workflow needs.

The top of the namespace is always the root volume, which is represented by a slash (/). The namespace architecture under the root falls into three basic categories:

- A single branched tree, with only a single junction to the root of the namespace

- Multiple branched trees, with multiple junction points to the root of the namespace
- Multiple stand-alone volumes, each with a separate junction point to the root of the name space

Namespace with single branched tree

An architecture with a single branched tree has a single insertion point to the root of the SVM namespace. The single insertion point can be either a junctioned volume or a directory beneath the root. All other volumes are mounted at junction points beneath the single insertion point (which can be a volume or a directory).



For example, a typical volume junction configuration with the above namespace architecture might look like the following configuration, where all volumes are junctioned below the single insertion point, which is a directory named “data”:

Vserver	Volume	Junction Active	Junction Path	Junction Path Source
vs1	corp1	true	/data/dir1/corp1	RW_volume
vs1	corp2	true	/data/dir1/corp2	RW_volume
vs1	data1	true	/data/data1	RW_volume
vs1	eng1	true	/data/data1/eng1	RW_volume
vs1	eng2	true	/data/data1/eng2	RW_volume
vs1	sales	true	/data/data1/sales	RW_volume
vs1	vol1	true	/data/vol1	RW_volume
vs1	vol2	true	/data/vol2	RW_volume
vs1	vol3	true	/data/vol3	RW_volume
vs1	vs1_root	-	/	-

Namespace with multiple branched trees

An architecture with multiple branched trees has multiple insertion points to the root of the SVM namespace. The insertion points can be either junctioned volumes or directories beneath the root. All other volumes are mounted at junction points beneath the insertion points (which can be volumes or directories).



For example, a typical volume junction configuration with the above namespace architecture might look like the following configuration, where there are three insertion points to the root volume of the SVM. Two insertion points are directories named “data” and “projects”. One insertion point is a junctioned volume named “audit”:

Vserver Volume		Junction		Junction	
		Active	Junction Path	Path	Source
vs1	audit	true	/audit		RW_volume
vs1	audit_logs1	true	/audit/logs1		RW_volume
vs1	audit_logs2	true	/audit/logs2		RW_volume
vs1	audit_logs3	true	/audit/logs3		RW_volume
vs1	eng	true	/data/eng		RW_volume
vs1	mktg1	true	/data/mktg1		RW_volume
vs1	mktg2	true	/data/mktg2		RW_volume
vs1	project1	true	/projects/project1		RW_volume
vs1	project2	true	/projects/project2		RW_volume
vs1	vs1_root	-	/		-

Namespace with multiple stand-alone volumes

In an architecture with stand-alone volumes, every volume has an insertion point to the root of the SVM namespace; however, the volume is not junctioned below another volume. Each volume has a unique path,

and is either junctioned directly below the root or is junctioned under a directory below the root.



For example, a typical volume junction configuration with the above namespace architecture might look like the following configuration, where there are five insertion points to the root volume of the SVM, with each insertion point representing a path to one volume.

Vserver	Volume	Junction		Junction Path	Junction Path Source
		Active			
vs1	eng	true	/eng	RW_volume	
vs1	mktg	true	/vol/mktg	RW_volume	
vs1	project1	true	/project1	RW_volume	
vs1	project2	true	/project2	RW_volume	
vs1	sales	true	/sales	RW_volume	
vs1	vs1_root	-	/	-	

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