

Manage multi-admin verification

ONTAP 9

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Manage multi-admin verification

Multi-admin verification overview

Beginning with ONTAP 9.11.1, you can use multi-admin verification (MAV) to ensure that certain operations, such as deleting volumes or Snapshot copies, can be executed only after approvals from designated administrators. This prevents compromised, malicious, or inexperienced administrators from making undesirable changes or deleting data.

Configuring multi-admin verification consists of:

- · Creating one or more administrator approval groups.
- · Enabling multi-admin verification functionality.
- Adding or modifying rules.

After initial configuration, these elements can be modified only by administrators in a MAV approval group (MAV administrators).

When multi-admin verification is enabled, the completion of every protected operation requires three steps:

- When a user initiates the operation, a request is generated.
- Before it can be executed, at least one MAV administrator must approve.
- Upon approval, the user completes the operation.

Multi-admin verification is not intended for use with volumes or workflows that involve heavy automation, because each automated task would require approval before the operation could be completed. If you want to use automation and MAV together, it's recommended to use queries for specific MAV operations. For example, you could apply volume delete MAV rules only to volumes where automation is not involved, and you could designate those volumes with a particular naming scheme.



If you need to disable multi-admin verification functionality without MAV administrator approval, contact NetApp Support and mention the following Knowledge Base article: How to disable Multi-Admin Verification if MAV admin is unavailable.

How multi-admin verification works

Multi-admin verification consists of:

- A group of one or more administrators with approval and veto powers.
- A set of protected operations or commands in a rules table.
- A rules engine to identify and control execution of protected operations.

MAV rules are evaluated after role-based access control (RBAC) rules. Therefore, administrators who execute or approve protected operations must already possess the minimum RBAC privileges for those operations. Learn more about RBAC.

When multi-admin verification is enabled, system-defined rules (also known as *guard-rail* rules) establish a set of MAV operations to contain the risk of circumventing the MAV process itself. These operations cannot be removed from the rules table. Once MAV is enabled, operations designated by an asterisk (*) require approval

by one or more administrators before execution, except for **show** commands.

security multi-admin-verify modify*

Controls the configuration of multi-admin verification functionality.

• security multi-admin-verify approval-group operations*

Control membership in the set of administrators with multi-admin verification credentials.

security multi-admin-verify rule operations*

Control the set of commands requiring multi-admin verification.

• security multi-admin-verify request operations

Control the approval process.

In addition to the system-defined commands, the following commands are protected by default when multiadmin verification is enabled, but you can modify the rules to remove protection for these commands.

- * security login password
- security login unlock
- set

The following commands can be protected in ONTAP 9.11.1 and later releases.

cluster peer delete	volume snapshot autodelete modify
event config modify	volume snapshot delete
security login create	volume snapshot policy add-schedule
security login delete	volume snapshot policy create
security login modify	volume snapshot policy delete
system node run	volume snapshot policy modify
system node systemshell	volume snapshot policy modify-schedule
volume delete	volume snapshot policy remove-schedule
volume flexcache delete	volume snapshot restore
	vserver peer delete

How multi-admin approval works

Any time a protected operation is entered on a MAV-protected cluster, an operation execution request is sent to

the designated MAV administrator group.

You can configure:

• The names, contact information, and number of administrators in the MAV group.

A MAV administrator should have an RBAC role with cluster administrator privileges.

- · The number of MAV administrator groups.
 - A MAV group is assigned for each protected operation rule.
 - For multiple MAV groups, you can configure which MAV group approves a given rule.
- The number of MAV approvals required to execute a protected operation.
- An approval expiry period within which a MAV administrator must respond to an approval request.
- An execution expiry period within which the requesting administrator must complete the operation.

Once these parameters are configured, MAV approval is required to modify them.

MAV administrators cannot approve their own requests to execute protected operations. Therefore:

- MAV should not be enabled on clusters with only one administrator.
- If there is only one person in the MAV group, that MAV administrator cannot enter protected operations; regular administrators must enter them and the MAV administrator can only approve.
- If you want MAV administrators to be able to execute protected operations, the number of MAV
 administrators must be one greater than the number of approvals required. For example, if two approvals
 are required for a protected operation, and you want MAV administrators to execute them, there must be
 three people in the MAV administrators group.

MAV administrators can receive approval requests in email alerts (using EMS) or they can query the request queue. When they receive a request, they can take one of three actions:

- Approve
- Reject (veto)
- Ignore (no action)

Email notifications are sent to all approvers associated with a MAV rule when:

- · A request is created.
- · A request is approved or vetoed.
- An approved request is executed.

If the requestor is in the same approval group for the operation, they will receive an email when their request is approved.

Note: A requestor can't approve their own requests, even if they are in the approval group. But they can get the email notifications. Requestors who are not in approval groups (that is, who are not MAV administrators) don't receive email notifications.

How protected operation execution works

If execution is approved for a protected operation, the requesting user continues with the operation when

prompted. If the operation is vetoed, the requesting user must delete the request before proceeding.

MAV rules are evaluated after RBAC permissions. As a result, a user without sufficient RBAC permissions for operation execution cannot initiate the MAV request process.

Manage administrator approval groups

Before enabling multi-admin verification (MAV), you must create an admin approval group containing one or more administrators to be granted approve or veto authority. Once you have enabled multi-admin verification, any modifications to approval group membership requires approval from one of the existing qualified administrators.

About this task

You can add existing administrators to a MAV group or create new administrators.

MAV functionality honors existing role-based access control (RBAC) settings. Potential MAV administrators must have sufficient privilege to execute protected operations before they are added to MAV administrator groups. Learn more about RBAC.

You can configure MAV to alert MAV administrators that approval requests are pending. To do so, you must configure email notifications—in particular, the Mail From and Mail Server parameters—or you can clear these parameters to disable notification. Without email alerts, MAV administrators must check the approval queue manually.

System Manager procedure

If you want to create a MAV approval group for the first time, see the System Manager procedure to enable multi-admin verification.

To modify an existing approval group or create an additional approval group:

- 1. Identify administrators to receive multi-admin verification.
 - a. Click Cluster > Settings.
 - b. Click \rightarrow next to Users and Roles.
 - c. Click + Add under Users.
 - d. Modify the roster as needed.

For more information, see Control administrator access.

- 2. Create or modify the MAV approval group:
 - a. Click Cluster > Settings.
 - b. Click → next to Multi-Admin Approval in the Security section. (You will see the ticon if MAV is not yet configured.)
 - Name: enter a group name.
 - Approvers: select approvers from a list of users.
 - Email address: enter email address(es).
 - Default group: select a group.

MAV approval is required to edit an existing configuration once MAV is enabled.

CLI procedure

1. Verify that values have been set for the Mail From and Mail Server parameters. Enter:

```
event config show
```

The display should be similar to the following:

To configure these parameters, enter:

```
event config modify -mail-from email address -mail-server server name
```

2. Identify administrators to receive multi-admin verification

If you want to	Enter this command
Display current administrators	security login show
Modify credentials of current administrators	security login modify <pre><pre>parameters></pre></pre>
Create new administrator accounts	security login create -user-or-group -name admin_name -application ssh -authentication-method password

3. Create the MAV approval group:

```
security multi-admin-verify approval-group create [ -vserver svm_name] -name group name -approvers approver1[,approver2...] [[-email address1], address1...]
```

- -vserver Only the admin SVM is supported in this release.
- ° -name The MAV group name, up to 64 characters.
- ° -approvers The list of one or more approvers.
- -email One or more email addresses that are notified when a request is created, approved, vetoed, or executed.

Example: The following command creates a MAV group with two members and associated email addresses.

```
cluster-1::> security multi-admin-verify approval-group create -name
mav-grp1 -approvers pavan,julia -email
pavan@myfirm.com,julia@myfirm.com
```

4. Verify group creation and membership:

```
security multi-admin-verify approval-group show
```

Example:

Use these commands to modify your initial MAV group configuration.

Note: All require MAV administrator approval before execution.

If you want to	Enter this command
Modify the group characteristics or modify existing member information	security multi-admin-verify approval- group modify [parameters]
Add or remove members	security multi-admin-verify approval- group replace [-vserver svm_name] -name group_name [-approvers-to-add approver1[,approver2]][-approvers-to- remove approver1[,approver2]]
Delete a group	security multi-admin-verify approval- group delete [-vserver svm_name] -name group_name

Enable and disable multi-admin verification

Multi-admin verification (MAV) must be enabled explicitly. Once you have enabled multi-admin verification, approval by administrators in a MAV approval group (MAV administrators) is required to delete it.

About this task

Once MAV is enabled, modifying or disabling MAV requires MAV administrator approval.



If you need to disable multi-admin verification functionality without MAV administrator approval, contact NetApp Support and mention the following Knowledge Base article: How to disable Multi-Admin Verification if MAV admin is unavailable.

When you enable MAV, you can specify the following parameters globally.

Approval groups

A list of global approval groups. At least one group is required to enable MAV functionality.



If you are using MAV with Autonomous Ransomware Protection (ARP), define a new or existing approval group that is responsible for approving ARP pause, disable, and clear suspect requests.

Required approvers

The number of approvers required to execute a protected operation. The default and minimum number is 1.



The required number of approvers must be less than the total number of unique approvers in the default approval groups.

Approval expiry (hours, minutes, seconds)

The period within which a MAV administrator must respond to an approval request. The default value is one hour (1h), the minimum supported value is one second (1s), and the maximum supported value is 14 days (14d).

Execution expiry (hours, minutes, seconds)

The period within which the requesting administrator must complete the:: operation. The default value is one hour (1h), the minimum supported value is one second (1s), and the maximum supported value is 14 days (14d).

You can also override any of these parameters for specific operation rules.

System Manager procedure

- 1. Identify administrators to receive multi-admin verification.
 - a. Click Cluster > Settings.
 - b. Click \rightarrow next to Users and Roles.
 - c. Click + Add under Users.
 - d. Modify the roster as needed.

For more information, see Control administrator access.

- 2. Enable multi-admin verification by creating at least one approval group and adding at least one rule.
 - a. Click Cluster > Settings.
 - b. Click to Multi-Admin Approval in the Security section.
 - c. Click + Add to add at least one approval group.
 - Name Enter a group name.
 - Approvers Select approvers from a list of users.

- Email address Enter email address(es).
- Default group Select a group.
- d. Add at least one rule.
 - Operation Select a supported command from the list.
 - Query Enter any desired command options and values.
 - Optional parameters; leave blank to apply global settings, or assign a different value for specific rules to override the global settings.
 - Required number of approvers
 - Approval groups
- e. Click **Advanced Settings** to view or modify defaults.
 - Required number of approvers (default: 1)
 - Execution request expiry (default: 1 hour)
 - Approval request expiry (default: 1hour)
 - Mail server*
 - From email address*

*These update the email settings managed under "Notification Management". You are prompted to set them if they have not yet been configured.

f. Click **Enable** to complete MAV initial configuration.

After initial configuration, the current MAV status is displayed in the Multi-Admin Approval tile.

- Status (enabled or not)
- · Active operations for which approvals are required
- Number of open requests in pending state

You can display an existing configuration by clicking \rightarrow . MAV approval is required to edit an existing configuration.

To disable multi-admin verification:

- 1. Click Cluster > Settings.
- Click to Multi-Admin Approval in the Security section.
- 3. Click the Enabled toggle button.

MAV approval is required to complete this operation.

CLI procedure

Before enabling MAV functionality at the CLI, at least one MAV administrator group must have been created.

If you want to	Enter this command
Enable MAV functionality	security multi-admin-verify modify -approval-groups group1[,group2] [- required-approvers nn] -enabled true [-execution-expiry [nnh][nnm][nns]] [-approval-expiry [nnh][nnm][nns]] Example: the following command enables MAV with 1 approval group, 2 required approvers, and default expiry periods.
	<pre>cluster-1::> security multi-admin- verify modify -approval-groups mav-grp1 -required-approvers 2 -enabled true</pre>
	Complete initial configuration by adding at least one operation rule.
Modify a MAV configuration (requires MAV approval)	security multi-admin-verify approval- group modify [-approval-groups group1 [,group2]] [-required-approvers nn] [-execution-expiry [nnh][nnm][nns]] [-approval-expiry [nnh][nnm][nns]]
Verify MAV functionality	security multi-admin-verify show Example:
	cluster-1::> security multi-admin- verify show Is Required Execution Approval Approval Enabled Approvers Expiry Expiry Groups true 2 1h 1h mav-grp1
Disable MAV functionality (requires MAV approval)	security multi-admin-verify modify -enabled false

Manage protected operation rules

You create multi-admin verification (MAV) rules to designate operations requiring approval. Whenever an operation is initiated, protected operations are intercepted and a request for approval is generated.

Rules can be created before enabling MAV by any administrator with appropriate RBAC capabilities, but once MAV is enabled, any modification to the rule set requires MAV approval.

You can create rules for the following commands in ONTAP 9.11.1.

cluster peer delete	volume snapshot autodelete modify
event config modify	volume snapshot delete
security login create	volume snapshot policy add-schedule
security login delete	volume snapshot policy create
security login modify	volume snapshot policy delete
system node run	volume snapshot policy modify
system node systemshell	volume snapshot policy modify-schedule
volume delete	volume snapshot policy remove-schedule
volume flexcache delete	volume snapshot restore
	vserver peer delete

In addition, the following commands are protected by default when MAV is enabled, but you can modify the rules to remove protection for these commands.

- security login password
- security login unlock
- set

The rules for MAV system-default commands — the security multi-admin-verify commands — cannot be altered.

When you create a rule, you can optionally specify the <code>-query</code> option to limit the request to a subset of the command functionality. For example, in the default set command, <code>-query</code> is set to <code>-privilege diag</code>, meaning that a request is generated for the set command only when <code>-privilege diag</code> is specified.

```
smci-vsim20::> security multi-admin-verify rule show

Required Approval

Vserver Operation Approvers Groups

-----
vs01 set - -

Query: -privilege diagnostic
```

By default, rules specify that a corresponding security multi-admin-verify request create "protected_operation" command is generated automatically when a protected operation is entered. You can modify this default to require that the request create command be entered separate.

By default, rules inherit the following global MAV settings, although you can specify rule-specific exceptions:

- Required Number of Approvers
- Approval Groups
- · Approval Expiry period
- · Execution Expiry period

System Manager procedure

If you want to add a protected operation rule for the first time, see the System Manager procedure to enable multi-admin verification.

To modify the existing rule set:

- 1. Click Cluster > Settings.
- 2. Click to Multi-Admin Approval in the Security section.
- Click + Add to add at least one rule; you can also modify or delete existing rules.
 - Operation Select a supported command from the list.
 - Query Enter any desired command options and values.
 - Optional parameters Leave blank to apply global settings, or assign a different value for specific rules to override the global settings.
 - Required number of approvers
 - Approval groups

CLI procedure



All security multi-admin-verify rule commands require MAV administrator approval before execution except security multi-admin-verify rule show.

If you want to	Enter this command
Create a rule	security multi-admin-verify rule create -operation "protected_operation" [- query operation_subset] [parameters]

If you want to	Enter this command
Modify credentials of current administrators	security login modify <pre><pre><pre>security login modify <pre><pre><pre><pre>parameters></pre></pre></pre></pre></pre></pre></pre>
	Example : the following rule requires approval to delete the root volume.
	security multi-admin-verify rule create -operation "volume delete" -query "-vserver vs0
Modify a rule	security multi-admin-verify rule modify -operation "protected_operation" [parameters]
Delete a rule	security multi-admin-verify rule delete -operation "protected_operation"
Show rules	security multi-admin-verify rule show

For command syntax details, see the security multi-admin-verify rule man pages.

Request execution of protected operations

When you initiate a protected operation or command on a cluster enabled for multi-admin verification (MAV), ONTAP automatically intercepts the operation and asks to generate a request, which must be approved by one or more administrators in a MAV approval group (MAV administrators). Alternatively, you can create a MAV request without the dialog.

If approved, you must then respond to the query to complete the operation within the request expiry period. If vetoed, or if the request or expiry periods are exceeded, you must delete the request and resubmit.

MAV functionality honors existing RBAC settings. That is, your administrator role must have sufficient privilege to execute a protected operation without regard to MAV settings. Learn more about RBAC.

If you are a MAV administrator, your requests to execute protected operations must also be approved by a MAV administrator.

System Manager procedure

When a user clicks on a menu item to initiate an operation and the operation is protected, a request for approval is generated and the user receives a notification similar to the following:

```
Approval request to delete the volume was sent.

Track the request ID 356 from Events & Jobs > Multi-Admin Requests.
```

The **Multi-Admin Requests** window is available when MAV is enabled, showing pending requests based on the user's login ID and MAV role (approver or not). For each pending request, the following fields are

displayed:

- Operation
- Index (number)
- Status (Pending, Approved, Rejected, Executed, or Expired)

If a request is rejected by one approver, no further actions are possible.

- Query (any parameters or values for the requested operation)
- Requesting User
- · Request Expires On
- (Number of) Pending Approvers
- (Number of) Potential Approvers

When the request is approved, the requesting user can retry the operation within the expiry period.

If the user retries the operation without approval, a notification is displayed similar to the following:

```
Request to perform delete operation is pending approval.
Retry the operation after request is approved.
```

CLI procedure

1. Enter the protected operation directly or using the MAV request command.

Examples – to delete a volume, enter one of the following commands:

° volume delete

[°] security multi-admin-verify request create "volume delete"

```
Error: command failed: The security multi-admin-verify request (index 3)
requires approval.
```

- 2. Check the status of the request and respond to the MAV notice.
 - a. If the request is approved, respond to the CLI message to complete the operation.

Example:

```
cluster-1::> security multi-admin-verify request show 3
     Request Index: 3
         Operation: volume delete
             Query: -vserver vs0 -volume vol1
             State: approved
Required Approvers: 1
 Pending Approvers: 0
   Approval Expiry: 2/25/2022 14:32:03
  Execution Expiry: 2/25/2022 14:35:36
         Approvals: admin2
       User Vetoed: -
           Vserver: cluster-1
    User Requested: admin
      Time Created: 2/25/2022 13:32:03
     Time Approved: 2/25/2022 13:35:36
           Comment: -
   Users Permitted: -
cluster-1::*> volume delete -volume vol1 -vserver vs0
Info: Volume "vol1" in Vserver "vs0" will be marked as deleted and
placed in the volume recovery queue. The space used by the volume
will be recovered only after the retention period of 12 hours has
completed. To recover the space immediately, get the volume name
using (privilege:advanced) "volume recovery-queue show vol1 *" and
then "volume recovery-queue purge -vserver vs0 -volume <volume name>"
command. To recover the volume use the (privilege:advanced) "volume
recovery-queue recover -vserver vs0
                                          -volume <volume name>"
command.
Warning: Are you sure you want to delete volume "vol1" in Vserver
"vs0" ?
\{y \mid n\}: y
```

b. If the request is vetoed, or the expiry period has passed, delete the request, and either resubmit or contact the MAV administrator.

Example:

```
cluster-1::> security multi-admin-verify request show 3
     Request Index: 3
         Operation: volume delete
             Query: -vserver vs0 -volume vol1
             State: vetoed
Required Approvers: 1
 Pending Approvers: 1
  Approval Expiry: 2/25/2022 14:38:47
 Execution Expiry: -
         Approvals: -
       User Vetoed: admin2
          Vserver: cluster-1
   User Requested: admin
      Time Created: 2/25/2022 13:38:47
    Time Approved: -
          Comment: -
  Users Permitted: -
cluster-1::*> volume delete -volume vol1 -vserver vs0
Error: command failed: The security multi-admin-verify request (index
3) hasbeen vetoed. You must delete it and create a new verification
request.
To delete, run "security multi-admin-verify request delete 3".
```

Manage protected operation requests

When administrators in a MAV approval group (MAV administrators) are notified of a pending operation execution request, they must respond with an approve or veto message within a fixed time period (approval expiry). If a sufficient number of approvals are not received, the requester must delete the request and make another.

About this task

Approval requests are identified with index numbers, which are included in email messages and displays of the request queue.

The following information from the request queue can be displayed:

Operation

The protected operation for which the request is created.

Query

The object (or objects) upon which the user wants to apply the operation.

State

The current state of the request; pending, approved, rejected, expired, executed. If a request is rejected by one approver, no further actions are possible.

Required approvers

The number of MAV administrators that are required to approve the request. A user can set the required-approvers parameter for the operation rule. If a user does not set the required-approvers to the rule, then the required-approvers from the global setting is applied.

Pending approvers

The number of MAV administrators that are still required to approve the request for the request to be marked as approved.

Approval expiry

The period within which a MAV administrator must respond to an approval request. Any authorized user can set the approval-expiry for an operation rule. If approval-expiry is not set for the rule, then the approval-expiry from the global setting is applied.

Execution expiry

The period within which the requesting administrator must complete the operation. Any authorized user can set the execution-expiry for an operation rule. If execution-expiry is not set for the rule, then the execution-expiry from the global setting is applied.

Users approved

The MAV administrators who have approved the request.

User vetoed

The MAV administrators who have vetoed the request.

Storage VM (vserver)

The SVM with which the request is associated with. Only the admin SVM is supported in this release.

User requested

The username of the user who created the request.

Time created

The time when the request is created.

Time approved

The time when the request state changed to approved.

Comment

Any comments that are associated with the request.

Users permitted

The list of users permitted to perform the protected operation for which the request is approved. If userspermitted is empty, then any user with appropriate permissions can perform the operation.

All expired or executed requests are deleted when a limit of 1000 requests is reached, or when the expired time is greater than 8hrs for expired requests. Vetoed requests are deleted once they are marked as expired.

System Manager procedure

MAV administrators receive email messages with details of the approval request, request expiry period, and a link to approve or reject the request. They can access an approval dialog by clicking the link in the email or navigate to **Events & Jobs>Requests** in System Manager.

The **Requests** window is available when multi-admin verification is enabled, showing pending requests based on the user's login ID and MAV role (approver or not).

- Operation
- Index (number)
- Status (Pending, Approved, Rejected, Executed, or Expired)

If a request is rejected by one approver, no further actions are possible.

- Query (any parameters or values for the requested operation)
- · Requesting User
- · Request Expires On
- (Number of) Pending Approvers
- (Number of) Potential Approvers

MAV administrators have additional controls in this window; they can approve, reject, or delete individual operations, or selected groups of operations. However, if the MAV administrator is the Requesting User, they cannot approve, reject or delete their own requests.

CLI procedure

- 1. When notified of pending requests by email, note the request's index number and approval expiry period. The index number can also be displayed using the **show** or **show-pending** options mentioned below.
- 2. Approve or veto the request.

If you want to	Enter this command
Approve a request	security multi-admin-verify request approve nn
Veto a request	security multi-admin-verify request veto <i>nn</i>

If you want to	Enter this command
Show all requests, pending requests, or a single request	security multi-admin-verify request { show show-pending } [nn] { -fields field1[, field2] [-instance] } You can show all requests in the queue or only pending requests. If you enter the index number, only information for that is displayed. You can display information about specific fields (by using the -fields parameter) or about all fields (by using the -instance parameter).
Delete a request	security multi-admin-verify request delete nn

Example:

The following sequence approves a request after the MAV administrator has received the request email with index number 3, which already has one approval.

```
cluster1::> security multi-admin-verify request show-pending
                                 Pending
Index Operation
                Query State Approvers Requestor
_____ ______
   3 volume delete - pending 1
                                          julia
cluster-1::> security multi-admin-verify request approve 3
cluster-1::> security multi-admin-verify request show 3
    Request Index: 3
        Operation: volume delete
            Query: -
            State: approved
Required Approvers: 2
 Pending Approvers: 0
  Approval Expiry: 2/25/2022 14:32:03
 Execution Expiry: 2/25/2022 14:35:36
        Approvals: mav-admin2
      User Vetoed: -
          Vserver: cluster-1
   User Requested: julia
     Time Created: 2/25/2022 13:32:03
    Time Approved: 2/25/2022 13:35:36
          Comment: -
  Users Permitted: -
```

Example:

The following sequence vetoes a request after the MAV administrator has received the request email with index number 3, which already has one approval.

```
cluster1::> security multi-admin-verify request show-pending
                                Pending
Index Operation Query State Approvers Requestor
---- ----- -----
   3 volume delete - pending 1
cluster-1::> security multi-admin-verify request veto 3
cluster-1::> security multi-admin-verify request show 3
    Request Index: 3
        Operation: volume delete
            Query: -
            State: vetoed
Required Approvers: 2
Pending Approvers: 0
  Approval Expiry: 2/25/2022 14:32:03
 Execution Expiry: 2/25/2022 14:35:36
        Approvals: mav-admin1
      User Vetoed: mav-admin2
          Vserver: cluster-1
   User Requested: pavan
     Time Created: 2/25/2022 13:32:03
    Time Approved: 2/25/2022 13:35:36
          Comment: -
  Users Permitted: -
```

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