



# High-availability pairs

## Cloud Volumes ONTAP

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June 01, 2022

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# High-availability pairs

## High-availability pairs in Azure

A Cloud Volumes ONTAP high availability (HA) pair provides enterprise reliability and continuous operations in case of failures in your cloud environment. In Azure, storage is shared between the two nodes.

### HA components

A Cloud Volumes ONTAP HA configuration in Azure includes the following components:



Note the following about the Azure components that Cloud Manager deploys for you:

#### Azure Standard Load Balancer

The load balancer manages incoming traffic to the Cloud Volumes ONTAP HA pair.

#### Availability Set

The Azure Availability Set is a logical grouping of the Cloud Volumes ONTAP nodes. The Availability Set ensures that the nodes are in different fault and update domains to provide redundancy and availability.

[Learn more about Availability Sets in the Azure docs.](#)

## Disks

Customer data resides on Premium Storage page blobs. Each node has access to the other node's storage. Additional storage is also required for [boot, root, and core data](#).

## Storage accounts

- One storage account is required for managed disks.
- One or more storage accounts are required for the Premium Storage page blobs, as the disk capacity limit per storage account is reached.

[Azure documentation: Azure Storage scalability and performance targets for storage accounts.](#)

- One storage account is required for data tiering to Azure Blob storage.
- Starting with Cloud Volumes ONTAP 9.7, the storage accounts that Cloud Manager creates for HA pairs are general-purpose v2 storage accounts.
- You can enable an HTTPS connection from a Cloud Volumes ONTAP 9.7 HA pair to Azure storage accounts when creating a working environment. Note that enabling this option can impact write performance. You can't change the setting after you create the working environment.

## RPO and RTO

An HA configuration maintains high availability of your data as follows:

- The recovery point objective (RPO) is 0 seconds.  
Your data is transactionally consistent with no data loss.
- The recovery time objective (RTO) is 60 seconds.  
In the event of an outage, data should be available in 60 seconds or less.

## Storage takeover and giveback

Similar to a physical ONTAP cluster, storage in an Azure HA pair is shared between nodes. Connections to the partner's storage allows each node to access the other's storage in the event of a *takeover*. Network path failover mechanisms ensure that clients and hosts continue to communicate with the surviving node. The partner *gives back* storage when the node is brought back on line.

For NAS configurations, data IP addresses automatically migrate between HA nodes if failures occur.

For iSCSI, Cloud Volumes ONTAP uses multipath I/O (MPIO) and Asymmetric Logical Unit Access (ALUA) to manage path failover between the active-optimized and non-optimized paths.



For information about which specific host configurations support ALUA, see the [NetApp Interoperability Matrix Tool](#) and the Host Utilities Installation and Setup Guide for your host operating system.

Storage takeover, resync, and giveback are all automatic by default. No user action is required.

## Storage configurations

You can use an HA pair as an active-active configuration, in which both nodes serve data to clients, or as an active-passive configuration, in which the passive node responds to data requests only if it has taken over storage for the active node.

## Actions unavailable during takeover

When a node in an HA pair isn't available, the other node serves data for its partner to provide continued data service. This is called *storage takeover*. Several actions are unavailable until in storage giveback is complete.



When a node in an HA pair is unavailable, the state of the working environment in Cloud Manager is *Degraded*.

The following actions are unavailable from Cloud Manager during storage takeover:

- Support registration
- License changes
- Instance or VM type changes
- Write speed changes
- CIFS setup
- Changing the location of configuration backups
- Setting the cluster password
- Managing disks and aggregates (advanced allocation)

These actions are available again after storage giveback completes and the state of the working environment changes back to normal.

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