

Dell PowerMax vs. NetApp AFF

Dell PowerMax 2500 / 8500

Fast Dynamic Fabric interconnect

Scale performance and capacity independently over fast 100Gb NVMe InfiniBand.



Cloud Mobility natively moves block data snapshots to the cloud

PowerMax can snap block data directly to public clouds or to Dell ECS object stores without the need for a VSA.



Anytime Upgrade¹

Optional controller upgrade program with non-disruptive, data-in-place upgrades to next gen controllers. No subscription renewal required.



Flexible RAID

Flexible RAID provides more usable storage capacity by leveraging granular storage media, load balancing, and the ability to add a single drive at a time to increase overall storage capacity.



High efficiency global deduplication

Global inline data reduction with 4:1 DRR guarantee for open systems, 3:1 for mainframe².



Massive platform support

Supports open systems, mainframe, block and file.



NetApp AFF

Traditional federated scale-out architecture

Every node in a cluster must have a minimum amount of drives. Incoming data is owned by a single node, it can only utilize the R/W cache of that node.

No ability to move block data to the cloud with snapshots alone

NetApp cannot snap directly to the cloud, and any block replication to the cloud requires deploying a VSA.

No controller upgrade program

NetApp lacks an upgrade program like Anytime Upgrade.

Traditional RAID groups and dedicated spares

Must grow capacity in RAID groups, LUNs from RAID groups create potential hot spots. During a drive rebuild, only the drives in the affected RAID group are active; remaining drives in the other RAID groups are not involved in the rebuild process.

Aggregate level deduplication

Aggregate level deduplication can leave several copies of the same data across multiple aggregates. Only 3:1 data reduction guarantee across mixed workloads.

Less platform support

Does not support mainframe environments.

¹ Requires purchase of ProSupport and either "Standard" or "Select" Anytime Upgrade option (where available) at point of sale to qualify. Additional terms and conditions apply.

² Based on Dell EMC Future Proof Program guarantee of 4:1 data reduction rate for reducible data, July 2022. Actual performance results may vary. See Future-Proof Program terms and conditions for details.