



# Learn about Cloud Tiering

## Cloud Manager

Ben Cammett  
June 08, 2020

This PDF was generated from [https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/occm/concept\\_cloud\\_tiering.html](https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/occm/concept_cloud_tiering.html) on June 15, 2020.  
Always check [docs.netapp.com](https://docs.netapp.com) for the latest.

# Table of Contents

Learn about Cloud Tiering .....	1
Features .....	1
Supported object storage providers .....	1
Cost .....	1
Cloud Tiering integration with Cloud Manager .....	2
How Cloud Tiering works .....	2

# Learn about Cloud Tiering

NetApp's Cloud Tiering service extends your data center to the cloud by automatically tiering inactive data from ONTAP clusters to object storage. This frees valuable space on the cluster for more workloads, without making changes to the application layer. Cloud Tiering can reduce costs in your data center and enables a switch from a CAPEX model to an OPEX model.

The Cloud Tiering service leverages the capabilities of *FabricPool*. FabricPool is a NetApp Data Fabric technology that enables automated tiering of data to low-cost object storage. Active data remains on high-performance SSDs, while inactive data is tiered to low-cost object storage while preserving ONTAP data efficiencies.

## Features

Cloud Tiering offers automation, monitoring, reports, and a common management interface:

- Automation makes it easier to set up and manage data tiering from ONTAP clusters to the cloud
- A single pane of glass removes the need to independently manage FabricPool across several clusters
- Reports show the amount of active and inactive data on each cluster
- A tiering health status helps you identify and correct issues as they occur

For more details about the value that Cloud Tiering provides, [check out the Cloud Tiering page on NetApp Cloud Central](#).



While Cloud Tiering can significantly reduce storage footprints, it is not a backup solution.

## Supported object storage providers

You can tier inactive data from an ONTAP cluster to Amazon S3, Microsoft Azure Blob storage, Google Cloud Storage, or StorageGRID.

## Cost

Pay for Cloud Tiering through a pay-as-you-go subscription, an ONTAP tiering license called *FabricPool*, or a combination of both. A 30-day free trial is available for your first cluster if you don't have a license. [Learn how licensing works](#).

There are no charges when tiering data to StorageGRID. Neither a BYOL license or PAYGO registration

is required.

## Cloud Tiering integration with Cloud Manager

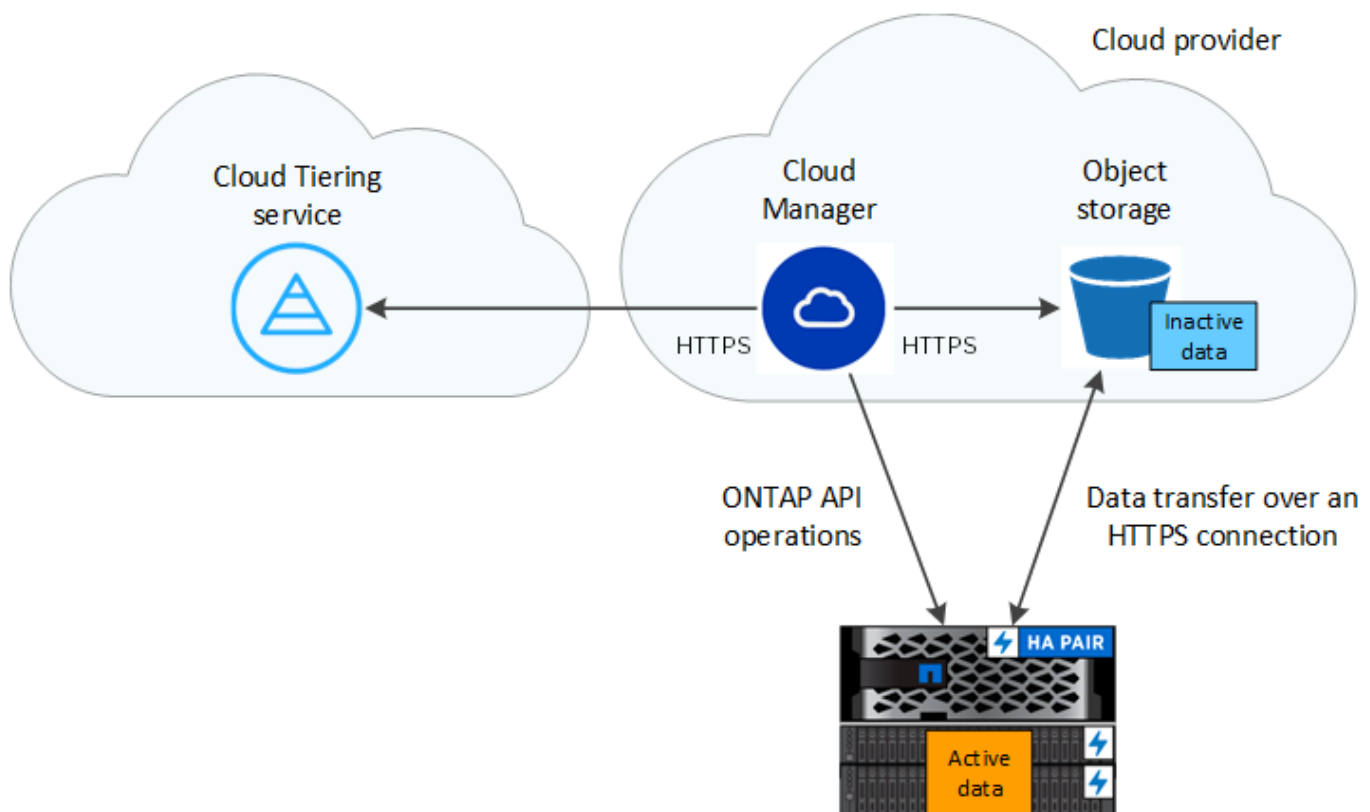
The Cloud Tiering service is available from [NetApp Cloud Central](#) as a standalone service. But it's also integrated into Cloud Manager to make it easier for you to manage your hybrid cloud storage from a single interface. The integration with Cloud Manager also reduces complexity because there's no need to deploy the NetApp Service Connector because it's part of Cloud Manager.

If you switch between Cloud Manager and [the interface for Cloud Tiering](#), you'll see the same set of clusters. Think of it as the same application presented through different interfaces.

## How Cloud Tiering works

Cloud Tiering is a NetApp-managed service that uses FabricPool technology to automatically tier inactive (cold) data from your on-premises ONTAP clusters to object storage in your public cloud or private cloud. Connections to ONTAP take place from Cloud Manager.

The following image shows the relationship between each component:



At a high level, Cloud Tiering works like this:

1. You discover your on-prem cluster from Cloud Manager.
2. You set up tiering by providing details about your object storage, including the bucket/container

and a storage class or access tier.

3. Cloud Manager configures ONTAP to use the object storage provider and discovers the amount of active and inactive data on the cluster.
4. You choose the volumes to tier and the tiering policy to apply to those volumes.
5. ONTAP starts tiering inactive data to the object store, as soon as the data has reached the thresholds to be considered inactive (see [Volume tiering policies](#)).

## Object storage

Each ONTAP cluster tiers inactive data to a single object store. When you set up data tiering, you have the choice to add a new bucket/container or to select an existing bucket/container, along with a storage class or access tier.

- [Learn about supported S3 storage classes](#)
- [Learn about supported Azure Blob access tiers](#)
- [Learn about supported Google Cloud storage classes](#)

## Volume tiering policies

When you select the volumes that you want to tier, you choose a *volume tiering policy* to apply to each volume. A tiering policy determines when or whether the user data blocks of a volume are moved to the cloud.

### No tiering policy

Keeps the data on a volume in the performance tier, preventing it from being moved to the cloud.

### Cold snapshots (Snapshot only)

ONTAP tiers cold Snapshot blocks in the volume that are not shared with the active file system to object storage. If read, cold data blocks on the cloud tier become hot and are moved to the performance tier.

Data is tiered only after an aggregate has reached 50% capacity and when the data has reached the cooling period. The default number of cooling days is 2, but you can adjust the number of days.



Writes from the cloud tier to the performance tier are disabled if performance tier capacity is greater than 70%. If this occurs, blocks are accessed directly from the cloud tier.

### Cold user data (Auto)

ONTAP tiers all cold blocks in the volume (not including metadata) to object storage. The cold data includes not just Snapshot copies but also cold user data from the active file system.

If read by random reads, cold data blocks on the cloud tier become hot and are moved to the

performance tier. If read by sequential reads, such as those associated with index and antivirus scans, cold data blocks on the cloud tier stay cold and are not written to the performance tier.

Data is tiered only after an aggregate has reached 50% capacity and when the data has reached the cooling period. The cooling period is the time that user data in a volume must remain inactive for the data to be considered "cold" and moved to the object store. The default number of cooling days is 31, but you can adjust the number of days.



Writes from the cloud tier to the performance tier are disabled if performance tier capacity is greater than 70%. If this occurs, blocks are accessed directly from the cloud tier.

### All user data (All)

All data (not including metadata) is *immediately* moved to the cloud tier. There is no need to wait 48 hours for new blocks in a volume to become cold. Note that blocks located in the volume prior to the All policy being set require 48 hours to become cold.

If read, cold data blocks on the cloud tier stay cold and are not written back to the performance tier. This policy is available starting with ONTAP 9.6.

Take the following into consideration before you choose this tiering policy:

- Tiering data immediately reduces storage efficiencies (inline only).
- You should use this policy only if you are confident that cold data on the volume will not change.
- Object storage is not transactional and will result in significant fragmentation if subjected to change.
- Consider the impact of SnapMirror transfers before assigning the All tiering policy to source volumes in data protection relationships.

Because data is tiered immediately, SnapMirror will read data from the cloud tier rather than the performance tier. This will result in slower SnapMirror operations—possibly slowing other SnapMirror operations later in queue—even if they are using different tiering policies.

### All DP user data (Backup)

All data on a data protection volume (not including metadata) is immediately moved to the cloud tier. If read, cold data blocks on the cloud tier stay cold and are not written back to the performance tier (starting with ONTAP 9.4).



This policy is available for ONTAP 9.5 or earlier. It was replaced with the **All** tiering policy starting with ONTAP 9.6.

## Copyright Information

Copyright © 2020 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.

RESTRICTED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subparagraph (c)(1)(ii) of the Rights in Technical Data and Computer Software clause at DFARS 252.277-7103 (October 1988) and FAR 52-227-19 (June 1987).

## 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.