



Planning

ONTAP 9

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Planning

Prerequisites

There are several prerequisites that you should consider as part of planning a SnapMirror Business Continuity solution deployment.

Hardware

- Only two-node HA clusters are supported
- Both clusters must be either AFF or ASA (no mixing)

Software

- ONTAP 9.8 or later
- ONTAP Mediator 1.2 or later
- A Linux server or virtual machine for the ONTAP Mediator running one of the following:

ONTAP Mediator version	Supported Linux versions
1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red Hat Enterprise Linux: 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 9.0, 9.1• Rocky Linux 8 and 9
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red Hat Enterprise Linux: 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5• CentOS: 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9
1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red Hat Enterprise Linux: 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5• CentOS: 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9
1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red Hat Enterprise Linux: 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3• CentOS: 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9
1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Red Hat Enterprise Linux: 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 8.1• CentOS: 7.6, 7.7, 7.8

Licensing

- SnapMirror synchronous (SM-S) license must be applied on both clusters
- SnapMirror license must be applied on both clusters



If your ONTAP storage systems were purchased before June 2019, click [NetApp ONTAP Master License Keys](#) to get the required SM-S license.

Networking environment

- Inter-cluster latency round trip time (RTT) must be less than 10 milliseconds
- SCSI-3 persistent reservations are **not** supported with SM-BC

Supported protocols

- Only SAN protocols are supported (not NFS/SMB)
- Only Fibre Channel and iSCSI protocols are supported
- The default IPspace is required by SM-BC for cluster peer relationships. Custom IPspace is not supported.

NTFS Security Style

NTFS security style is **not** supported on SM-BC volumes.

ONTAP Mediator

- Must be provisioned externally and attached to ONTAP for transparent application failover.
- For more information about the ONTAP Mediator, see [Prepare to install the ONTAP Mediator service](#).

Read-write destination volumes

- SM-BC relationships are not supported on read-write destination volumes. Before you can use a read-write volume, you must convert it to a DP volume by creating a volume-level SnapMirror relationship and then deleting the relationship. For details, see [Converting existing relationships to SM-BC relationships](#)

Large LUNs and large volumes

- Large LUNs and large volumes greater than 100TB are supported only on All SAN Arrays



You must ensure that both the primary and secondary cluster are All SAN Arrays, and that they both have ONTAP 9.8 or later installed. If the secondary cluster is running a version earlier than ONTAP 9.8 or if it is not an All SAN Array, the synchronous relationship can go out of sync if the primary volume grows larger than 100 TB.

Considerations and limits

There are several considerations, restrictions, and limitations to consider using the SnapMirror Business Continuity solution.

Object limits

Consistency groups in a cluster

Consistency group limits for a cluster with SM-BC are calculated based on relationships and depend on the version of ONTAP used. Limits are platform-independent.

ONTAP version	Maximum number of relationships
ONTAP 9.8-9.9.1	5
ONTAP 9.10.1	20
ONTAP 9.11.1 and later	50

Volumes per consistency group

From ONTAP 9.8 to 9.9.1, the maximum number of volumes supported per SM-BC consistency group relationship is twelve, a limit which is platform-independent. Beginning with ONTAP 9.10.1, the maximum number of volumes supported per SM-BC relationship is sixteen.

Volumes

Limits in SM-BC are calculated based on the number of endpoints, not the number of relationships. A consistency group with 12 volumes contributes 12 endpoints on both the source and destination. Both SM-BC and SnapMirror Synchronous relationships contribute to the total number of endpoints.

The maximum endpoints per platform are included in the following table.

S. No	Platform	Endpoints per HA for SM-BC			Overall sync and SM-BC endpoints per HA		
		ONTAP 9.8-9.9.1	ONTAP 9.10.1	ONTAP 9.11.1 and later	ONTAP 9.8-9.9.1	ONTAP 9.10.1	ONTAP 9.11.1 and later
1	AFF	60	200	400	80	200	400
2	ASA	60	200	400	80	200	400

SAN object limits

The following SAN object limits are included in the following table and apply regardless of the platform.

Limits of objects in an SM-BC relationship	Count
LUNs per volume	256
LUN maps per node	2048
LUN maps per cluster	4096
LIFs per VServer (with at least one volume in an SM-BC relationship)	256
Inter-cluster LIFs per node	4
Inter-cluster LIFs per cluster	8

Supported configurations and features

SM-BC is supported with numerous operating systems and ONTAP features, including:

- AIX (beginning ONTAP 9.11.1)

- Fan-out configurations
- HP-UX (beginning ONTAP 9.10.1)
- NDMP copy (beginning ONTAP 9.13.1)
- Partial file restore (beginning ONTAP 9.12.1)
- Solaris 11.4 (beginning ONTAP 9.10.1)

AIX

Beginning with ONTAP 9.11.1, AIX is supported with SM-BC. With an AIX configuration, the primary cluster is the "active" cluster.

In an AIX configuration, failovers are disruptive. With each failover, you will need to perform a re-scan on the host for I/O operations to resume.

To configure for AIX host with SM-BC, refer to the Knowledge Base article [How to configure an AIX host for SnapMirror Business Continuity \(SM-BC\)](#).

HP-UX known issues and limitations for SM-BC configuration

Beginning in ONTAP 9.10.1, SM-BC for HP-UX is supported. If an automatic unplanned failover (AUFO) event occurs on the isolated master cluster in the SM-BC configuration, it might take more than 120 seconds for I/O to resume on the HP-UX host. Depending on the applications that are running, this might not lead to any I/O disruption or error messages. If an AUFO event on the isolated master cluster occurs, you must restart applications on the HP-UX host that have a disruption tolerance of less than 120 seconds.

An AUFO event on the isolated master cluster might cause dual event failure when the connection between the primary and the secondary cluster is lost and the connection between the primary cluster and the mediator is also lost. This is considered a rare event, unlike other AUFO events.

FabricPool

SM-BC supports source and destination volumes on FabricPool aggregates with the tiering policy of None, Snapshot or Auto. SM-S SM-BC does not support FabricPool aggregates using a tiering policy of All.

Fan-out configurations

SM-BC supports [fan-out configurations](#) with the `MirrorAllSnapshots` policy and, beginning in ONTAP 9.11.1, the `MirrorAndVault` policy. Fan-out configurations are not supported in SM-BC with the `XDPDefault` policy.

If you experience a failover on the SM-BC destination in a fan-out configuration, you will have to manually [resume protection in the fan-out configuration](#).

NDMP restore

Beginning in ONTAP 9.13.1, you can use NDMP to copy and restore data with SM-BC. Using NDMP allows you to move data onto the SM-BC source to complete a restore without pausing protection. This is particularly useful in fan-out configurations.

To learn more about this process, see [Transfer data using ndmp copy](#).

Partial file restore

Beginning in ONTAP 9.12.1, partial LUN restore is supported for SM-BC volumes. For information on this process, refer to [Restore part of a file from a Snapshot copy](#).

Solaris Host setting recommendation for SM-BC configuration

Beginning with ONTAP 9.10.1, SM-BC supports Solaris 11.4. To ensure the Solaris client applications are non-disruptive when an unplanned site failover switchover occurs in an SM-BC environment, you must configure the Solaris 11.4 Host with the `f_tpgs` parameter.

Follow these steps to configure the override parameter:

1. Create configuration file `/etc/driver/drv/scsi_vhci.conf` with an entry similar to the following for the NetApp storage type connected to the host:

```
scsi-vhci-failover-override =  
"NETAPP LUN", "f_tpgs"
```

2. Use `devprop` and `mdb` commands to verify the override has been successfully applied:

```
root@host-A:~# devprop -v -n /scsi_vhci scsi-vhci-failover-override  
scsi-vhci-failover-override=NETAPP LUN + f_tpgs  
root@host-A:~# echo "*scsi_vhci_dip::print -x struct dev_info devi_child  
| ::list struct dev_info devi_sibling| ::print struct dev_info  
devi_mdi_client| ::print mdi_client_t ct_vprivate| ::print struct  
scsi_vhci_lun svl_lun_wnn svl_fops_name"| mdb -k`
```

```
svl_lun_wnn = 0xa002a1c8960 "600a098038313477543f524539787938"  
svl_fops_name = 0xa00298d69e0 "conf f_tpgs"
```



`conf` will be added to the `svl_fops_name` when a `scsi-vhci-failover-override` has been applied.

For additional information and recommended changes to default settings, refer to NetApp KB article [Solaris Host support recommended settings in SnapMirror Business Continuity \(SM-BC\) configuration](#).

ONTAP access options

You have several access options available when configuring the ONTAP nodes participating in an SM-BC deployment. You should select the option that best matches your specific environment and deployment goals.



In all cases, you must sign in using the administrator account with a valid password.

Command line interface

The text-based command line interface is available through the ONTAP management shell. You can access the CLI using secure shell (SSH).

System Manager

You can connect to the System Manager using a modern web browser. The web GUI provides an intuitive and easy-to-use interface when accessing the SnapMirror Business Continuity functionality. For more information about using System Manager, see [System Manager documentation](#).

REST API

The ONTAP REST API exposed to external clients provides another option when connecting to the ONTAP. You can access the API using any mainstream programming language or tool that supports REST web services. Popular choices include:

- Python (including the ONTAP Python client library)
- Java
- Curl

Using a programming or scripting language provides an opportunity to automate the deployment and management of a SnapMirror Business Continuity deployment. For more information, see the ONTAP online documentation page at your ONTAP storage system.

Prepare to use the ONTAP CLI

You should be familiar with the following commands when deploying the SnapMirror Business Continuity solution using the ONTAP command line interface.



SM-BC does not support the `snapmirror quiesce` and `snapmirror resume` commands for relationships with active sync policy.

For more information about the following ONTAP commands, see [NetApp Documentation: ONTAP 9](#).

Command	Description
<code>lun igroup create</code>	Create an igroup on a cluster
<code>lun map</code>	Map a LUN to an igroup
<code>lun show</code>	Display a list of LUNs
<code>snapmirror create</code>	Create a new SnapMirror relationship
<code>snapmirror initialize</code>	Initialize an SM-BC consistency group
<code>snapmirror update</code>	Initiates a common snapshot creation operation
<code>snapmirror show</code>	Display a list of SnapMirror relationships
<code>snapmirror failover</code>	Start a planned failover operation
<code>snapmirror resync</code>	Start a resynchronization operation
<code>snapmirror delete</code>	Delete a SnapMirror relationship

Command	Description
snapmirror release	Remove source information for a SnapMirror relationship
volume snapshot restore-file	Available with SM-BC beginning in ONTAP 9.11.1, restore a single file or LUN

Prepare to use the ONTAP Mediator

The ONTAP Mediator establishes a quorum for the ONTAP clusters in an SM-BC relationship. It coordinates automated failover when a failure is detected and helps to avoid split-brain scenarios when each cluster simultaneously tries to establish control as the primary cluster.

Prerequisites for the ONTAP Mediator

The ONTAP Mediator includes its own set of prerequisites. You must meet these prerequisites before installing the mediator. For more information, see [Prepare to install the ONTAP Mediator service](#).

Network configuration

By default, the ONTAP Mediator provides service through TCP port 31784. You should make sure that port 31784 is open and available between the ONTAP clusters and the mediator.

Summary of deployment best practices

There are several best practices that you should consider as part of planning an SnapMirror Business Continuity deployment.

SAN

The SnapMirror Business Continuity solution supports only SAN workloads. You should follow the SAN best practices in all cases.

In addition:

- Replicated LUNs in the secondary cluster must be mapped to the host and the I/O paths to the LUNs from both the primary and secondary cluster must be discovered at the time of host configuration.
- After an out of sync (OOS) event exceeds 80 seconds, or after an automatic unplanned failover, it is important to rescan the host LUN I/O path to ensure that there is no I/O path loss. For more information, see the respective host OS vendor's documentation on rescan of LUN I/O paths.

Mediator

To be fully functional and to enable automatic unplanned failover, the external ONTAP mediator should be provisioned and configured with ONTAP clusters.

When installing the mediator, you should replace the self-signed certificate with a valid certificate signed by a mainstream reliable CA.

SnapMirror

You should terminate an SnapMirror relationship in the following order:

1. Perform `snapmirror delete` at the destination cluster
2. Perform `snapmirror release` at the source cluster

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