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High availability

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High Availability

Cluster nodes are configured in high-availability (HA) pairs for fault tolerance and nondisruptive operations. If a node fails or if you need to bring a node down for routine maintenance, its partner can take over its storage and continue to serve data from it. The partner gives back storage when the node is brought back on line.

The HA pair controller configuration consists of a pair of matching FAS/AFF storage controllers (local node and partner node). Each of these nodes is connected to the other's disk shelves. When one node in an HA pair encounters an error and stops processing data, its partner detects the failed status of the partner and takes over all data processing from that controller.

Takeover is the process in which a node assumes control of its partner's storage.

Giveback is the process in which the storage is returned to the partner.

By default, takeovers occur automatically in any of the following situations:

- A software or system failure occurs on a node that leads to a panic. The HA pair controllers automatically fail over to their partner node. After the partner has recovered from the panic and booted up, the node automatically performs a giveback, returning the partner to normal operation.
- A system failure occurs on a node, and the node cannot reboot. For example, when a node fails because
 of a power loss, HA pair controllers automatically fail over to their partner node and serve data from the
 surviving storage controller.



If the storage for a node also loses power at the same time, a standard takeover is not possible.

- Heartbeat messages are not received from the node's partner. This could happen if the partner experienced a hardware or software failure (for example, an interconnect failure) that did not result in a panic but still prevented it from functioning correctly.
- You halt one of the nodes without using the -f or -inhibit-takeover true parameter.



In a two-node cluster with cluster HA enabled, halting or rebooting a node using the -inhibit-takeover true parameter causes both nodes to stop serving data unless you first disable cluster HA and then assign epsilon to the node that you want to remain online.

- You reboot one of the nodes without using the -inhibit-takeover true parameter. (The -onboot parameter of the storage failover command is enabled by default.)
- The remote management device (Service Processor) detects failure of the partner node. This is not applicable if you disable hardware-assisted takeover.

You can also manually initiate takeovers with the storage failover takeover command.

How hardware-assisted takeover works

Enabled by default, the hardware-assisted takeover feature can speed up the takeover process by using a node's remote management device (Service Processor).

When the remote management device detects a failure, it quickly initiates the takeover rather than waiting for ONTAP to recognize that the partner's heartbeat has stopped. If a failure occurs without this feature enabled, the partner waits until it notices that the node is no longer giving a heartbeat, confirms the loss of heartbeat, and then initiates the takeover.

The hardware-assisted takeover feature uses the following process to avoid that wait:

- 1. The remote management device monitors the local system for certain types of failures.
- 2. If a failure is detected, the remote management device immediately sends an alert to the partner node.
- 3. Upon receiving the alert, the partner initiates takeover.

System events that trigger hardware-assisted takeover

The partner node might generate a takeover depending on the type of alert it receives from the remote management device (Service Processor).

Alert	Takeover initiated upon receipt?	Description
abnormal_reboot	No	An abnormal reboot of the node occurred.
I2_watchdog_reset	Yes	The system watchdog hardware detected an L2 reset. The remote management device detected a lack of response from the system CPU and reset the system.
loss_of_heartbeat	No	The remote management device is no longer receiving the heartbeat message from the node. This alert does not refer to the heartbeat messages between the nodes in the HA pair; it refers to the heartbeat between the node and its local remote management device.
periodic_message	No	A periodic message is sent during a normal hardware-assisted takeover operation.
power_cycle_via_sp	Yes	The remote management device cycled the system power off and on.
power_loss	Yes	A power loss occurred on the node. The remote management device has a power supply that maintains power for a short period after a power loss, allowing it to report the power loss to the partner.
power_off_via_sp	Yes	The remote management device powered off the system.

Alert	Takeover initiated upon receipt?	Description
reset_via_sp	Yes	The remote management device reset the system.
test	No	A test message is sent to verify a hardware-assisted takeover operation.

How automatic takeover and giveback works

The automatic takeover and giveback operations can work together to reduce and avoid client outages.

By default, if one node in the HA pair panics, reboots, or halts, the partner node automatically takes over and then returns storage when the affected node reboots. The HA pair then resumes a normal operating state.

Automatic takeovers may also occur if one of the nodes become unresponsive.

Automatic giveback occurs by default. If you would rather control giveback impact on clients, you can disable automatic giveback and use the storage failover modify -auto-giveback false -node <node> command. Before performing the automatic giveback (regardless of what triggered it), the partner node waits for a fixed amount of time as controlled by the -delay- seconds parameter of the storage failover modify command. The default delay is 600 seconds. By delaying the giveback, the process results in two brief outages: one during takeover and one during giveback.

This process avoids a single, prolonged outage that includes time required for:

- · The takeover operation
- The taken-over node to boot up to the point at which it is ready for the giveback
- · The giveback operation

If the automatic giveback fails for any of the non-root aggregates, the system automatically makes two additional attempts to complete the giveback.



During the takeover process, the automatic giveback process starts before the partner node is ready for the giveback. When the time limit of the automatic giveback process expires and the partner node is still not ready, the timer restarts. As a result, the time between the partner node being ready and the actual giveback being performed might be shorter than the automatic giveback time.

What happens during takeover

When a node takes over its partner, it continues to serve and update data in the partner's aggregates and volumes.

The following steps occur during the takeover process:

1. If the negotiated takeover is user-initiated, aggregated data is moved from the partner node to the node that is performing the takeover. A brief outage occurs as the current owner of each aggregate (except for the root aggregate) changes over to the takeover node. This outage is briefer than an outage that occurs during a takeover without aggregate relocation.

- ° You can monitor the progress using the storage failover show-takeover command.
- You can avoid the aggregate relocation during this takeover instance by using the -bypass
 -optimization parameter with the storage failover takeover command.



Aggregates are relocated serially during planned takeover operations to reduce client outage. If aggregate relocation is bypassed, longer client outage occurs during planned takeover events.

- 2. If the user-initiated takeover is a negotiated takeover, the target node gracefully shuts down, followed by takeover of the target node's root aggregate and any aggregates that were not relocated in Step 1.
- 3. Before the storage takeover begins, data LIFs (logical interfaces) migrate from the target node to the takeover node, or to any other node in the cluster based on LIF failover rules. You can avoid the LIF migration by using the -skip-lif-migration parameter with the storage failover takeover command.
- 4. Existing SMB (CIFS) sessions are disconnected when takeover occurs.



Due to the nature of the SMB protocol, all SMB sessions are disrupted (except for SMB 3.0 sessions connected to shares with the Continuous Availability property set). SMB 1.0 and SMB 2.x sessions cannot reconnect after a takeover event; therefore, takeover is disruptive and some data loss could occur.

5. SMB 3.0 sessions that are established to shares with the Continuous Availability property enabled can reconnect to the disconnected shares after a takeover event. If your site uses SMB 3.0 connections to Microsoft Hyper-V and the Continuous Availability property is enabled on the associated shares, takeovers are non-disruptive for those sessions.

What happens if a node performing a takeover panics

If the node that is performing the takeover panics within 60 seconds of initiating takeover, the following events occur:

- The node that panicked reboots.
- After it reboots, the node performs self-recovery operations and is no longer in takeover mode.
- · Failover is disabled.
- If the node still owns some of the partner's aggregates, after enabling storage failover, return these aggregates to the partner using the storage failover giveback command.

What happens during giveback

The local node returns ownership to the partner node when issues are resolved, when the partner node boots up, or when giveback is initiated.

The following process takes place in a normal giveback operation. In this discussion, Node A has taken over Node B. Any issues on Node B have been resolved and it is ready to resume serving data.

- 1. Any issues on Node B are resolved and it displays the following message: Waiting for giveback
- 2. The giveback is initiated by the storage failover giveback command or by automatic giveback if the system is configured for it. This initiates the process of returning ownership of Node B's aggregates and volumes from Node A back to Node B.

- Node A returns control of the root aggregate first.
- 4. Node B completes the process of booting up to its normal operating state.
- 5. As soon as Node B reaches the point in the boot process where it can accept the non-root aggregates, Node A returns ownership of the other aggregates, one at a time, until giveback is complete. You can monitor the progress of the giveback by using the storage failover show-giveback command.



The storage failover show-giveback command does not (nor is it intended to) display information about all operations occurring during the storage failover giveback operation. You can use the storage failover show command to display additional details about the current failover status of the node, such as if the node is fully functional, takeover is possible, and giveback is complete.

I/O resumes for each aggregate after giveback is complete for that aggregate, which reduces its overall outage window.

HA policy and its effect on takeover and giveback

ONTAP automatically assigns an HA policy of CFO (controller failover) and SFO (storage failover) to an aggregate. This policy determines how storage failover operations occur for the aggregate and its volumes.

The two options, CFO and SFO, determine the aggregate control sequence ONTAP uses during storage failover and giveback operations.

Although the terms CFO and SFO are sometimes used informally to refer to storage failover (takeover and giveback) operations, they actually represent the HA policy assigned to the aggregates. For example, the terms SFO aggregate or CFO aggregate simply refer to the aggregate's HA policy assignment.

HA policies affect takeover and giveback operations as follows:

- Aggregates created on ONTAP systems (except for the root aggregate containing the root volume) have an HA policy of SFO. Manually initiated takeover is optimized for performance by relocating SFO (non-root) aggregates serially to the partner before takeover. During the giveback process, aggregates are given back serially after the taken-over system boots and the management applications come online, enabling the node to receive its aggregates.
- Because aggregate relocation operations entail reassigning aggregate disk ownership and shifting control from a node to its partner, only aggregates with an HA policy of SFO are eligible for aggregate relocation.
- The root aggregate always has an HA policy of CFO and is given back at the start of the giveback operation. This is necessary to allow the taken-over system to boot. All other aggregates are given back serially after the taken-over system completes the boot process and the management applications come online, enabling the node to receive its aggregates.



Changing the HA policy of an aggregate from SFO to CFO is a Maintenance mode operation. Do not modify this setting unless directed to do so by a customer support representative.

How background updates affect takeover and giveback

Background updates of the disk firmware will affect HA pair takeover, giveback, and aggregate relocation operations differently, depending on how those operations are initiated.

The following list describes how background disk firmware updates affect takeover, giveback, and aggregate

relocation:

- If a background disk firmware update occurs on a disk on either node, manually initiated takeover operations are delayed until the disk firmware update finishes on that disk. If the background disk firmware update takes longer than 120 seconds, takeover operations are aborted and must be restarted manually after the disk firmware update finishes. If the takeover was initiated with the -bypass-optimization parameter of the storage failover takeover command set to true, the background disk firmware update occurring on the destination node does not affect the takeover.
- If a background disk firmware update is occurring on a disk on the source (or takeover) node and the takeover was initiated manually with the -options parameter of the storage failover takeover command set to immediate, takeover operations start immediately.
- If a background disk firmware update is occurring on a disk on a node and it panics, takeover of the panicked node begins immediately.
- If a background disk firmware update is occurring on a disk on either node, giveback of data aggregates is delayed until the disk firmware update finishes on that disk.
- If the background disk firmware update takes longer than 120 seconds, giveback operations are aborted and must be restarted manually after the disk firmware update completes.
- If a background disk firmware update is occurring on a disk on either node, aggregate relocation operations are delayed until the disk firmware update finishes on that disk. If the background disk firmware update takes longer than 120 seconds, aggregate relocation operations are aborted and must be restarted manually after the disk firmware update finishes. If aggregate relocation was initiated with the -override -destination-checks of the storage aggregate relocation command set to true, the background disk firmware update occurring on the destination node does not affect aggregate relocation.

Automatic takeover commands

Automatic takeover is enabled by default on all supported NetApp FAS, AFF, and ASA platforms. You might need to change the default behavior and control when automatic takeovers occur when the partner node reboots, panics, or halts.

If you want takeover to occur automatically when the partner node	Use this command
Reboots or halts	storage failover modify -node nodename -onreboot true
Panics	storage failover modify -node nodename -onpanic true

Enable email notification if the takeover capability is disabled

To receive prompt notification if the takeover capability becomes disabled, you should configure your system to enable automatic email notification for the takeover impossible EMS messages:

- ha.takeoverImpVersion
- ha.takeoverImpLowMem
- ha.takeoverImpDegraded
- ha.takeoverImpUnsync

- ha.takeoverImpIC
- ha.takeoverImpHotShelf
- ha.takeoverImpNotDef

Automatic giveback commands

In certain situations, you might need to manage your automatic giveback settings using ONTAP commands.

If you want to	Use this command
Enable automatic giveback so that giveback occurs as soon as the taken-over node boots, reaches the Waiting for Giveback state, and the Delay before Auto Giveback period has expired. The default setting is true.	, , , , , , , , ,
Disable automatic giveback. The default setting is true. Note: Setting this parameter to false does not disable automatic giveback after takeover on panic and takeover on reboot; automatic giveback after takeover on panic must be disabled by setting the -auto-giveback-after-panic parameter to false.	storage failover modify -node <i>nodename</i> -auto-giveback false
Disable automatic giveback after takeover on panic (this setting is enabled by default).	storage failover modify -node <i>nodename</i> -auto-giveback-after-panic false
Delay automatic giveback for a specified number of seconds (default is 600). This option determines the minimum time that a node remains in takeover before performing an automatic giveback.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

How variations of the storage failover modify command affect automatic giveback

The operation of automatic giveback depends on how you configure the parameters of the storage failover modify command.

The following table lists the storage failover modify command parameters that apply to takeover events not caused by a panic:

Parameter	Default setting
-auto-giveback true false	true
-delay-seconds integer (seconds)	600
-onreboot true false	true

The following table describes how combinations of the -onreboot and -auto-giveback parameters affect automatic giveback for takeover events not caused by a panic.

storage failover modify parameters used	Cause of takeover	Does automatic giveback occur?
-onreboot <i>true</i> -auto-giveback <i>true</i>	reboot command	Yes
	halt command, or power cycle operation issued from the Service Processor	Yes
-auto-giveback false	reboot command	Yes
	halt command, or power cycle operation issued from the Service Processor	No
-onreboot <i>false</i> -auto-giveback <i>true</i>	reboot command	No
	halt command, or power cycle operation issued from the Service Processor	Yes
-onreboot false -auto-giveback false	reboot command	No
	halt command, or power cycle operation issued from the Service Processor	No



If the \neg onreboot parameter is set to true and a takeover occurs due to a reboot, then automatic giveback is always performed, regardless of whether the \neg auto \neg giveback parameter is set to true.

When the <code>-onreboot</code> parameter is set to false, a takeover does not occur in the case of a node reboot. Therefore, automatic giveback cannot occur, regardless of whether the <code>-auto-giveback</code> parameter is set to

The effects of automatic giveback parameter combinations that apply to panic situations.

The following table lists the storage failover modify command parameters that apply to panic situations:

Parameter	Default setting
-onpanic true false	true
-auto-giveback-after-panic true false	true
(Privilege: Advanced)	
-auto-giveback true false	true

The following table describes how parameter combinations of the storage failover modify command affect automatic giveback in panic situations.

storage failover parameters used	Does automatic giveback occur after panic?
-onpanic false -auto-giveback-after-panic true	No
-onpanic false -auto-giveback-after-panic false	No
-onpanic true -auto-giveback true -auto-giveback-after-panic true	Yes
-onpanic true -auto-giveback true -auto-giveback-after-panic false	No
-onpanic true -auto-giveback false -auto-giveback-after-panic true	Yes
-onpanic true -auto-giveback false -auto-giveback-after-panic false	No
-onpanic false If -onpanic is set to false, takeover/giveback not occur, regardless of the value set for -auto -giveback or - auto-giveback-after-panic	



If the -onpanic parameter is set to true, automatic giveback is always performed if a panic occurs unless you have changed the default settings for the -auto-giveback and -auto -giveback-after-panic parameters. If both of these parameters are changed from their default (true,) to false, then an automatic giveback will not occur after a panic, even if the -onpanic parameter is set to true.

If the -onpanic parameter is set to false, takeover does not occur. Therefore, automatic giveback cannot occur, even if the auto giveback after panic parameter is set to true. A client disruption occurs.

Commands for monitoring an HA pair

You can use ONTAP commands to monitor the status of the HA pair. If a takeover occurs, you can also determine what caused the takeover.

If you want to check	Use this command
Whether failover is enabled or has occurred, or reasons why failover is not currently possible	storage failover show
View the nodes on which the storage failover HA-mode setting is enabled You must set the value to ha for the node to participate in a storage failover (HA pair) configuration. The non-ha value is used only in a stand-alone, or single node cluster configuration.	storage failover show -fields mode
Whether hardware-assisted takeover is enabled	storage failover hwassist show
The history of hardware-assisted takeover events that have occurred	storage failover hwassist stats show
The progress of a takeover operation as the partner's aggregates are moved to the node doing the takeover	storage failover show-takeover
The progress of a giveback operation in returning aggregates to the partner node	storage failover show-giveback
Whether an aggregate is home during takeover or giveback operations	aggregate show -fields home-id,owner -id,home-name,owner-name,is-home
Whether cluster HA is enabled (applies only to two node clusters)	cluster ha show
The HA state of the components of an HA pair (on systems that use the HA state)	ha-config show This is a Maintenance mode command.

Node states displayed by storage failover show-type commands

The following list describes the node states that the storage failover show command displays.

Node State	Description
Connected to partner_name, Automatic takeover disabled.	The HA interconnect is active and can transmit data to the partner node. Automatic takeover of the partner is disabled.
Waiting for partner_name, Giveback of partner spare disks pending.	The local node cannot exchange information with the partner node over the HA interconnect. Giveback of SFO aggregates to the partner is done, but partner spare disks are still owned by the local node. • Run the storage failover show-giveback command for more information.
Waiting for partner_name. Waiting for partner lock synchronization.	The local node cannot exchange information with the partner node over the HA interconnect, and is waiting for partner lock synchronization to occur.
Waiting for partner_name. Waiting for cluster applications to come online on the local node.	The local node cannot exchange information with the partner node over the HA interconnect, and is waiting for cluster applications to come online.
Takeover scheduled. target node relocating its SFO aggregates in preparation of takeover.	Takeover processing has started. The target node is relocating ownership of its SFO aggregates in preparation for takeover.
Takeover scheduled. target node has relocated its SFO aggregates in preparation of takeover.	Takeover processing has started. The target node has relocated ownership of its SFO aggregates in preparation for takeover.
Takeover scheduled. Waiting to disable background disk firmware updates on local node. A firmware update is in progress on the node.	Takeover processing has started. The system is waiting for background disk firmware update operations on the local node to complete.
Relocating SFO aggregates to taking over node in preparation of takeover.	The local node is relocating ownership of its SFO aggregates to the taking-over node in preparation for takeover.
Relocated SFO aggregates to taking over node. Waiting for taking over node to takeover.	Relocation of ownership of SFO aggregates from the local node to the taking-over node has completed. The system is waiting for takeover by the taking-over node.
to disable background disk firmware updates on the	Relocation of ownership of SFO aggregates from the local node to the taking-over node is in progress. The system is waiting for background disk firmware update operations on the local node to complete.

Node State	Description
to disable background disk firmware updates on	Relocation of ownership of SFO aggregates from the local node to the taking-over node is in progress. The system is waiting for background disk firmware update operations on the partner node to complete.
attempt was aborted because reason. Local node owns some of partner's SFO aggregates.	The HA interconnect is active and can transmit data to the partner node. The previous takeover attempt was aborted because of the reason displayed under reason. The local node owns some of its partner's SFO aggregates. • Either reissue a takeover of the partner node, setting the -bypass-optimization parameter to true to takeover the remaining SFO aggregates, or perform a giveback of the partner to return relocated aggregates.
· —	The HA interconnect is active and can transmit data to the partner node. The previous takeover attempt was aborted. The local node owns some of its partner's SFO aggregates. • Either reissue a takeover of the partner node, setting the -bypass-optimization parameter to true to takeover the remaining SFO aggregates, or perform a giveback of the partner to return relocated aggregates.
was aborted because reason. Local node owns some of partner's SFO aggregates.	The local node cannot exchange information with the partner node over the HA interconnect. The previous takeover attempt was aborted because of the reason displayed under reason. The local node owns some of its partner's SFO aggregates. • Either reissue a takeover of the partner node, setting the -bypass-optimization parameter to true to takeover the remaining SFO aggregates, or perform a giveback of the partner to return relocated aggregates.
Waiting for partner_name. Previous takeover attempt was aborted. Local node owns some of partner's SFO aggregates.	The local node cannot exchange information with the partner node over the HA interconnect. The previous takeover attempt was aborted. The local node owns

Reissue a takeover of the partner with the "-bypass- some of its partner's SFO aggregates. optimization" parameter set to true to takeover remaining aggregates, or issue a giveback of the partner to return the relocated aggregates.

• Either reissue a takeover of the partner node, setting the -bypass-optimization parameter to true to takeover the remaining SFO aggregates, or perform a giveback of the partner to return relocated aggregates.

Node State	Description
attempt was aborted because failed to disable	The HA interconnect is active and can transmit data to the partner node. The previous takeover attempt was aborted because the background disk firmware update on the local node was not disabled.
Connected to partner_name. Previous takeover attempt was aborted because reason.	The HA interconnect is active and can transmit data to the partner node. The previous takeover attempt was aborted because of the reason displayed under reason.
Waiting for partner_name. Previous takeover attempt was aborted because reason.	The local node cannot exchange information with the partner node over the HA interconnect. The previous takeover attempt was aborted because of the reason displayed under reason.
· —	The HA interconnect is active and can transmit data to the partner node. The previous takeover attempt by the partner node was aborted because of the reason displayed under reason.
Connected to partner_name. Previous takeover attempt by partner_name was aborted.	The HA interconnect is active and can transmit data to the partner node. The previous takeover attempt by the partner node was aborted.
Waiting for partner_name. Previous takeover attempt by partner_name was aborted because reason.	The local node cannot exchange information with the partner node over the HA interconnect. The previous takeover attempt by the partner node was aborted because of the reason displayed under reason.
	The previous giveback attempt failed in module module_name. Auto giveback will be initiated in number of seconds seconds. • Run the storage failover show-giveback command for more information.
Node owns partner's aggregates as part of the non-disruptive controller upgrade procedure.	The node owns its partner's aggregates due to the non- disruptive controller upgrade procedure currently in progress.
Connected to partner_name. Node owns aggregates belonging to another node in the cluster.	The HA interconnect is active and can transmit data to the partner node. The node owns aggregates belonging to another node in the cluster.
Connected to partner_name. Waiting for partner lock synchronization.	The HA interconnect is active and can transmit data to the partner node. The system is waiting for partner lock synchronization to complete.

Node State	Description
Connected to partner_name. Waiting for cluster applications to come online on the local node.	The HA interconnect is active and can transmit data to the partner node. The system is waiting for cluster applications to come online on the local node.
Non-HA mode, reboot to use full NVRAM.	Storage failover is not possible. The HA mode option is configured as non_ha. • You must reboot the node to use all of its NVRAM.
Non-HA mode. Reboot node to activate HA.	Storage failover is not possible. • The node must be rebooted to enable HA capability.
Non-HA mode.	Storage failover is not possible. The HA mode option is configured as non_ha. • You must run the storage failover modify -mode ha -node nodename command on both nodes in the HA pair and then reboot the nodes to enable HA capability.

Commands for enabling and disabling storage failover

Use the following commands to enable and disable storage failover functionality.

If you want to	Use this command
Enable takeover	storage failover modify -enabled true -node nodename
Disable takeover	storage failover modify -enabled false -node nodename



You should only disable storage failover if required as part of a maintenance procedure. If you have any questions about whether you should disable storage failover, contact NetApp Support.

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