Enterprise Hybrid Cloud

NetApp Solutions

NetApp
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Overview of Enterprise Hybrid Cloud (EHC)

Most IT organizations follow the hybrid cloud-first approach. These organizations are in a transformation phase and customers are evaluating their current IT landscape and then migrating their workloads to the cloud based on the assessment and discovery exercise.

The factors for customers migrating to the cloud can include elasticity and burst, data center exit, data center consolidation, end-of-life scenarios, mergers, acquisitions, and so on. The reason for this migration can vary based on each organization and their respective business priorities. When moving to the hybrid cloud, choosing the right storage in the cloud is very important in order to unleash the power of cloud deployment and elasticity.

VMware Cloud options in Public Cloud

Azure VMware Solution

Azure VMware Solution is a hybrid cloud service that allows for fully functioning VMware SDDCs within the Microsoft Azure public cloud. Azure VMware Solution is a first-party solution fully managed and supported by Microsoft, verified by VMware leveraging Azure infrastructure. This means that when Azure VMware Solution is deployed, customer's get VMware's ESXi for compute virtualization, vSAN for hyper-converged storage, and NSX for networking and security, all while taking advantage of Microsoft Azure's global presence, class-leading data center facilities and proximity to the rich ecosystem of native Azure services and solutions.

VMware Cloud on AWS

VMware Cloud on AWS brings VMware's enterprise-class SDDC software to the AWS Cloud with optimized access to native AWS services. Powered by VMware Cloud Foundation, VMware Cloud on AWS integrates VMware's compute, storage, and network virtualization products (VMware vSphere, VMware vSAN, and VMware NSX) along with VMware vCenter Server management, optimized to run on dedicated, elastic, bare-metal AWS infrastructure.

Google Cloud VMware Engine

Google Cloud VMware Engine is an infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) offering built on Google Cloud's highly performant scalable infrastructure and VMware Cloud Foundation stack – VMware vSphere, vCenter, vSAN,

and NSX-T. This service enables a fast path to the cloud, seamlessly migrating or extending existing VMware workloads from on-premises environments to Google Cloud Platform without the cost, effort ,or risk of rearchitecting applications or retooling operations. It is a service sold and supported by Google, working closely with VMware.

SDDC private cloud and NetApp Cloud Volumes colocation provides the best performance with minimal network latency.

Did you know?

Regardless of the cloud used, when a VMware SDDC is deployed, the initial cluster includes the following products:

- VMware ESXi hosts for compute virtualization with a vCenter Server appliance for management
- VMware vSAN hyper-converged storage incorporating the physical storage assets of each ESXi host
- VMware NSX for virtual networking and security with an NSX Manager cluster for management

Storage configuration

For customers planning to host storage-intensive workloads and scale out on any cloud-hosted VMware solution, the default hyper-converged infrastructure dictates that the expansion should be on both the compute and storage resources.

By integrating with NetApp Cloud Volumes, such as Azure NetApp Files, Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP, Cloud Volumes ONTAP (available in all three major hyperscalers), and Cloud Volumes Service for Google Cloud, customers now have options to independently scale their storage separately, and only add compute nodes to the SDDC cluster as needed.

Notes:

- VMware does not recommend unbalanced cluster configurations, hence expanding storage means adding more hosts, which implies more TCO.
- Only one vSAN environment is possible. Therefore, all storage traffic will compete directly with production workloads.
- There is no option to provide multiple performance tiers to align application requirements, performance, and cost.
- It is very easy to reach the limits of storage capacity of vSAN built on top of the cluster hosts. Use NetApp Cloud Volumes to scale storage to either host active datasets or tier cooler data to persistent storage.

Azure NetApp Files, Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP, Cloud Volumes ONTAP (available in all three major hyperscalers), and Cloud Volumes Service for Google Cloud can be used in conjunction with guest VMs. This hybrid storage architecture consists of a vSAN datastore that holds the guest operating system and application binary data. The application data is attached to the VM through a guest-based iSCSI initiator or the NFS/SMB mounts that communicate directly with Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP, Cloud Volume ONTAP, Azure NetApp Files and Cloud Volumes Service for Google Cloud respectively. This configuration allows you to easily overcome challenges with storage capacity as with vSAN, the available free space depends on the slack space and storage policies used.

Let’s consider a three-node SDDC cluster on VMware Cloud on AWS:

- The total raw capacity for a three-node SDDC = 31.1TB (roughly 10TB for each node).

- The slack space to be maintained before additional hosts are added = 25% = (.25 x 31.1TB) = 7.7TB.
- The usable raw capacity after slack space deduction = 23.4TB
- The effective free space available depends on the storage policy applied.

  For example:

  - RAID 0 = effective free space = 23.4TB (usable raw capacity/1)
  - RAID 1 = effective free space = 11.7TB (usable raw capacity/2)
  - RAID 5 = effective free space = 17.5TB (usable raw capacity/1.33)

Thus, using NetApp Cloud Volumes as guest-connected storage would help in expanding the storage and optimizing the TCO while meeting the performance and data protection requirements.

NetApp storage as a datastore is currently available as Private preview in all of the major hyperscaler clouds. Please visit the following links for more information.

FSx ONTAP as a native datastore for AWS
Azure NetApp Files (ANF) as a native datastore for Azure
Cloud Volumes Service (CVS) as a native datastore for GCP

Points to Remember

- In hybrid storage models, place tier 1 or high priority workloads on vSAN datastore to address any specific latency requirements because they are part of the host itself and within proximity. Use in-guest mechanisms for any workload VMs for which transactional latencies are acceptable.
- Use NetApp SnapMirror® technology to replicate the workload data from the on-premises ONTAP system to Cloud Volumes ONTAP or Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP to ease migration using block-level mechanisms. This does not apply to Azure NetApp Files and Cloud Volumes Services. For migrating data to Azure NetApp Files or Cloud Volumes Services, use NetApp XCP, Cloud sync, rysnc or robocopy depending on the file protocol used.
- Testing shows 2-4ms additional latency while accessing storage from the respective SDDCs. Factor this additional latency into the application requirements when mapping the storage.
- For mounting guest-connected storage during test failover and actual failover, make sure iSCSI initiators are reconfigured, DNS is updated for SMB shares, and NFS mount points are updated in fstab.
- Make sure that in-guest Microsoft Multipath I/O (MPIO), firewall, and disk timeout registry settings are configured properly inside the VM.

This applies to guest connected storage only.

Benefits of NetApp cloud storage

NetApp cloud storage offers the following benefits:

- Improves compute-to-storage density by scaling storage independently of compute.
- Allows you to reduce the host count, thus reducing the overall TCO.
- Compute node failure does not impact storage performance.
- The volume reshaping and dynamic service-level capability of Azure NetApp Files allows you to optimize cost by sizing for steady-state workloads, and thus preventing over provisioning.

- The storage efficiencies, cloud tiering, and instance-type modification capabilities of Cloud Volumes ONTAP allow optimal ways of adding and scaling storage.
- Prevents over provisioning storage resources are added only when needed.
- Efficient Snapshot copies and clones allow you to rapidly create copies without any performance impact.
- Helps address ransomware attacks by using quick recovery from Snapshot copies.
- Provides efficient incremental block transfer-based regional disaster recovery and integrated backup block level across regions provides better RPO and RTOs.

Assumptions

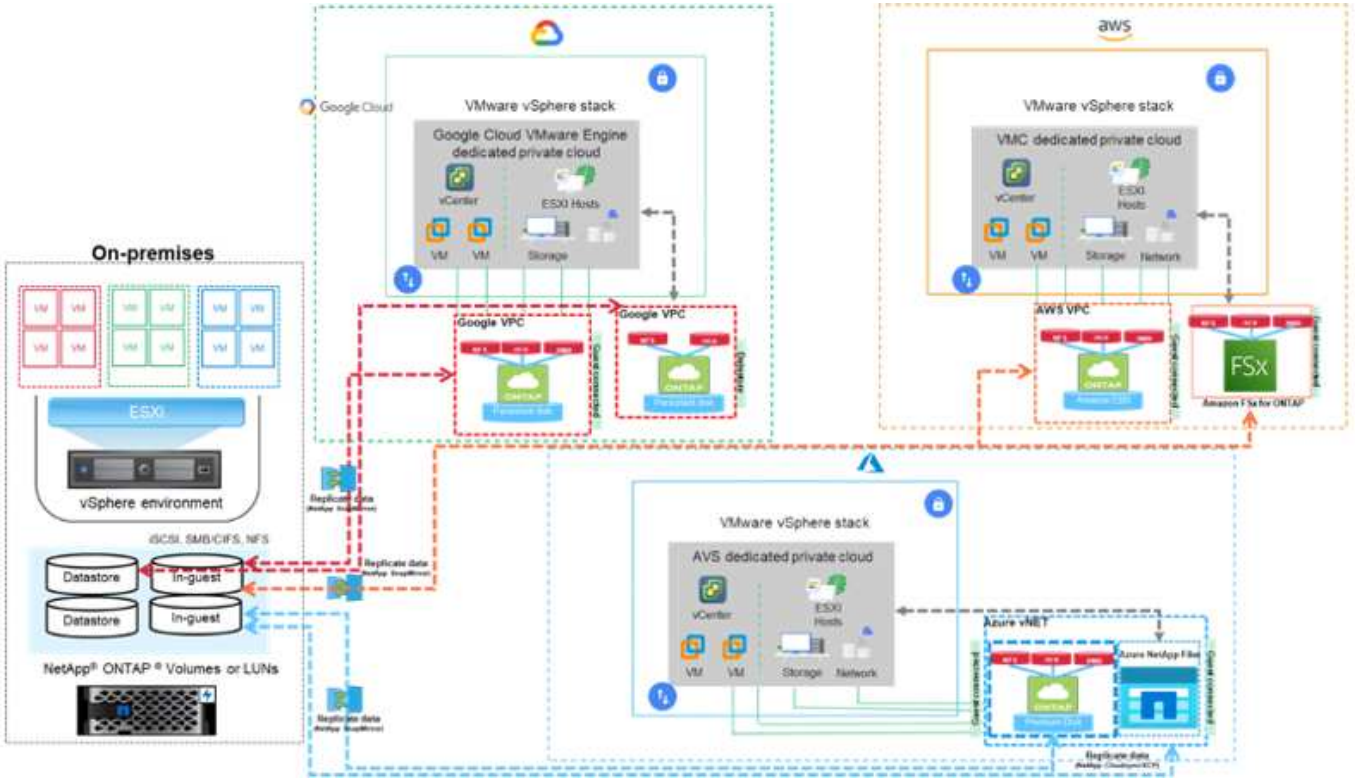
- SnapMirror technology or other relevant data migration mechanisms are enabled. There are many connectivity options, from on-premises to any hyperscaler cloud. Use the appropriate path and work with the relevant networking teams.
- In-guest storage was the only available option at the time this document was written.

> NetApp storage as a datastore is currently available as Private preview in all of the major hyperscaler clouds. Please visit the following links for more information.
>
> FSx ONTAP as a native datastore for AWS
> Azure NetApp Files (ANF) as a native datastore for Azure
> Cloud Volumes Service (CVS) as a native datastore for GCP

> Engage NetApp solution architects and respective hyperscaler cloud architects for planning and sizing of storage and the required number of hosts. NetApp recommends identifying the storage performance requirements before using the Cloud Volumes ONTAP sizer to finalize the storage instance type or the appropriate service level with the right throughput.

Detailed architecture

From a high-level perspective, this architecture (shown in the figure below) covers how to achieve hybrid multi-cloud connectivity and app portability across multiple cloud providers using NetApp Cloud Volumes ONTAP, Cloud Volumes Service for Google Cloud and Azure NetApp Files as an additional in-guest storage option.



NetApp Solutions for VMware in Hyperscalers

Learn more about the capabilities that NetApp brings to the three (3) primary hyperscalers - from NetApp as a guest connected storage device or a native datastore to migrating workflows, extending/bursting to the cloud, backup/restore and disaster recovery.

Pick your cloud and let NetApp do the rest!

To see the capabilities for a specific hyperscaler, click on the appropriate tab for that hyperscaler.

Jump to the section for the desired content by selecting from the following options:

- VMware in the Hyperscalers Configuration

- NetApp Storage Options

VMware in the Hyperscalers Configuration

As with on-premises, planning a cloud based virtualization environment is critical for a successful production-ready environment for creating VMs and migration.

Azure

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AWS

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Google Cloud

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NetApp Storage Options

NetApp storage can be utilized in several ways - either as guess connected or as a native datastore - within each of the 3 major hyperscalers.

Please visit Supported NetApp Storage Options for more information.

Azure

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AWS

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Google Cloud

Unresolved directive in ehc/ehc-hyperscalers.adoc - include::ehc/ehc-datastore.adoc[tag=gcp-datastore]

Supported Configurations for Enterprise Hybrid Cloud (EHC)

Understanding the combinations for NetApp storage support in the major hyperscalers.

	Azure AVS	AWS VMC	GCP GCVE
Cloud Volumes ONTAP (CVO)	Guest Connected	Guest Connected	Guest Connected
Cloud Volumes Service (CVS)	-	-	Guest Connected Native Datastore[1]
Azure NetApp Files (ANF)	Guest Connected Native Datastore[1]	N/A	N/A

FSx ONTAP	N/A	Guest Connected Native Datastore[1]	N/A

1 - Currently in Private Preview

Configuring the virtualization environment in the cloud provider

Details for how to configure the virtualization environment in each of the supported hyperscalers are covered here.

Jump to the section for the desired hyperscaler by selecting from the following options:

- Configure the Amazon VMware Solution (AVS)
- Configure the Azure VMware Managed Cloud (VMC)
- Configure the Google Cloud Virtualization Engine (GCVE)

Configuring VMC for AWS

As with on-premises, planning VMware Cloud on AWS is critical for a successful production-ready environment for creating VMs and migration.

This section describes how to set up and manage VMware Cloud on AWS SDDC and use it in combination with the available options for connecting NetApp storage.

In-guest storage is the only supported method of connecting FSx ONTAP and Cloud Volumes ONTAP to AWS VMC.

The setup process can be broken down into the following steps:

- Deploy and configure VMware Cloud for AWS
- Connect VMware Cloud to FSx ONTAP

Configuring AVS for Azure

As with on-premises, planning Azure VMware Solution is critical for a successful production-ready environment for creating VMs and migration.

This section describes how to set up and manage Azure VMware Solution and use it in combination with the available options for connecting NetApp storage.

In-guest storage is the only supported method of connecting Azure NetApp Files and Cloud Volumes ONTAP to Azure VMware Solution.

The setup process can be broken down into the following steps:

- Register the resource provider and create a private cloud
- Connect to a new or existing ExpressRoute virtual network gateway
- Validate the network connectivity and access the private cloud

Configuring GCVE for Google Cloud Platform

As with on-premises, planning Google Cloud VMware Engine (GCVE) is critical for a successful production-ready environment for creating VMs and migration.

This section describes how to set up and manage GCVE and use it in combination with the available options for connecting NetApp storage.

> In-guest storage is the only supported method of connecting Cloud Volumes ONTAP and Cloud Volumes Services to GCVE.

The setup process can be broken down into the following steps:

- Deploy and Configure GCVE
- Enable Private Access to GCVE

NetApp Storage options for Public Cloud Providers

Explore the options for NetApp as storage in the three major hyperscalers.

NetApp Storage Options for AWS

AWS supports NetApp storage in the following configurations:

Guest Connected Storage

- FSx ONTAP as guest connected storage
- Cloud Volumes ONTAP (CVO) as guest connected storage

Native Datastore

- FSx ONTAP as a native datastore[1]

> 1 - Currently in Private Preview

NetApp Storage Options for Azure

Azure supports NetApp storage in the following configurations:

Guest Connected Storage

- Azure NetApp Files (ANF) as guest connected storage
- Cloud Volumes ONTAP (CVO) as guest connected storage

Native Datastore

- Azure NetApp Files (ANF) as a native datastore[1]

> 1 - Currently in Private Preview

NetApp Storage Options for GCP

Google Cloud supports NetApp storage in the following configurations:

Guest Connected Storage

- Cloud Volumes ONTAP (CVO) as guest connected storage
- Cloud Volumes Service (CVS) as guest connected storage

Native Datastore

- Cloud Volumes Service (CVS) as a native datastore[1]

1 - Currently in Private Preview

Summary and Conclusion: Why NetApp for Enterprise Hybrid Cloud (EHC)

NetApp Cloud Volumes along with VMware solutions for the major hyperscalers provides great potential for organizations looking to leverage hybrid cloud. The rest of this section provides the use cases that show integrating NetApp Cloud Volumes enables true hybrid multi-cloud capabilities.

Use case #1: Optimizing storage

When performing a sizing exercise using RVtools output, it is always evident that the horsepower (vCPU/vMem) scale is parallel with storage. Many times, organizations find themselves in a situation where the storage space requires drives the size of the cluster well beyond what is needed for horsepower.

By integrating NetApp Cloud Volumes, organizations can realize a vSphere-based cloud solution with a simple migration approach, with no re-platforming, no IP changes, and no architectural changes. Additionally, this optimization enables you to scale the storage footprint while keeping the host count to least amount required in vSphere, but no change to the storage hierarchy, security, or files made available. This allows you to optimize the deployment and reduce the overall TCO by 35–45%. This integration also enables you to scale storage from warm storage to production-level performance in seconds.

Use case #2: Cloud migration

Organizations are under pressure to migrate applications from on-premises data centers to the Public Cloud for multiple reasons: an upcoming lease expiration; a finance directive to move from capital expenditure (capex) spending to operational expenditures (opex) spending; or simply a top-down mandate to move everything to the cloud.

When speed is critical, only a streamlined migration approach is feasible because re-platforming and refactoring applications to adapt to the cloud's particular IaaS platform is slow and expensive, often taking months. By combining NetApp Cloud Volumes with the bandwidth-efficient SnapMirror replication for guest-connected storage (including RDMs in conjunction with application-consistent Snapshot copies and HCX, cloud specific migration (e.g. Azure Migrate), or third-party products for replicating VMs), this transition is even easier than relying on time-consuming I/O filters mechanisms.

Use case #3: Data center expansion

When a data center reaches capacity limits due to seasonal demand spikes or just steady organic growth, moving to the cloud-hosted VMware along with NetApp Cloud Volumes is an easy solution. Leveraging NetApp

Cloud Volumes allows storage creation, replication, and expansion very easily by providing high availability across availability zones and dynamic scaling capabilities. Leveraging NetApp Cloud Volumes helps in minimizing host cluster capacity by overcoming the need for stretch clusters.

Use case #4: Disaster recovery to the cloud

In a traditional approach, if a disaster occurs, the VMs replicated to the cloud would require conversion to the cloud's own hypervisor platform before they could be restored – not a task to be handled during a crisis.

By using NetApp Cloud Volumes for guest-connected storage using SnapCenter and SnapMirror replication from on-premises along with public cloud virtualization solutions, a better approach for disaster recovery can be devised allowing VM replicas to be recovered on fully consistent VMware SDDC infrastructure along with cloud specific recovery tools (e.g. Azure Site Recovery) or equivalent third-party tools such as Veeam. This approach also enables you to perform disaster recovery drills and recovery from ransomware quickly. This also enables you to scale to full production for testing or during a disaster by adding hosts on-demand.

Use case #5: Application modernization

After applications are in the public cloud, organizations will want to take advantage of the hundreds of powerful cloud services to modernize and extend them. With the use of NetApp Cloud Volumes, modernization is an easy process because the application data is not locked into vSAN and allows data mobility for a wide range of use cases, including Kubernetes.

Conclusion

Whether you are targeting an all-cloud or hybrid cloud, NetApp Cloud Volumes provides excellent options to deploy and manage the application workloads along with file services and block protocols while reducing the TCO by making the data requirements seamless to the application layer.

Whatever the use case, choose your favorite cloud/hyperscaler together with NetApp Cloud Volumes for rapid realization of cloud benefits, consistent infrastructure, and operations across on-premises and multiple clouds, bidirectional portability of workloads, and enterprise-grade capacity and performance.

It is the same familiar process and procedures that are used to connect the storage. Remember, it is just the position of the data that changed with new names; the tools and processes all remain the same and NetApp Cloud Volumes helps in optimizing the overall deployment.

VMware Hybrid Cloud Use Cases

Use Cases of Enterprise Hybrid Cloud (EHC)

An overview of the use cases of importance to IT organization when planning hybrid-cloud or cloud-first deployments.

Popular Use Cases

Use cases include:

- Disaster recovery,
- Hosting workloads during data center maintenance, * quick burst in which additional resources are required beyond what's provisioned in the local data center,
- VMware site expansion,

- Fast migration to the cloud,
- Dev/test, and
- Modernization of apps leveraging cloud native technologies.

Inside the IT Journey

Most organizations are on a journey to transformation and modernization. As part of this process, companies are trying use their existing VMware investments while leveraging cloud benefits and exploring ways to make the migration process as seamless as possible. This approach would make their modernization efforts very easy because the data is already in the cloud.

The easiest answer to this scenario is VMware offerings in each hyperscaler. Like NetApp® Cloud Volumes, VMware provides a way to move or extend on-premises VMware environments to any cloud, allowing you to retain existing on-premises assets, skills, and tools while running workloads natively in the cloud. This reduces risk because there will be no service breaks or a need for IP changes and provides the IT team the ability to operate the way they do on-premises using existing skills and tools. This can lead to accelerated cloud migrations and a much smoother transition to a hybrid multi-cloud architecture.

Understanding the Importance of Native Storage Options

While VMware in any cloud delivers unique hybrid capabilities to every customer, limited native storage options have restricted its usefulness for organizations with storage-heavy workloads. Because storage is directly tied to hosts, the only way to scale storage is to add more hosts—and that can increase costs by 35–40 percent or more for storage intensive workloads. These workloads just need additional storage, not additional horsepower. But that means paying for additional hosts.

Let’s consider this scenario:

A customer requires just five hosts for CPU and memory, but has a lot of storage needs, and needs 12 hosts to meet the storage requirement. This requirement ends up really tipping the financial scale by having to buy the additional horsepower, when they only need to increment the storage.

When you’re planning cloud adoption and migrations, it’s always important to evaluate the best approach and take the easiest path that reduces total investments. The most common and easiest approach for any application migration is rehosting (also known as lift and shift) where there is no virtual machine (VM) or data conversion. Using NetApp Cloud Volumes with VMware software-defined data center (SDDC), while complementing vSAN, provides an easy lift-and-shift option.

NetApp in Hyperscaler Cloud

NetApp Capabilities for AWS VMC

Learn more about the capabilities that NetApp brings to the AWS VMware Cloud (VMC) - from NetApp as a guest connected storage device or a native datastore to migrating workflows, extending/bursting to the cloud, backup/restore and disaster recovery.

Jump to the section for the desired content by selecting from the following options:

Configuring VMC in AWS

As with on-premises, planning a cloud based virtualization environment is critical for a successful production-ready environment for creating VMs and migration.

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NetApp Storage Options for VMC

NetApp storage can be utilized in several ways - either as guess connected or as a native datastore - within AWS VMC.

Please visit Supported NetApp Storage Options for more information.

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NetApp Capabilities for Azure AVS

Learn more about the capabilities that NetApp brings to the Azure VMware Solution (AVS) - from NetApp as a guest connected storage device or a native datastore to migrating workflows, extending/bursting to the cloud, backup/restore and disaster recovery.

Jump to the section for the desired content by selecting from the following options:

- VMware in the Hyperscalers Configuration
- NetApp Storage Options

Configuring AVS in Azure

As with on-premises, planning a cloud based virtualization environment is critical for a successful production-ready environment for creating VMs and migration.

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NetApp Storage Options for AVS

NetApp storage can be utilized in several ways - either as guess connected or as a native datastore - within Azure AVS.

Please visit Supported NetApp Storage Options for more information.

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NetApp Capabilities for Google Cloud Platform GCVE

Learn more about the capabilities that NetApp brings to the Google Cloud Platform (GCP) Google Cloud Virtualization Ending (GCVE) - from NetApp as a guest connected storage device or a native datastore to migrating workflows, extending/bursting to the cloud, backup/restore and disaster recovery.

Jump to the section for the desired content by selecting from the following options:

- VMware in the Hyperscalers Configuration
- NetApp Storage Options

Configuring GCVE in Google Cloud

As with on-premises, planning a cloud based virtualization environment is critical for a successful production-ready environment for creating VMs and migration.

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NetApp Storage Options for GCVE

NetApp storage can be utilized in several ways - either as guess connected or as a native datastore - within GCP GCVE.

Please visit Supported NetApp Storage Options for more information.

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