



Deciding which procedure to use

ONTAP MetroCluster

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You must understand the differences between a MetroCluster upgrade, expansion, or transition and choose the procedure that matches your goal.

- **Upgrade**

In an upgrade procedure, you are replacing the controller modules with a new model of controller module.

- The old controller modules are retired.
- The storage is not upgraded.
- The storage switch infrastructure technology is not changed.

It remains as a MetroCluster IP, fabric-attached MetroCluster or stretch MetroCluster configuration.

[Choosing an upgrade or refresh method](#)

- **Refresh**

In a refresh procedure, you are replacing the controller modules with a new model of controller module and also replacing the storage shelves.

- The old controller modules and storage shelves are retired.
- The storage switch infrastructure technology is not changed, unless new switches are required to accommodate the new platform models.

The configuration remains as its original type:

- MetroCluster IP
- Fabric-attached MetroCluster
- Stretch MetroCluster configuration + [Choosing an upgrade or refresh method](#)

- **Transition**

In a transition procedure, the backend switch infrastructure is changed from FC switches or connections to IP switches, and the platform models are replaced.

- New controller modules are added to the configuration.
- The original controller modules are retired after the procedure.
- If the original configuration used cluster interconnect switches, they can be reused, depending on the switch and platform models.
- The storage can be reused or replaced, depending on the platform models.

If the storage shelves are not reused, data is moved from the old shelves to the new shelves.

[xref:./transition/./transition/index.html](#)

- **Expansion**

In an expansion procedure, additional nodes and storage are added to the MetroCluster FC configuration.

- [Expanding a two-node MetroCluster FC configuration to a four-node configuration](#)
- [Expanding a four-node MetroCluster FC configuration to an eight-node configuration](#)

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