



# **Use FlexClone LUNs to protect your data**

## **ONTAP 9**

NetApp  
May 30, 2023

This PDF was generated from <https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/ontap/san-admin/flexclone-luns-protect-your-data-concept.html> on May 30, 2023. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

# Table of Contents

- Use FlexClone LUNs to protect your data . . . . . 1
  - Use FlexClone LUNs to protect your data overview . . . . . 1
  - Reasons for using FlexClone LUNs . . . . . 1
  - How a FlexVol volume can reclaim free space with autodelete setting . . . . . 2
  - Configure a FlexVol volume to automatically delete FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs . . . . . 2
  - Clone LUNs from an active volume . . . . . 4
  - Create FlexClone LUNs from a Snapshot copy in a volume . . . . . 5
  - Prevent a specific FlexClone file or FlexClone LUN from being automatically deleted . . . . . 6

# Use FlexClone LUNs to protect your data

## Use FlexClone LUNs to protect your data overview

A FlexClone LUN is a point-in-time, writeable copy of another LUN in an active volume or in a Snapshot copy. The clone and its parent can be modified independently without affecting each other.

A FlexClone LUN shares space initially with its parent LUN. By default, the FlexClone LUN inherits the space-reserved attribute of the parent LUN. For example, if the parent LUN is non-space-reserved, the FlexClone LUN is also non-space-reserved by default. However, you can create a non-space-reserved FlexClone LUN from a parent that is a space-reserved LUN.

When you clone a LUN, block sharing occurs in the background and you cannot create a volume Snapshot copy until the block sharing is finished.

You must configure the volume to enable the FlexClone LUN automatic deletion function with the `volume snapshot autodelete modify` command. Otherwise, if you want FlexClone LUNs to be deleted automatically but the volume is not configured for FlexClone auto delete, none of the FlexClone LUNs are deleted.

When you create a FlexClone LUN, the FlexClone LUN automatic deletion function is disabled by default. You must manually enable it on every FlexClone LUN before that FlexClone LUN can be automatically deleted. If you are using semi-thick volume provisioning and you want the “best effort” write guarantee provided by this option, you must make *all* FlexClone LUNs available for automatic deletion.



When you create a FlexClone LUN from a Snapshot copy, the LUN is automatically split from the Snapshot copy by using a space-efficient background process so that the LUN does not continue to depend on the Snapshot copy or consume any additional space. If this background split has not been completed and this Snapshot copy is automatically deleted, that FlexClone LUN is deleted even if you have disabled the FlexClone auto delete function for that FlexClone LUN. After the background split is complete, the FlexClone LUN is not deleted even if that Snapshot copy is deleted.

### Related information

[Logical storage management](#)

## Reasons for using FlexClone LUNs

You can use FlexClone LUNs to create multiple read/write copies of a LUN.

You might want to do this for the following reasons:

- You need to create a temporary copy of a LUN for testing purposes.
- You need to make a copy of your data available to additional users without giving them access to the production data.
- You want to create a clone of a database for manipulation and projection operations, while preserving the original data in an unaltered form.
- You want to access a specific subset of a LUN's data (a specific logical volume or file system in a volume group, or a specific file or set of files in a file system) and copy it to the original LUN, without restoring the

rest of the data in the original LUN. This works on operating systems that support mounting a LUN and a clone of the LUN at the same time. SnapDrive for UNIX supports this with the `snap connect` command.

- You need multiple SAN boot hosts with the same operating system.

## How a FlexVol volume can reclaim free space with autodelete setting

You can enable the autodelete setting of a FlexVol volume to automatically delete FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs. By enabling autodelete, you can reclaim a target amount of free space in the volume when a volume is nearly full.

You can configure a volume to automatically start deleting FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs when the free space in the volume decreases below a particular threshold value, and automatically stop deleting clones when a target amount of free space in the volume is reclaimed. Although, you cannot specify the threshold value that starts the automatic deletion of clones, you can specify whether a clone is eligible for deletion, and you can specify the target amount of free space for a volume.

A volume automatically deletes FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs when the free space in the volume decreases below a particular threshold and when *both* of the following requirements are met:

- The autodelete capability is enabled for the volume that contains the FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs.

You can enable the autodelete capability for a FlexVol volume by using the `volume snapshot autodelete modify` command. You must set the `-trigger` parameter to `volume` or `snap_reserve` for a volume to automatically delete FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs.

- The autodelete capability is enabled for the FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs.

You can enable autodelete for a FlexClone file or FlexClone LUN by using the `file clone create` command with the `-autodelete` parameter. As a result, you can preserve certain FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs by disabling autodelete for the clones and ensuring that other volume settings do not override the clone setting.

## Configure a FlexVol volume to automatically delete FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs

You can enable a FlexVol volume to automatically delete FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs with autodelete enabled when the free space in the volume decreases below a particular threshold.

### What you'll need

- The FlexVol volume must contain FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs and be online.
- The FlexVol volume must not be a read-only volume.

### Steps

1. Enable automatic deletion of FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs in the FlexVol volume by using the `volume snapshot autodelete modify` command.
  - For the `-trigger` parameter, you can specify `volume` or `snap_reserve`.

- For the `-destroy-list` parameter, you must always specify `lun_clone`, `file_clone` regardless of whether you want to delete only one type of clone.

The following example shows how you can enable volume vol1 to trigger the automatic deletion of FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs for space reclamation until 25% of the volume consists of free space:

```
cluster1::> volume snapshot autodelete modify -vserver vs1 -volume
vol1 -enabled true -commitment disrupt -trigger volume -target-free
-space 25 -destroy-list lun_clone,file_clone
```

```
Volume modify successful on volume:vol1
```



While enabling FlexVol volumes for automatic deletion, if you set the value of the `-commitment` parameter to `destroy`, all the FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs with the `-autodelete` parameter set to `true` might be deleted when the free space in the volume decreases below the specified threshold value. However, FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs with the `-autodelete` parameter set to `false` will not be deleted.

2. Verify that automatic deletion of FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs is enabled in the FlexVol volume by using the `volume snapshot autodelete show` command.

The following example shows that volume vol1 is enabled for automatic deletion of FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs:

```
cluster1::> volume snapshot autodelete show -vserver vs1 -volume vol1
```

```
Vserver Name: vs1
Volume Name: vol1
Enabled: true
Commitment: disrupt
Defer Delete: user_created
Delete Order: oldest_first
Defer Delete Prefix: (not specified)*
Target Free Space: 25%
Trigger: volume
Destroy List: lun_clone,file_clone
Is Constituent Volume: false
```

3. Ensure that autodelete is enabled for the FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs in the volume that you want to delete by performing the following steps:

- a. Enable automatic deletion of a particular FlexClone file or FlexClone LUN by using the `volume file clone autodelete` command.

You can force a specific FlexClone file or FlexClone LUN to be automatically deleted by using the `volume file clone autodelete` command with the `-force` parameter.

The following example shows that automatic deletion of the FlexClone LUN lun1\_clone contained in volume vol1 is enabled:

```
cluster1::> volume file clone autodelete -vserver vs1 -clone-path  
/vol/vol1/lun1_clone -enabled true
```

You can enable autodelete when you create FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs.

- b. Verify that the FlexClone file or FlexClone LUN is enabled for automatic deletion by using the `volume file clone show-autodelete` command.

The following example shows that the FlexClone LUN lun1\_clone is enabled for automatic deletion:

```
cluster1::> volume file clone show-autodelete -vserver vs1 -clone  
-path vol/vol1/lun1_clone  
  
Name: vs1  
Path: vol/vol1/lun1_clone  
  
**Autodelete Enabled: true**
```

For more information about using the commands, see the respective man pages.

## Clone LUNs from an active volume

You can create copies of your LUNs by cloning the LUNs in the active volume. These FlexClone LUNs are readable and writeable copies of the original LUNs in the active volume.

### What you'll need

A FlexClone license must be installed.

### About this task

A space-reserved FlexClone LUN requires as much space as the space-reserved parent LUN. If the FlexClone LUN is not space-reserved, you must ensure that the volume has enough space to accommodate changes to the FlexClone LUN.

### Steps

1. You must have verified that the LUNs are not mapped to an igroup or are written to before making the clone.
2. Use the `lun show` command to verify that the LUN exists.

```
lun show -vserver vs1
```

Vserver	Path	State	Mapped	Type	Size
vs1	/vol/vol1/lun1	online	unmapped	windows	47.07MB

3. Use the `volume file clone create` command to create the FlexClone LUN.

```
volume file clone create -vserver vs1 -volume vol1 -source-path lun1
-destination-path/lun1_clone
```

If you need the FlexClone LUN to be available for automatic deletion, you include `-autodelete true`. If you are creating this FlexClone LUN in a volume using semi-thick provisioning, you must enable automatic deletion for all FlexClone LUNs.

4. Use the `lun show` command to verify that you created a LUN.

```
lun show -vserver vs1
```

Vserver	Path	State	Mapped	Type	Size
vs1	/vol/volX/lun1	online	unmapped	windows	47.07MB
vs1	/vol/volX/lun1_clone	online	unmapped	windows	47.07MB

## Create FlexClone LUNs from a Snapshot copy in a volume

You can use a Snapshot copy in your volume to create FlexClone copies of your LUNs. FlexClone copies of LUNs are both readable and writeable.

### What you'll need

A FlexClone license must be installed.

### About this task

The FlexClone LUN inherits the space reservations attribute of the parent LUN. A space-reserved FlexClone LUN requires as much space as the space-reserved parent LUN. If the FlexClone LUN is not space-reserved, the volume must have enough space to accommodate changes to the clone.

### Steps

1. Verify that the LUN is not mapped or being written to.
2. Create a Snapshot copy of the volume that contains the LUNs:

```
volume snapshot create -vserver vs1 -volume vol1 -snapshot
snapshot_name
```

You must create a Snapshot copy (the backing Snapshot copy) of the LUN you want to clone.

3. Create the FlexClone LUN from the Snapshot copy:

```
file clone create -vserver vs1 -volume vol1 -source-path
```

```
source_path -snapshot-name snapshot_name -destination-path destination_path
```

If you need the FlexClone LUN to be available for automatic deletion, you include `-autodelete true`. If you are creating this FlexClone LUN in a volume using semi-thick provisioning, you must enable automatic deletion for all FlexClone LUNs.

#### 4. Verify that the FlexClone LUN is correct:

```
lun show -vserver vs1 -lun lun1_clone
```

Vserver	Path	State	Mapped	Type	Size
vs1	/vol/vol1/lun1_clone	online	unmapped	windows	47.07MB
vs1	/vol/vol1/lun1_snap_clone	online	unmapped	windows	47.07MB

## Prevent a specific FlexClone file or FlexClone LUN from being automatically deleted

If you configure a FlexVol volume to automatically delete FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs, any clone that fits the criteria you specify might be deleted. If you have specific FlexClone files or FlexClone LUNs that you want to preserve, you can exclude them from the automatic FlexClone deletion process.

### What you'll need

A FlexClone license must be installed.

### About this task

When you create a FlexClone file or FlexClone LUN, by default the `autodelete` setting for the clone is disabled. FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs with `autodelete` disabled are preserved when you configure a FlexVol volume to automatically delete clones to reclaim space on the volume.



If you set the `commitment` level on the volume to `try` or `disrupt`, you can individually preserve specific FlexClone files or FlexClone LUNs by disabling `autodelete` for those clones. However, if you set the `commitment` level on the volume to `destroy` and the `destroy` lists include `lun_clone`, `file_clone`, the volume setting overrides the clone setting, and all FlexClone files and FlexClone LUNs can be deleted regardless of the `autodelete` setting for the clones.

### Steps

1. Prevent a specific FlexClone file or FlexClone LUN from being automatically deleted by using the `volume file clone autodelete` command.

The following example shows how you can disable `autodelete` for FlexClone LUN `lun1_clone` contained in `vol1`:



```
cluster1::> volume file clone autodelete -vserver vs1 -volume vol1  
-clone-path lun1_clone -enable false
```

A FlexClone file or FlexClone LUN with autodelete disabled cannot be deleted automatically to reclaim space on the volume.

2. Verify that autodelete is disabled for the FlexClone file or FlexClone LUN by using the `volume file clone show-autodelete` command.

The following example shows that autodelete is false for the FlexClone LUN `lun1_clone`:

```
cluster1::> volume file clone show-autodelete -vserver vs1 -clone-path  
vol/vol1/lun1_clone
```

	Vserver
Name:	vs1
	Clone Path:
vol/vol1/lun1_clone	
	Autodelete
Enabled:	false

## Copyright information

Copyright © 2023 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.

LIMITED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subparagraph (b)(3) of the Rights in Technical Data -Noncommercial Items at DFARS 252.227-7013 (FEB 2014) and FAR 52.227-19 (DEC 2007).

Data contained herein pertains to a commercial product and/or commercial service (as defined in FAR 2.101) and is proprietary to NetApp, Inc. All NetApp technical data and computer software provided under this Agreement is commercial in nature and developed solely at private expense. The U.S. Government has a non-exclusive, non-transferrable, nonsublicensable, worldwide, limited irrevocable license to use the Data only in connection with and in support of the U.S. Government contract under which the Data was delivered. Except as provided herein, the Data may not be used, disclosed, reproduced, modified, performed, or displayed without the prior written approval of NetApp, Inc. United States Government license rights for the Department of Defense are limited to those rights identified in DFARS clause 252.227-7015(b) (FEB 2014).

## 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.