NetApp

Prepare for the MetroCluster installation

ONTAP MetroCluster

NetApp
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Differences between the ONTAP MetroCluster configurations

The various MetroCluster configurations have key differences in the required components.

In all configurations, each of the two MetroCluster sites are configured as an ONTAP cluster. In a two-node MetroCluster configuration, each node is configured as a single-node cluster.

Feature	IP configurations	Fabric attached configurations		Stretch configurations	
		Four- or eight-node	Two-node	Two-node bridge-attached	Two-node direct-attached
Number of controllers	Four or eight*	Four or eight	Two	Two	Two
Uses an FC switch storage fabric	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Uses an IP switch storage fabric	Yes	No	No	No	No
Uses FC-to-SAS bridges	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Uses direct-attached SAS storage	Yes (local attached only)	No	No	No	Yes
Supports ADP	Yes (beginning with ONTAP 9.4)	No	No	No	No
Supports local HA	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Supports ONTAP AUSO	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supports unmirrored aggregates	Yes (beginning with ONTAP 9.8)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Supports array LUNs	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supports ONTAP Mediator	Yes (beginning with ONTAP 9.7)	No	No	No	No
Supports MetroCluster Tiebreaker	Yes (not in combination with ONTAP Mediator)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supports All SAN Arrays	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Important

Notice the following considerations for eight-node MetroCluster IP configurations:

- Eight-node configurations are supported beginning with ONTAP 9.9.1.
- Only NetApp-validated MetroCluster switches (ordered from NetApp) are supported.
- Configurations using IP-routed (layer 3) backend connections are not supported.
- Configurations using shared private layer 2 networks are not supported.
- Configurations using a Cisco 9336C-FX2 shared switch are not supported.

Support for All SAN Array systems in MetroCluster configurations

Some of the All SAN Arrays (ASAs) are supported in MetroCluster configurations. In the MetroCluster documentation, the information for AFF models applies to the corresponding ASA system. For example, all cabling and other information for the AFF A400 system also applies to the ASA AFF A400 system.

Supported platform configurations are listed in the NetApp Hardware Universe.

Cluster peering

Each MetroCluster site is configured as a peer to its partner site. You must be familiar with the prerequisites and guidelines for configuring the peering relationships. This is important when deciding on whether to use shared or dedicated ports for those relationships.

Related information

Cluster and SVM peering express configuration

Prerequisites for cluster peering

Before you set up cluster peering, you should confirm that connectivity between port, IP address, subnet, firewall, and cluster-naming requirements are met.

Connectivity requirements

Every intercluster LIF on the local cluster must be able to communicate with every intercluster LIF on the remote cluster.

Although it is not required, it is typically simpler to configure the IP addresses used for intercluster LIFs in the same subnet. The IP addresses can reside in the same subnet as data LIFs, or in a different subnet. The subnet used in each cluster must meet the following requirements:

- The subnet must have enough IP addresses available to allocate to one intercluster LIF per node.

  For example, in a four-node cluster, the subnet used for intercluster communication must have four available IP addresses.

Each node must have an intercluster LIF with an IP address on the intercluster network.

Intercluster LIFs can have an IPv4 address or an IPv6 address.

> ⓘ ONTAP 9 enables you to migrate your peering networks from IPv4 to IPv6 by optionally allowing both protocols to be present simultaneously on the intercluster LIFs. In earlier releases, all intercluster relationships for an entire cluster were either IPv4 or IPv6. This meant that changing protocols was a potentially disruptive event.

Port requirements

You can use dedicated ports for intercluster communication, or share ports used by the data network. Ports must meet the following requirements:

- All ports used to communicate with a given remote cluster must be in the same IPspace.

  You can use multiple IPspaces to peer with multiple clusters. Pair-wise full-mesh connectivity is required only within an IPspace.

- The broadcast domain used for intercluster communication must include at least two ports per node so that intercluster communication can fail over from one port to another port.

  Ports added to a broadcast domain can be physical network ports, VLANs, or interface groups (ifgrps).

- All ports must be cabled.

- All ports must be in a healthy state.

- The MTU settings of the ports must be consistent.

Firewall requirements

Firewalls and the intercluster firewall policy must allow the following protocols:

- ICMP service
- TCP to the IP addresses of all the intercluster LIFs over the ports 10000, 11104, and 11105
- Bidirectional HTTPS between the intercluster LIFs

The default intercluster firewall policy allows access through the HTTPS protocol and from all IP addresses (0.0.0.0/0). You can modify or replace the policy if necessary.

Considerations when using dedicated ports

When determining whether using a dedicated port for intercluster replication is the correct intercluster network solution, you should consider configurations and requirements such as LAN type, available WAN bandwidth, replication interval, change rate, and number of ports.

Consider the following aspects of your network to determine whether using a dedicated port is the best intercluster network solution:

- If the amount of available WAN bandwidth is similar to that of the LAN ports, and the replication interval is such that replication occurs while regular client activity exists, then you should dedicate Ethernet ports for intercluster replication to avoid contention between replication and the data protocols.

- If the network utilization generated by the data protocols (CIFS, NFS, and iSCSI) is such that the network utilization is above 50 percent, then dedicate ports for replication to allow for nondegraded performance if a node failover occurs.

- When physical 10 GbE or faster ports are used for data and replication, you can create VLAN ports for replication and dedicate the logical ports for intercluster replication.

  The bandwidth of the port is shared between all VLANs and the base port.

- Consider the data change rate and replication interval and whether the amount of data, that must be replicated on each interval, requires enough bandwidth. This might cause contention with data protocols if sharing data ports.

Considerations when sharing data ports

When determining whether sharing a data port for intercluster replication is the correct intercluster network solution, you should consider configurations and requirements such as LAN type, available WAN bandwidth, replication interval, change rate, and number of ports.

Consider the following aspects of your network to determine whether sharing data ports is the best intercluster connectivity solution:

- For a high-speed network, such as a 40-Gigabit Ethernet (40-GbE) network, a sufficient amount of local LAN bandwidth might be available to perform replication on the same 40-GbE ports that are used for data access.

  In many cases, the available WAN bandwidth is far less than the 10 GbE LAN bandwidth.

- All nodes in the cluster might have to replicate data and share the available WAN bandwidth, making data port sharing more acceptable.

- Sharing ports for data and replication eliminates the extra port counts required to dedicate ports for replication.

- The maximum transmission unit (MTU) size of the replication network will be the same size as that used on the data network.

- Consider the data change rate and replication interval and whether the amount of data, that must be replicated on each interval, requires enough bandwidth. This might cause contention with data protocols if sharing data ports.

- When data ports for intercluster replication are shared, the intercluster LIFs can be migrated to any other intercluster-capable port on the same node to control the specific data port that is used for replication.

Considerations when using unmirrored aggregates

Considerations when using unmirrored aggregates

If your configuration includes unmirrored aggregates, you must be aware of potential access issues that follow switchover operations.

Considerations for unmirrored aggregates when doing maintenance requiring power shutdown

If you are performing a negotiated switchover for maintenance reasons requiring site-wide power shutdown, you should first manually take offline any unmirrored aggregates owned by the disaster site.

If you do not take any unmirrored aggregates offline, nodes at the surviving site might go down due to multi-disk panics. This could occur if switched over unmirrored aggregates go offline, or are missing, because of the loss of connectivity to storage at the disaster site. This is the result of a power shutdown or a loss of ISLs.

Considerations for unmirrored aggregates and hierarchical namespaces

If you are using hierarchical namespaces, you should configure the junction path so that all of the volumes in that path are either on mirrored aggregates only or on unmirrored aggregates only. Configuring a mix of unmirrored and mirrored aggregates in the junction path might prevent access to the unmirrored aggregates after the switchover operation.

Considerations for unmirrored aggregates and CRS metadata volume and data SVM root volumes

The configuration replication service (CRS) metadata volume and data SVM root volumes must be on a mirrored aggregate. You cannot move these volumes to an unmirrored aggregate. If they are on an unmirrored aggregate, negotiated switchover and switchback operations are vetoed. The MetroCluster check command provides a warning if this is the case.

Considerations for unmirrored aggregates and SVMs

SVMs should be configured on mirrored aggregates only, or on unmirrored aggregates only. Configuring a mix of unmirrored and mirrored aggregates can result in a switchover operation that exceeds 120 seconds and result in a data outage if the unmirrored aggregates do not come online.

Considerations for unmirrored aggregates and SAN

In ONTAP versions prior to 9.9.1, a LUN should not be located on an unmirrored aggregate. Configuring a LUN on an unmirrored aggregate can result in a switchover operation that exceeds 120 seconds and a data outage.

Firewall usage at MetroCluster sites

Considerations for firewall usage at MetroCluster sites

If you are using a firewall at a MetroCluster site, you must ensure access for required ports.

The following table shows TCP/UDP port usage in an external firewall positioned between two MetroCluster sites.

Traffic type	Port/services
Cluster peering	11104 / TCP 11105 / TCP
ONTAP System Manager	443 / TCP
MetroCluster IP intercluster LIFs	65200 / TCP 10006 / TCP and UDP
Hardware assist	4444 / TCP

Traffic type	Port/services

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