



# **Determine whether to modify the caching policy of Flash Pool aggregates**

**ONTAP 9**

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# Determine whether to modify the caching policy of Flash Pool aggregates

## Determine whether to modify the caching policy of Flash Pool aggregates overview

You can assign cache-retention policies to volumes in Flash Pool aggregates to determine how long the volume data remains in the Flash Pool cache. However, in some cases changing the cache-retention policy might not impact the amount of time the volume's data remains in the cache.

### About this task

If your data meets any of the following conditions, changing your cache-retention policy might not have an impact:

- Your workload is sequential.
- Your workload does not reread the random blocks cached in the solid state drives (SSDs).
- The cache size of the volume is too small.

The following steps check for these conditions. The task must be done in advanced privilege mode.

### Steps

1. View the workload volume:

```
statistics start -object workload_volume
```

2. Determine the workload pattern of the volume:

```
statistics show -object workload_volume -instance volume-workload -counter sequential_reads
```

3. Determine the hit rate of the volume:

```
statistics show -object waf1_hya_vvol -instance volume -counter read_ops_replaced_ppercent|wc_write_blks_overwritten_percent
```

4. Determine the Cacheable Read and Project Cache Alloc of the volume:

```
system node run -node node_name waf1 awa start aggr_name
```

5. Display the AWA summary:

```
system node run -node node_name waf1 awa print aggr_name
```

6. Compare the volume's hit rate to the Cacheable Read.

If the hit rate of the volume is greater than the Cacheable Read, then your workload does not reread random blocks cached in the SSDs.

7. Compare the volume's current cache size to the `Project Cache Alloc`.

If the current cache size of the volume is greater than the `Project Cache Alloc`, then the size of your volume cache is too small.

## Modify caching policies of Flash Pool aggregates

You should modify the caching policy of a volume only if a different caching policy is expected to provide better performance. You can modify the caching policy of a volume on a Flash Pool aggregate.

### What you'll need

You must determine whether you want to modify your caching policy.

### About this task

In most cases, the default caching policy of `auto` is the best caching policy that you can use. The caching policy should be changed only if a different policy provides better performance for your workload. Configuring the wrong caching policy can severely degrade volume performance; the performance degradation could increase gradually over time. You should use caution when modifying caching policies. If you experience performance issues with a volume for which the caching policy has been changed, you should return the caching policy to `auto`.

### Step

1. Modify the volume's caching policy:

```
volume modify -volume volume_name -caching-policy policy_name
```

### Example

The following example modifies the caching policy of a volume named "vol2" to the policy `none`:

```
volume modify -volume vol2 -caching-policy none
```

## Set the cache-retention policy for Flash Pool aggregates

You can assign cache-retention policies to volumes in Flash Pool aggregates. Data in volumes with a high cache-retention policy remains in cache longer and data in volumes with a low cache-retention policy is removed sooner. This increases performance of your critical workloads by making high priority information accessible at a faster rate for a longer period of time.

### What you'll need

You should know whether your system has any conditions that might prevent the cache-retention policy from having an impact on how long your data remains in cache.

### About this task

The task must be done in advanced privilege mode.

### Steps

1. Change the privilege setting to advanced:

```
set -privilege advanced
```

2. Verify the volume's cache-retention policy:

By default the cache retention policy is `normal`.

3. Set the cache-retention policy:

| ONTAP Version      | Command   |
|--------------------|---|
| ONTAP 9.0, 9.1     | <pre>priority hybrid-cache set volume_name<br/>read-cache=read_cache_value write-<br/>cache=write_cache_value cache-<br/>retention-<br/>priority=cache_retention_policy</pre> <p>Set <code>cache_retention_policy</code> to <code>high</code> for data that you want to remain in cache longer. Set <code>cache_retention_policy</code> to <code>low</code> for data that you want to remove from cache sooner.</p> |
| ONTAP 9.2 or later | <pre>volume modify -volume volume_name<br/>-vserver vservers_name -caching-policy<br/>policy_name.</pre>  |

4. Verify that the volume's cache-retention policy is changed to the option you selected.
5. Return the privilege setting to admin:

```
set -privilege admin
```

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