ONTAP Select two-node clusters with HA

ONTAP Select

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Deploying a two-node cluster with HA involves the same planning and configuration used with other cluster node configurations. However, there are several differences you should be aware of when creating a two-node cluster.

Target environment

The two-node cluster consists of one HA pair and has been specifically designed for remote office and branch office deployments.

While designed primarily for the remote and branch office environment, you can also deploy a two-node cluster in the data center if needed.

Licensing

You can deploy a two-node cluster using any VMware vSphere license. However, the VMware ROBO Standard and Advanced licenses are ideal for remote and branch office deployments.

Mediator service

When a cluster consists of two nodes, it is not possible to achieve the quorum required when a node fails or loses communication. To resolve these types of split-brain situations, every instance of the ONTAP Select Deploy utility includes a mediator service. This service connects to each node in the active two-node clusters to monitor the HA pairs and assist in managing failures. The mediator service maintains the HA state information at a dedicated iSCSI target associated with each two-node cluster.

If you have one or more active two-node clusters, the ONTAP Select Deploy virtual machine administering the clusters must be running at all times. If the Deploy virtual machine is halted or fails, the mediator service is unavailable and HA capability is lost for the two-node clusters.

Location of the cluster and mediator service

Because the two-node clusters are typically deployed in a remote or branch office, they can be remote from the corporate data center and the Deploy utility providing administrative support. With this configuration, the management traffic between the Deploy utility and cluster flows over the WAN. See the release notes for more information about limitations and restrictions.

Backing up the Deploy configuration data

It is a best practice to back up the Deploy configuration data on a regular basis, including after creating a cluster. This becomes particularly important with two-node clusters, because of the mediator configuration data included with the backup.

Static IP address assigned to Deploy

You must assign a static IP address to the Deploy administration utility. This requirement applies to all Deploy instances that manage one or more ONTAP Select two-node clusters.

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