



Resources to read before you upgrade ONTAP 9

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If you don't use [Active IQ Upgrade Advisor](#), you need to review a number of NetApp resources before upgrading your ONTAP software. These resources will help you understand issues you must resolve, new system behavior in the target release, and confirm hardware support.

1. Review the *Release Notes* for the target release.

[ONTAP 9 Release Notes](#)

The “Important cautions” section describes potential issues that you should be aware of before upgrading to the new release. The “New and changed features” and “Known problems and limitations” sections describe new system behavior after upgrading to the new release.

2. Confirm that your hardware platform is supported in the target release.

[NetApp Hardware Universe](#)

3. Confirm that your cluster and management switches are supported in the target release.

You can upgrade in a transitional state, but ultimately your NX-OS (cluster network switches), IOS (management network switches), and reference configuration file (RCF) software versions should be compatible with the version of ONTAP to which you are upgrading.

[NetApp Interoperability Matrix Tool](#)

4. If your cluster and management switches do not have the minimum software versions for the target ONTAP release, upgrade to supported software versions.

[NetApp Downloads: Cisco Ethernet Switch](#)

[NetApp Downloads: NetApp Ethernet Switch](#)

5. If your cluster is configured for SAN, confirm that the SAN configuration is fully supported.

All SAN components—including the target ONTAP software version, host OS and patches, required Host Utilities software, multipathing software, and adapter drivers and firmware—should be supported.

[NetApp Interoperability Matrix Tool](#)

6. If you are transitioning from 7-Mode using the 7-Mode Transition Tool, confirm that the tool supports transition to the ONTAP version to which you are upgrading.

All the projects in the tool must be in the completed or aborted state before you upgrade the 7-Mode Transition Tool that supports the ONTAP version to which you are upgrading.

[7-Mode Transition Tool installation and administration](#)

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