



Design Considerations

NetApp Solutions

Kevin Hoke, Dorian Henderson
April 06, 2021

This PDF was generated from https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/netapp-solutions/infra/hcicaci_design_considerations.html on August 18, 2021. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

Table of Contents

Design Considerations	1
Network Design	1
Compute Design	1
Storage Design	1

Design Considerations

Network Design

The minimum configuration of a Cisco ACI fabric consists of two leaf switches and two spine switches with a cluster of at least three APICs managing and controlling the whole fabric. All the workloads connect to leaf switches. Spine switches are the backbone of the network and are responsible for interconnecting all leaf switches. No two leaf switches can be interconnected. Each leaf switch is connected to each of the spine switches in a full-mesh topology.

With this two-tier spine-and-leaf architecture, no matter which leaf switch the server is connected to, its traffic always crosses the same number of devices to get to another server attached to the fabric (unless the other server is located on the same leaf). This approach keeps latency at a predictable level.

Compute Design

The minimum number of compute nodes required for a highly available infrastructure using NetApp HCI is two. NetApp HCI provides two options for cabling: two-cable and six-cable. NetApp HCI H410C compute nodes are available with two 1GbE ports (ports A and B) and four 10/25GbE ports (ports C, D, E, and F) on board. For a two-cable option, ports D and E are used for connectivity to uplink switches, and, for a six-cable option, all ports from A to F are used. Each node also has an additional out-of-band management port that supports Intelligent Platform Management Interface (IPMI) functionality. This solution utilizes the two-cable option for compute nodes.

For VMware deployments, NetApp HCI comes with an automated deployment tool called the NetApp Deployment Engine (NDE). For non-VMware deployments, manual installation of hypervisors or operating systems is required on the compute nodes.

Storage Design

NetApp HCI uses four-cable option for storage nodes. NetApp HCI H410S storage nodes are available with two 1GbE ports (ports A and B) and two 10/25GbE ports (ports C and D) on board. The two 1GbE ports are bundled as Bond1G (active/passive mode) used for management traffic and the two 10/25GbE ports are bundled as Bond10G (LACP active mode) used for storage data traffic.

For non-VMware deployments, the minimum configuration of NetApp HCI storage cluster is four nodes. For NetApp HCI versions earlier than 1.8 with VMware deployments, the minimum configuration is four storage nodes. However, for HCI version 1.8 with VMware deployments, the minimum configuration for NetApp HCI storage cluster is two nodes. For more information on NetApp HCI two-node storage cluster, see the documentation [here](#).

[Next: VMware vSphere: NetApp HCI with Cisco ACI](#)

Copyright Information

Copyright © 2021 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.

RESTRICTED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subparagraph (c)(1)(ii) of the Rights in Technical Data and Computer Software clause at DFARS 252.277-7103 (October 1988) and FAR 52-227-19 (June 1987).

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.