Hybrid Cloud VDI with NetApp Virtual Desktop Service

HCI

NetApp
November 04, 2020

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TR-4861: Hybrid Cloud VDI with Virtual Desktop Service

Suresh Thoppay, NetApp

The NetApp Virtual Desktop Service (VDS) orchestrates Remote Desktop Services (RDS) in major public clouds as well as on private clouds. VDS supports Windows Virtual Desktop (WVD) on Microsoft Azure. VDS automates many tasks that must be performed after deployment of WVD or RDS, including setting up SMB file shares (for user profiles, shared data, and the user home drive), enabling Windows features, application and agent installation, firewall, and policies, and so on.

Users consume VDS for dedicated desktops, shared desktops, and remote applications. VDS provides scripted events for automating application management for desktops and reduces the number of images to manage.

VDS provides a single management portal for handling deployments across public and private cloud environments.

Customer Value

The remote workforce explosion of 2020 has changed requirements for business continuity. IT departments are faced with new challenges to rapidly provision virtual desktops and thus require provisioning agility, remote management, and the TCO advantages of a hybrid cloud that makes it easy to provision on-premises and cloud resources. They need a hybrid-cloud solution that:

- Addresses the post-COVID workspace reality to enable flexible work models with global dynamics
- Enables shift work by simplifying and accelerating the deployment of work environments for all employees, from task workers to power users
- Mobilizes your workforce by providing rich, secure VDI resources regardless of the physical location
- Simplifies hybrid-cloud deployment
- Automates and simplifies risk reduction management

Next: Use Cases

Use Cases

Hybrid VDI with NetApp VDS allows service providers and enterprise virtual desktop administrators to easily expand resources to other cloud environment without affecting their users. Having on-premises resources on NetApp HCI provides better control of GPU resources and allows you to expand compute or

storage nodes based on demand.

This solution applies to the following use cases:

- Bursting into the cloud for surges in demand for remote desktops and applications
- Reducing TCO for long running remote desktops and applications by hosting them on-premises with flash storage and GPU resources
- Ease of management of remote desktops and applications across cloud environments
- Experience remote desktops and applications by using a software-as-a- service model with on-premises resources

Target Audience

The target audience for the solution includes the following groups:

- EUC/VDI architects who wants to understand the requirements for a hybrid VDS
- NetApp partners who would like to assist customers with their remote desktop and application needs
- Existing NetApp HCI customers who want to address remote desktop and application demands

Next: NetApp Virtual Desktop Service Overview

NetApp Virtual Desktop Service Overview

NetApp offers many cloud services, including the rapid provisioning of virtual desktop with WVD or Remote Applications, including rapid integration with Azure NetApp Files.

Traditionally, it takes weeks to provision and deliver remote desktop services to customers. Apart from provisioning, it can be difficult to manage applications, user profiles, shared data, group policy objects to enforce policies. Firewall rules can make increase complexity and requires a separate skillset and tools.

With Microsoft Azure Windows Virtual Desktop service, Microsoft takes care of maintenance for Remote Desktop Services components, allowing customers to focus on provisioning workspaces in the cloud. Customers must provision and manage the complete stack which requires special skills to manage VDI environments.

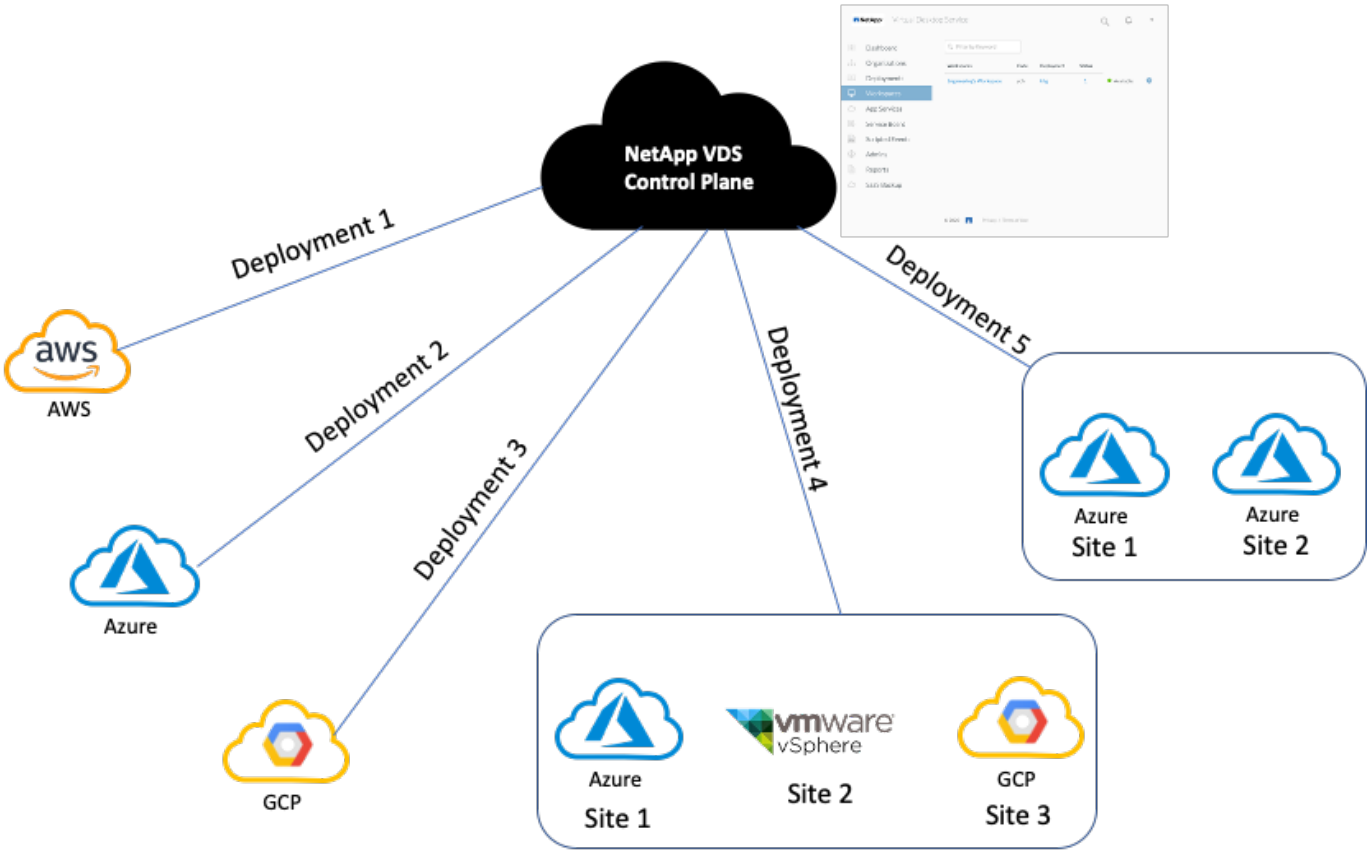
With NetApp VDS, customers can rapidly deploy virtual desktops without worrying about where to install the architecture components like brokers, gateways, agents, and so on. Customers who require complete control of their environment can work with a professional services team to achieve their goals. Customers consume VDS as a service and thus can focus on their key business challenges.

NetApp VDS is a software-as-a-service offering for centrally managing multiple deployments across

AWS, Azure, GCP, or private cloud environments. Microsoft Windows Virtual Desktop is available only on Microsoft Azure. NetApp VDS orchestrates Microsoft Remote Desktop Services in other environments.

Microsoft offers multisession on Windows 10 exclusively for Windows Virtual Desktop environments on Azure. Authentication and identity are handled by the virtual desktop technology; WVD requires Azure Active Directory synced (with AD Connect) to Active Directory and session VMs joined to Active Directory. RDS requires Active Directory for user identity and authentication and VM domain join/management.

A sample deployment topology is shown in the following figure.

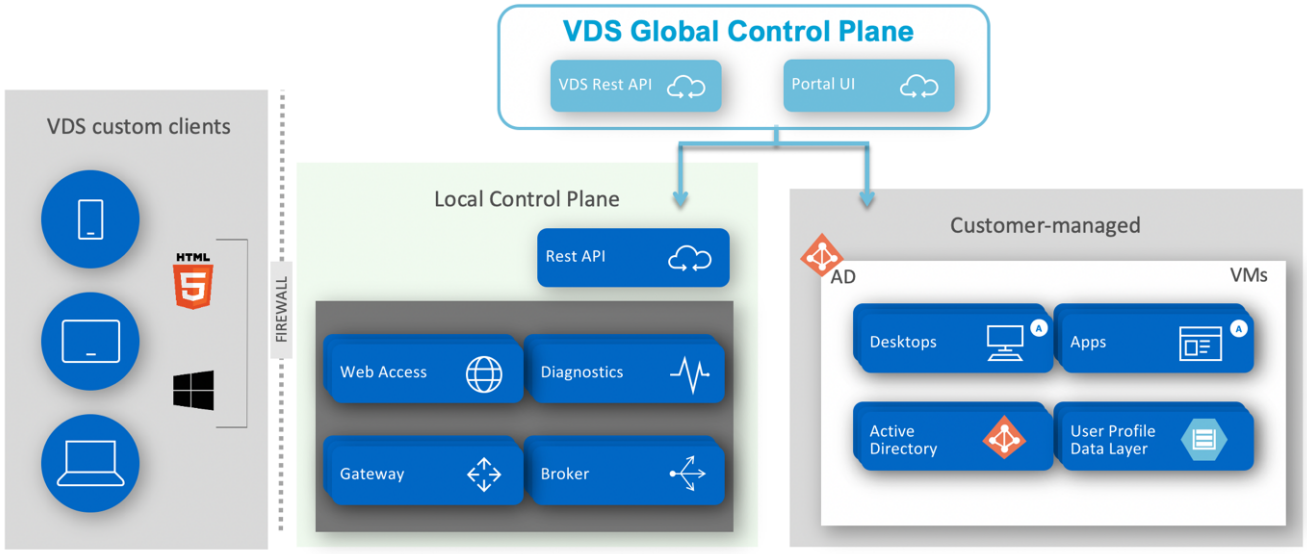


Each deployment is associated with an active directory domain and provides clients with an access entry point for workspaces and applications. A service provider or enterprise that has multiple active directory domains typically has more deployments. A single Active Directory domain that spans multiple regions typically has a single deployment with multiple sites.

For WVD in Azure, Microsoft provides a platform-as-a- service that is consumed by NetApp VDS. For other environments, NetApp VDS orchestrates the deployment and configuration of Microsoft Remote Desktop Services. NetApp VDS supports both WVD Classic and WVD ARM and can also be used to upgrade existing versions.

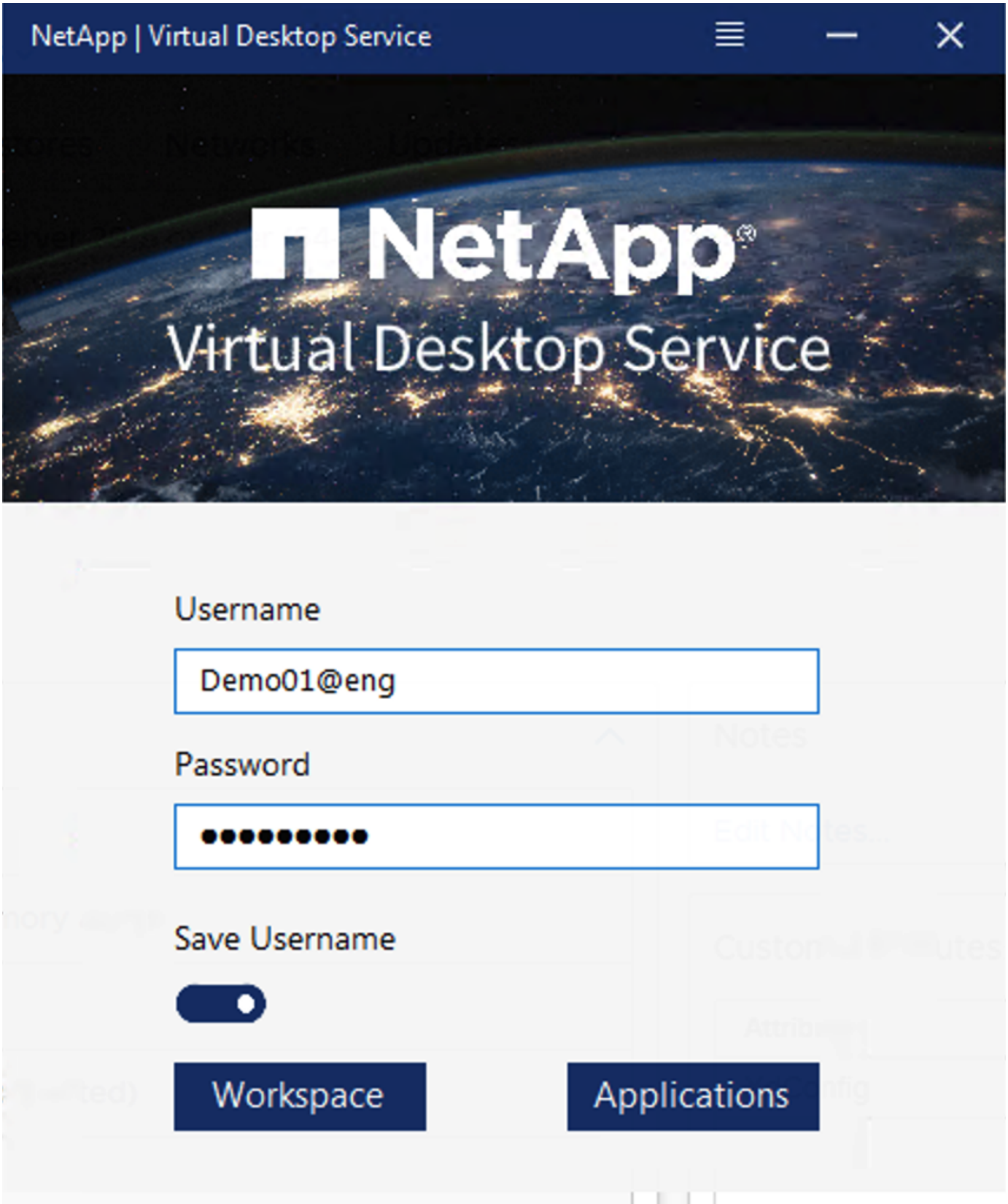
Each deployment has its own platform services, which consists of Cloud Workspace Manager (REST API endpoint), an HTML 5 Gateway (connect to VMs from a VDS management portal), RDS Gateways

(Access point for clients), and a Domain Controller. The following figure depicts the VDS Control Plane architecture for RDS implementation.



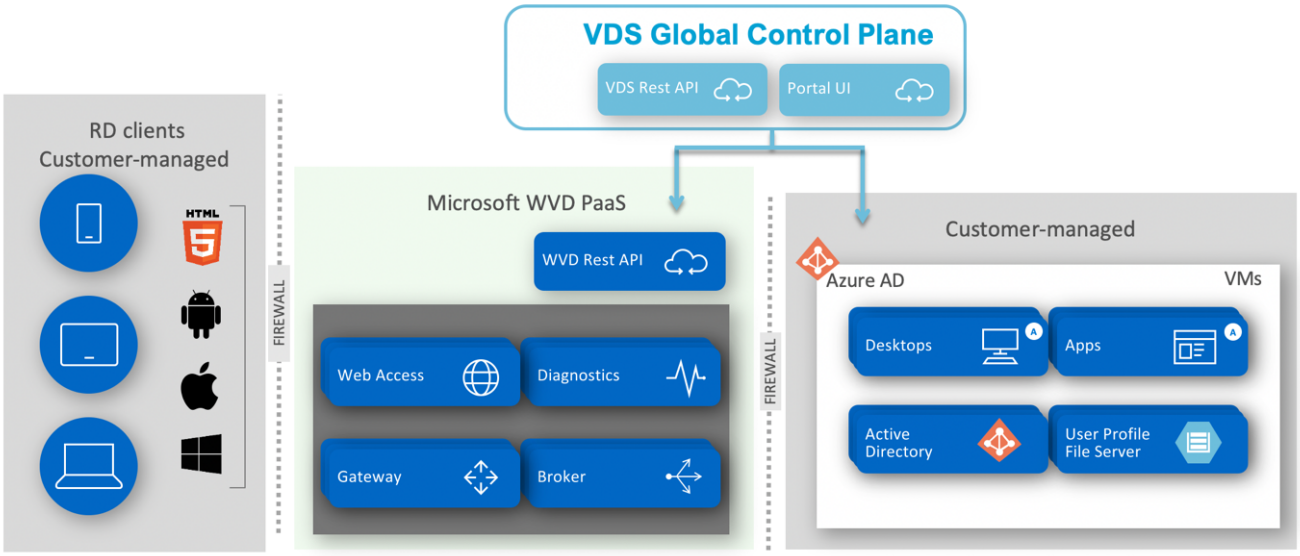
For RDS implementations, NetApp VDS can be readily accessed from Windows and browsers using client software that can be customized to include customer logo and images. Based on user credentials, it provides user access to approved workspaces and applications. There is no need to configure the gateway details.

The following figure shows the NetApp VDS client.



In the Azure WVD implementation, Microsoft handles the access entry point for the clients and can be consumed by Microsoft WVD client available natively for various OS. It can also be accessed from a web-based portal. The configuration of client software must be handled by the Group Policy Object (GPO) or in other ways preferred by customers.

The following figure depicts the VDS Control Plane architecture for Azure WVD implementations.



In addition to the deployment and configuration of required components, NetApp VDS also handles user management, application management, resource scaling, and optimization.

NetApp VDS can create users or grant existing user accounts access to cloud workspace or application services. The portal can also be used for password resets and the delegation of administrating a subset of components. Helpdesk administrators or Level-3 technicians can shadow user sessions for troubleshooting or connect to servers from within the portal.

NetApp VDS can use image templates that you create, or it can use existing ones from the marketplace for cloud-based provisioning. To reduce the number of images to manage, you can use a base image, and any additional applications that you require can be provisioned using the provided framework to include any command-line tools like Chocolatey, MSIX app attach, PowerShell, and so on. Even custom scripts can be used as part of machine lifecycle events.

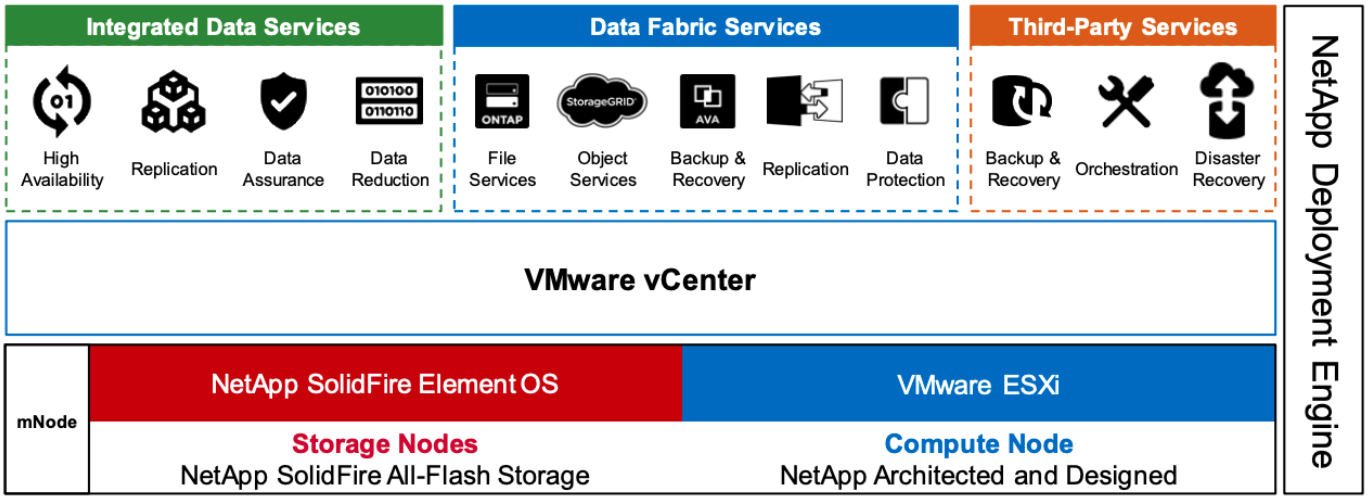
Next: NetApp HCI Overview

NetApp HCI Overview

NetApp HCI is a hybrid cloud infrastructure that consists of a mix of storage nodes and compute nodes. It is available as either a two-rack unit or single-rack unit, depending on the model. The installation and configuration required to deploy VMs are automated with the NetApp Deployment Engine (NDE). Compute clusters are managed with VMware vCenter, and storage clusters are managed with the vCenter Plug-in deployed with NDE. A management VM called the mNode is deployed as part of the NDE.

NetApp HCI handles the following functions:

- Version upgrades
- Pushing events to vCenter
- vCenter Plug-In management
- A VPN tunnel for support
- The NetApp Active IQ collector
- The extension of NetApp Cloud Services to on the premises, enabling a hybrid cloud infrastructure. The following figure depicts HCI components.



Storage Nodes

Storage nodes are available as either a half-width or full-width rack unit. A minimum of four storage nodes is required at first, and a cluster can expand to up to 40 nodes. A storage cluster can be shared across multiple compute clusters. All the storage nodes contain a cache controller to improve write performance. A single node provides either 50K or 100K IOPS at a 4K block size.

NetApp HCI storage nodes run NetApp Element software, which provides minimum, maximum, and burst QoS limits. The storage cluster supports a mix of storage nodes, although one storage node cannot exceed one-third of total capacity.

Compute Nodes

Compute nodes are available in half-width, full-width, and two rack-unit sizes. The NetApp HCI H410C and H610C are based on scalable Intel Skylake processors. The H615C is based on second-generation scalable Intel Cascade Lake processors. There are two compute models that contain GPUs: the H610C contains two NVIDIA M10 cards and the H615C contains three NVIDIA T4 cards.

The NVIDIA T4 has 40 RT cores that provide the computation power needed to deliver real-time ray

tracing. The same server model used by designers and engineers can now also be used by artists to create photorealistic imagery that features light bouncing off surfaces just as it would in real life. This RTX-capable GPU produces real-time ray tracing performance of up to five Giga Rays per second. The NVIDIA T4, when combined with Quadro Virtual Data Center Workstation (Quadro vDWS) software, enables artists to create photorealistic designs with accurate shadows, reflections, and refractions on any device from any location.

Tensor cores enable you to run deep learning inferencing workloads. When running these workloads, an NVIDIA T4 powered with Quadro vDWS can perform up to 25 times faster than a VM driven by a CPU-only server. A NetApp H615C with three NVIDIA T4 cards in one rack unit is an ideal solution for graphics and compute-intensive workloads.

The following figure lists NVIDIA GPU cards and compares their features.

NVIDIA GPUs Recommended for Virtualization

	V100S	RTX 8000	RTX 6000	T4 (Available on NetApp HCI H615C)	M10 (Available on NetApp HCI H610C)	P6
GPU	1 NVIDIA Volta	1 NVIDIA Turing	1 NVIDIA Turing	1 NVIDIA Turing	4 NVIDIA Maxwell	1 NVIDIA Pascal
CUDA Cores	5,120	4,608	4,608	2,560	2,560 (640 per GPU)	2,048
Tensor Cores	640	576	576	320	—	—
RT Cores	—	72	72	40	—	—
Guaranteed QoS (GPU Scheduler)	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
Live Migration	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Multi-vGPU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Memory Size	32/16 GB HBM2	48 GB GDDR6	24 GB GDDR6	16 GB GDDR6	32 GB GDDR5 (8 GB per GPU)	16 GB GDDR5
vGPU Profiles	1 GB, 2 GB, 4 GB, 8 GB, 16 GB, 32 GB	1 GB, 2 GB, 3 GB, 4 GB, 6 GB, 8 GB, 12 GB, 16 GB, 24 GB, 48 GB	1 GB, 2 GB, 3 GB, 4 GB, 6 GB, 8 GB, 12 GB, 24 GB	1 GB, 2 GB, 4 GB, 8 GB, 16 GB	0.5 GB, 1 GB, 2 GB, 4 GB, 8 GB	1 GB, 2 GB, 4 GB, 8 GB, 16 GB
Form Factor	PCIe 3.0 dual slot and SXM2	PCIe 3.0 dual slot	PCIe 3.0 dual slot	PCIe 3.0 single slot	PCIe 3.0 dual slot	MXM (blade servers)
Power	250 W /300 W (SXM2)	250 W	250 W	70 W	225 W	90 W
Thermal	passive	passive	passive	passive	passive	bare board
vGPU Software Support	Quadro vDWS, GRID vPC, GRID vApps, vComputeServer	Quadro vDWS, GRID vPC, GRID vApps, vComputeServer	Quadro vDWS, GRID vPC, GRID vApps, vComputeServer	Quadro vDWS, GRID vPC, GRID vApps, vComputeServer	Quadro vDWS, GRID vPC, GRID vApps	Quadro vDWS, GRID vPC, GRID vApps, vComputeServer
Use Case	Ultra-high-end rendering, simulation, 3D design with Quadro vDWS; ideal upgrade path for V100	High-end rendering, 3D design and creative workflows with Quadro vDWS	Mid-range to high-end rendering, 3D design and creative workflows with Quadro vDWS	Entry-level to highend 3D design and engineering workflows with Quadro vDWS. High-density, low power GPU acceleration for knowledge workers with NVIDIA GRID software.	Knowledge workers using modern productivity apps and Windows 10 requiring best density and total cost of ownership (TCO), multimonitor support with NVIDIA GRID vPC/vApps	For customers requiring GPUs in a blade server form factor; ideal upgrade path for M6

The M10 GPU remains the best TCO solution for knowledge-worker use cases. However, the T4 makes a great alternative when IT wants to standardize on a GPU that can be used across multiple use cases, such as virtual workstations, graphics performance, real-time interactive rendering, and inferencing. With the T4, IT can take advantage of the same GPU resources to run mixed workloads—for example, running VDI during the day and repurposing the resources to run compute workloads at night.

The H610C compute node is two rack units in size; the H615C is one rack unit in size and consumes less power. The H615C supports H.264 and H.265 (High Efficiency Video Coding [HEVC]) 4:4:4 encoding and decoding. It also supports a VP9 decoder, which is becoming more mainstream; even the WebM container package served by YouTube uses the VP9 codec for video.

The number of nodes in a compute cluster is dictated by VMware; currently, it is 96 with VMware vSphere 7.0 Update 1. Mixing different models of compute nodes in a cluster is supported when

Enhanced vMotion Compatibility (EVC) is enabled.

Next: NVIDIA Licensing

NVIDIA Licensing

When using an H610C or H615C, the license for the GPU must be procured from NVIDIA partners that are authorized to resell the licenses. You can find NVIDIA partners with the partner locator. Search for competencies such as virtual GPU (vGPU) or Tesla.

NVIDIA vGPU software is available in four editions:

- NVIDIA GRID Virtual PC (GRID vPC)
- NVIDIA GRID Virtual Applications (GRID vApps)
- NVIDIA Quadro Virtual Data Center Workstation (Quadro vDWS)
- NVIDIA Virtual ComputeServer (vComputeServer)

GRID Virtual PC

This product is ideal for users who want a virtual desktop that provides a great user experience for Microsoft Windows applications, browsers, high-definition video, and multi-monitor support. The NVIDIA GRID Virtual PC delivers a native experience in a virtual environment, allowing you to run all your PC applications at full performance.

GRID Virtual Applications

GRID vApps are for organizations deploying a Remote Desktop Session Host (RDSH) or other app-streaming or session-based solutions. Designed to deliver Microsoft Windows applications at full performance, Windows Server-hosted RDSH desktops are also supported by GRID vApps.

Quadro Virtual Data Center Workstation

This edition is ideal for mainstream and high-end designers who use powerful 3D content creation applications like Dassault CATIA, SOLIDWORKS, 3Dexcite, Siemens NX, PTC Creo, Schlumberger Petrel, or Autodesk Maya. NVIDIA Quadro vDWS allows users to access their professional graphics applications with full features and performance anywhere on any device.

NVIDIA Virtual ComputeServer

Many organizations run compute-intensive server workloads such as artificial intelligence (AI), deep learning (DL), and data science. For these use cases, NVIDIA vComputeServer software virtualizes the NVIDIA GPU, which accelerates compute-intensive server workloads with features such as error

correction code, page retirement, peer-to-peer over NVLink, and multi-vGPU.

A Quadro vDWS license enables you to use GRID vPC and NVIDIA vComputeServer.

Next: Deployment

Deployment

NetApp VDS can be deployed to Microsoft Azure using a setup App available based on the required codebase. The current release is available at https://cwasetup.cloudworkspace.com and the preview release of the upcoming product is available at https://preview.cwasetup.cloudworkspace.com.

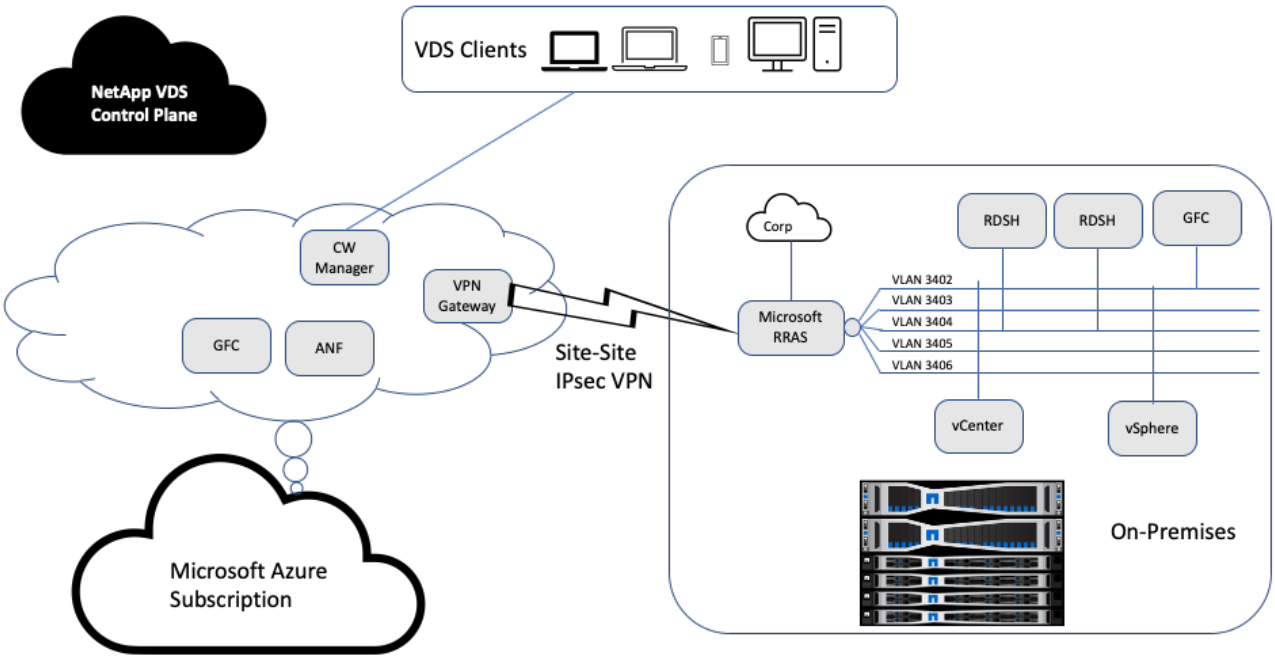
See this video for deployment instructions.

Next: Hybrid Cloud Environment

Hybrid Cloud Environment

NetApp Virtual Desktop Service can be extended to on-premises when connectivity exists between on-premises resources and cloud resources. Enterprises can establish the link to Microsoft Azure using Express Route or a site-to-site IPsec VPN connection. You can also create links to other clouds in a similar way either using a dedicated link or with an IPsec VPN tunnel.

For the solution validation, we used the environment depicted in the following figure.



On-premises, we had multiple VLANs for management, remote-desktop-session hosts, and so on. They were on the 172.21.146-150.0/24 subnet and routed to the corporate network using the Microsoft Remote Routing Access Service. We also performed the following tasks:

1. We noted the public IP of the Microsoft Routing and Remote Access Server (RRAS; identified with IPchicken.com).
2. We created a Virtual Network Gateway resource (route-based VPN) on Azure Subscription.
3. We created the connection providing the local network gateway address for the public IP of the Microsoft RRAS server.
4. We completed VPN configuration on RRAS to create a virtual interface using pre-shared authentication that was provided while creating the VPN gateway. If configured correctly, the VPN should be in the connected state. Instead of Microsoft RRAS, you can also use pfSense or other relevant tools to create the site-to-site IPsec VPN tunnel. Since it is route-based, the tunnel redirects traffic based on the specific subnets configured.

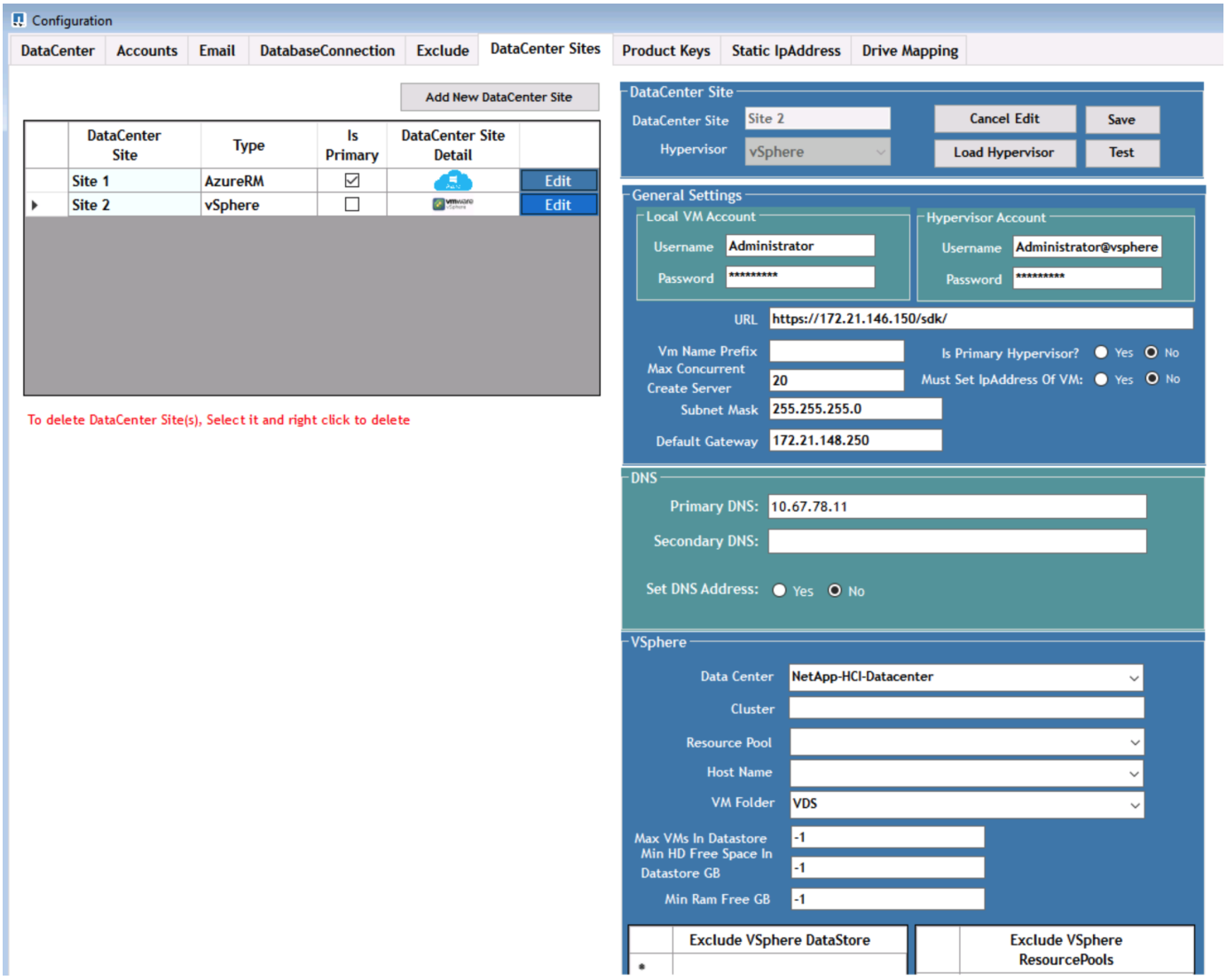
Microsoft Azure Active Directory provides identity authentication based on oAuth. Enterprise client authentications typically require NTLM or Kerberos-based authentication. Microsoft Azure Active Directory Domain Services perform password hash sync between Azure Active Directory and on-prem domain controllers using ADConnect.

For this Hybrid VDS solution validation, we initially deployed to Microsoft Azure and added an additional site with vSphere. The advantage with this approach is that platform services were deployed to Microsoft Azure and were then readily backed up using the portal. Services can then be easily accessed from anywhere, even if the site-site VPN link is down.

To add another site, we used a tool called DCConfig. The shortcut to that application is available on the desktop of the cloud workspace manager (CWMgr) VM. After this application is launched, navigate to the DataCenter Sites tab, add the new datacenter site, and fill in the required info as shown below. The URL points to the vCenter IP. Make sure that the CWMgr VM can communicate with vCenter before adding the configuration.

Make sure that vSphere PowerCLI 5.1 on CloudWorkspace manager is installed to enable communication with VMware vSphere environment.

The following figure depicts on- premises datacenter site configuration.



Note that there are filtering options available for compute resource based on the specific cluster, host name, or free RAM space. Filtering options for storage resource includes the minimum free space on datastores or the maximum VMs per datastore. Datastores can be excluded using regular expressions. Click Save button to save the configuration.

To validate the configuration, click the Test button or click Load Hypervisor and check any dropdown under the vSphere section. It should be populated with appropriate values. It is a best practice to keep

the primary hypervisor set to yes for the default provisioning site.

The VM templates created on VMware vSphere are consumed as provisioning collections on VDS. Provisioning collections come in two forms: shared and VDI. The shared provisioning collection type is used for remote desktop services for which a single resource policy is applied to all servers. The VDI type is used for WVD instances for which the resource policy is individually assigned. The servers in a provisioning collection can be assigned one of the following three roles:

- **TSDATA.** Combination of Terminal Services and Data server role.
- **TS.** Terminal Services (Session Host).
- **DATA.** File Server or Database Server. When you define the server role, you must pick the VM template and storage (datastore). The datastore chosen can be restricted to a specific datastore or you can use the least-used option in which the datastore is chosen based on data usage.

Each deployment has VM resource defaults for the cloud resource allocation based on Active Users, Fixed, Server Load, or User Count.

Next: Single Server Load Test with Login VSI

Single server load test with Login VSI

The NetApp Virtual Desktop Service uses the Microsoft Remote Desktop Protocol to access virtual desktop sessions and applications, and the Login VSI tool determines the maximum number of users that can be hosted on a specific server model. Login VSI simulates user login at specific intervals and performs user operations like opening documents, reading and composing mails, working with Excel and PowerPoint, printing documents, compressing files, and taking random breaks. It then measures response times. User response time is low when server utilization is low and increases when more user sessions are added. Login VSI determines the baseline based on initial user login sessions and it reports the maximum user session when the user response exceeds 2 seconds from the baseline.

The following table contains the hardware used for this validation.

Model	Count	Description
NetApp HCI H610C	4	Three in a cluster for launchers, AD, DHCP, and so on. One server for load testing.
NetApp HCI H615C	1	2x24C Intel Xeon Gold 6282 @2.1GHz. 1.5TB RAM.

The following table contains the software used for this validation.

product	Description
NetApp VDS 5.4	Orchestration

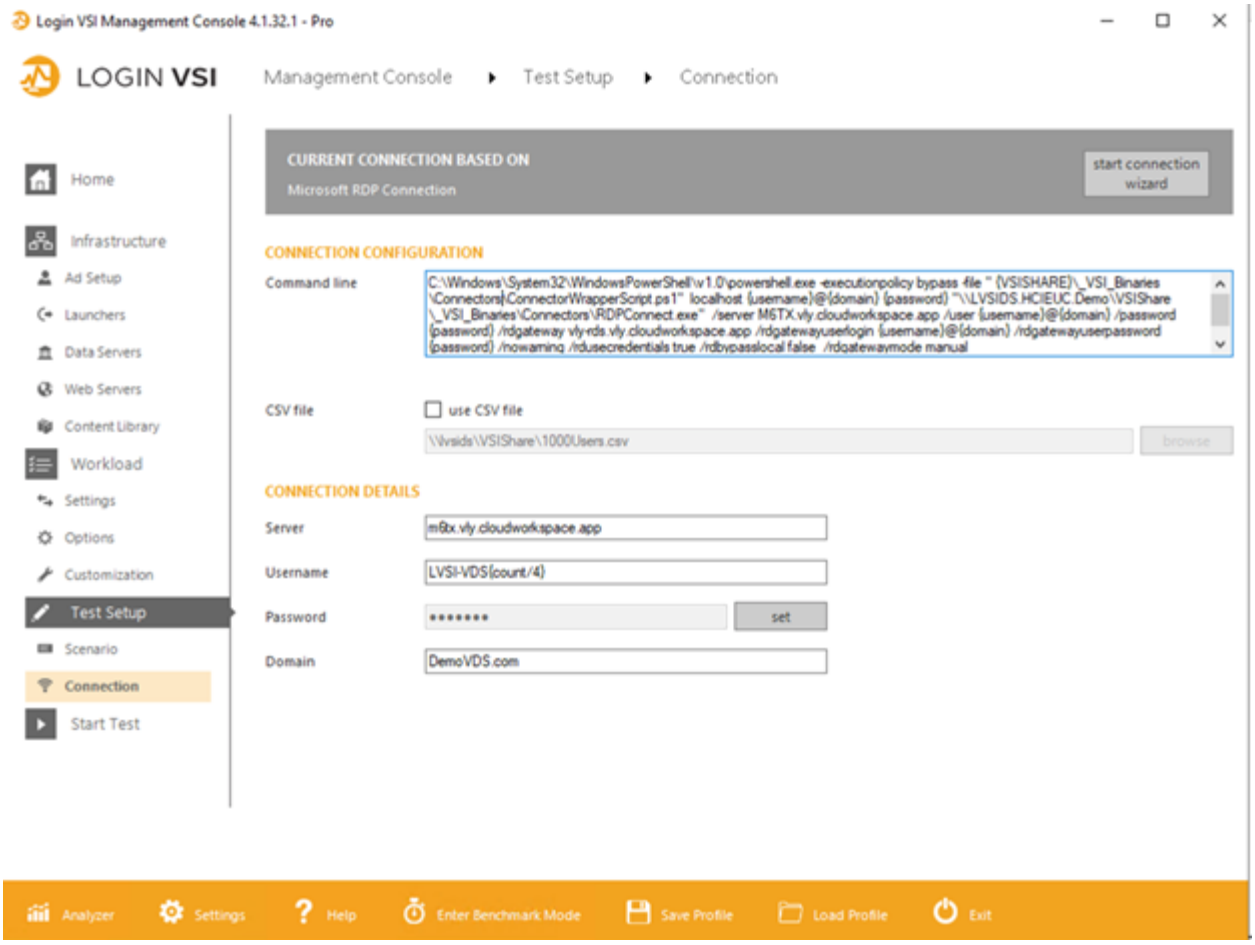
product	Description
VM Template Windows 2019 1809	Server OS for RDSH
Login VSI	4.1.32.1
VMware vSphere 6.7 Update 3	Hypervisor
VMware vCenter 6.7 Update 3f	VMware management tool

The Login VSI test results are as follows:

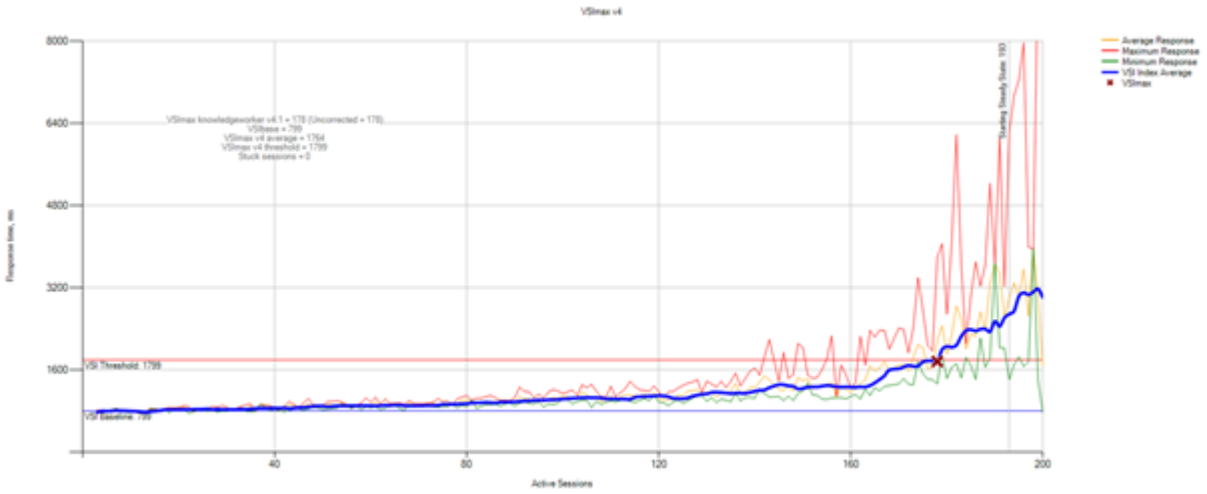
Model	VM configuration	Login VSI baseline	Login VSI Max
H610C	8 vCPU, 48GB RAM, 75GB disk, 8Q vGPU profile	799	178
H615C	12 vCPU, 128GB RAM, 75GB disk	763	272

Considering sub-NUMA boundaries and hyperthreading, the eight VMs chosen for VM testing and configuration depended on the cores available on the host.

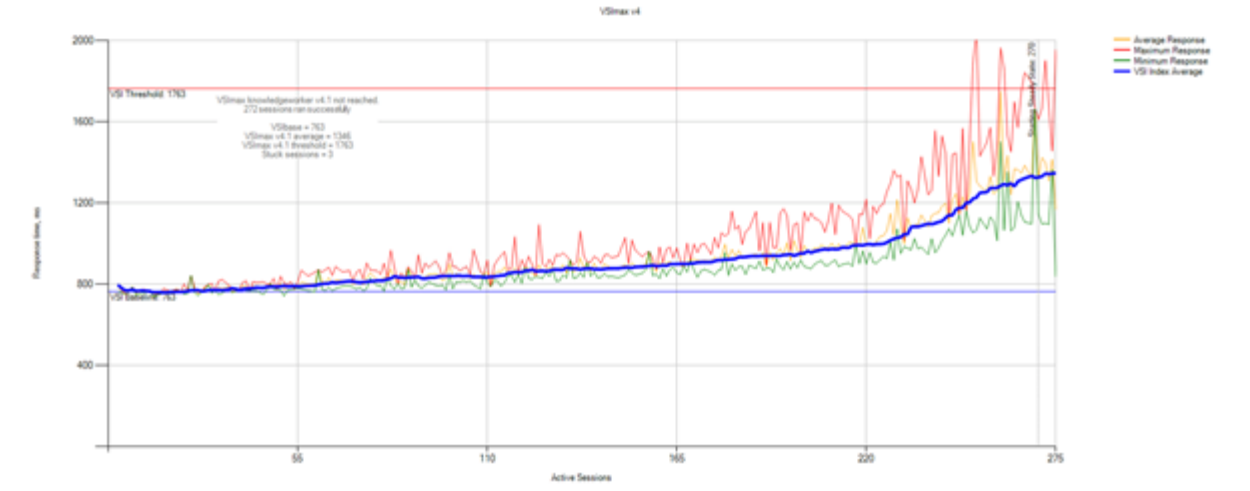
We used 10 launcher VMs on the H610C, which used the RDP protocol to connect to the user session. The following figure depicts the Login VSI connection information.



The following figure displays the Login VSI response time versus the active sessions for the H610C.



The following figure displays the Login VSI response time versus the active sessions for the H615C.



The performance metrics from Cloud Insights during H615C Login VSI testing for vSphere host and VMs is shown in teh following figure.

Next: Management Portal

Management Portal

NetApp VDS Cloud Workspace Management Suite portal is available here and the upcoming version is available here.

The portal allows centralized management for various VDS deployments including one that has sites defined for on-premises, administrative users, the application catalog, and scripted events. The portal is also used by administrative users for the manual provisioning of applications if required and to connect to any machines for troubleshooting.

Service providers can use this portal to add their own channel partners and allow them to manage their own clients.

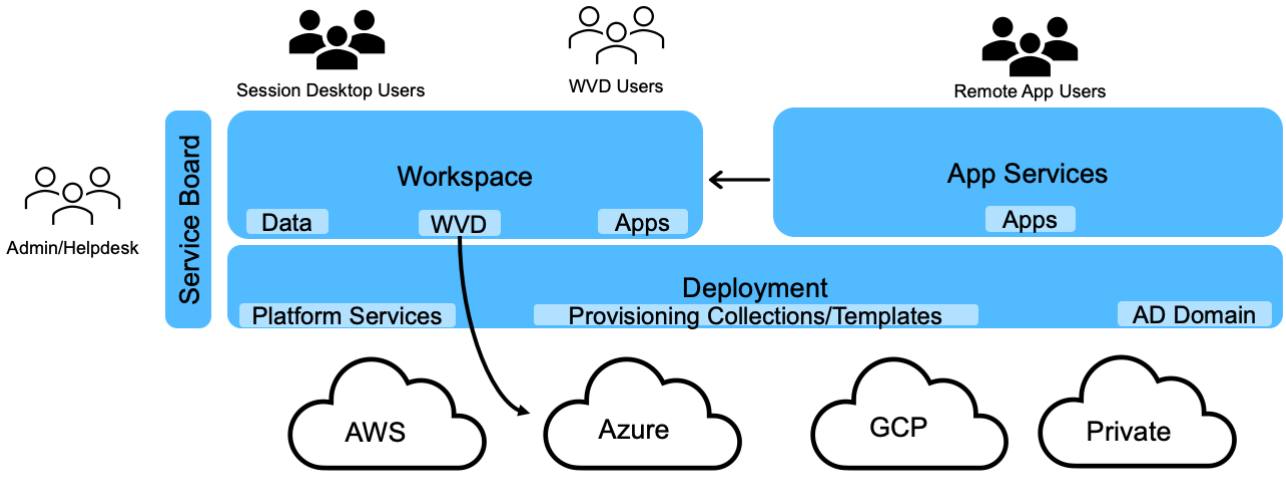
Next: User Management

User Management

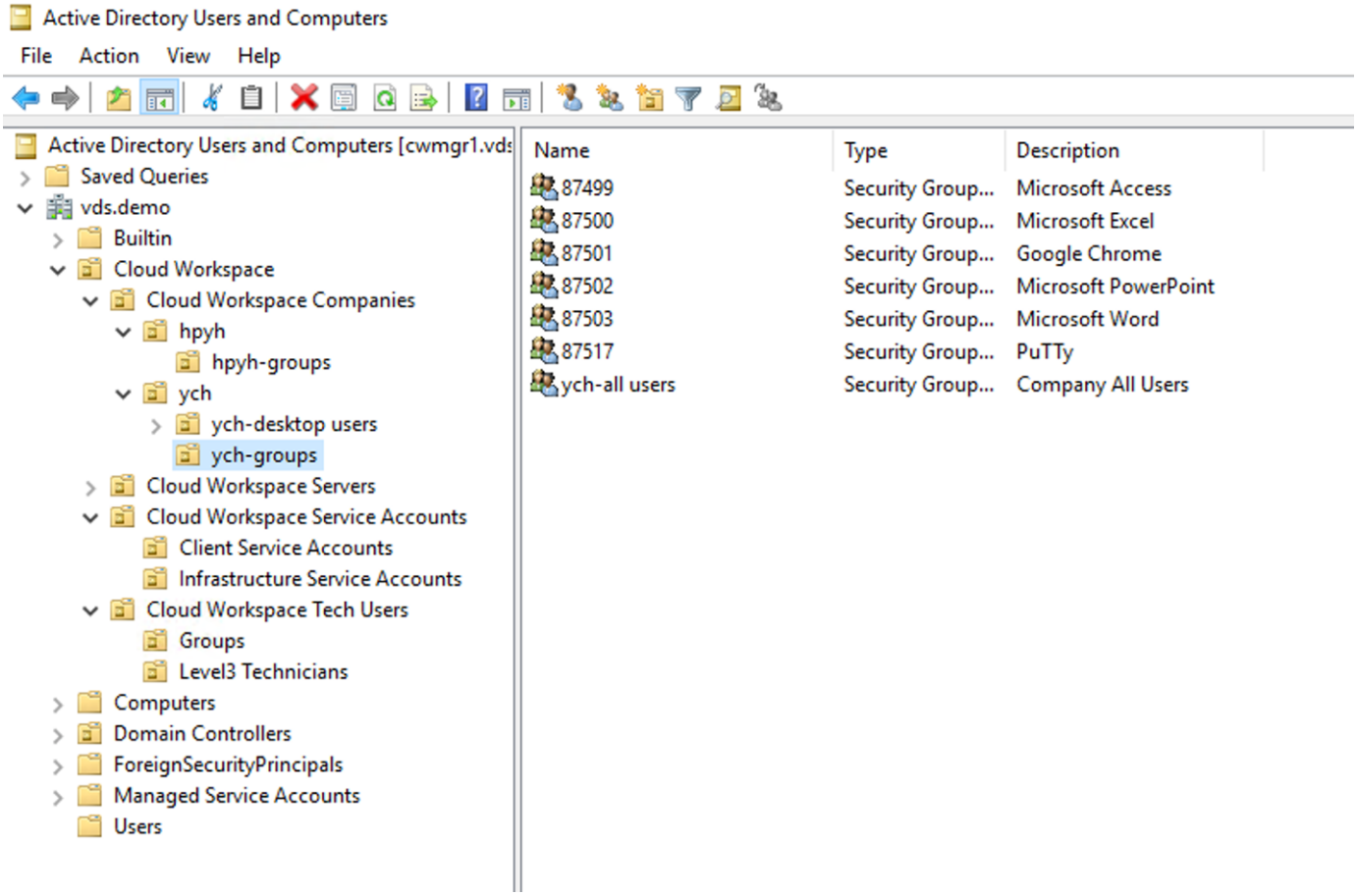
NetApp VDS uses Azure Active Directory for identity authentication and Azure Active Directory Domain Services for NTLM/Kerberos authentication. The ADConnect tool can be used to sync an on-prem Active Directory domain with Azure Active Directory.

New users can be added from the portal, or you can enable cloud workspace for existing users. Permissions for workspaces and application services can be controlled by individual users or by groups. From the management portal, administrative users can be defined to control permissions for the portal, workspaces, and so on.

The following figure depicts user management in NetApp VDS.



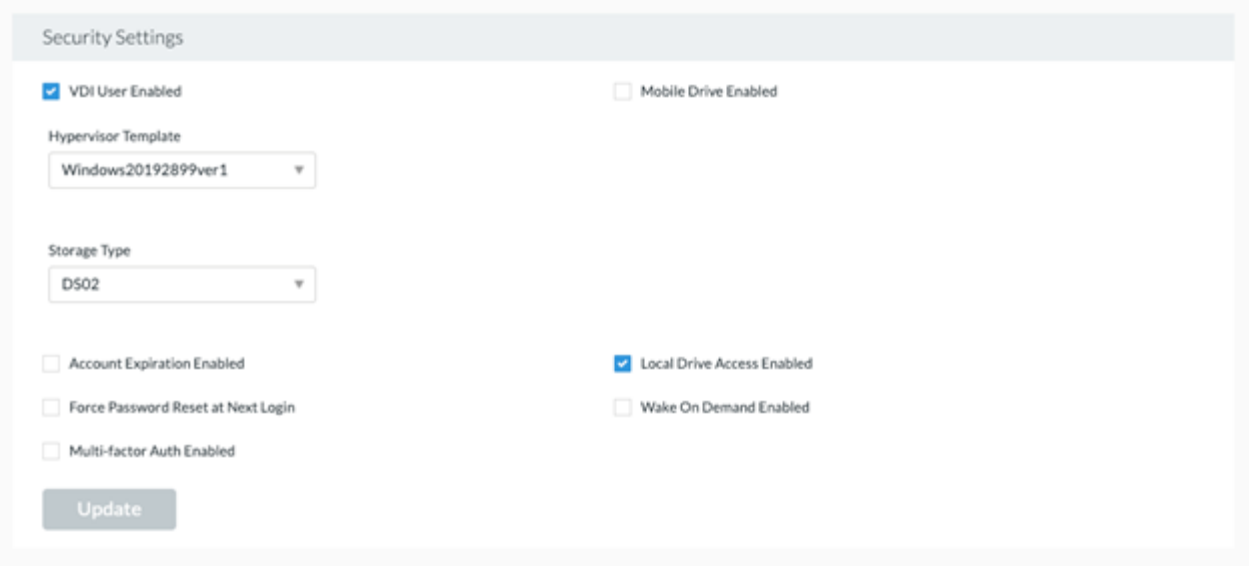
Each workspace resides in its own Active Directory organization unit (OU) under the Cloud Workspace OU as shown in the following figure.



For more info, see this video on user permissions and user management in NetApp VDS.

When an Active Directory group is defined as a CRAUserGroup using an API call for the datacenter, all the users in that group are imported into the CloudWorkspace for management using the UI. As the cloud workspace is enabled for the user, VDS creates user home folders, settings permissions, user properties updates, and so on.

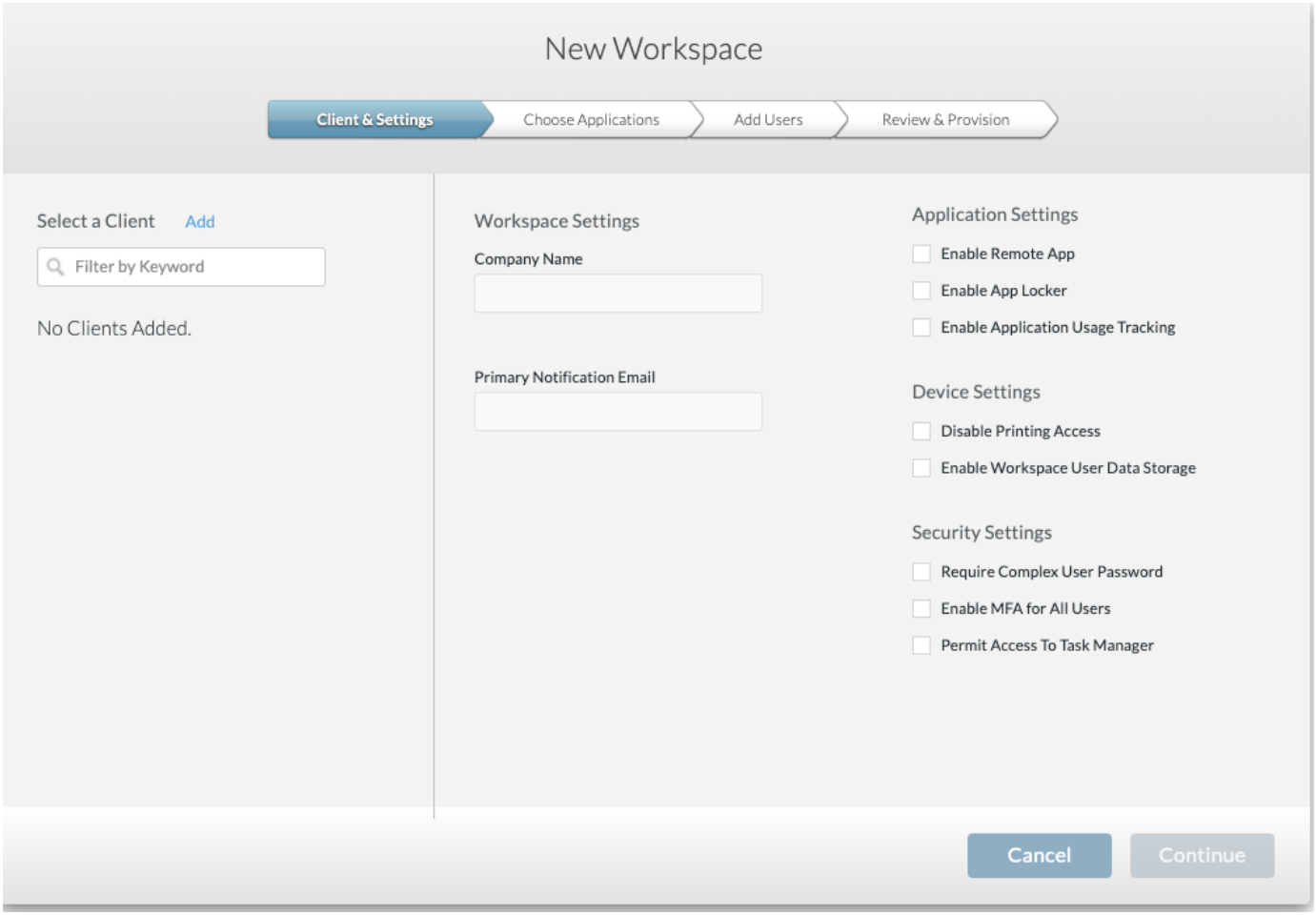
If VDI User Enabled is checked, VDS creates a single-session RDS machine dedicated to that user. It prompts for the template and the datastore to provision.



Next: Workspace Management

Workspace Management

A workspace consists of a desktop environment, which can be shared remote desktop sessions hosted on-premises or on any support cloud environment. With Microsoft Azure, the desktop environment can be persistent with Windows Virtual Desktops. Each workspace is associated with a specific organization or client. Options available when creating a new workspace can be seen in the following figure.



Each workspace is associated with specific deployment.

Workspaces contain associated apps and app services, shared data folders, servers, and a WVD instance. Each workspace can control security options like enforcing password complexity, multifactor authentication, file audits, and so on.

Workspaces can control the workload schedule to power on extra servers, limit the number of users per server, or set the schedule for the resources available for given period (always on/off). Resources can also be configured to wake up on demand.

Workspace can override the deployment VM resource defaults if required. For WVD, WVD host pools (which contains session hosts and app groups) and WVD workspaces can also be managed from the cloud workspace management suite portal. For more info on the WVD Host Pool, see this video.

Next: Application Management

Application Management

Task workers can quickly launch an application from the list of applications made available to them. App services publish applications from the Remote Desktop

Services session hosts. With WVD, App Groups provide similar functionality from multi-session Windows 10 host pools.

For office workers to power users, the applications that they require can be provisioned manually using a service board, or they can be auto-provisioned using the scripted events feature in NetApp VDS.

For more information, see the NetApp Application Entitlement page.

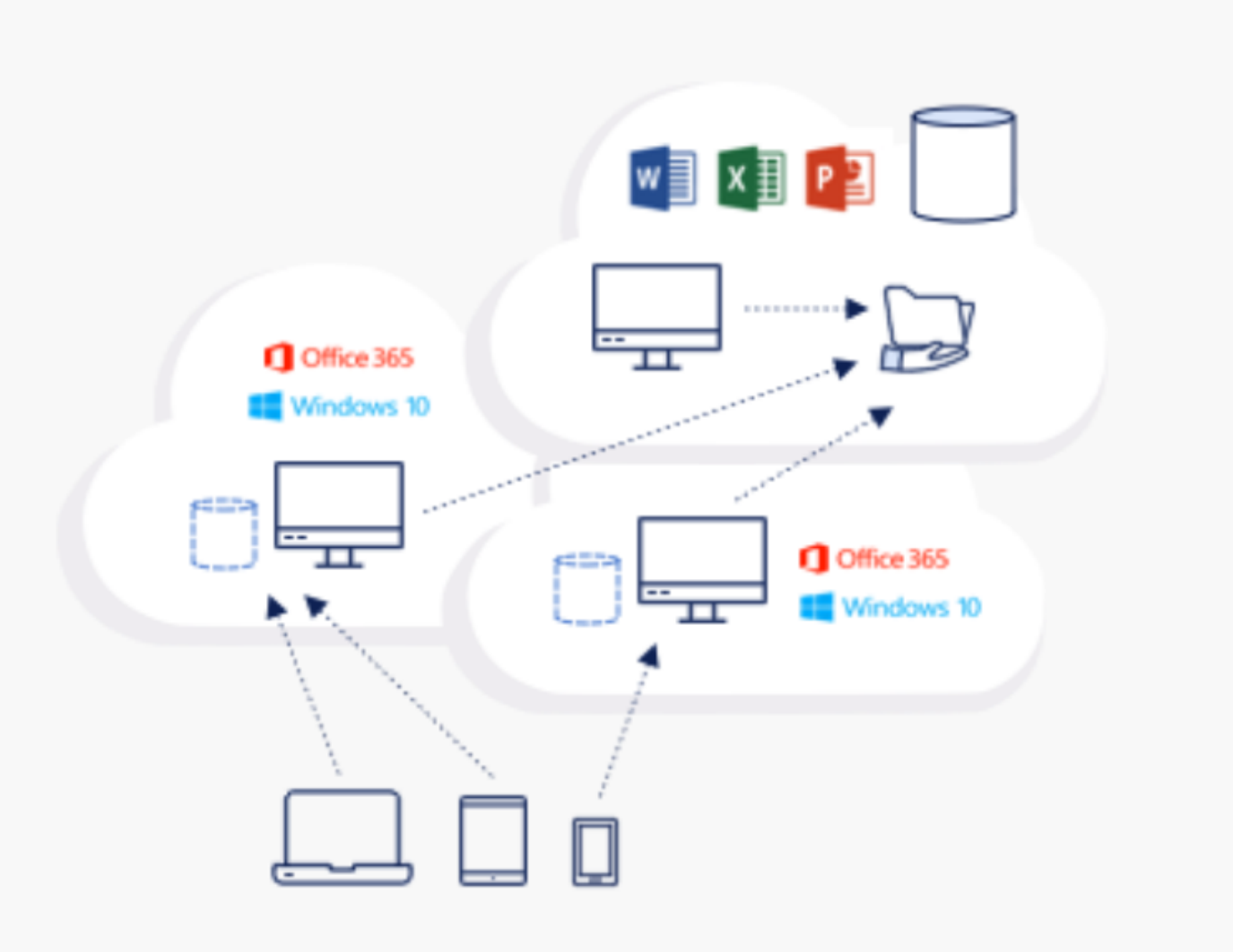
Next: Data Management

Data Management

As a part of deployment, you can choose the file-services method to host the user profile, shared data, and the home drive folder. The available options are File Server, Azure Files, or Azure NetApp Files. However, after deployment, you can modify this choice with the TestvDC tool to point to any SMB share. There are various advantages to hosting with NetApp ONTAP. For more information, see the NetApp Redirecting Storage Platform page.

Global File Cache

When users are spread across multiple sites within a global namespace, Global File Cache can help reduce latency for frequently accessed data. Global File Cache deployment can be automated using a provisioning collection and scripted events. Global File Cache handles the read and write caches locally and maintains file locks across locations. Global File Cache can work with any SMB file servers, including Azure NetApp Files.

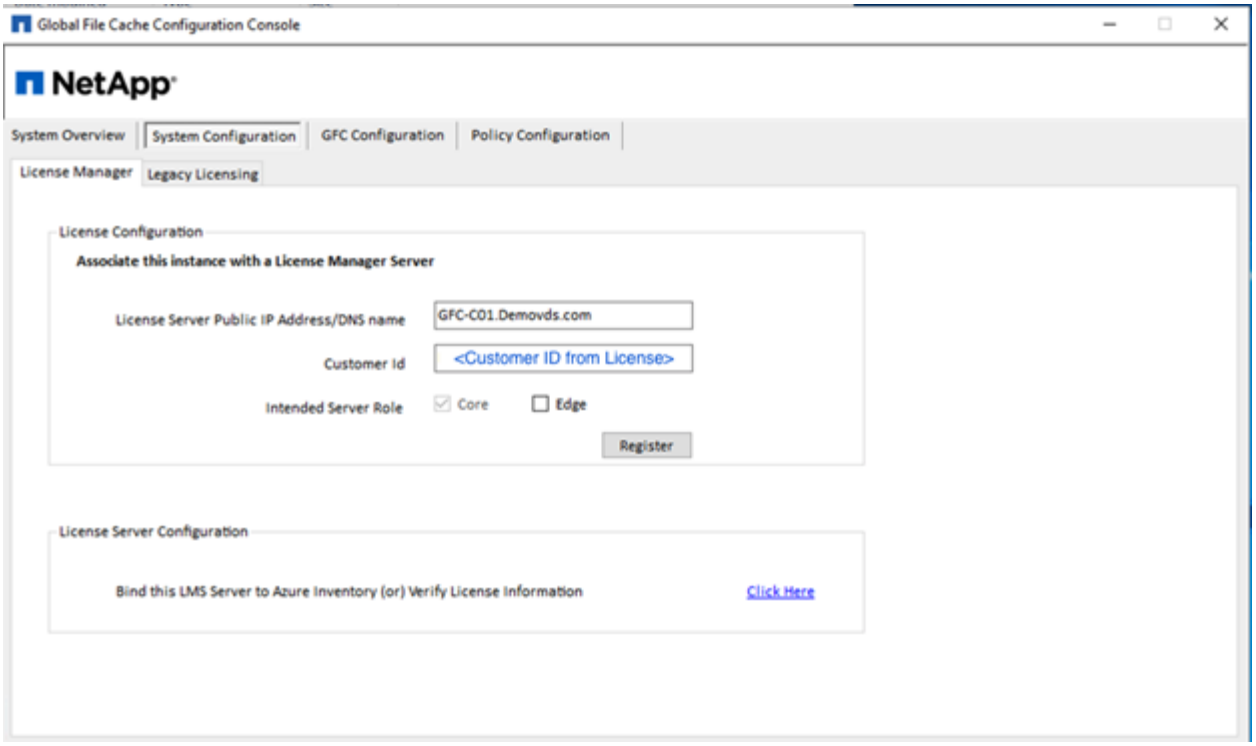


Global File Cache requires the following:

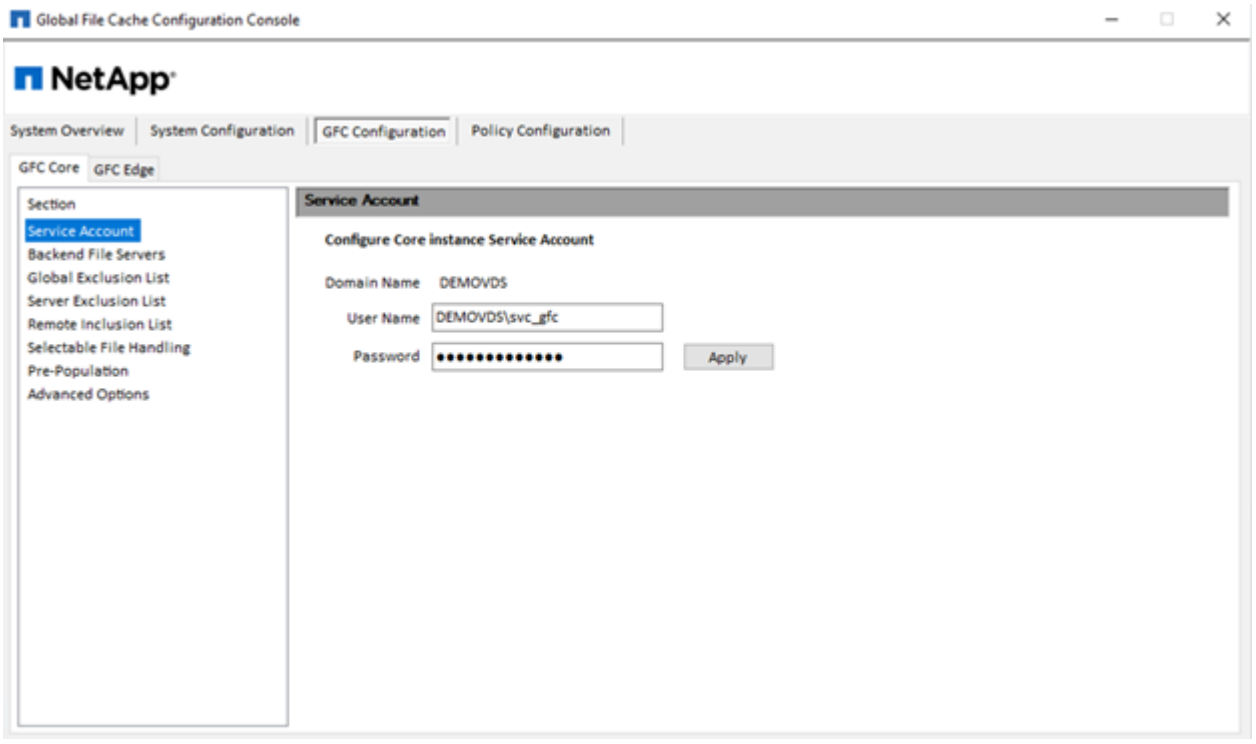
- Management server (License Management Server)
- Core
- Edge with enough disk capacity to cache the data

To download the software and to calculate the disk cache capacity for Edge, see the GFC documentation.

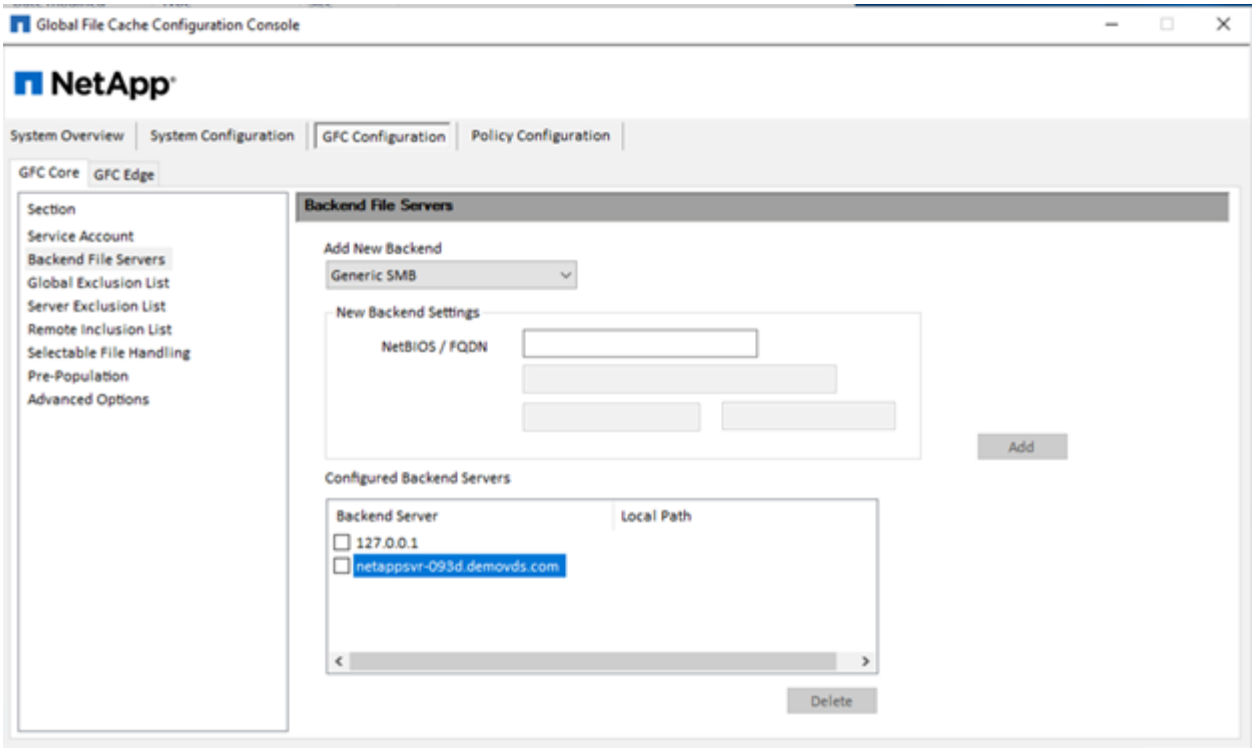
For our validation, we deployed the core and management resources on the same VM at Azure and edge resources on NetApp HCI. Please note that the core is where high-volume data access is required and the edge is a subset of the core. After the software is installed, the license must be activated before use. Under License Configuration section, use the link Click Here to complete the license activation. Then, register the core.



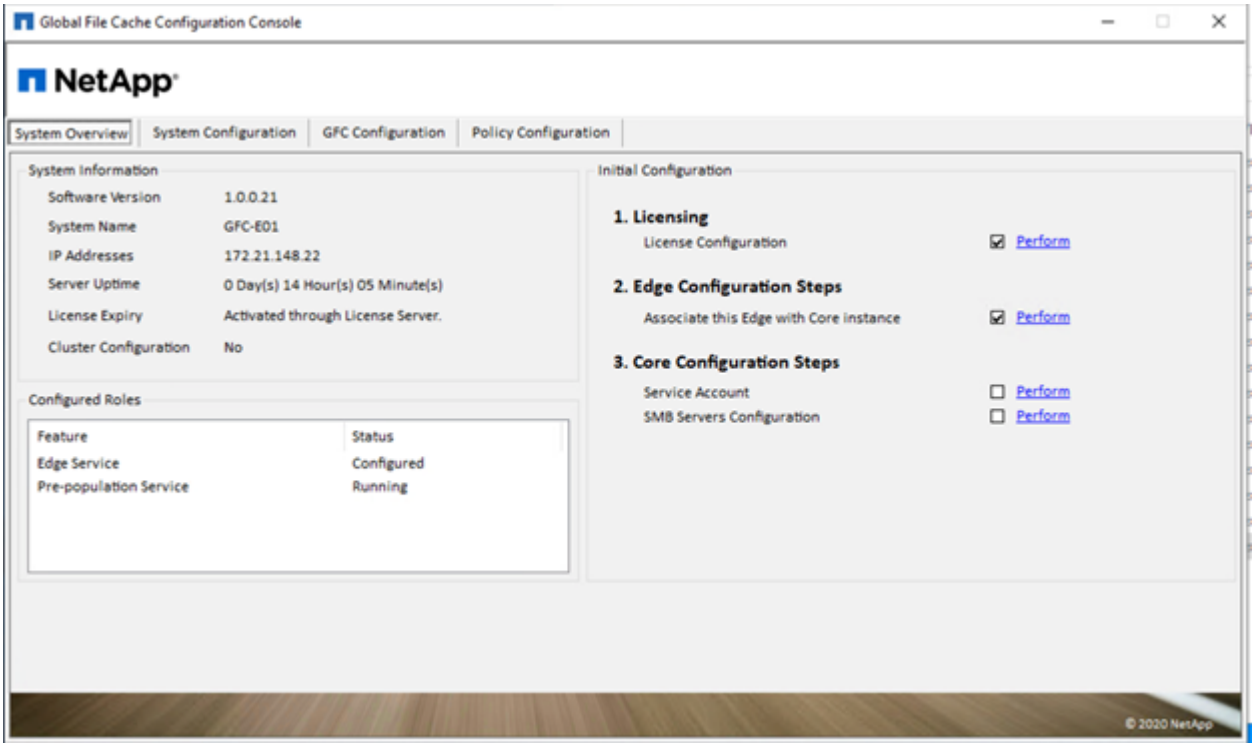
Provide the service account to be used for the Global File Cache. For the required permissions for this account, see the GFC documentation.



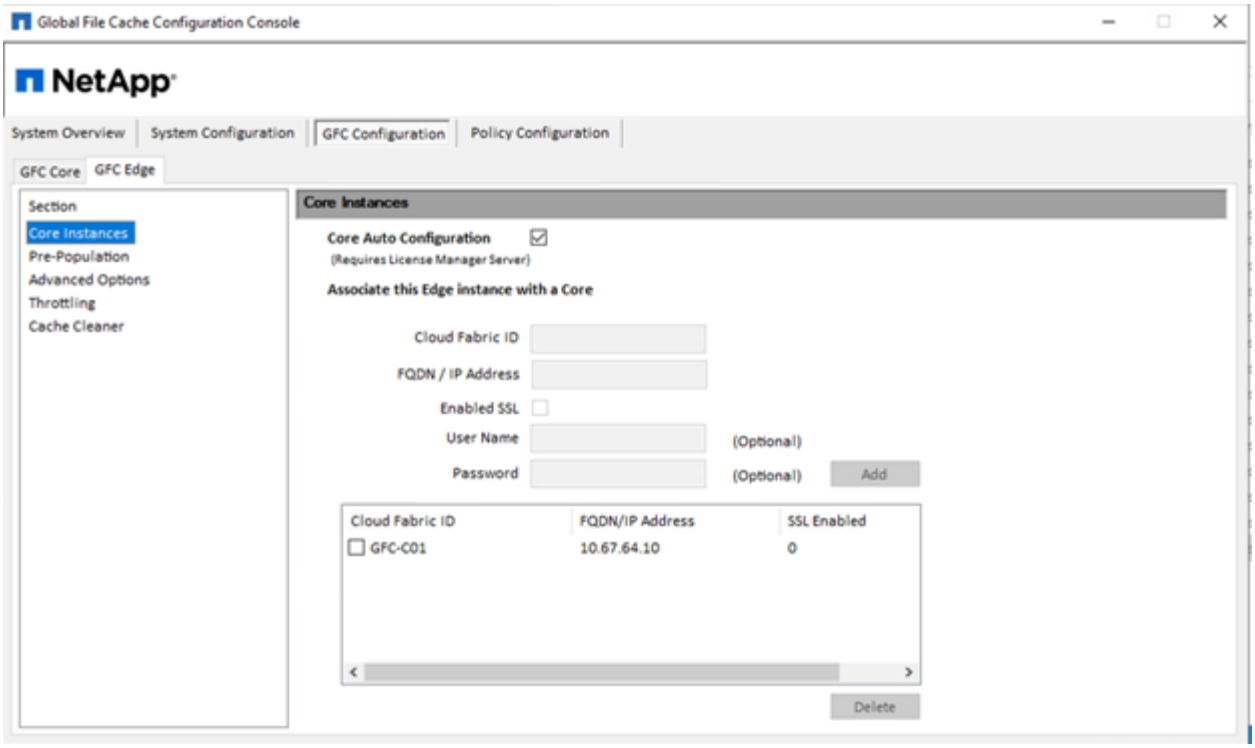
Add a new backend file server and provide the file server name or IP.



On the edge, the cache drive must have the drive letter D. If it does not, use diskpart.exe to select the volume and change drive letter. Register with the license server as edge.

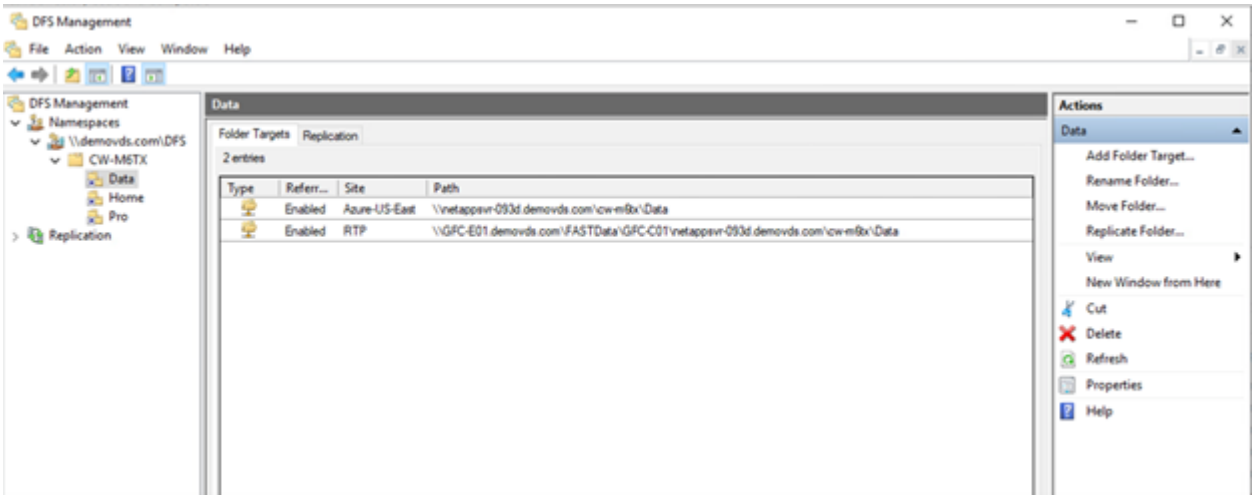


If core auto-configuration is enabled, core information is retrieved from the license management server automatically.

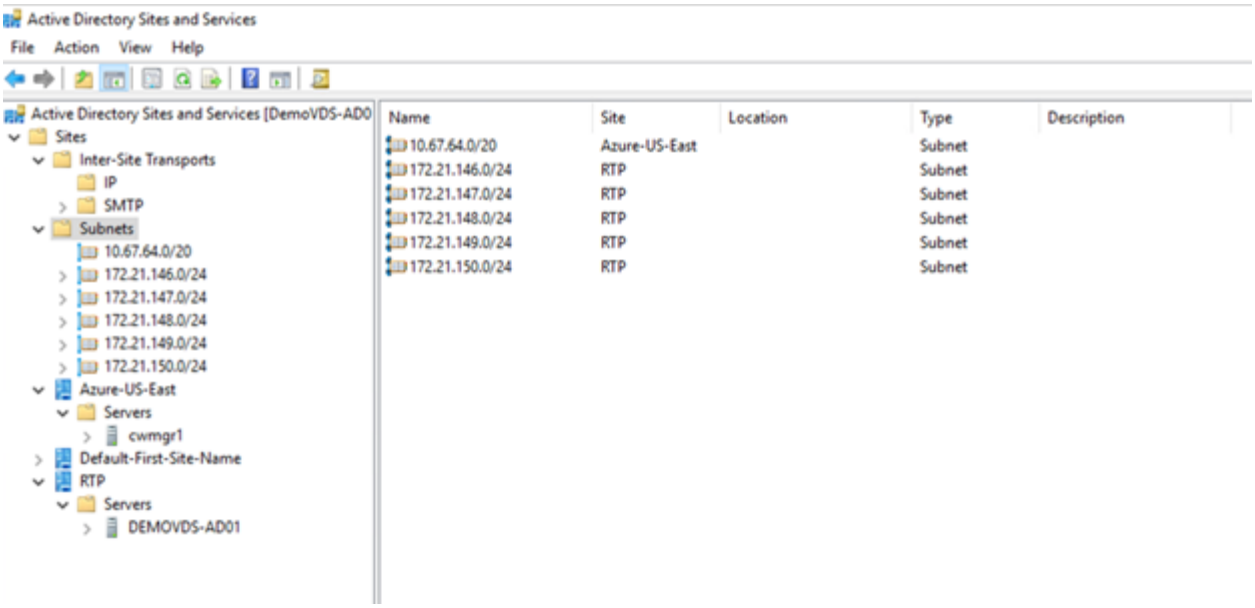


From any client machine, the administrators that use to access the share on file server, can access it via GFC edge using UNC Path `\\<edge server name>\FASTDATA\<core server name>\<backend file server name>\<share name>`. Administrators can include this path in user logonscript or GPO for users drive mapping at the edge location.

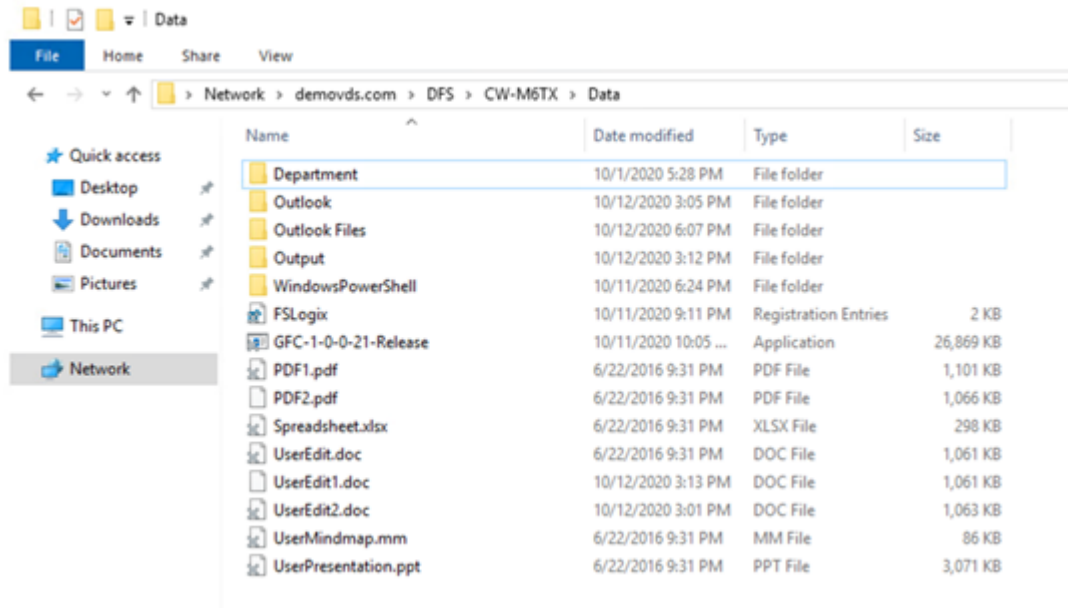
To provide transparent access for users across the globe, an administrator can setup the Microsoft Distributed Filesystem (DFS) with links pointing to file server shares and to edge locations.



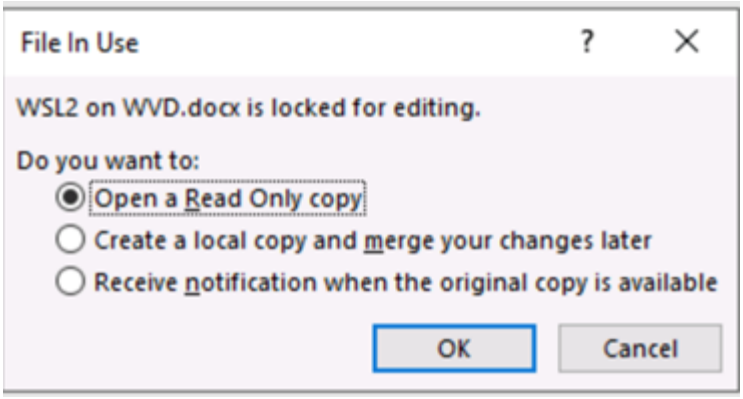
When users log in with Active Directory credentials based on the subnets associated with the site, the appropriate link is utilized by the DFS client to access the data.



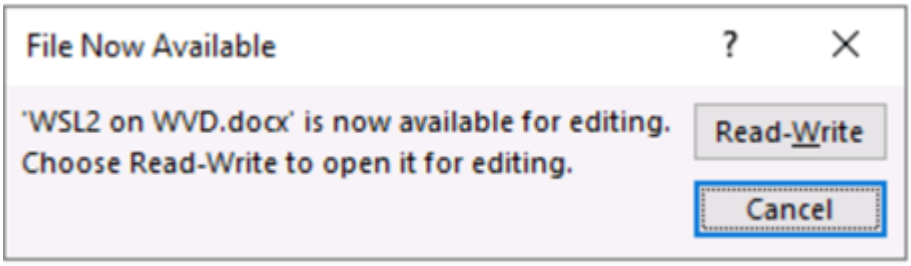
File icons change depending on whether a file is cached; files that are not cached have a grey X on the lower left corner of the icon. After a user in an edge location accesses a file, that file is cached, and the icon changes.



When a file is open and another user is trying to open the same file from an edge location, the user is prompted with the following selection:



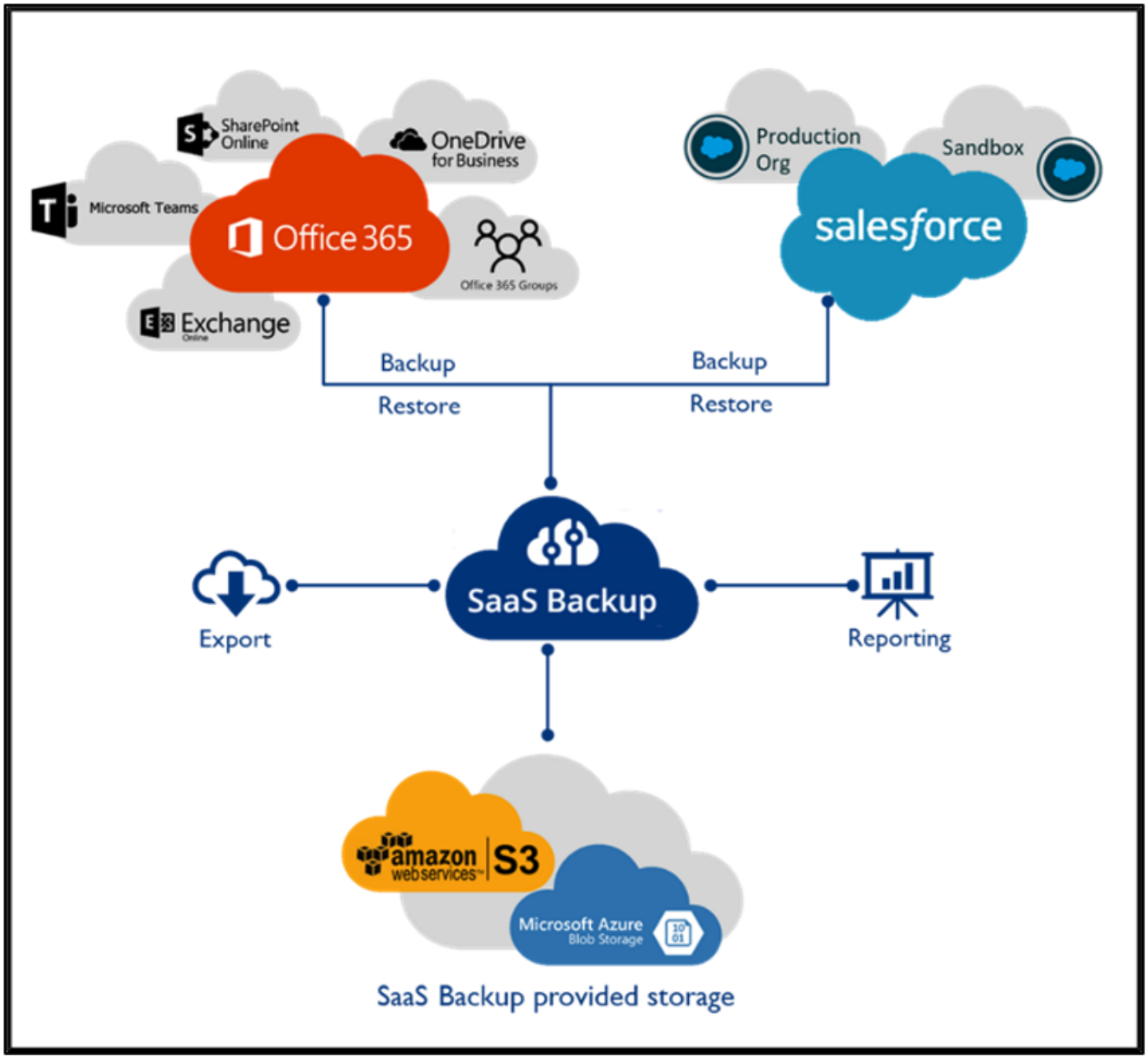
If the user selects the option to receive a notification when the original copy is available, the user is notified as follows:



For more information, see this video on Talon and Azure NetApp Files Deployment.

SaaS Backup

NetApp VDS provides data protection for Salesforce and Microsoft Office 365, including Exchange, SharePoint, and Microsoft OneDrive. The following figure shows how NetApp VDS provides SaaS Backup for these data services.



For a demonstration of Microsoft Office 365 data protection, see this video.

For demonstration of Salesforce data protection, see this video.

Next: Operation Management

Operation Management

With NetApp VDS, administrators can delegate tasks to others. They can connect to deployed servers to troubleshoot, view logs, and run audit reports. While assisting customers, helpdesk or level-3 technicians can shadow user sessions, view process lists, and kill processes if required.

For information on VDS logfiles, see the Troubleshooting Failed VDA Actions page.

For more information on the required minimum permissions, see the VDA Components and Permissions page.

If you would like to manually clone a server, see the Cloning Virtual Machines page.

To automatically increase the VM disk size, see the Auto-Increase Disk Space Feature page.

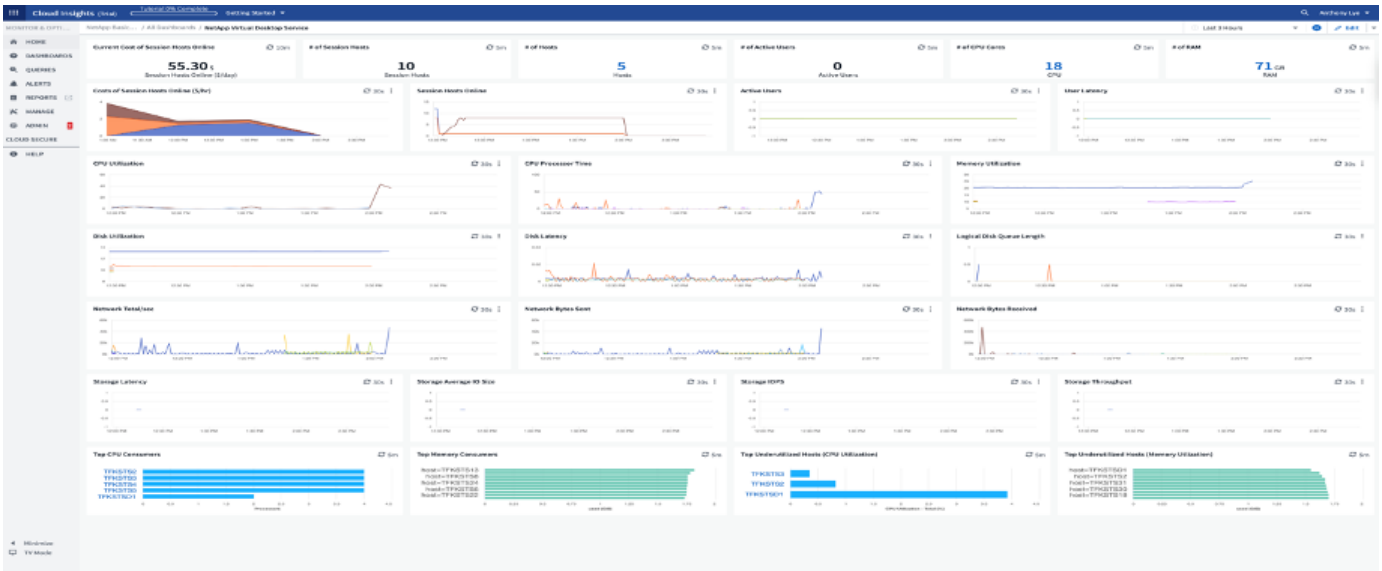
To identify the gateway address to manually configure the client, see the End User Requirements page.

Cloud Insights

NetApp Cloud Insights is a web-based monitoring tool that gives you complete visibility into infrastructure and applications running on NetApp and other third-party infrastructure components. Cloud Insights supports both private cloud and public clouds for monitoring, troubleshooting, and optimizing resources.

Only the acquisition unit VM (can be Windows or Linux) must be installed on a private cloud to collect metrics from data collectors without the need for agents. Agent-based data collectors allow you to pull custom metrics from Windows Performance Monitor or any input agents that Telegraf supports.

The following figure depicts the Cloud Insights VDS dashboard.



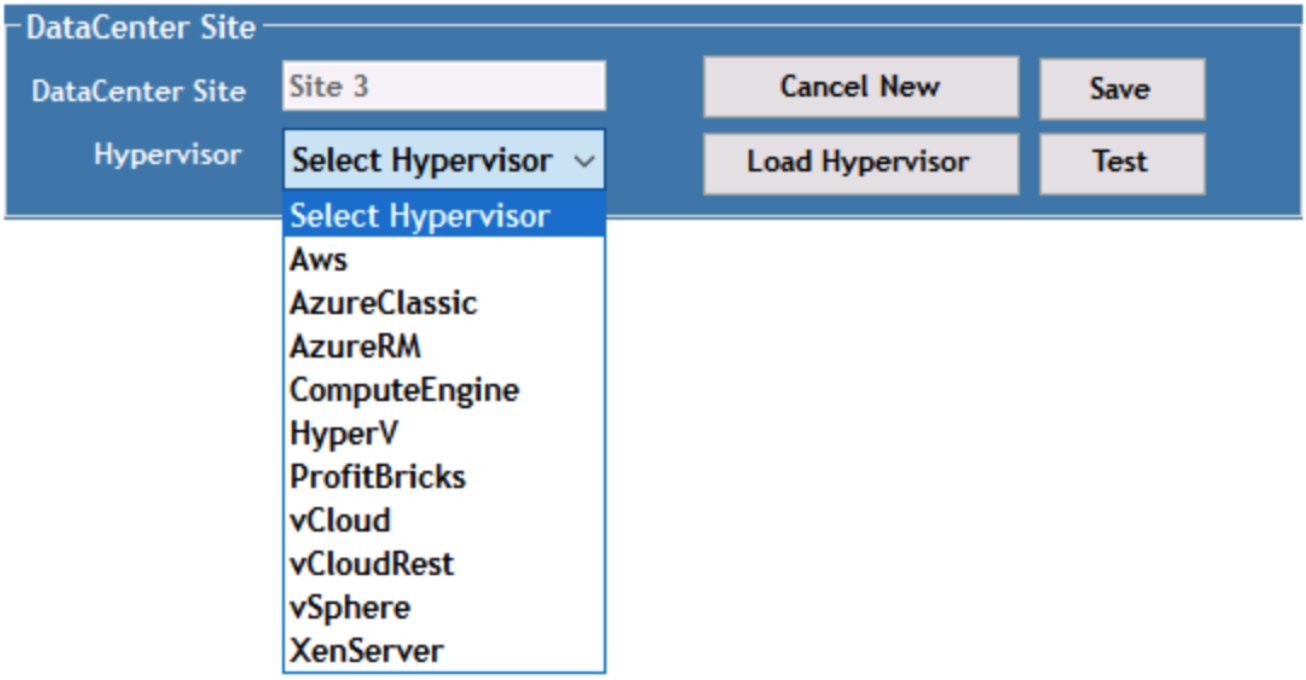
For more info on NetApp Cloud Insights, see this video.

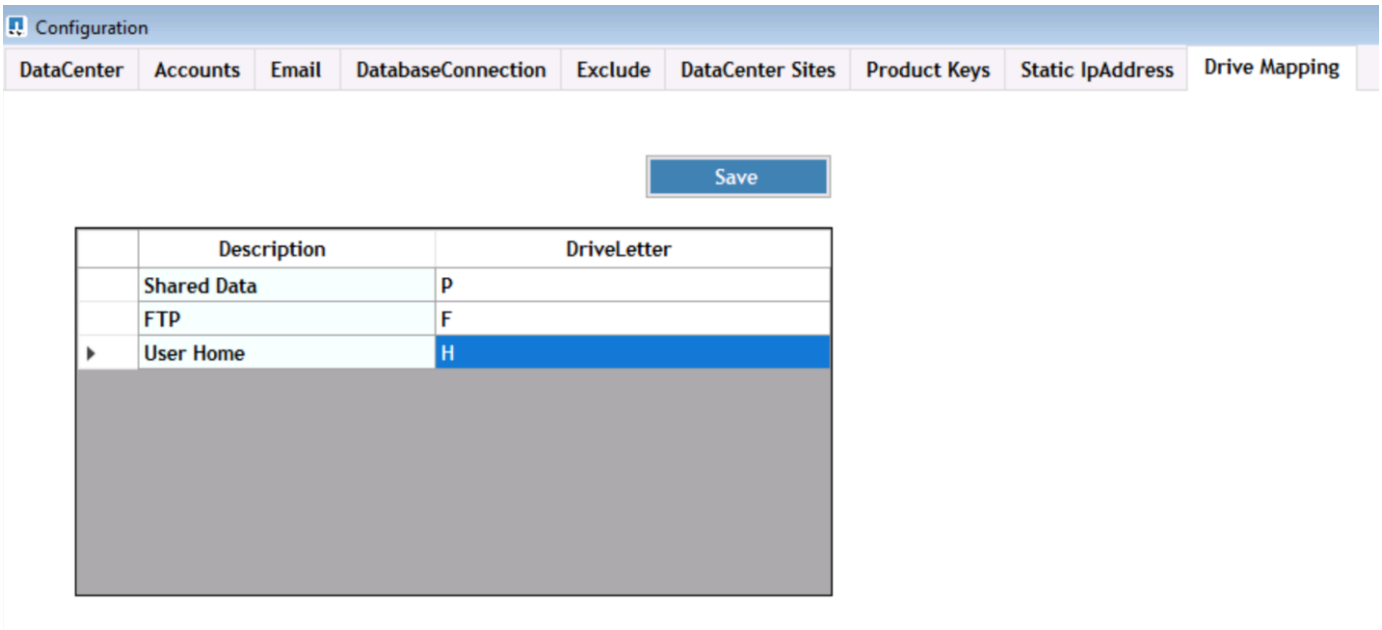
Next: Tools and Logs

Tools and Logs

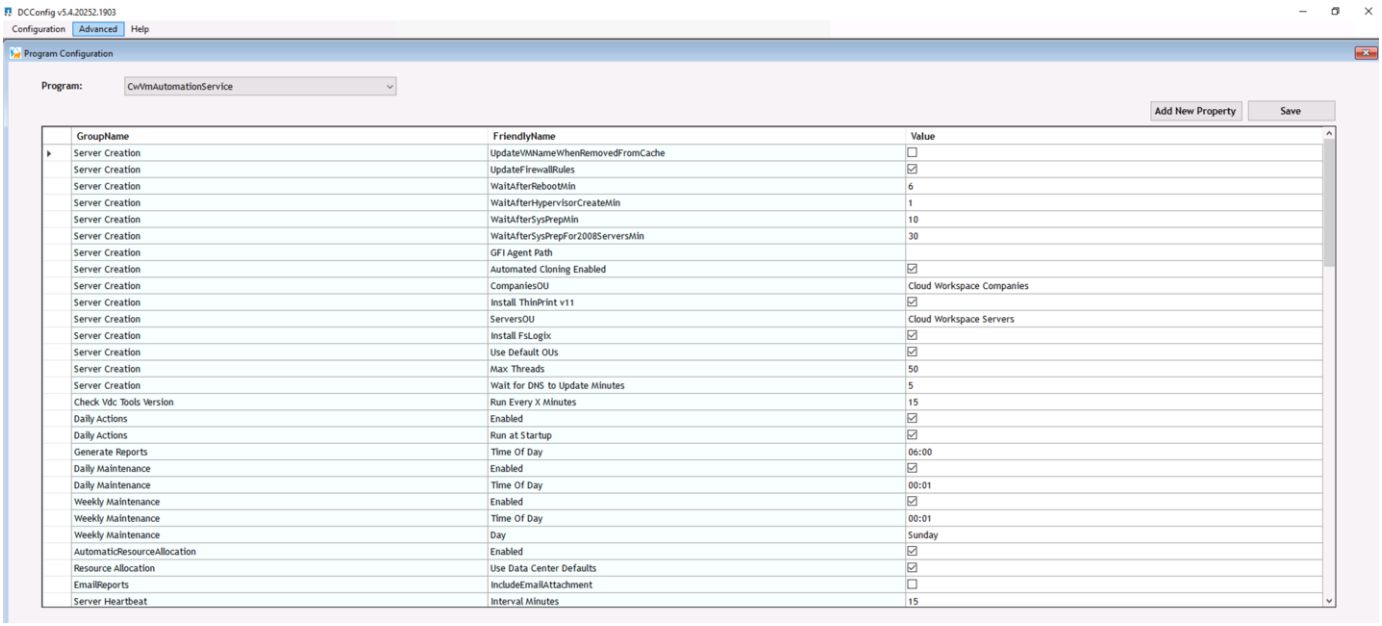
DCConfig Tool

The DCCconfig tool supports the following hypervisor options for adding a site:





Workspace-specific drive letter mapping for shared data can be handled using GPO. Professional Services or the support team can use the advanced tab to customize settings like Active Directory OU names, the option to enable or disable deployment of FSLogix, various timeout values, and so on.



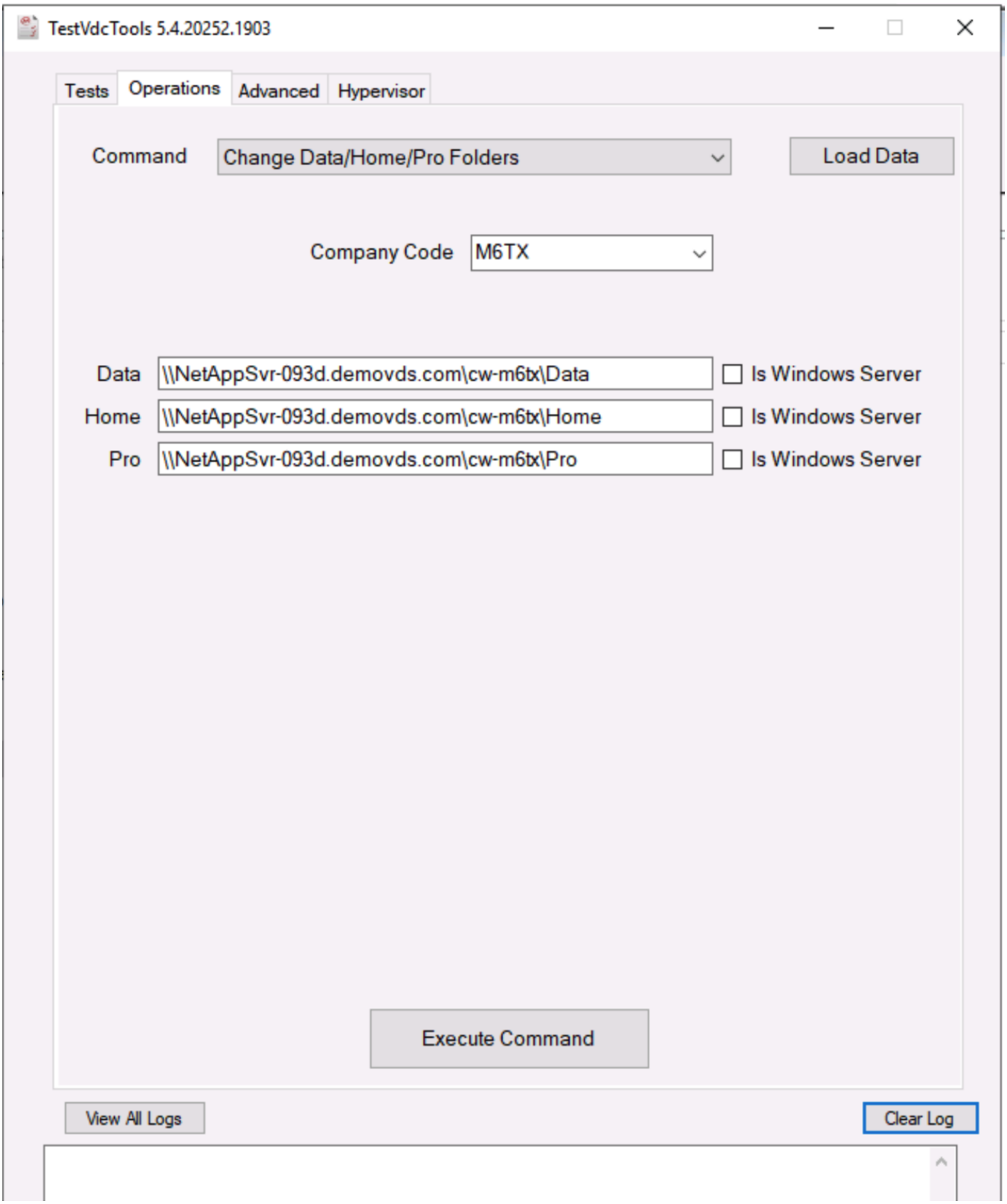
	GroupName	FriendlyName	Value
▸	Server Creation	UpdateVMNameWhenRemovedFromCache	☐
	Server Creation	UpdateFirewallRules	☑
	Server Creation	WaitAfterRebootMin	6
	Server Creation	WaitAfterHypervisorCreateMin	1
	Server Creation	WaitAfterSysPrepMin	10
	Server Creation	WaitAfterSysPrepFor2008ServersMin	30
	Server Creation	GFI Agent Path	
	Server Creation	Automated Cloning Enabled	☑
	Server Creation	CompaniesOU	Cloud Workspace Companies
	Server Creation	Install ThinPrint v11	☑
	Server Creation	ServersOU	Cloud Workspace Servers
	Server Creation	Install FSLogix	☑
	Server Creation	Use Default OUs	☑
	Server Creation	Max Threads	50
	Server Creation	Wait for DNS to Update Minutes	5
	Check Vdc Tools Version	Run Every X Minutes	15
	Daily Actions	Enabled	☑
	Daily Actions	Run at Startup	☑
	Generate Reports	Time Of Day	06:00
	Daily Maintenance	Enabled	☑
	Daily Maintenance	Time Of Day	00:01
	Weekly Maintenance	Enabled	☑
	Weekly Maintenance	Time Of Day	00:01
	Weekly Maintenance	Day	Sunday
	AutomaticResourceAllocation	Enabled	☑
	Resource Allocation	Use Data Center Defaults	☑
	EmailReports	IncludeEmailAttachment	☐
	Server Heartbeat	Interval Minutes	15

TestVdc Tools

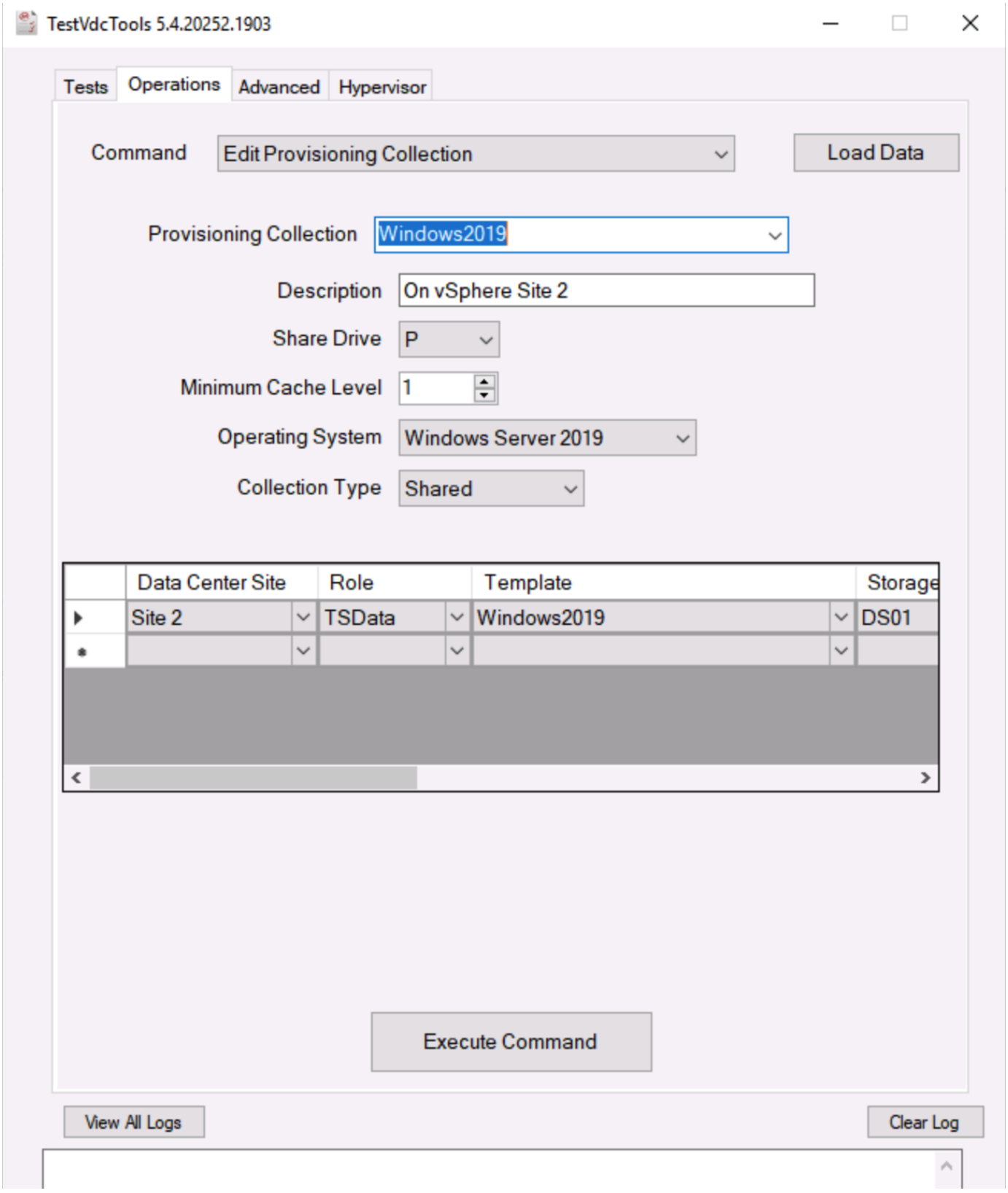
The TestVdc tool is available in the `C:\Program Files\CloudWorkspace\TestVdcTools\` folder.

The following operations can be performed by Professional Services or an administrator:

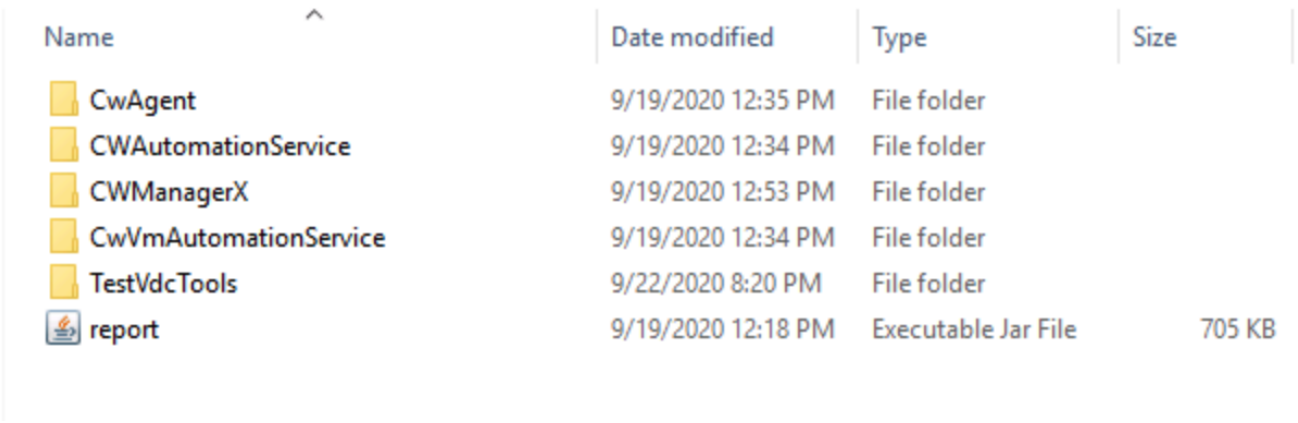
- Change the SMB Path for a workspace.



- Change the site for provisioning collection.


TestVdcTools 5.4.20252.1903
Tests
Operations
Advanced
Hypervisor
Command
Edit Provisioning Collection
Load Data
Provisioning Collection
Windows2019
Description
On vSphere Site 2
Share Drive
P
Minimum Cache Level
1
Operating System
Windows Server 2019
Collection Type
Shared
Data Center Site
Role
Template
Storage
Site 2
TSData
Windows2019
DS01
Execute Command
View All Logs
Clear Log

Log Files



Next: Conclusion

Conclusion

The NetApp Virtual Desktop Service provides an easy-to-consume virtual desktop and application environment with a sharp focus on business challenges. By extending VDS with NetApp HCI, you can use powerful NetApp features in a VDS environment, including in-line deduplication, compaction, thin provisioning, and compression. These features save storage costs and improve performance with all-flash storage. NetApp HCI offers high performance compute, a choice of GPU resources, and with VMware vSphere hypervisor which minimizes the server provisioning time using vSphere API for Array integration. Using the hybrid cloud, customers have the choice to pick the right environment for their demanding workloads and saving expenditure. The desktop session running on-premises can have access to cloud resources based on policy.

Next: Where to Find Additional Information

Where to Find Additional Information

To learn more about the information that is described in this document, review the following documents and/or websites:

- NetApp Cloud

  https://cloud.netapp.com/home

- NetApp VDS Product Documentation

  https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/virtual-desktop-service/index.html

- Connect your on-premises network to Azure with VPN Gateway

  https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/learn/modules/connect-on-premises-network-with-vpn-gateway/

- Azure Portal

  https://portal.azure.com

- Microsoft Windows Virtual Desktop

  https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/services/virtual-desktop/

- Azure NetApp Files Registration

  https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/azure-netapp-files/azure-netapp-files-register?WT.mc_id=Portal-Microsoft_Azure_NetApp