



Automatic Device Resolution Overview

Cloud Insights

Tony Lavoie
April 20, 2021

This PDF was generated from https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/cloudinsights/concept_device_resolution_overview.html on October 26, 2021. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

Table of Contents

- Automatic Device Resolution Overview 1
 - Before You Begin 2
 - Steps to Identifying devices 2

Automatic Device Resolution Overview

You need to identify all of the devices you want to monitor with Cloud Insights. Identification is necessary in order to accurately track performance and inventory in your environment. Typically the majority of devices discovered in your environment are identified through *Automatic Device Resolution*.

After you configure data collectors, devices in your environment including switches, storage arrays, and your virtual infrastructure of hypervisors and VMs are identified. However, this does not normally identify 100% of the devices in your environment.

After data collector type devices have been configured, best practice is to leverage device resolution rules to help identify the remaining unknown devices in your environment. Device resolution can help you resolve unknown devices as the following device types:

- Physical hosts
- Storage arrays
- Tapes

Devices remaining as unknown after device resolution are considered generic devices, which you can also show in queries and on dashboards.

The rules created in turn will automatically identify new devices with similar attributes as they are added to your environment. In some cases, device resolution also allows for manual identification bypassing the device resolution rules for undiscovered devices within Cloud Insights.

Incomplete identification of devices can result in issues including:

- Incomplete paths
- Unidentified multipath connections
- The inability to group applications
- Inaccurate topology views
- Inaccurate data in the Data warehouse and reporting

The device resolution feature (Manage > Device resolution) includes the following tabs, each of which plays a role in device resolution planning and viewing results:

- **Fibre Channel Identify** contains a list WWNs and port information of Fibre Channel devices that were not resolved through automatic device resolution. The tab also identifies the percentage of devices that have been identified.
- **IP Address Identify** contains a list of devices accessing CIFS shares and NFS shares that were not identified through automatic device resolution. The tab also identifies the percentage of devices that have been identified.
- **Auto resolution rules** contains the list of rules that are run when performing Fibre channel device resolution. These are rules you create to resolve unidentified Fibre channel devices.
- **Preferences** provides configuration options that you use to customize device resolution for your environment.

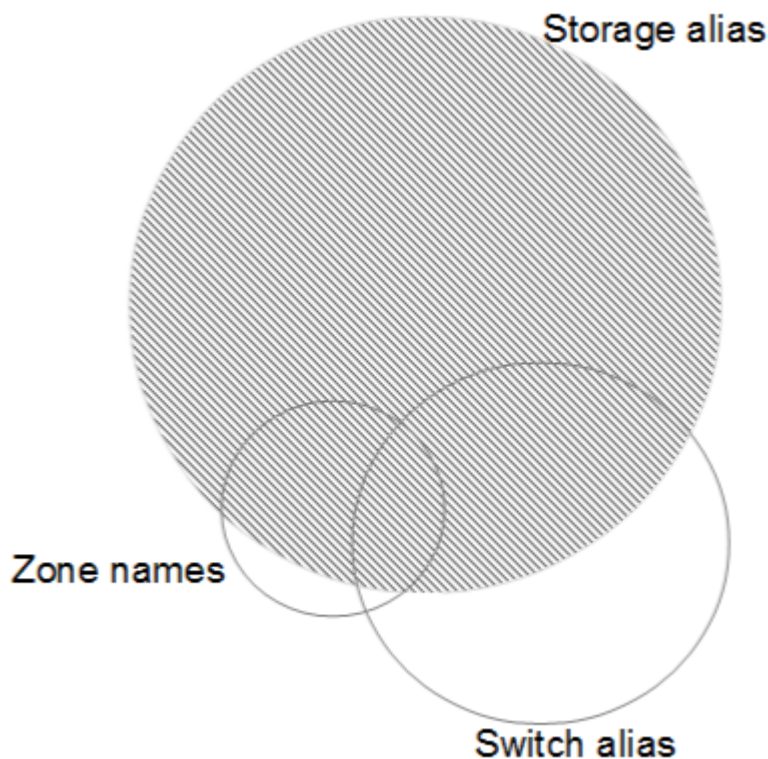
Before You Begin

You need to know how your environment is configured before you define the rules for identifying devices. The more you know about your environment the easier it will be to identify devices.

You need to answer questions similar to the following to help you create accurate rules:

- Does your environment have naming standards for zones or hosts and what percentage of these are accurate?
- Does your environment use a switch alias or storage alias and do they match the host name?
- How often do naming schemes change in your environment?
- Have there been any acquisitions or mergers that introduced different naming schemes?

After analyzing your environment, you should be able to identify what naming standards exist that you can expect to reliably encounter. The information you gathered might be represented graphically in a figure similar to the following:



In this example the largest number of devices are reliably represented by storage aliases. Rules that identify hosts using storage aliases should be written first, rules using switch aliases should be written next, and the last rules created should use zone aliases. Due to the overlap of the use of zone aliases and switch aliases, some storage alias rules might identify additional devices, leaving less rules required for zone aliases and switch aliases.

Steps to Identifying devices

Typically, you would use a workflow similar to the following to identify devices in your environment. Identification is an iterative process and might require multiple steps of planning and refining rules.

- Research environment
- Plan rules
- Create/Revise rules
- Review results
- Create additional rules or Manually Identify devices
- Done



If you have unidentified devices (otherwise known as unknown or generic devices) in your environment and you subsequently configure a data source that identifies those devices upon polling, they will no longer be displayed or counted as generic devices.

Related:

[Creating Device Resolution Rules](#)

[Fibre Channel Device Resolution](#)

[IP Device Resolution](#)

[Setting Device Resolution Preferences](#)

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.