# Preparing to use the ONTAP Mediator

ONTAP System Manager

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## Preparing to use the ONTAP Mediator

The ONTAP Mediator establishes a quorum for the ONTAP clusters in an SM-BC relationship. It coordinates automated failover when a failure is detected and helps to avoids split-brain scenarios when each cluster simultaneously tries to establish control as the primary cluster.

### **Prerequisites for the ONTAP Mediator**

The ONTAP Mediator includes its own set of prerequisites. You must meet these prerequisites before installing the mediator. For more information, see Installing or upgrading the ONTAP Mediator service.

### **Network configuration**

By default, the ONTAP Mediator provides service through TCP port 31784. You should make sure that port 31784 is open and available between the ONTAP clusters and the mediator.

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