



ONTAP System Manager docs

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NetApp

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Table of Contents

- Documentation for the SnapMirror Business Continuity solution 1
- Planning 2
 - Prerequisites 2
 - Additional restrictions and limitations 3
 - ONTAP access options 4
 - Preparing to use the ONTAP CLI 4
 - Preparing to use the ONTAP Mediator 5
 - Summary of deployment best practices 5
- Installation and setup 7
 - High level deployment workflow 7
 - Installing the ONTAP Mediator 9
 - Confirm the ONTAP cluster configuration 9
 - Mapping LUNs to the application hosts 10
 - Creating a consistency group relationship 11
 - Initializing a consistency group 12
- Administration 13
 - Creating a common snapshot copy 13
 - Performing a planned failover 13
 - What happens during an automatic unplanned failover 14
 - Reversing and resynchronizing a relationship after failover of a non-tie-breaker deployment 14

Documentation for the SnapMirror Business Continuity solution

This site contains the documentation for the NetApp SM-BC solution available with ONTAP 9.8.

Planning

Prerequisites

There are several prerequisites that you should consider as part of planning a SnapMirror Business Continuity solution deployment.

Hardware

- Only two-node HA clusters are supported
- Both nodes must be either AFF or ASA (no mixing)

Software

- ONTAP 9.8 or later
- ONTAP Mediator 1.2 or later
- A Linux server or virtual machine for the ONTAP Mediator running one of the following:
 - RedHat Enterprise Linux 7.6 or 7.7
 - CentOS 8.0 or 8.1

Licensing

- SnapMirror synchronous (SM-Sync) or premium bundle license applied on both clusters

Networking environment

- Only SAN protocols are supported (not NFS/CIFS)
- Only Fibre Channel and iSCSI are supported
- Inter-cluster latency must be less than 10 milliseconds

ONTAP Mediator

- Must be provisioned externally and attached to ONTAP for transparent application failover

AppDM Application volumes

Volumes associated with an AppDM Application are not supported with SM-BC. Before creating an SM-BC relationship for a set of volumes, make sure that none of the volumes are associated with an AppDM Application.



In ONTAP 9.8 RC releases, SM-BC does not automatically check before creating a relationship with a set of AppDM Application volumes.

Additional restrictions and limitations

There are several additional restrictions and limitations when using the SnapMirror Business Continuity solution.

Consistency groups

The maximum number of SnapMirror Synchronous Consistency Group relationships in a cluster is five, a limit which is platform-independent. If you reach or attempt to exceed this limit, the following message is displayed:

The number of SnapMirror Synchronous Consistency Group relationships in a cluster cannot exceed 5

Volumes per consistency group

The maximum number of volumes supported per SnapMirror Synchronous Consistency Group relationship is twelve, a limit which is platform-independent. If you reach or attempt to exceed this limit, the following message is displayed:

The number of volumes in a SnapMirror Synchronous Consistency Group cannot exceed 12

Volumes

The maximum endpoints per platform are included in the following table.

S. No	Platform	Endpoints per HA for SM-BC	Overall sync and SM-BC endpoints per HA
1	AFF	60	80
2	ASA	60	80

SAN object limits

The following SAN object limits are included in the following table and apply regardless of the platform.

Limits of objects in an SM-BC relationship	Count
LUNs per volume	256
LUN maps per node	2048
LUN maps per cluster	4096

Limits of objects in an SM-BC relationship	Count
LIFs per VServer (with at least one volume in an SM-BC relationship)	256
Inter-cluster LIFs per node	4
Inter-cluster LIFs per cluster	8

ONTAP access options

You have several access options available when configuring the ONTAP nodes participating in an SM- BC deployment. You should select the option that best matches your specific environment and deployment goals.



In all cases, you must sign in using the administrator account with a valid password.

Command line interface

The text-based command line interface is available through the ONTAP management shell. You can access the CLI using secure shell (SSH).

System Manager

You can connect to the ONTAP System Manager using a modern web browser. The web GUI provides an intuitive and easy-to-use interface when accessing the SnapMirror Business Continuity functionality. For more information about using System Manager, see [ONTAP System Manager documentation](#).

REST API

The ONTAP REST API exposed to external clients provides another option when connecting to the ONTAP. You can access the API using any mainstream programming language or tool that supports REST web services. Popular choices include:

- Python (including the ONTAP Python client library)
- Java
- Curl

Using a programming or scripting language provides an opportunity to automate the deployment and management of a SnapMirror Business Continuity deployment. For more information, see the ONTAP online documentation page at your ONTAP storage system or click [NetApp DevNet ONTAP REST API](#).

Preparing to use the ONTAP CLI

You should be familiar with the following commands when deploying the SnapMirror Business Continuity solution using the ONTAP command line interface.

For more information, see [NetApp Documentation: ONTAP 9](#).

Command	Description
lun igroup create	Create an igroup on a cluster
lun map	Map a LUN to an igroup
lun show	Display a list of LUNs
snapmirror create	Create a new SnapMirror relationship
snapmirror initialize	Initialize an SM-BC consistency group
snapmirror update	Start an incremental transfer
snapmirror show	Display a list of SnapMirror relationships
snapmirror failover	Start a planned failover operation
snapmirror resync	Start a resynchronization operation
snapmirror delete	Delete a SnapMirror relationship

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 avoid split-brain scenarios when each cluster simultaneously tries to establish control as the active 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.

Summary of deployment best practices

There are several best practices that you should consider as part of planning an SnapMirror Business Continuity deployment.

SAN

The SnapMirror Business Continuity solution supports only SAN workloads. You should follow the SAN

best practices in all cases.

In addition:

- Replicated LUNs in the secondary cluster must be mapped to the host and the IO paths must be discovered at the time of configuration.
- After an OOS event exceeds 80 seconds, or after an automatic unplanned failover, it is important to rescan the host to ensure that there is not any I/O path loss. For more information, see the Host Documentation on Rescan of IO Paths.

Mediator

To be fully functional and to enable automatic unplanned failover, the external ONTAP mediator should be provisioned and configured with ONTAP clusters.

When installing the mediator, you should replace the self-signed certificate with a valid certificate signed by a mainstream reliable CA.

SnapMirror

You should terminate an SnapMirror relationship in the following order:

1. Perform `snapmirror delete` at the destination cluster
2. Perform `snapmirror release` at the source cluster

Installation and setup

High level deployment workflow

You can use the following workflow to install and implement the SnapMirror Business Continuity solution.

Plan the deployment and prepare the environment.



Install the ONTAP Mediator on a Linux machine.



Confirm that the cluster is properly configured.



Map the LUNs to the application host.



Create a consistency group relationship.



Initialize and review the consistency group.

Installing the ONTAP Mediator

You must install the ONTAP Mediator, which includes accepting the licensing agreement, before you can configure and use the SnapMirror Business Continuity solution.

Before you begin

The following software is required:

- ONTAP Mediator 1.2 or later
- One of the following Linux distributions:
 - RHEL 7.6 or 7.7
 - CentOS 8.0 or 8.1

About this task

You should install the ONTAP Mediator at an external site that is physically separated from the two ONTAP clusters.

Steps

1. Sign into the Linux system that will host the ONTAP Mediator.
2. Download the mediator installation package from the ONTAP Mediator page.

[NetApp Downloads: ONTAP Mediator](#)

3. Install the ONTAP Mediator and respond to all prompts as required:

```
./ontap-mediator_1.2
```

4. Optionally replace the self-signed SSL and certificate authority (CA) with the third party validated SSL Certificate and CA. Copy the contents of the ca.crt file from the ONTAP Mediator directory:

```
/opt/netapp/lib/ontap_mediator/ontap_mediator/server_config
```

5. At the ONTAP CLI, install the certificate on both the local and peer cluster:

```
security certificate install -type server-ca -vserver cserverName
```

Confirm the ONTAP cluster configuration

You should make sure that your source and destination clusters are configured properly.

About this task

Proceed through each of the following steps. For each step, you should confirm that the specific

configuration has been performed. Use the link included after each step to get more information as needed.

Steps

1. Confirm that a cluster peering relationship exists between the clusters.

[Configure peer relationships](#)

2. Confirm that the Storage VMs are created on each cluster.

[Creating an SVM](#)

3. Confirm that a peer relationship exists between the Storage VMs on each cluster.

[Creating an SVM](#)

4. Confirm that the volumes exist for your LUNs.

[Creating and managing volumes](#)

5. Confirm that a SAN LIF is created on one node in each cluster.

[Considerations for LIFs in a cluster SAN environment](#)

[Creating a LIF](#)

6. Confirm that the necessary LUNs are created and mapped to igroup, which is used to map LUNs to the initiator on the application host.

[Create LUNs and map igroups](#)

7. Rescan the application host to discover any new LUNs.

Mapping LUNs to the application hosts

You must create an igroup so you can map LUNs to the initiator on the application host.

About this task

You should perform this configuration on both clusters until complete.

Steps

1. Create an igroup on each cluster:

```
lun igroup create -igroup name -protocol fcp|iscsi -ostype os -initiator initiator_name
```

Example

```
lun igroup create -igroup ig1 -protocol iscsi -ostype linux -initiator -initiator  
iqn.2001-04.com.example:abc123
```

2. Map LUNs to the igroup:

```
lun map -path path_name -igroup igroup_name
```

Example:

```
lun map -path /vol/src1/11 -group ig1
```

3. Verify the LUNs are mapped:

```
lun show
```

4. On the application host, discover the new LUNs.

Creating a consistency group relationship

You must create a Synchronous SnapMirror relationship containing a group of volumes.

Before you begin

The following prerequisites and restrictions apply:

- You must be a cluster or storage VM administrator
- You must have a SnapMirror Synchronous license
- The destination volumes must be type DP
- The primary and the secondary storage VM must be in a peered relationship
- All constituent volumes in a consistency group must be in a single Storage VM

About this task

You must create the consistency group relationship from the destination cluster. You can map up to 32 constituents using the `cg-item-mappings` parameter on the `snapmirror create` command.

Steps

1. Create a consistency group and constituent relationship:

```
destination::> snapmirror create -source-path vs1_src:/cg/cg_src -destination-path  
vs1_dst:/cg/cg_dst -cg-item-mappings vol_src1:@vol_dst1,vol_src2:@vol_dst2 -policy  
AutomatedFailover
```

Example

This example creates two consistency groups, srccg with constituent volumes vol1 and vol2, and dstcg with constituent volumes vol1_dr and vol2_dr.

```
snapmirror create -source-path vs1:/cg/srccg -destination-path vs1_dr:/cg/dstcg -type  
xdp -policy Sync -cg-item-mappings vol1:@vol1_dr,vol2:@vol2_dr
```

Initializing a consistency group

After creating a consistency group, you must initialize it.

Before you begin

You must be a cluster or storage VM administrator.

About this task

You initialize the consistency group from the destination cluster.

Steps

1. Sign in to the ONTAP CLI at the destination cluster and initialize the consistency group:

```
destination::>snapmirror initialize -destination-path vs1_dst:/cg/cg_dst
```

Administration

Creating a common snapshot copy

In addition to the regularly scheduled snapshot copy operations, you can manually create a common snapshot copy between the volumes in the primary SnapMirror consistency group and the volumes in the secondary SnapMirror consistency group.

Before you begin

The SnapMirror group relationship must be in sync.

Steps

1. Create a common Snapshot copy:

```
destination::>snapmirror update -destination-path vs1_dst:/cg/cg_dst
```

2. Monitor the progress of the update:

```
destination::>snapmirror show -fields -newest-snapshot
```

Performing a planned failover

You can perform a planned failover to test your disaster recovery configuration or to perform maintenance on the primary cluster.

Before you begin

- The relationship must be in sync
- Nondisruptive operations must not be running
- The ONTAP Mediator must be configured, connected, and in quorum

About this task

A planned failover is initiated by the administrator of the secondary cluster. The operation requires switching the active and standby roles so that the secondary cluster takes over from the primary. The secondary cluster can then begin processing input and output requests locally without disrupting client operations.

Steps

1. Start the failover operation:

```
destination::>snapmirror failover start -destination-path vs1_dst:/cg/cg_dst
```

2. Monitor the progress of the failover:

```
destination::>snapmirror failover show
```

What happens during an automatic unplanned failover

An automatic unplanned failover (AUFO) operation occurs when the primary cluster is down or isolated. When this occurs, the secondary cluster is converted to the primary and begins serving clients. This operation is performed only with assistance from the ONTAP Mediator.

Reversing and resynchronizing a relationship after failover of a non-tie-breaker deployment

After a planned or unplanned failover in a non-tie-breaker deployment, where the secondary site is failed over and serving data, and the primary is operational, you must perform resync operation to reverse and resynchronize (flip resync) the relationship.

About this task

In a tie-breaker deployment, the flip resync operation is performed automatically after failover. After the reversed relationship is established, the primary and secondary site will switch roles.

Steps

1. Resynchronize the relationship from the new source:

```
primary::>snapmirror resync -destination-path vs1_dst:/cg/cg_src
```


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