NVA-1144: NetApp HCI AI Inferencing at the Edge Data Center with H615c and NVIDIA T4

NetApp Solutions

Kevin Hoke
May 24, 2021

This PDF was generated from https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/netapp-solutions/ai/hciai_edge_inferencing.html on October 21, 2021. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

Table of Contents

NVA-1144: NetApp HCI AI Inferencing at the Edge Data Center with H615c and NVIDIA T4 1
Customer Value 1

NVA-1144: NetApp HCI AI Inferencing at the Edge Data Center with H615c and NVIDIA T4

Arvind Ramakrishnan, NetApp

This document describes how NetApp HCI can be designed to host artificial intelligence (AI) inferencing workloads at edge data center locations. The design is based on NVIDIA T4 GPU-powered NetApp HCI compute nodes, an NVIDIA Triton Inference Server, and a Kubernetes infrastructure built using NVIDIA DeepOps. The design also establishes the data pipeline between the core and edge data centers and illustrates implementation to complete the data lifecycle path.

Modern applications that are driven by AI and machine learning (ML) have pushed the limits of the internet. End users and devices demand access to applications, data, and services at any place and any time, with minimal latency. To meet these demands, data centers are moving closer to their users to boost performance, reduce back-and-forth data transfer, and provide cost-effective ways to meet user requirements.

In the context of AI, the core data center is a platform that provides centralized services, such as machine learning and analytics, and the edge data centers are where the real-time production data is subject to inferencing. These edge data centers are usually connected to a core data center. They provide end-user services and serve as a staging layer for data generated by IoT devices that need additional processing and that is too time sensitive to be transmitted back to a centralized core.
This document describes a reference architecture for AI inferencing that uses NetApp HCI as the base platform.

Customer Value

NetApp HCI offers differentiation in the hyperconverged market for this inferencing solution, including the following advantages:

- A disaggregated architecture allows independent scaling of compute and storage and lowers the virtualization licensing costs and performance tax on independent NetApp HCI storage nodes.
- NetApp Element storage provides quality of service (QoS) for each storage volume, which provides guaranteed storage performance for workloads on NetApp HCI. Therefore, adjacent workloads do not negatively affect inferencing performance.
- A data fabric powered by NetApp allows data to be replicated from core to edge to cloud data centers, which moves data closer to where application needs it.
- With a data fabric powered by NetApp and NetApp FlexCache software, AI deep learning models trained on NetApp ONTAP AI can be accessed from NetApp HCI without having to export the model.
- NetApp HCI can host inference servers on the same infrastructure concurrently with multiple workloads, either virtual-machine (VM) or container-based, without performance degradation.
- NetApp HCI is certified as NVIDIA GPU Cloud (NGC) ready for NVIDIA AI containerized applications.
- NGC-ready means that the stack is validated by NVIDIA, is purpose built for AI, and enterprise support is available through NGC Support Services.
- With its extensive AI portfolio, NetApp can support the entire spectrum of AI use cases from edge to core to cloud, including ONTAP AI for training and inferencing, Cloud Volumes Service and Azure NetApp Files for training in the cloud, and inferencing on the edge with NetApp HCI.

Next: Use Cases

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.