Release notes

Astra

NetApp
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Table of Contents

Release notes . . . 1
What's new with Astra Control Service . . . 1
Known issues . . . 5
Known limitations . . . 5

Release notes

What's new with Astra Control Service

NetApp periodically updates Astra Control Service to bring you new features, enhancements, and bug fixes.

5 Aug 2021

This release includes the following new features and enhancements.

Astra Control Center

Astra Control is now available in a new deployment model. *Astra Control Center* is self-managed software that you install and operate in your data center so that you can manage Kubernetes application lifecycle management for on-premise Kubernetes clusters.

Go to the Astra Control Center documentation to learn more.

Bring your own bucket

You can now manage the buckets that Astra uses for backups and clones by adding additional buckets and by changing the default bucket for the Kubernetes clusters in your cloud provider.

Learn more about managing buckets.

2 June 2021

This release includes bug fixes and the following enhancements to Google Cloud support.

Support for shared VPCs

You can now manage GKE clusters in GCP projects with a shared VPC network configuration.

Persistent volume size for the CVS service type

Astra Control Service now creates persistent volumes with a minimum size of 300 GiB when using the CVS service type.

Learn how Astra Control Service uses Cloud Volumes Service for Google Cloud as the backend storage for persistent volumes.

Support for Container-Optimized OS

Container-Optimized OS is now supported with GKE worker nodes. This is in addition to support for Ubuntu.

Learn more about GKE cluster requirements.

15 Apr 2021

This release includes the following new features and enhancements.

Support for AKS clusters

Astra Control Service can now manage apps that are running on a managed Kubernetes cluster in Azure Kubernetes Service (AKS).

Learn how to get started.

REST API

The Astra Control REST API is now available for use. The API is based on modern technologies and current best practices.

Learn how to automate application data lifecycle management using the REST API.

Annual subscription

Astra Control Service now offers a *Premium Subscription*.

Pre-pay at a discounted rate with an annual subscription that enables you to manage up to 10 apps per *application pack*. Contact NetApp Sales to purchase as many packs as needed for your organization—for example, purchase 3 packs to manage 30 apps from Astra Control Service.

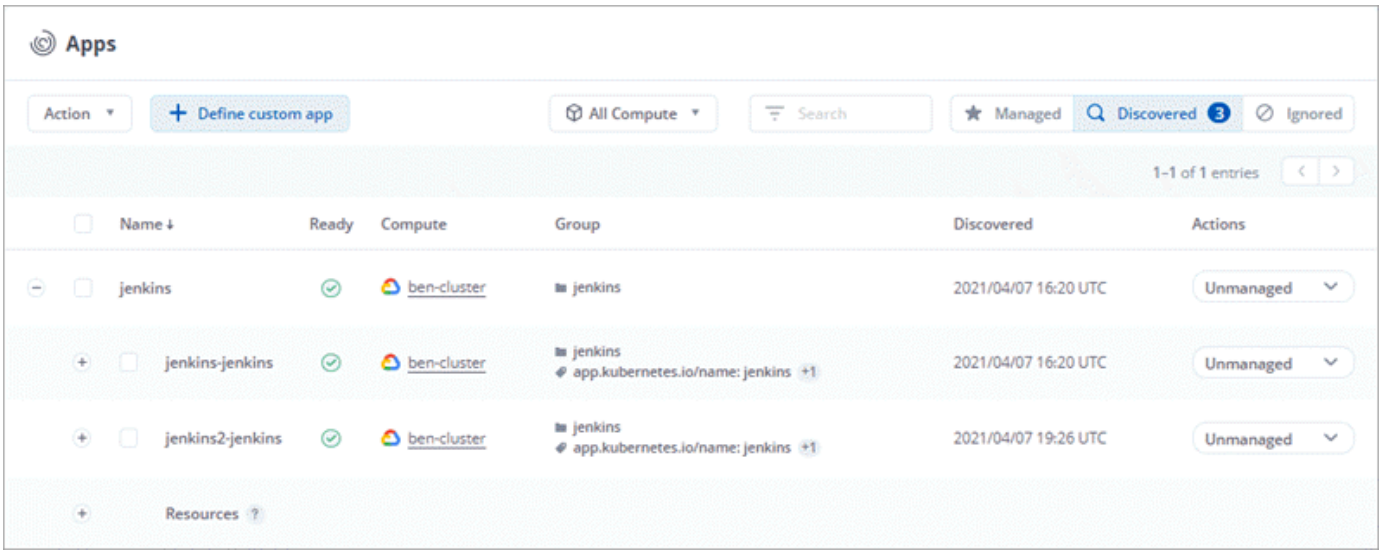
If you manage more apps than allowed by your annual subscription, then you'll be charged at the overage rate of $0.005 per minute, per application (the same as Premium PayGo).

Learn more about Astra Control Service pricing.

Namespace and app visualization

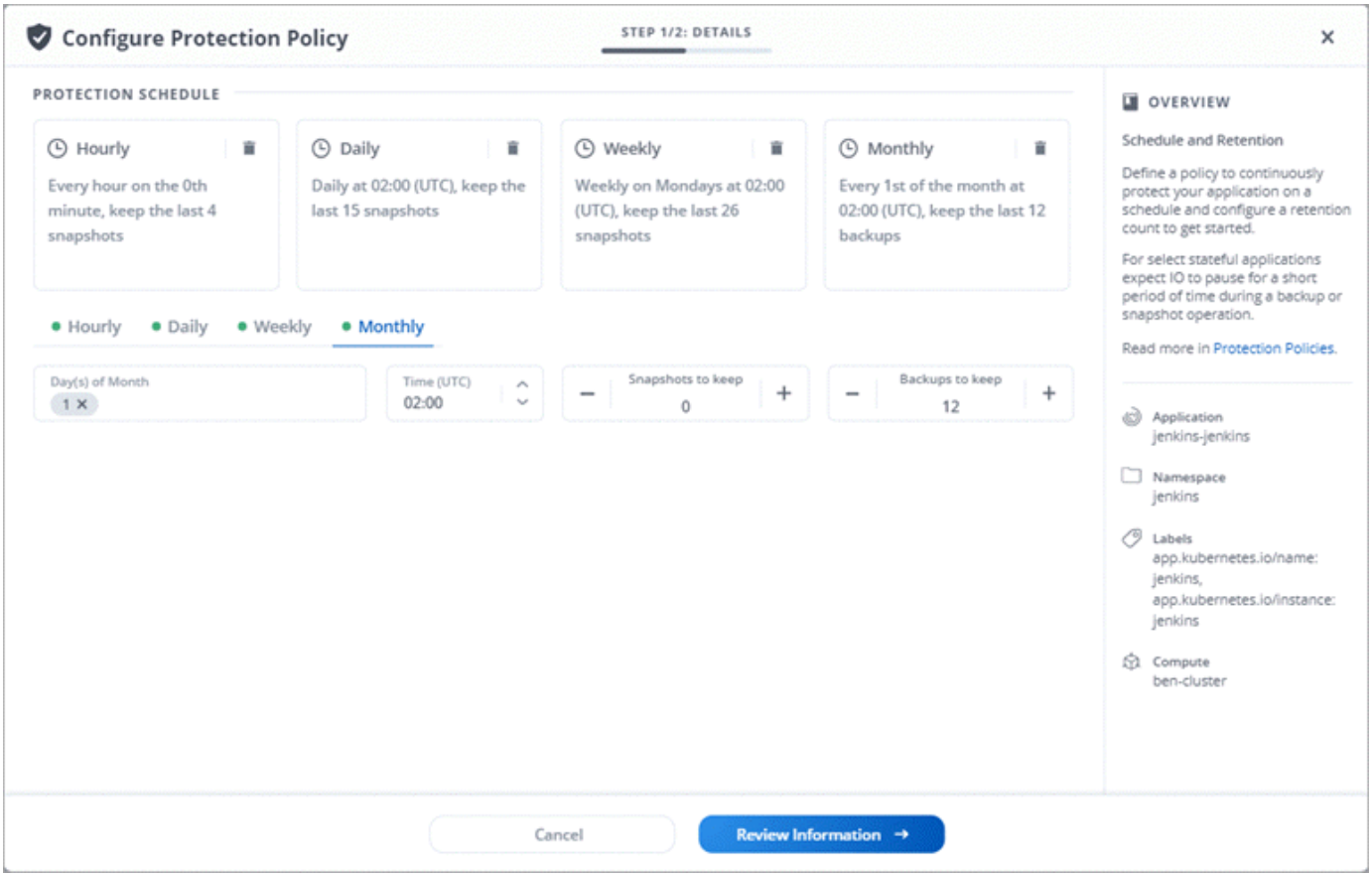
We enhanced the Discovered Apps page to better show the hierarchy between namespaces and apps. Just expand a namespace to see the apps contained in that namespace.

Learn more about managing apps.



User interface enhancements

Data protection wizards were enhanced for ease of use. For example, we refined the Protection Policy wizard to more easily view the protection schedule as you define it.



Activity enhancements

We've made it easier to view details about the activities in your Astra Control account.

- Filter the activity list by managed app, severity level, user, and time range.
- Download your Astra Control account activity to a CSV file.
- View activities directly from the Compute page or the Apps page after selecting compute or an app.

Learn more about viewing your account activity.

1 Mar 2021

Astra Control Service now supports the *CVS* service type with Cloud Volumes Service for Google Cloud. This is in addition to already supporting the *CVS-Performance* service type. Just as a reminder, Astra Control Service uses Cloud Volumes Service for Google Cloud as the backend storage for your persistent volumes.

This enhancement means that Astra Control Service can now manage app data for Kubernetes clusters that are running in *any* Google Cloud region where Cloud Volumes Service is supported.

If you have the flexibility to choose between Google Cloud regions, then you can pick either CVS or CVS-Performance, depending on your performance requirements. Learn more about choosing a service type.

25 Jan 2021

We're pleased to announce that Astra Control Service is now Generally Available. We incorporated a lot of the feedback that we received from the Beta release and made a few other notable enhancements.

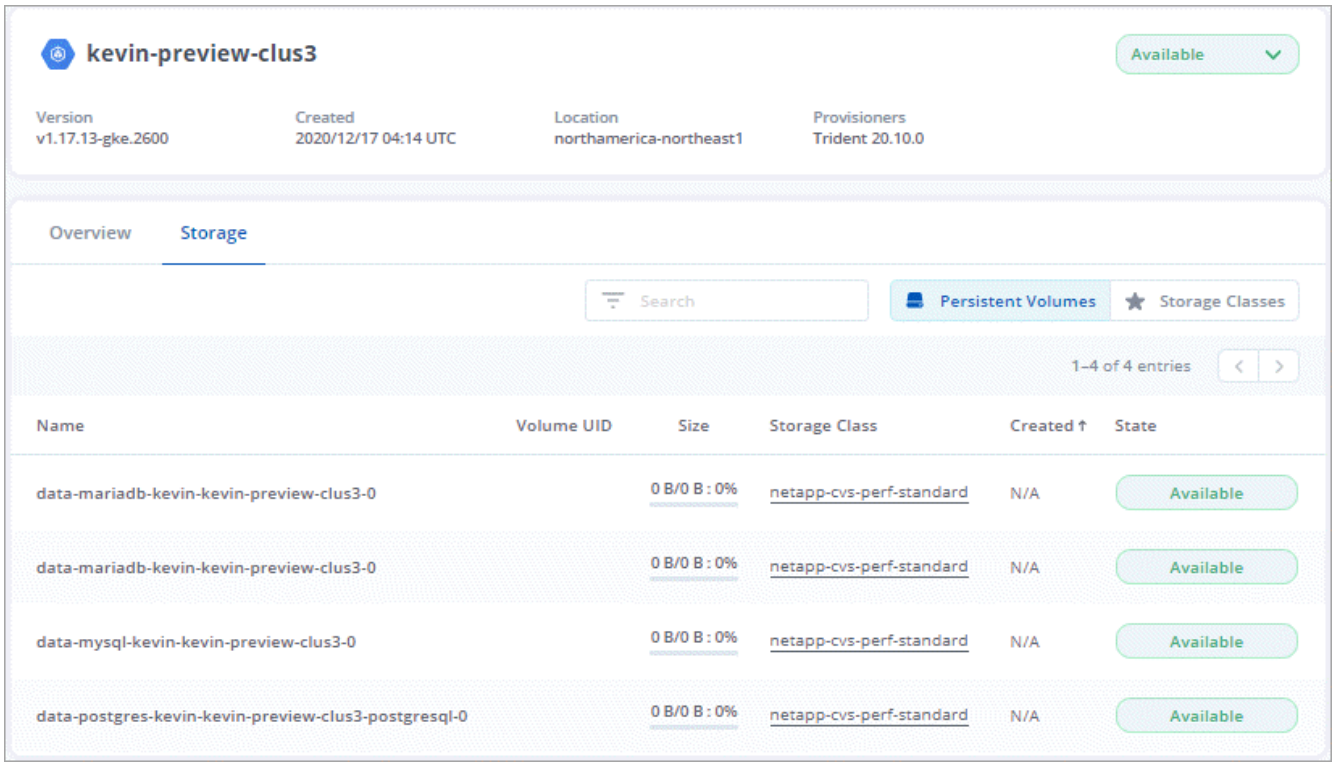
- Billing is now available, which enables you to move from the Free Plan to the Premium Plan. Learn more about billing.
- Astra Control Service now creates Persistent Volumes with a minimum size of 100 GiB when using the CVS-Performance service type.
- Astra Control Service can now discover apps faster.
- You can now create and delete accounts on your own.
- We've improved notifications when Astra Control Service can no longer access Kubernetes compute.

  These notifications are important because Astra Control Service can't manage apps for disconnected compute.

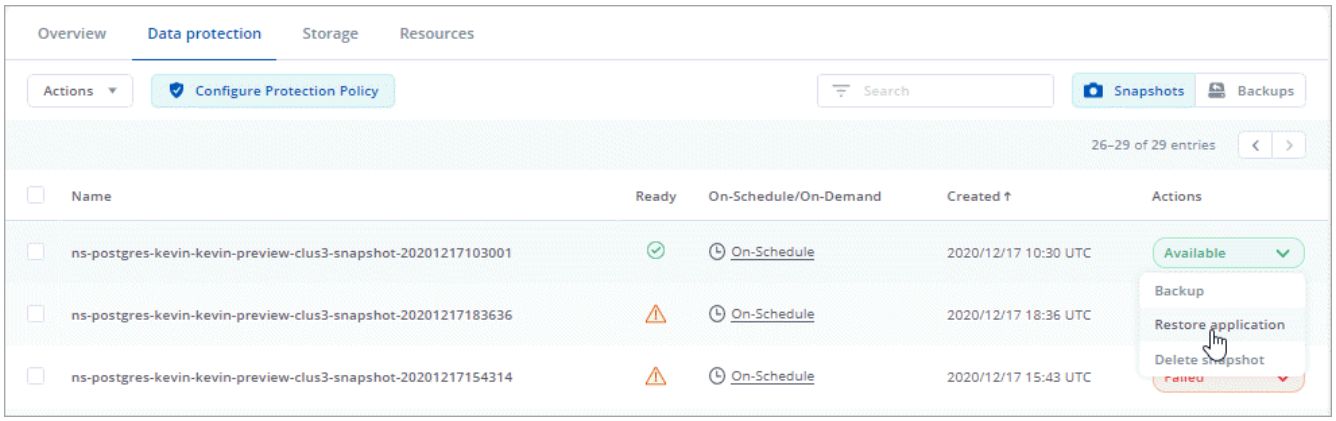
17 Dec 2020 (Beta update)

We primarily focused on bug fixes to improve your experience, but we made a few other notable enhancements:

- When you add your first Kubernetes compute to Astra Control Service, the object store is now created in the geography where the cluster resides.
- Details about persistent volumes is now available when you view storage details at the compute level.



- We added an option to restore an application from an existing snapshot or backup.



- If you delete a Kubernetes cluster that Astra Control Service is managing, the cluster now shows up in a **Removed** state. You can then remove the cluster from Astra Control Service.
- Account owners can now modify the assigned roles for other users.
- We added a section for billing, which will be enabled when Astra Control Service is released for General Availability (GA).

Known issues

Known issues identify problems that might prevent you from using this release of the product successfully.

Backup taken from new snapshot instead of existing snapshot

When you create a backup and select **Backup from existing snapshot**, Astra Control creates an ad-hoc snapshot and uses that snapshot to create the backup. Astra Control doesn't use the existing snapshot.

Clone performance impacted by large persistent volumes

Clones of very large and consumed persistent volumes might be intermittently slow, dependent on cluster access to the object store. If the clone is hung and no data has been copied for more than 30 minutes, Astra Control terminates the clone action.

Known limitations

Known limitations identify platforms, devices, or functions that are not supported by this release of the product, or that do not interoperate correctly with it. Review these limitations carefully.

General limitations

The following limitations affect Astra Control Service's management of Kubernetes clusters in any supported Kubernetes deployment.

Unhealthy pods affect app management

If a managed app has pods in an unhealthy state, Astra Control Service can't create new backups and clones.

Trident isn't uninstalled from a cluster

When you unmanage a cluster from Astra Control Service, Trident isn't automatically uninstalled from the

cluster. To uninstall Trident, you'll need to follow these steps in the Trident documentation.

Existing connections to a Postgres pod causes failures

When you perform operations on Postgres pods, you shouldn't connect directly within the pod to use the psql command. Astra Control Service requires psql access to freeze and thaw the databases. If there is a pre-existing connection, the snapshot, backup, or clone will fail.

Limitations for management of GKE clusters

The following limitations apply to the management of Kubernetes clusters in Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE).

One GCP project and one service account are supported

Astra Control Service supports one Google Cloud Platform project and one service account. You should not add more than one service account to Astra Control Service and you shouldn't rotate service account credentials.

Google Marketplace apps haven't been validated

NetApp hasn't validated apps that were deployed from the Google Marketplace. Some users report issues with discovery or back up of Postgres, MariaDB, and MySQL apps that were deployed from the Google Marketplace.

No matter which type of app that you use with Astra Control Service, you should always test the backup and restore workflow yourself to ensure that you can meet your disaster recovery requirements.

Persistent volume limit

You can have up to 100 volumes per Google Cloud region. If you reach this limit, creation of new clones or volumes will fail. Contact support to increase the volume limit.

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