



Release notes

Astra

NetApp
April 15, 2021

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Release notes

What's new with Astra

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

15 Apr 2021

This release includes the following new features and enhancements.

Support for AKS clusters

Astra 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 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 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.

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 pricing.](#)

Min volume size of 100 GiB

Astra now creates Persistent Volumes with a minimum size of 100 GiB when using the CVS service type with GKE clusters. With this change, 100 GiB is now the default volume size for all types of backend storage (Google Cloud and Microsoft Azure).

- [Learn more about storage for GKE clusters](#)
- [Learn more about storage for AKS clusters](#)

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.](#)

The screenshot shows the 'Apps' management interface. At the top, there are filters for 'All Compute', a search bar, and status filters for 'Managed', 'Discovered' (3 items), and 'Ignored'. Below the filters is a table with the following columns: Name, Ready, Compute, Group, Discovered, and Actions. The table contains three entries for 'jenkins' and 'jenkins-jenkins'.

Name	Ready	Compute	Group	Discovered	Actions
jenkins	✓	ben-cluster	jenkins	2021/04/07 16:20 UTC	Unmanaged
jenkins-jenkins	✓	ben-cluster	jenkins app.kubernetes.io/name: jenkins +1	2021/04/07 16:20 UTC	Unmanaged
jenkins2-jenkins	✓	ben-cluster	jenkins app.kubernetes.io/name: jenkins +1	2021/04/07 19:26 UTC	Unmanaged

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.

The screenshot shows the 'Configure Protection Policy' wizard, specifically the 'STEP 1/2: DETAILS' screen. The 'PROTECTION SCHEDULE' section is active, showing four options: Hourly, Daily, Weekly, and Monthly. The 'Monthly' option is selected. Below the options, there are input fields for 'Day(s) of Month' (1), 'Time (UTC)' (02:00), 'Snapshots to keep' (0), and 'Backups to keep' (12). On the right, the 'OVERVIEW' section shows the application 'jenkins-jenkins', namespace 'jenkins', and labels 'app.kubernetes.io/name: jenkins' and 'app.kubernetes.io/instance: jenkins'. The compute resource is 'ben-cluster'. At the bottom, there are 'Cancel' and 'Review Information' buttons.

Activity enhancements

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

- Filter the activity list by managed app, severity level, user, and time range.

- Download your Astra 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 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 uses Cloud Volumes Service for Google Cloud as the backend storage for your persistent volumes.

This enhancement means that Astra 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 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.

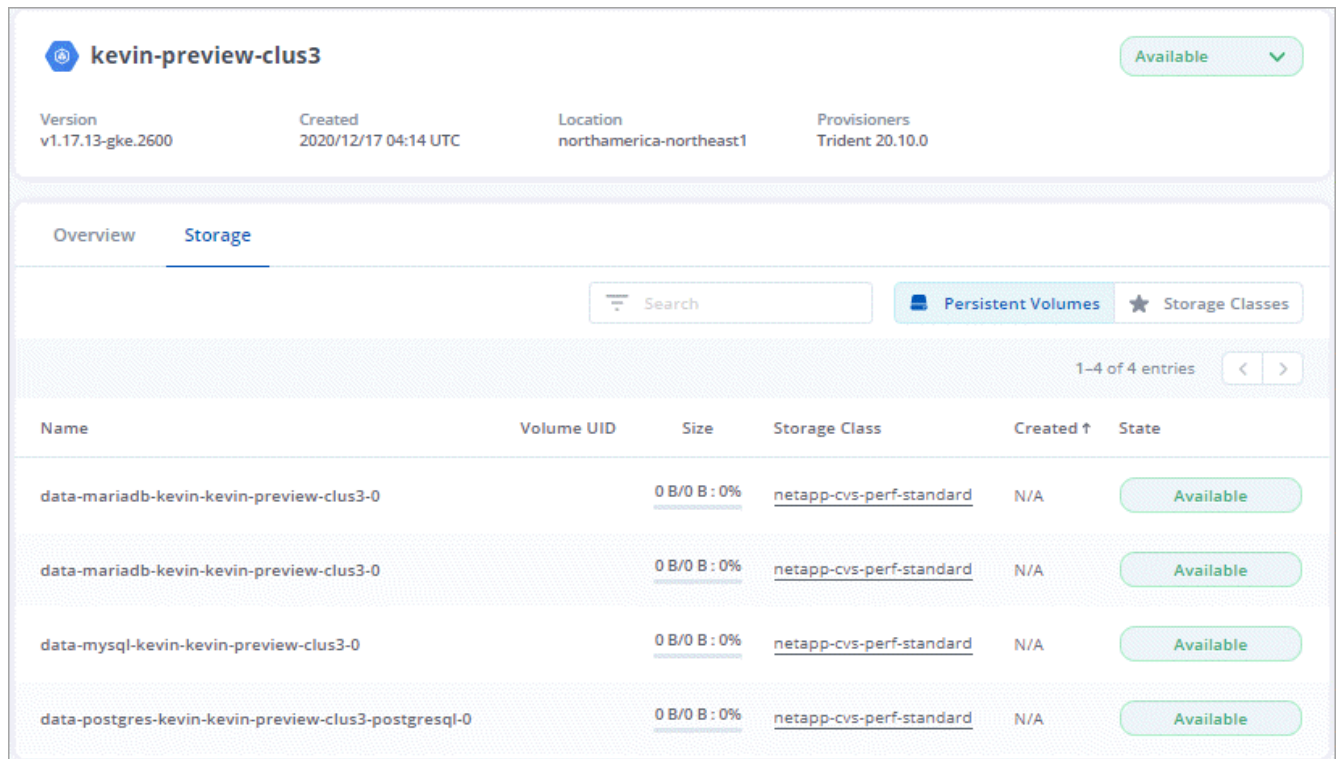
- Billing is now available, which enables you to move from the Free Plan to the Premium Plan. [Learn more about billing](#).
- Astra now creates Persistent Volumes with a minimum size of 100 GiB when using the CVS-Performance service type.
- Astra can now discover apps faster.
- You can now create and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

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

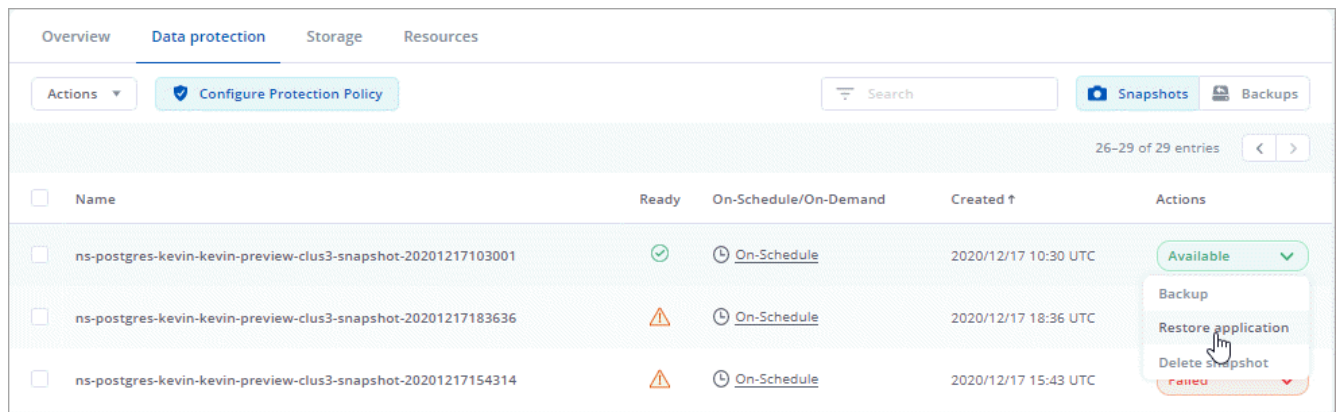
17 Dec 2020 (Beta update)

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

Known issues

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

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 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'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 can't create new backups and clones.

Trident isn't uninstalled from a cluster

When you unmanage a cluster from Astra, 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 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 supports one Google Cloud Platform project and one service account. You should not add more than one service account to Astra and you shouldn't rotate service account credentials.

Shared VPCs in Google Cloud aren't supported

Astra can't manage GKE clusters that reside in a shared VPC.

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, 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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