



Get started

Workload Factory for NetApp Console

NetApp
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Get started

Learn about NetApp Workload Factory

NetApp Workload Factory is a powerful life-cycle management platform designed to help you optimize your workloads using Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP, Google Cloud NetApp Volumes, and Oracle Cloud Infrastructure NetApp Storage Service.

A *workload* encompasses a combination of resources, code, and services or applications, designed to serve a business goal. This could be anything from a customer-facing application to a backend process. Workloads may involve a subset of resources within a single AWS account or span across multiple accounts.

Features

The Workload Factory platform provides the following major capabilities.

Flexible and low cost storage

Discover, deploy, and manage storage systems in the cloud. Your cloud storage provider brings the full capabilities of ONTAP to a native managed service delivering a consistent hybrid cloud experience.

Migrate on-premises vSphere environments to VMware Cloud on AWS

The VMware Cloud on AWS migration advisor enables you to analyze your current virtual machine configurations in on-premises vSphere environments, generate a plan to deploy recommended VM layouts to VMware Cloud on AWS, and use customized Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP file systems as external datastores.

Database lifecycle management

Discover database workloads and analyze costs savings with Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP; leverage storage and application benefits when migrating SQL server databases to FSx for ONTAP storage; deploy SQL servers, databases, and database clones that implement vendor best practices; use an Infrastructure as Code co-pilot to automate operations; and continuously monitor and optimize SQL server estates to improve performance, availability, protection, and cost-efficiency.

Ask Me AI assistant

Ask the AI assistant questions about managing and operating your storage systems. Using the Model Context Protocol (MCP), Ask Me securely interfaces with external environments and queries API tools to deliver responses tailored to your specific storage environment.



Account administrators can turn AI features on or off. If an administrator turns them off, the Ask Me AI assistant will not be available. [Learn about managing AI features.](#)

Supported cloud providers

Workload Factory enables you to manage cloud storage and use workload capabilities in Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP, Google Cloud NetApp Volumes, and Oracle Cloud Infrastructure NetApp Storage Service (OCI NSS).

Security

Security for NetApp Workload Factory is a top priority for NetApp. NetApp Workload Factory has received

[SOC2 Type 1 compliance, SOC2 Type 2 compliance, and HIPAA compliance.](#)

Cost

Workload Factory is free to use. The cost that you pay to your cloud provider depends on the storage and workload services that you plan to deploy. This includes the cost of storage systems, infrastructure, services, and more.

How Workload Factory works

Workload Factory includes a web-based console that's provided through the SaaS layer, an account, permission policies that control access to your cloud estate, connectivity between Workload Factory and your cloud accounts, and more.

Software-as-a-service

Workload Factory is accessible through the [NetApp Console](#). This SaaS experience enables you to automatically access the latest features as they're released and to easily switch between your Workload Factory accounts and links.

Sign up and access management

To use NetApp Console, you'll need to sign up with your NetApp Support Site credentials, or create a NetApp Console login. The first user becomes the organization administrator and manages user accounts and permissions. You can update roles and add more administrators later.

- [Learn how to sign up and log in to NetApp Console](#)
- [Learn about NetApp Console Identity Access Management](#)

Permissions

Workload Factory provides flexible permission policies that enables you to carefully control access to your cloud estate, and assign incremental trust to Workload Factory based on your IT policies.

[Learn more about Workload Factory permission policies](#)

Codebox automation

Codebox is an Infrastructure as Code (IaC) co-pilot that helps developers and DevOps engineers generate the code needed to execute any operation supported by Workload Factory. Code formats include Workload Factory REST API, cloud provider CLIs, Terraform, and more.

Codebox sets a clear path for execution readiness as well as an automation catalog for quick future reuse.

The Codebox pane shows the IaC that is generated by a specific job flow operation, and is matched by a graphical wizard or conversational chat interface. While Codebox supports color coding and search for easy navigation and analysis, it does not allow editing. You can only copy or save to the Automation Catalog.

[Learn more about Codebox](#)

Well-architected workloads

Workload Factory helps you maintain and operate reliable, secure, efficient, and cost-effective storage and database configurations that align with the AWS Well-Architected Framework. Workload Factory scans FSx for

ONTAP file systems, SQL Server, and Oracle database deployments daily to provide insights into potential misconfigurations and recommends either manual or automated actions for fixing issues.

[Learn more about well-architected workloads](#)

Tools to use NetApp Workload Factory

You can use NetApp Workload Factory with the following tools:

- **NetApp Console:** NetApp Console provides a hybrid interface experience so that you can use Workload Factory along with other NetApp data services.
- **Ask Me:** Use the Ask Me AI assistant to ask questions and learn more about Workload Factory without leaving NetApp Console.
- **CloudShell CLI:** Workload Factory includes a CloudShell CLI to manage and operate AWS and NetApp environments across accounts from a single, browser-based CLI.
- **REST API:** Use the Workload Factory REST APIs to deploy and manage your storage systems and other resources.
- **NetApp Terraform provider:** Use Terraform to build and manage infrastructure workflows generated in NetApp Console for Workload Factory.

REST APIs

Workload Factory enables you to optimize, automate, and operate your cloud storage systems for specific workloads. Each workload exposes an associated REST API. Collectively, these workloads and APIs form a flexible and extensible development platform you can use to administer your storage systems.

There are several benefits when using the Workload Factory REST APIs:

- The APIs have been designed based on REST technology and current best practices. The core technologies include HTTP and JSON.
- Workload Factory authentication is based on the OAuth2 standard. NetApp relies on the Auth0 service implementation.
- The Workload Factory web-based console uses the same core REST APIs so there is consistency between the two access paths.

[View the Workload Factory REST API documentation](#)

Quick start for NetApp Workload Factory

NetApp Workload Factory is accessible to users as a cloud data service from NetApp Console. Get started with Workload Factory by signing up and creating an account in NetApp Console and adding cloud provider credentials so that Workload Factory can manage your resources directly and optimize your workloads.

Before you get started, you should have an understanding of [Workload Factory](#).

Sign up and log in to Workload Factory from NetApp Console

[Sign up and log in to Workload Factory from NetApp Console](#)

Next, select the **Quick start** link for your cloud provider to get started.

Get started with Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP

[Quick start for Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP](#)

Get started with OCI NetApp Storage Service

[Quick start for OCI NetApp Storage Service](#)

Get started with Google Cloud NetApp Volumes

[Quick start for Google Cloud NetApp Volumes](#)

Sign up and log in to Workload Factory from NetApp Console

NetApp Workload Factory is accessible from NetApp Console. To use the Console, sign up or log in with your NetApp Support Site credentials, or create a NetApp Console login. If you are the first from your company to sign up, you create a new organization as the administrator. If your company already has an organization, sign up or log in with your existing NetApp Support Site credentials or company single-sign-on (SSO).

Unresolved directive in setup/sign-up-and-log-in.adoc -
include::https://raw.githubusercontent.com/NetAppDocs/console-setup-admin/main/_include/task-sign-up-saas.adoc[]

Result

You're now logged in and can start using Workload Factory to manage your storage systems and workloads. To get to Workload Factory, select **Workloads** from the main menu.

Learn about NetApp Workload Factory links

A NetApp Workload Factory link creates a trust relationship and connectivity between a Workload Factory account and one or more cloud storage systems. This allows you to monitor and manage certain storage system features directly from the ONTAP REST API calls that are not available through your cloud provider API.

You don't need a link to get started with Workload Factory, but in some cases you'll need to create a link to unlock all Workload Factory features and workload capabilities.

Why links are beneficial

Links are beneficial because they allow Workload Factory to perform operations that are not natively available through your cloud provider's API. Links enable advanced ONTAP capabilities and automation, which enhance the management of your cloud storage systems.

Here are some benefits of using links:

- The link enables the NetApp Console to send ONTAP commands directly to your cloud storage system, bringing advanced ONTAP features beyond what your cloud provider offers natively.
- Links leverage remote serverless functions to execute code in response to events. This serverless approach removes the dependency of an instance running in your VPC.

How links work

Links leverage remote serverless compute services, such as AWS Lambda and Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Functions. The services execute code in response to events and automatically manage the computing resources required by that code. The links that you create are part of your NetApp account and they are associated with the corresponding cloud provider account.

After creating a link, you can associate it with one, or many, cloud storage systems. Each cloud storage system can be associated only to one link in the same NetApp account. If you have multiple NetApp accounts, a single cloud storage system can be associated with additional links under different NetApp accounts.

You create and associate links from the Links page in the NetApp Console for your cloud storage systems.

You can authenticate links using credentials stored in the Workload Factory credentials service or with your cloud provider's credential service. Workload Factory doesn't support changing authentication modes.

Costs

Each transaction that your cloud provider's serverless compute service performs incurs a charge. Because it acts as a proxy between the two systems, there is a charge when the service sends a request to the ONTAP REST API on a file system, and when it sends the response back to Workload Factory.

- [Learn more about the costs related to using AWS Lambda](#)
- [Learn more about the costs related to using Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Functions](#)

When a link is required

Workload Factory requires a link to display some information and to perform some tasks. If you attempt to perform an operation that requires a link and you haven't associated a link with the cloud storage system, Workload Factory notifies you that the operation requires a link.

The features that require a link include:

- Well-architected status of cloud storage system configurations for proactive maintenance, reliability, and cost-performance optimization
- ONTAP EMS event monitoring and alerting
- NetApp Autonomous Ransomware Protection (ARP/AI)
- Enhanced holistic capacity observability across cloud storage systems
- Volume and storage VM data replication, management, and monitoring
- SMB/CIFS shares and NFS export policy provisioning and management
- Management of iSCSI volumes on a cloud storage system
- Creation and management of snapshot policies for custom protection SLA
- Inode management enhancements for automatic capacity management
- Volume autogrow for elastic scaling

- Clone creation and management, for instant, in-place, data cloning
- Displaying additional metrics directly from your cloud storage system such as the system version
- Displaying storage VM and cluster LIF details including roles, endpoints, nodes, IP addresses, and status

Related information

Learn how to create and associate links for:

- [Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP](#)
- [OCI NetApp Storage Service](#)

Permissions for NetApp Workload Factory

To use NetApp Workload Factory features and services, you'll need to provide permissions so that Workload Factory can perform operations in your cloud environment.

Why use permissions

When you provide permissions, Workload Factory attaches a policy to the instance with permissions to manage resources and processes within your cloud provider account. This allows Workload Factory to execute various operations starting from discovery of your storage environments to deploying cloud resources such as volumes in storage management.

For FSx for ONTAP database workloads for example, when Workload Factory is granted with the required permissions, it scans all EC2 instances in a given account and region, and filters all Windows-based machines. If AWS Systems Manager (SSM) Agent is installed and running on the host and System Manager networking is configured properly, Workload Factory can access the Windows machine and verify whether SQL Server software is installed or not.

How permissions are used

Workload Factory uses permissions to perform certain tasks. Permissions are bundled into set permission policies. Permission policies appear in [the Codebox](#) and are copiable JSON. Each cloud provider has its own set of permission policies tailored to the specific requirements and capabilities of that cloud environment. This documentation provides permission references for each cloud provider.

Permission references by cloud provider

Refer to the following pages to learn about permission requirements for your cloud provider:

- [Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP](#)
- [OCI NetApp Storage Service](#)

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