



Pair volumes using a pairing key

Element Software

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If you do not have cluster admin credentials for a remote cluster, you can pair a volume with another volume on a remote cluster using a pairing key.

What you'll need

- Ensure that the clusters containing the volumes are paired.
- Ensure that there is a volume on the remote cluster to use for the pairing.



You can assign a replication source and target after the pairing process. A replication source or target can be either volume in a volume pair. You should create a target volume that contains no data and has the exact characteristics of the source volume, such as size, block size setting for the volumes (either 512e or 4k), and QoS configuration. If you assign an existing volume as the replication target, the data on that volume will be overwritten. The target volume can be greater or equal in size to the source volume, but it cannot be smaller.

Steps

1. Select **Management > Volumes**.
2. Click **Actions** icon for the volume you want to pair.
3. Click **Pair**.
4. In the **Pair Volume** dialog box, select **Start Pairing**.
5. Select **I Do Not** to indicate that you do not have access to the remote cluster.
6. Select a **Replication Mode** from the list:
 - **Real-time (Asynchronous)**: Writes are acknowledged to the client after they are committed on the source cluster.
 - **Real-time (Synchronous)**: Writes are acknowledged to the client after they are committed on both the source and target clusters.
 - **Snapshots Only**: Only snapshots created on the source cluster are replicated. Active writes from the source volume are not replicated.
7. Click **Generate Key**.



This action generates a text key for pairing and creates an unconfigured volume pair on the local cluster. If you do not complete the procedure, you will need to manually delete the volume pair.

8. Copy the pairing key to your computer's clipboard.
9. Make the pairing key accessible to the cluster admin at the remote cluster site.



The volume pairing key should be treated in a secure manner and not used in a way that would allow accidental or unsecured access.



Do not modify any of the characters in the pairing key. The key becomes invalid if it is modified.

10. In the remote cluster Element UI, select **Management > Volumes**.
11. Click the Actions icon for the volume you want to pair.
12. Click **Pair**.
13. In the **Pair Volume** dialog box, select **Complete Pairing**.
14. Paste the pairing key from the other cluster into the **Pairing Key** box.
15. Click **Complete Pairing**.

After you confirm the pairing, the two clusters begin the process of connecting the volumes for pairing. During the pairing process, you can see messages in the **Volume Status** column of the **Volume Pairs** window. The volume pair displays `PausedMisconfigured` until the volume pair source and target are assigned.

Find more information

- [Volume pairing messages](#)
- [Volume pairing warnings](#)
- [Assign a replication source and target to paired volumes](#)

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