Schedule a snapshot

Element Software

NetApp
April 17, 2024

This PDF was generated from https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/element-software/storage/reference_data_protection_snapshot_schedule_details.html on April 17, 2024. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

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Schedule a snapshot

You can protect data on a volume or a group of volumes by scheduling volume snapshots to occur at specified intervals. You can schedule either single volume snapshots or group snapshots to run automatically.

When you configure a snapshot schedule, you can choose from time intervals based on days of the week or days of the month. You can also specify the days, hours, and minutes before the next snapshot occurs. You can store the resulting snapshots on a remote storage system if the volume is being replicated.

Find more information

- Create a snapshot schedule
- Edit a snapshot schedule
- Delete a snapshot schedule
- Copy a snapshot schedule

Snapshot schedule details

On the Data Protection > Schedules page, you can view the following information in the list of snapshot schedules.

- **ID**

  The system-generated ID for the snapshot.

- **Type**

  The type of schedule. Snapshot is currently the only type supported.

- **Name**

  The name given to the schedule when it was created. Snapshot schedule names can be up to 223 characters in length and contain a-z, 0-9, and dash (-) characters.

- **Frequency**

  The frequency at which the schedule is run. The frequency can be set in hours and minutes, weeks, or months.

- **Recurring**

  Indication of whether the schedule is to run only once or at regular intervals.

- **Manually Paused**

  Indication of whether or not the schedule has been manually paused.

- **Volume IDs**

  The ID of the volume the schedule will use when the schedule is run.

- **Last Run**

  The last time the schedule was run.

- **Last Run Status**

  The outcome of the last schedule execution. Possible values:

  - Success
  - Failure

Create a snapshot schedule

You can schedule a snapshot of a volume or volumes to automatically occur at specified intervals.

When you configure a snapshot schedule, you can choose from time intervals based on days of the week or days of the month. You can also create a recurring schedule and specify the days, hours, and minutes before the next snapshot occurs.

If you schedule a snapshot to run at a time period that is not divisible by 5 minutes, the snapshot will run at the next time period that is divisible by 5 minutes. For example, if you schedule a snapshot to run at 12:42:00 UTC, it will run at 12:45:00 UTC. You cannot schedule a snapshot to run at intervals of less than 5 minutes.

Beginning with Element 12.5, you can enable serial creation and select to retain the snapshots on a First-In-First-Out (FIFO) basis from the UI.

- The **Enable Serial Creation** option specifies that only one snapshot is replicated at a time. The creation of a new snapshot fails when a previous snapshot replication is still in progress. If the checkbox is not selected, a snapshot creation is allowed when another snapshot replication is still in progress.
- The **FIFO** option adds the capability to retain a consistent number of the latest snapshots. When the checkbox is selected, snapshots are retained on a FIFO basis. After the queue of FIFO snapshots reaches its maximum depth, the oldest FIFO snapshot is discarded when a new FIFO snapshot is inserted.

Steps

1. Select **Data Protection** > **Schedules**.
2. Select **Create Schedule**.
3. In the **Volume IDs CSV** field, enter a single volume ID or a comma-separated list of volume IDs to include in the snapshot operation.
4. Enter a new schedule name.
5. Select a schedule type and set the schedule from the options provided.
6. **Optional:** Select **Recurring Schedule** to repeat the snapshot schedule indefinitely.
7. **Optional:** Enter a name for the new snapshot in the **New Snapshot Name** field.

   If you leave the field blank, the system uses the time and date of the snapshot's creation as the name.

8. **Optional:** Select the **Include Snapshots in Replication When Paired** check box to ensure that the snapshots are captured in replication when the parent volume is paired.
9. **Optional:** Select the **Enable Serial Creation** check box to ensure that only one snapshot is replicated at a time.

10. To set the retention for the snapshot, select from the following options:
    - **Optional:** Select the **FIFO (First In First out)** check box to retain a consistent number of the latest snapshots.
    - Select **Keep Forever** to retain the snapshot on the system indefinitely.
    - Select **Set Retention Period** and use the date spin boxes to choose a length of time for the system to retain the snapshot.
11. Select **Create Schedule**.

Edit a snapshot schedule

You can modify existing snapshot schedules. After modification, the next time the schedule runs it uses the updated attributes. Any snapshots created by the original schedule remain on the storage system.

Steps

1. Click **Data Protection** > **Schedules**.
2. Click the **Actions** icon for the schedule you want to change.
3. In the resulting menu, click **Edit**.
4. In the **Volume IDs CSV** field, modify the single volume ID or comma-separated list of volume IDs currently included in the snapshot operation.
5. To pause or resume the schedule, select from the following options:
    - To pause an active schedule, select **Yes** from the **Manually Pause Schedule** list.
    - To resume a paused schedule, select **No** from the **Manually Pause Schedule** list.
6. Enter a different name for the schedule in the **New Schedule Name** field if desired.
7. To change the schedule to run on different days of the week or month, select **Schedule Type** and change the schedule from the options provided.
8. **Optional:** Select **Recurring Schedule** to repeat the snapshot schedule indefinitely.
9. **Optional:** Enter or modify the name for the new snapshot in the **New Snapshot Name** field.

   If you leave the field blank, the system uses the time and date of the snapshot's creation as the name.
10. **Optional:** Select the **Include Snapshots in Replication When Paired** check box to ensure that the snapshots are captured in replication when the parent volume is paired.
11. To change the retention setting, select from the following options:
    - Click **Keep Forever** to retain the snapshot on the system indefinitely.
    - Click **Set Retention Period** and use the date spin boxes to select a length of time for the system to retain the snapshot.
12. Click **Save Changes**.

Copy a snapshot schedule

You can copy a schedule and maintain its current attributes.

1. Click **Data Protection** > **Schedules**.
2. Click the Actions icon for the schedule you want to copy.
3. In the resulting menu, click **Make a Copy**.

   The **Create Schedule** dialog box appears, populated with the current attributes of the schedule.

4. **Optional:** Enter a name and updated attributes for the new schedule.
5. Click **Create Schedule**.

Delete a snapshot schedule

You can delete a snapshot schedule. After you delete the schedule, it does not run any future scheduled snapshots. Any snapshots that were created by the schedule remain on the storage system.

1. Click **Data Protection** > **Schedules**.
2. Click the **Actions** icon for the schedule you want to delete.
3. In the resulting menu, click **Delete**.
4. Confirm the action.

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