

TR-4977: Oracle Database backup, restore and clone with SnapCenter Services - Azure

NetApp database solutions

NetApp July 31, 2025

This PDF was generated from https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/netapp-solutions-databases/oracle/snapctr-svcs-ora-azure.html on August 18, 2025. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

Table of Contents

TR-4977: Oracle Database backup, restore and clone with SnapCenter Services - Azure	1
Purpose	1
Audience	1
Solution test and validation environment	1
Architecture	1
Hardware and software components	2
Key factors for deployment consideration	2
Solution deployment	3
Prerequisites for SnapCenter service deployment.	3
Onboarding to BlueXP preparation	3
Deploy a connector for SnapCenter services	4
Define a credential in BlueXP for Azure resources access	12
SnapCenter services setup	15
Oracle database backup	22
Oracle database restore and recovery	26
Oracle database clone	29
Additional information	34

TR-4977: Oracle Database backup, restore and clone with SnapCenter Services - Azure

Allen Cao, Niyaz Mohamed, NetApp

This solution provides overview and details for Oracle database backup, restore, clone using NetApp SnapCenter SaaS using BlueXP console.

Purpose

SnapCenter Services is the SaaS version of the classic SnapCenter database management UI tool that is available through the NetApp BlueXP cloud management console. It is an integral part of the NetApp cloud-backup, data-protection offering for databases such as Oracle and HANA running on Azure NetApp Files. This SaaS-based service simplifies traditional SnapCenter standalone server deployment that generally requires a Windows server operating in a Windows domain environment.

In this documentation, we demonstrate how you can set up SnapCenter Services to backup, restore, and clone Oracle databases deployed on Azure NetApp Files volumes and Azure compute instances. It is very easy to setup data protection for Oracle database deployed on Azure NetApp Files with web based BlueXP user interface.

This solution addresses the following use cases:

- Database backup with snapshots for Oracle databases hosted in Azure NetApp Files and Azure VMs
- · Oracle database recovery in the case of a failure
- Fast cloning of primary databases for dev, test environments or other use cases

Audience

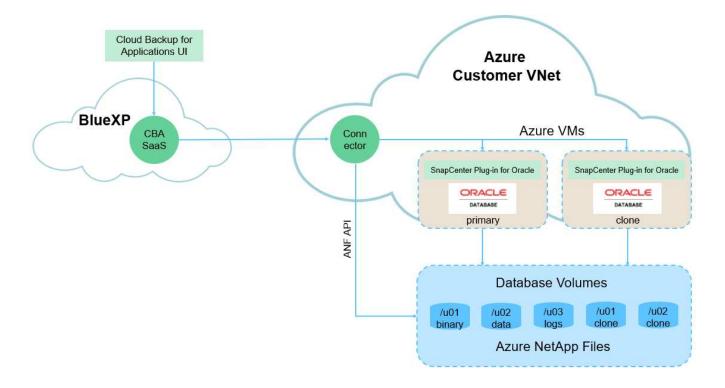
This solution is intended for the following audiences:

- The DBA who manages Oracle databases running on Azure NetApp Files storage
- The solution architect who is interested in testing Oracle database backup, restore, and clone in Azure
- The storage administrator who supports and manages the Azure NetApp Files storage
- The application owner who owns applications that are deployed to Azure NetApp Files storage and Azure VMs

Solution test and validation environment

The testing and validation of this solution was performed in a lab environment that might not match the final deployment environment. For more information, see the section Key factors for deployment consideration.

Architecture



This image provides a detailed picture of BlueXP backup and recovery for applications within the BlueXP console, including the UI, the connector, and the resources it manages.

Hardware and software components

Hardware

Azure NetApp Files storage	Premium Service level	Auto QoS type, and 4TB in storage capacity in testing
Azure instance for compute	Standard B4ms (4 vcpus, 16 GiB memory)	Two instances deployed, one as primary DB server and the other as clone DB server
Software		
RedHat Linux	Red Hat Enterprise Linux 8.7 (LVM) - x64 Gen2	Deployed RedHat subscription for testing
RedHat Linux Oracle Database	•	Deployed RedHat subscription for testing Applied RU patch p34765931_190000_Linux-x86-64.zip
	(LVM) - x64 Gen2	Applied RU patch

Key factors for deployment consideration

• Connector to be deployed in the same virtual network / subnet as databases and Azure NetApp Files. When possible, the connector should be deployed in the same Azure virtual networks and resource groups, which enables connectivity to the Azure NetApp Files storage and the Azure compute instances.

- An Azure user account or Active Directory service principle created at Azure portal for SnapCenter
 connector. Deploying a BlueXP Connector requires specific permissions to create and configure a virtual
 machine and other compute resources, to configure networking, and to get access to the Azure
 subscription. It also requires permissions to later create roles and permissions for the Connector to
 operate. Create a custom role in Azure with permissions and assign to the user account or service
 principle. Review the following link for details:Set up Azure permissions.
- A ssh key pair created in the Azure resource group. The ssh key pair is assigned to the Azure VM user for logging into the connector host and also the database VM host for deploying and executing a plug-in. BlueXP console UI uses the ssh key to deploy SnapCenter service plugin to database host for one-step plugin installation and application host database discovery.
- A credential added to the BlueXP console setting. To add Azure NetApp Files storage to the BlueXP working environment, a credential that grants permissions to access Azure NetApp Files from the BlueXP console needs to be set up in the BlueXP console setting.
- java-11-openjdk installed on the Azure VM database instance host. SnapCenter service installation requires java version 11. It needs to be installed on application host before plugin deployment attempt.

Solution deployment

There is extensive NetApp documentation with a broader scope to help you protect your cloud-native application data. The goal of this documentation is to provide step-by-step procedures that cover SnapCenter Service deployment with the BlueXP console to protect your Oracle database deployed on an Azure NetApp Files storage and an Azure compute instance.

To get started, complete the following steps:

- Read the general instructions Protect your cloud native applications data and the sections related to Oracle and Azure NetApp Files.
- Watch the following video walkthrough

Video of deployment of Oracle and ANF

Prerequisites for SnapCenter service deployment

Deployment requires the following prerequisites.

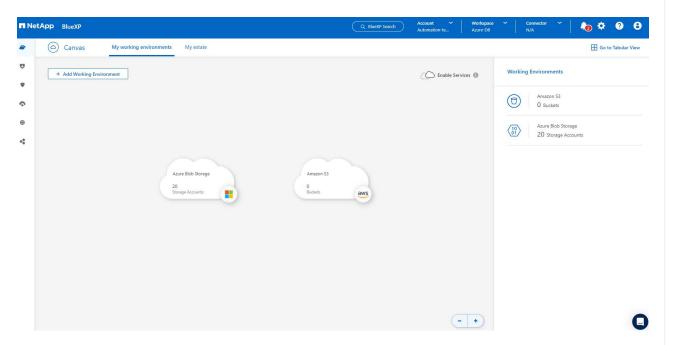
- 1. A primary Oracle database server on an Azure VM instance with an Oracle database fully deployed and running.
- 2. An Azure NetApp Files storage service capacity pool deployed in Azure that has capacity to meet the database storage needs listed in hardware component section.
- 3. A secondary database server on an Azure VM instance that can be used for testing the cloning of an Oracle database to an alternate host for the purpose of supporting a dev/test workload or any use cases that requires a full data set of production Oracle database.
- 4. For additional information for Oracle database deployment on Azure NetApp Files and Azure compute instance, see Oracle Database Deployment and Protection on Azure NetApp Files.

Onboarding to BlueXP preparation

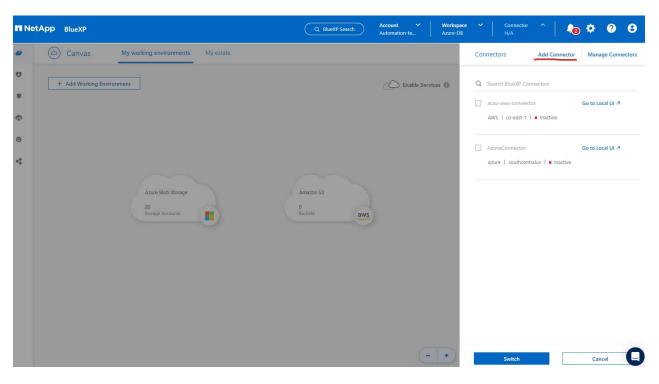
- 1. Use the link NetApp BlueXP to sign up for BlueXP console access.
- 2. Create an Azure user account or an Active Directory service principle and grant permissions with role in Azure portal for Azure connector deployment.
- 3. To set up BlueXP to manage Azure resources, add a BlueXP credential with details of an Active Directory service principal that BlueXP can use to authenticate with Azure Active Directory (App client ID), a client secret for the service principal application (Client Secret), and the Active Directory ID for your organization (Tenant ID).
- 4. You also need the Azure virtual network, resources group, security group, an SSH key for VM access, etc. ready for connector provisioning and database plugin installation.

Deploy a connector for SnapCenter services

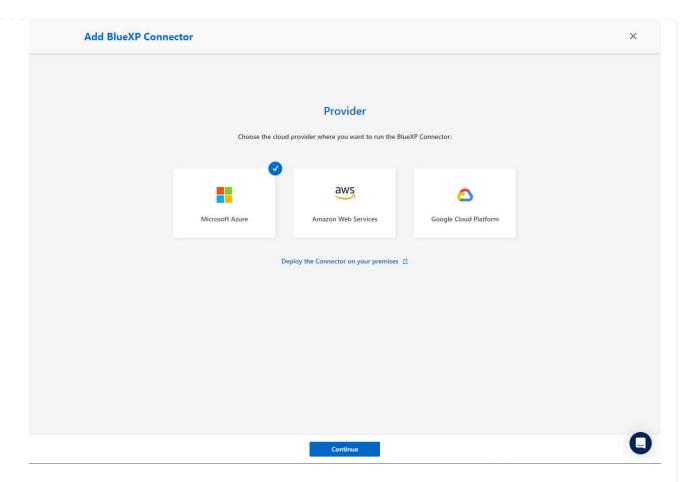
1. Login to the BlueXP console.



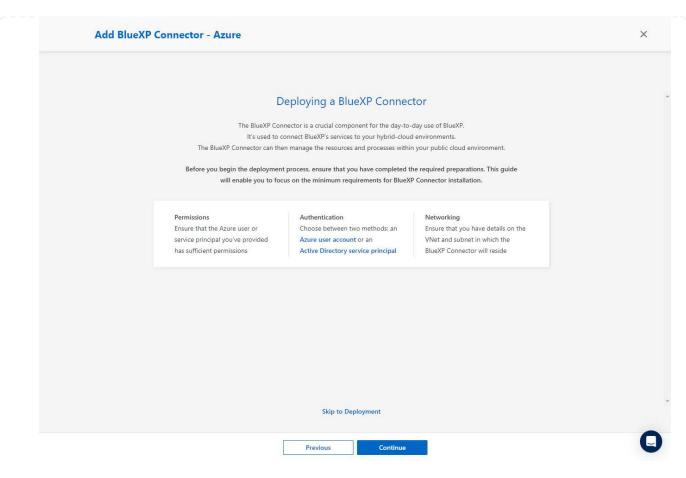
2. Click on **Connector** drop down arrow and **Add Connector** to launch the connector provisioning workflow.



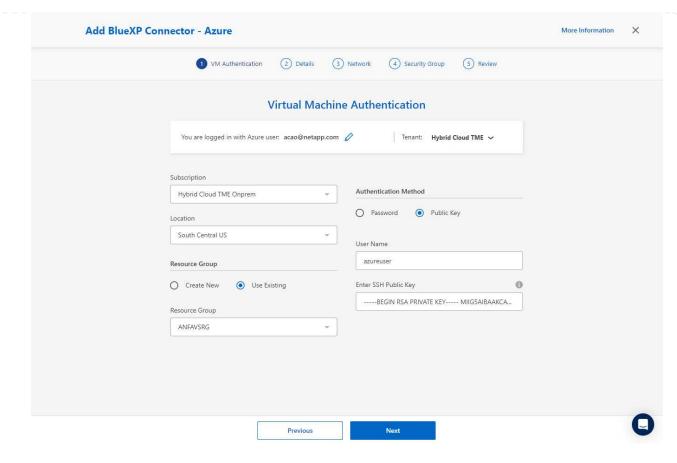
3. Choose your cloud provider (in this case, Microsoft Azure).



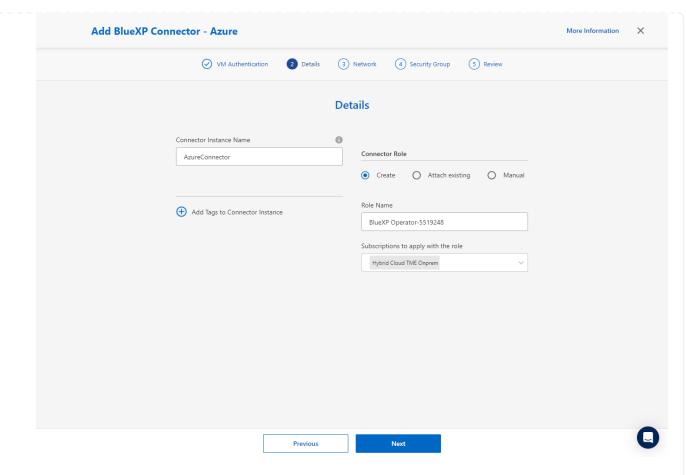
4. Skip the **Permission**, **Authentication**, and **Networking** steps if you already have them set up in your Azure account. If not, you must configure these before proceeding. From here, you could also retrieve the permissions for the Azure policy that is referenced in the previous section "Onboarding to BlueXP preparation."



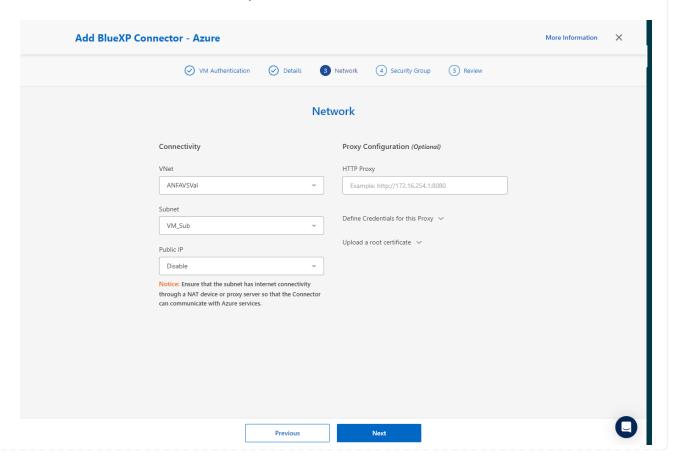
5. Click on **Skip to Deployment** to configure your connector **Virtual Machine Authentication**. Add the SSH key pair you have created in Azure resource group during onboarding to BlueXP preparation for connector OS authentication.



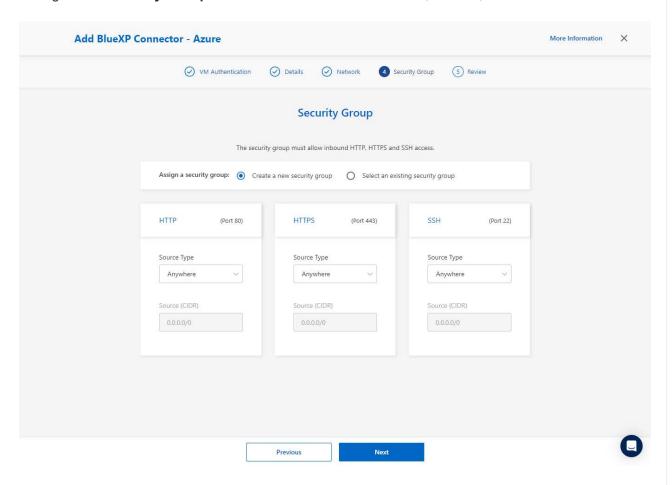
6. Provide a name for the connector instance, select **Create** and accept default **Role Name** under **Details**, and choose the subscription for the Azure account.



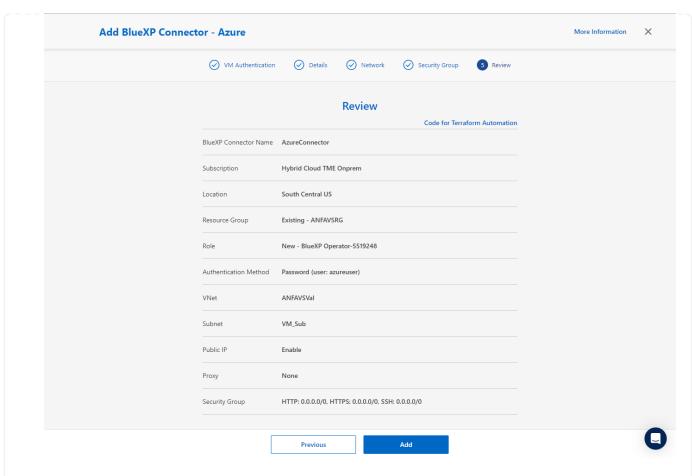
7. Configure networking with the proper **VNet**, **Subnet**, and disable **Public IP** but ensure that the connector has the internet access in your Azure environment.



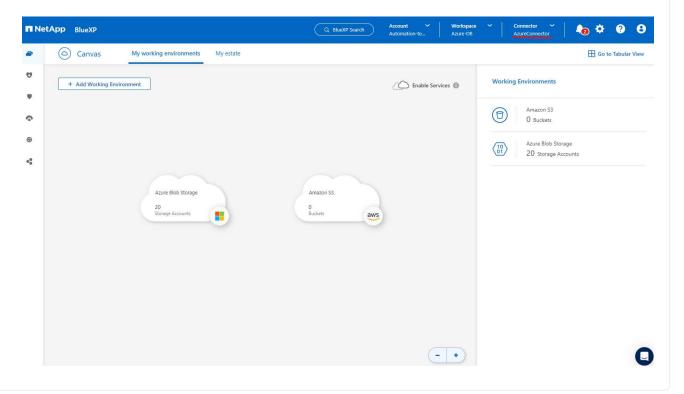
8. Configure the **Security Group** for the connector that allows HTTP, HTTPS, and SSH access.



9. Review the summary page and click **Add** to start connector creation. It generally takes about 10 mins to complete deployment. Once completed, the connector instance VM appears in the Azure portal.

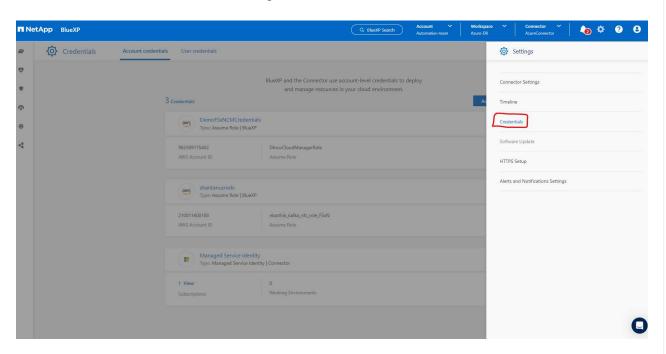


10. After the connector is deployed, the newly created connector appears under **Connector** drop-down.

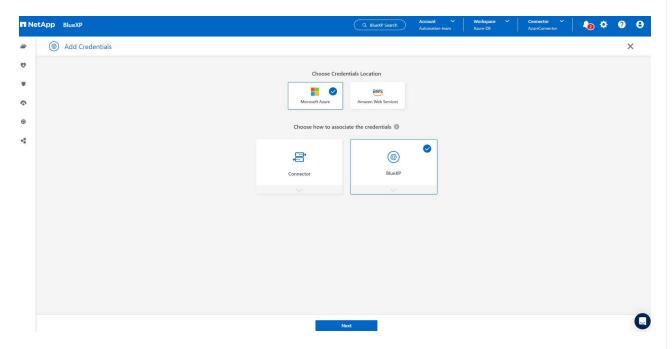


Define a credential in BlueXP for Azure resources access		

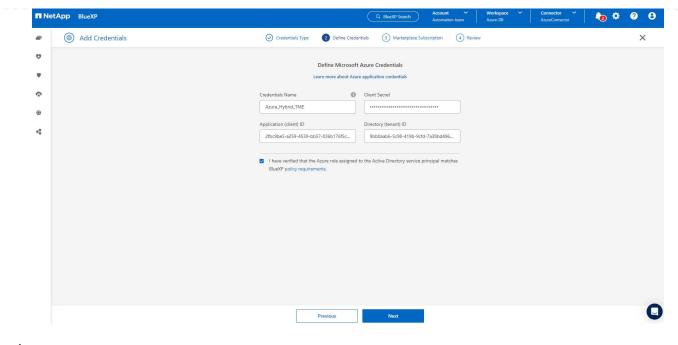
1. Click on setting icon on top right corner of BlueXP console to open **Account credentials** page, click **Add credentials** to start credential configuration workflow.



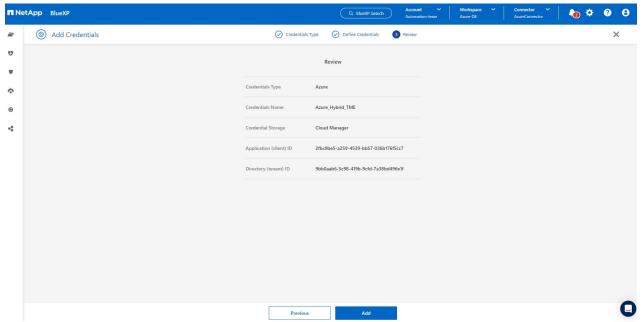
2. Choose credential location as - Microsoft Azure - BlueXP.



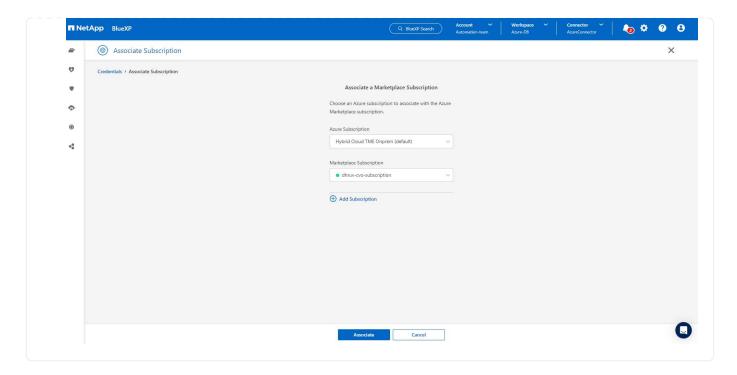
3. Define Azure credentials with proper **Client Secret**, **Client ID**, and **Tenant ID**, which should have been gathered during previous BlueXP onboarding process.



4. Review and Add.



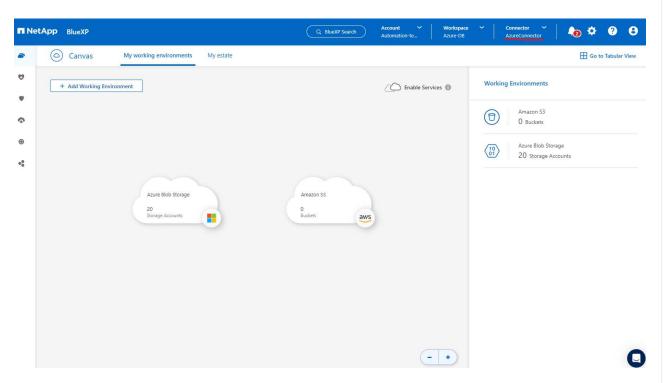
5. You may also need to associate a **Marketplace Subscription** with the credential.



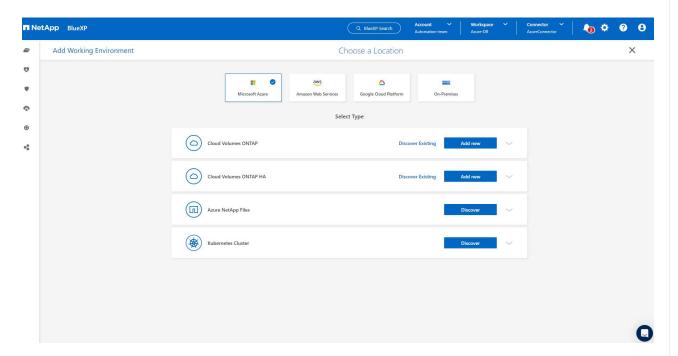
SnapCenter services setup

With the Azure credential configured, SnapCenter services can now be set up with the following procedures:

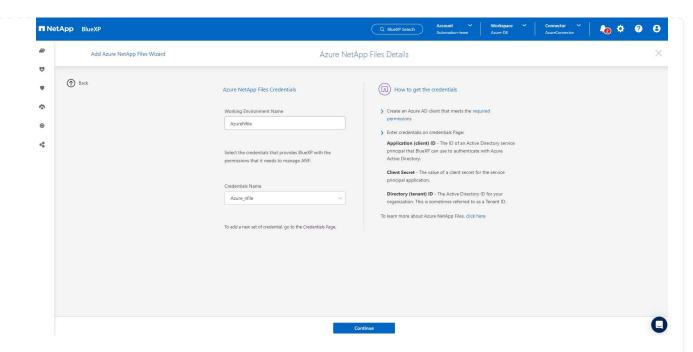
1. Back to Canvas page, from **My Working Environment** click **Add working Environment** to discover Azure NetApp Files deployed in Azure.



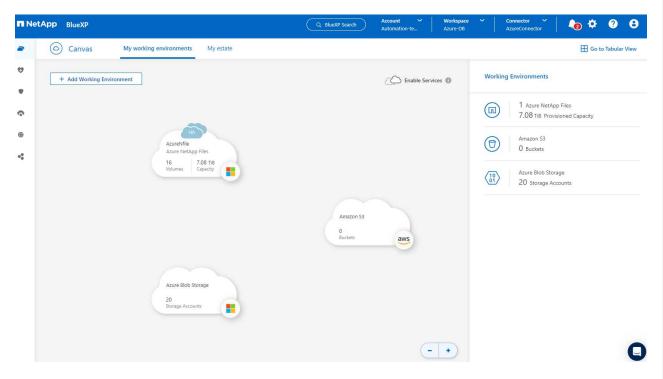
2. Choose Microsoft Azure as the location and click on Discover.



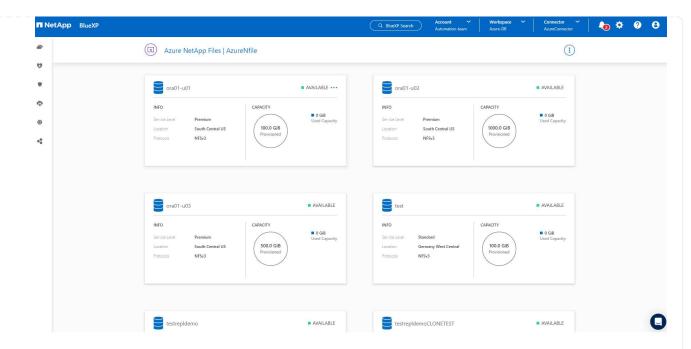
3. Name **Working Environment** and choose **Credential Name** created in previous section, and click **Continue**.



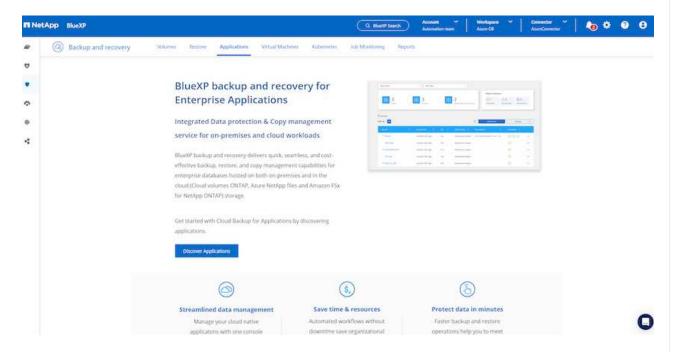
4. BlueXP console returns to **My working environments** and discovered Azure NetApp Files from Azure now appears on **Canvas**.



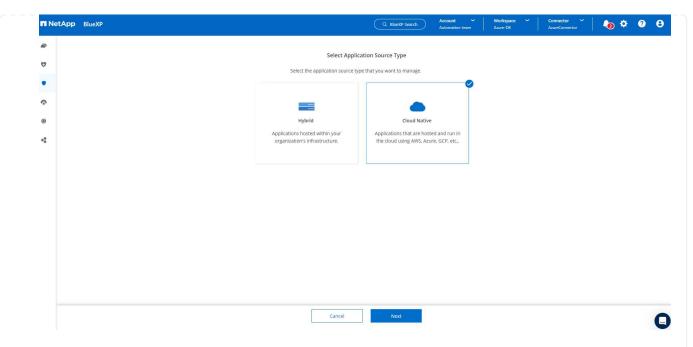
5. Click on **Azure NetApp Files** icon, then **Enter Working Environment** to view Oracle database volumes deployed in Azure NetApp Files storage.



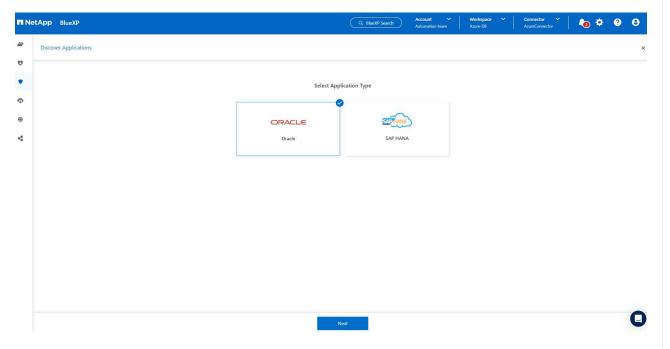
6. From the left-hand sidebar of the console, hover your mouse over the protection icon, and then click **Protection > Applications** to open the Applications launch page. Click **Discover Applications**.



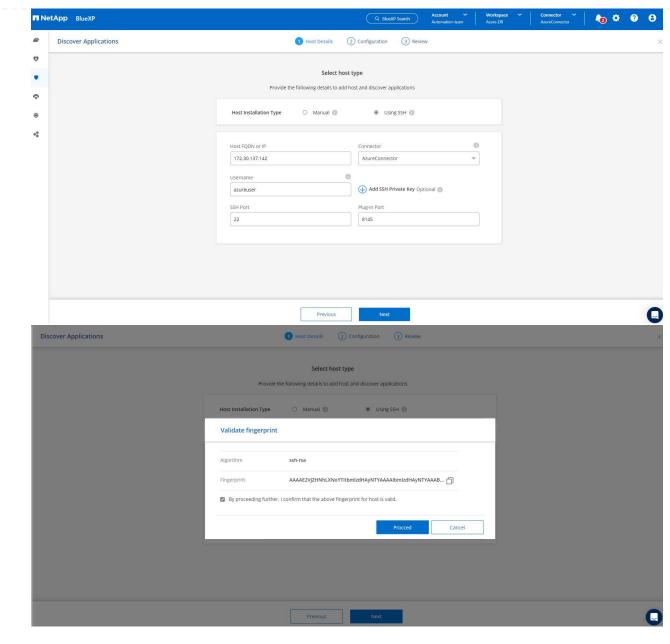
7. Select **Cloud Native** as the application source type.



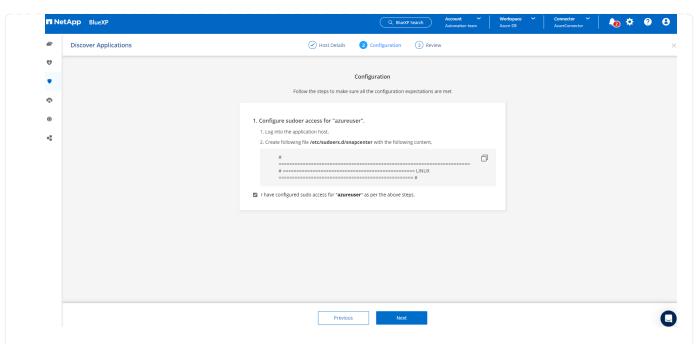
8. Choose **Oracle** for the application type, click on **Next** to open host details page.



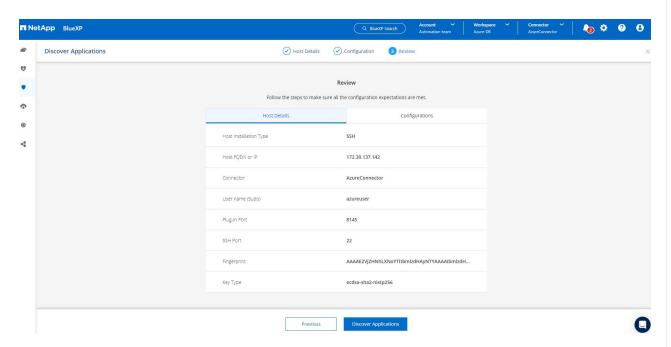
9. Select Using SSH and provide the Oracle Azure VM details such as IP address, Connector, Azure VM management Username such as azureuser. Click on Add SSH Private Key to paste in the SSH key pair that you used to deploy the Oracle Azure VM. You will also be prompted to confirm the fingerprint.



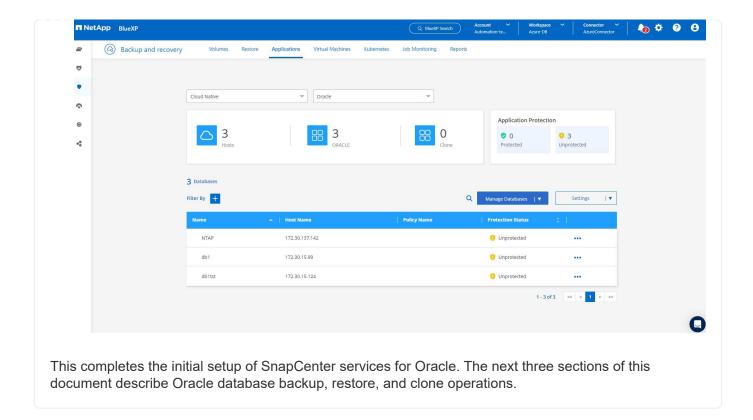
10. Move on to next Configuration page to setup sudoer access on Oracle Azure VM.



11. Review and click on **Discover Applications** to install a plugin on the Oracle Azure VM and discover Oracle database on the VM in one step.



12. Discovered Oracle databases on Azure VM are added to **Applications**, and the **Applications** page lists the number of hosts and Oracle databases within the environment. The database **Protection Status** initially shows as **Unprotected**.

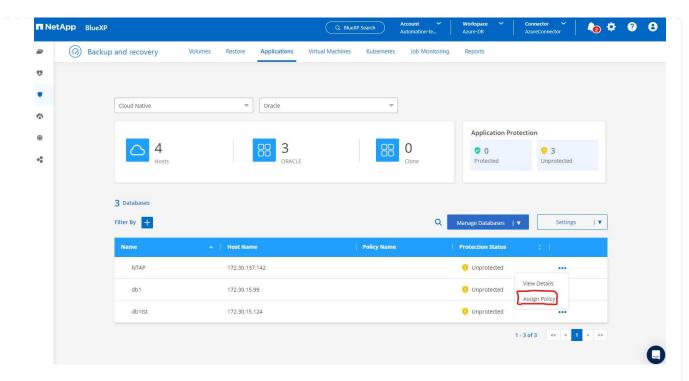


Oracle database backup

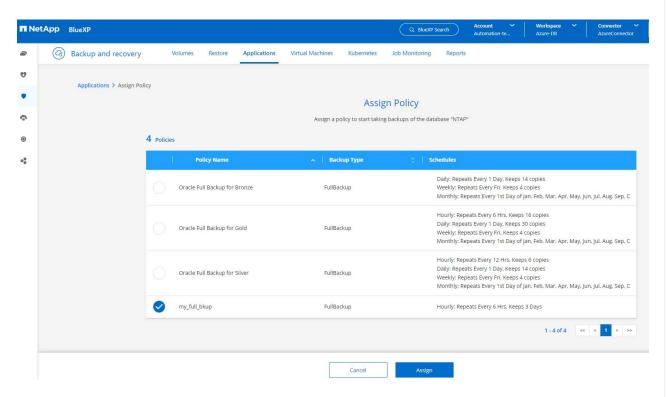
1. Our test Oracle database in Azure VM is configured with three volumes with an aggregate total storage about 1.6 TiB. This gives context about the timing for the snapshot backup, restore, and clone of a database of this size.

```
[oracle@acao-ora01 ~]$ df -h
Filesystem
                         Size Used Avail Use% Mounted on
devtmpfs
                         7.9G
                                  0
                                     7.9G
                                           0% /dev
                                     7.9G
                                           0% /dev/shm
tmpfs
                         7.9G
                                  0
tmpfs
                         7.9G
                                17M
                                    7.9G 1% /run
                                     7.9G 0% /sys/fs/cgroup
tmpfs
                         7.9G
                                0
/dev/mapper/rootvg-rootlv
                         40G
                                23G
                                    15G 62% /
/dev/mapper/rootvg-usrlv
                                    7.7G 18% /usr
                         9.8G 1.6G
/dev/sda2
                         496M 115M
                                    381M 24% /boot
/dev/mapper/rootvg-varlv
                         7.9G 787M 6.7G 11% /var
                                    586M 36% /home
/dev/mapper/rootvg-homelv 976M 323M
/dev/mapper/rootvg-optlv
                         2.0G 9.6M
                                    1.8G 1% /opt
/dev/mapper/rootvg-tmplv
                         2.0G
                                22M
                                    1.8G 2% /tmp
/dev/sda1
                         500M 6.8M 493M 2% /boot/efi
172.30.136.68:/ora01-u01
                         100G
                                23G
                                    78G 23% /u01
172.30.136.68:/ora01-u03
                         500G 117G 384G 24% /u03
172.30.136.68:/ora01-u02 1000G 804G 197G 81% /u02
                                  0
                                    1.6G
                                            0% /run/user/1000
tmpfs
                         1.6G
[oracle@acao-ora01 ~]$
```

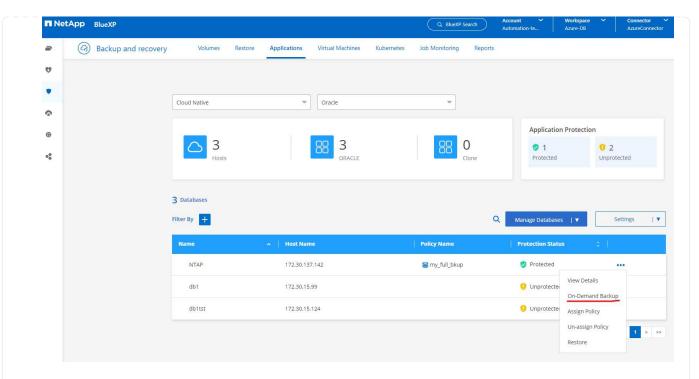
1. To protect database, click the three dots next to the database **Protection Status**, and then click **Assign Policy** to view the default preloaded or user defined database protection policies that can be applied to your Oracle databases. Under **Settings - Policies**, you have option to create your own policy with a customized backup frequency and backup data-retention window.



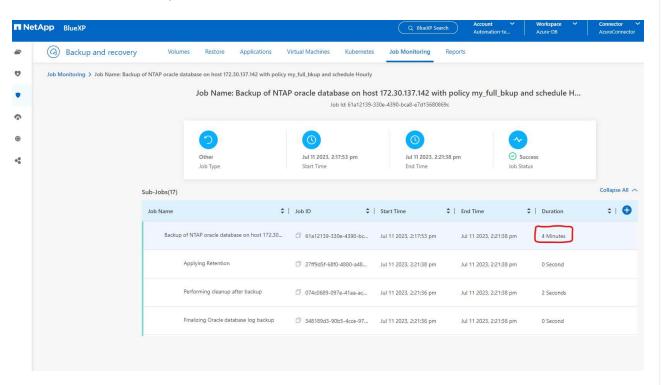
2. When you are happy with the policy configuration, you can then **Assign** your policy of choice to protect the database.



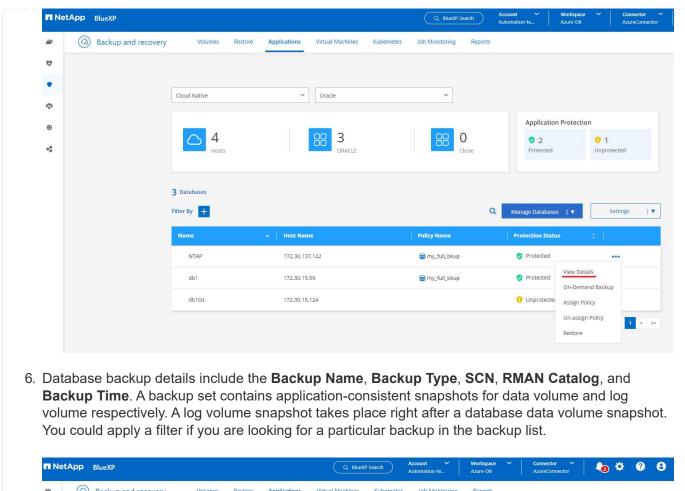
3. After the policy is applied, the database protection status changed to **Protected** with a green check mark. BlueXP executes the snapshot backup according to the schedule defined. In addition, **ON-Demand Backup** is available from the three-dot drop down menu as shown below.

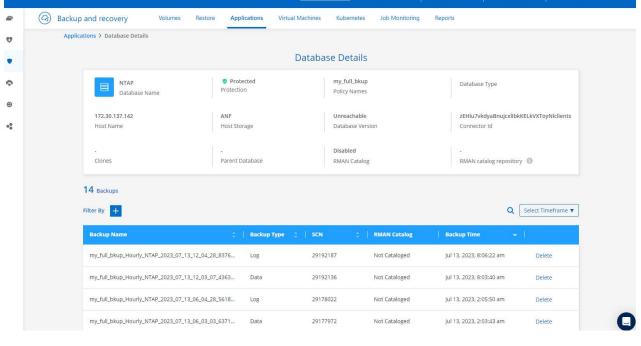


4. From **Job Monitoring** tab, backup job details can be viewed. Our test results showed that it took about 4 minutes to backup an Oracle database about 1.6 TiB.



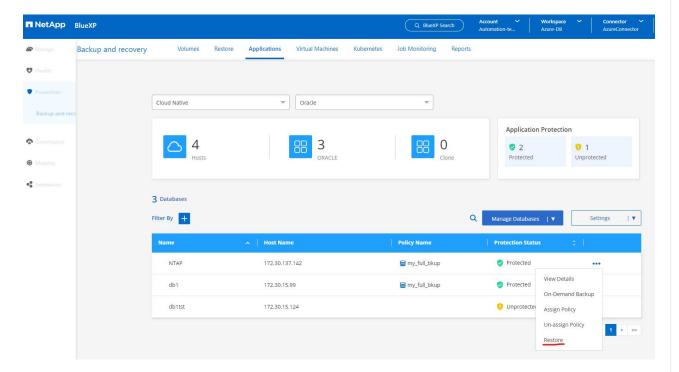
5. From three-dot drop down menu **View Details**, you can view the backup sets created from snapshot backup.



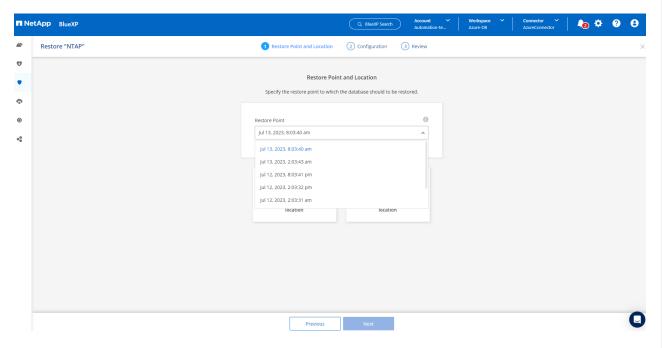


Oracle database restore and recovery

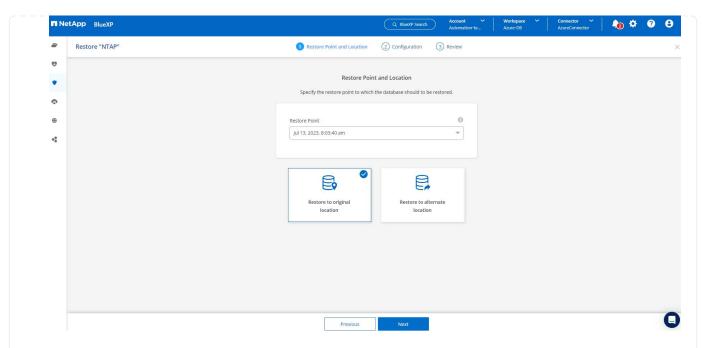
1. For a database restore, click the three-dot drop down menu for the particular database to be restored in **Applications**, then click **Restore** to initiate database restore and recovery workflow.



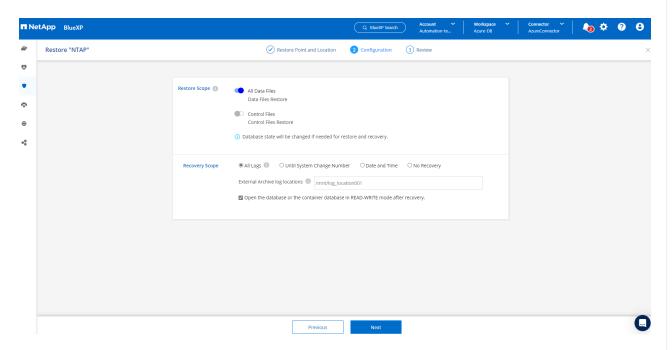
2. Choose your **Restore Point** by time stamp. Each time stamp in the list represents an available database backup set.



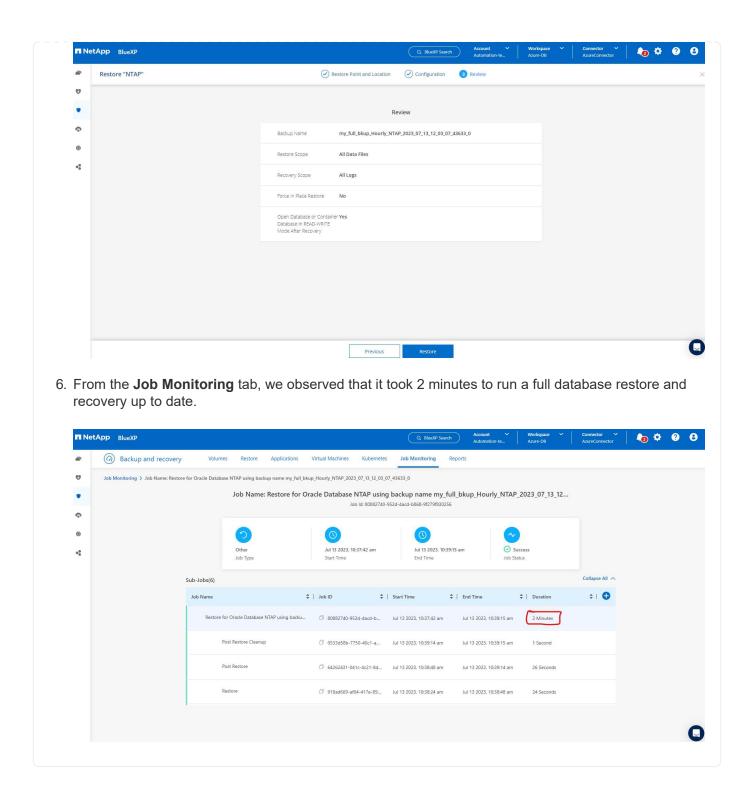
3. Choose your **Restore Location** to **original location** for an Oracle database in place restore and recovery.



4. Define your **Restore Scope**, and **Recovery Scope**. All Logs mean a full recovery up to date including current logs.



5. Review and **Restore** to start database restore and recovery.



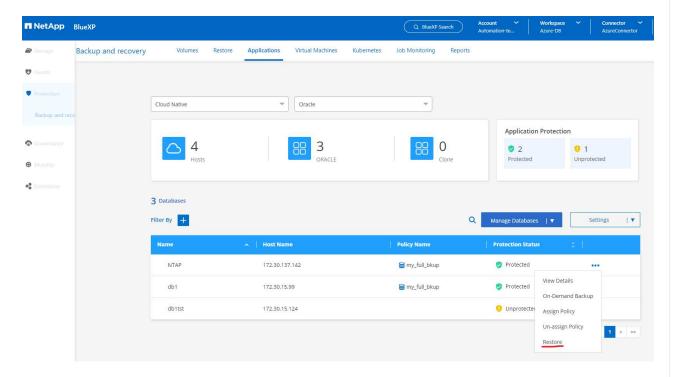
Oracle database clone

Database clone procedures are similar to restore but to an alternate Azure VM with identical Oracle software stack pre-installed and configured.

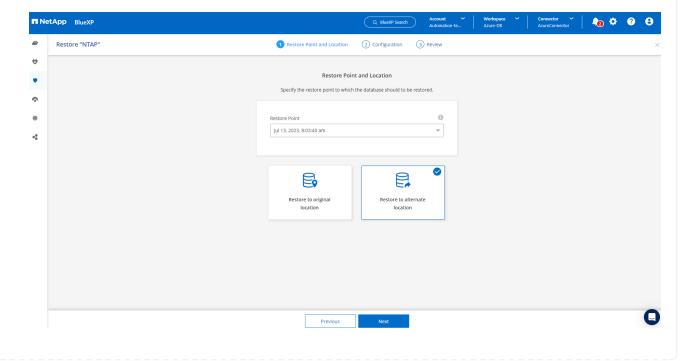


Ensure that your Azure NetApp File storage has sufficient capacity for a cloned database the same size as the primary database to be cloned. The alternate Azure VM has been added to **Applications**.

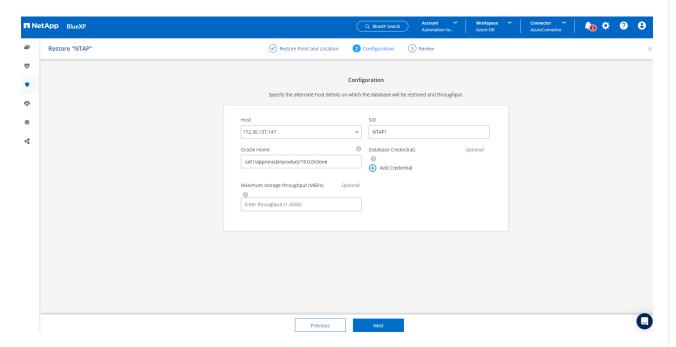
1. Click the three-dot drop down menu for the particular database to be cloned in **Applications**, then click **Restore** to initiate clone workflow.



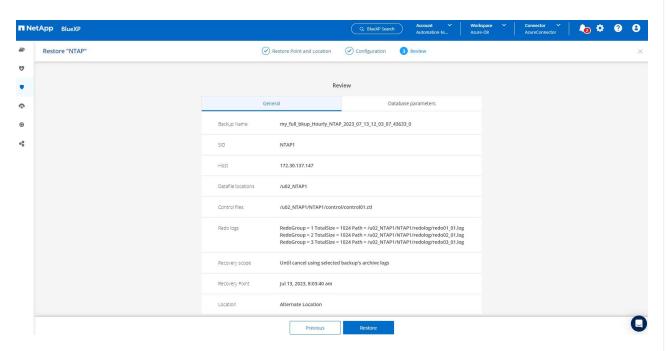
2. Select the Restore Point and check the Restore to alternate location.



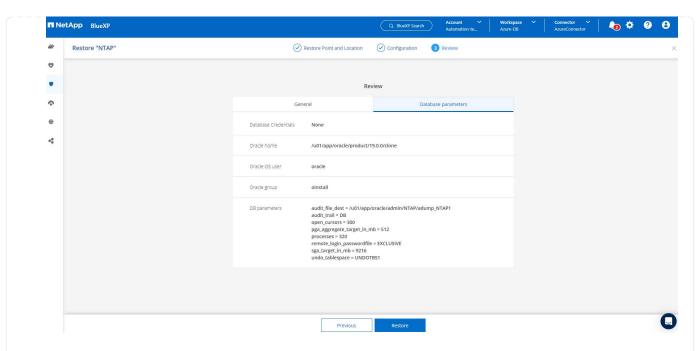
3. In the next **Configuration** page, set alternate **Host**, new database **SID**, and **Oracle Home** as configured at alternate Azure VM.



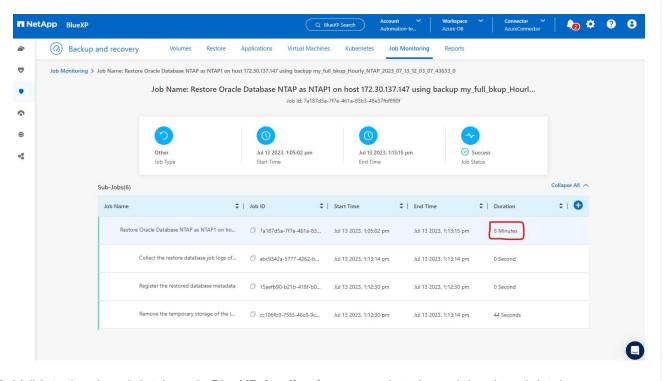
4. Review **General** page shows the details of cloned database such as SID, alternate host, data file locations, recovery scope etc.



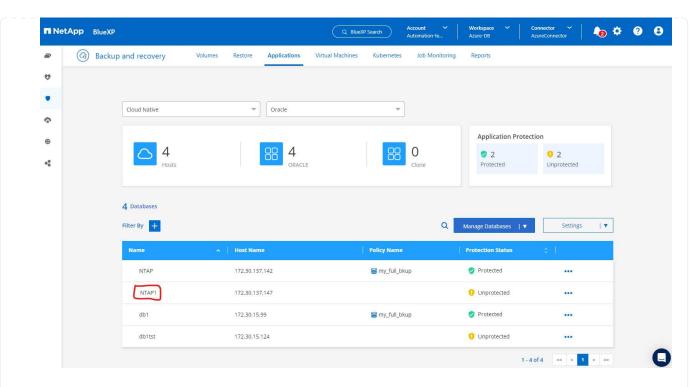
5. Review **Database parameters** page shows the details of cloned database configuration as well as some database parameters setting.



6. Monitor the cloning job status from the **Job Monitoring** tab, we observed that it took 8 minutes to clone a 1.6 TiB Oracle database.



7. Validate the cloned database in BlueXP **Applications** page that showed the cloned database was immediately registered with BlueXP.



8. Validate the cloned database on the Oracle Azure VM that showed the cloned database was running as expected.

```
[oracle@acao-ora02 admin]$ cat /etc/oratab
# This file is used by ORACLE utilities. It is created by root.sh
# and updated by either Database Configuration Assistant while creating
# a database or ASM Configuration Assistant while creating ASM instance.
# A colon, ':', is used as the field terminator. A new line terminates
 the entry. Lines beginning with a pound sign, '#', are comments.
# Entries are of the form:
    SORACLE SID: SORACLE HOME: <N | Y>:
# The first and second fields are the system identifier and home
# directory of the database respectively. The third field indicates
# to the dbstart utility that the database should , "Y", or should not,
# "N", be brought up at system boot time.
# Multiple entries with the same $ORACLE SID are not allowed.
# SnapCenter Plug-in for Oracle Database generated entry (DO NOT REMOVE THIS LINE)
NTAP1:/u01/app/oracle/product/19.0.0/clone:N
[oracle@acao-ora02 admin]$ export ORACLE_SID=NTAP1
[oracle@acao-ora02 admin]$ export ORACLE_HOME=/u01/app/oracle/product/19.0.0/clone
[oracle@acao-ora02 admin]$ export PATH=$PATH:$ORACLE HOME/bin
[oracle@acao-ora02 admin]$ sqlplus / as sysdba
SQL*Plus: Release 19.0.0.0.0 - Production on Thu Jul 13 17:16:31 2023
Version 19.18.0.0.0
Copyright (c) 1982, 2022, Oracle. All rights reserved.
Connected to:
Oracle Database 19c Enterprise Edition Release 19.0.0.0.0 - Production
Version 19.18.0.0.0
SQL> select name, open mode, log mode from v$database;
NAME
         OPEN MODE
                                LOG MODE
NTAP1
          READ WRITE
                                NOARCHIVELOG
```

This completes the demonstration of an Oracle database backup, restore, and clone in Azure with NetApp BlueXP console using SnapCenter Service.

Additional information

To learn more about the information that is described in this document, review the following documents and/or websites:

· Set up and administer BlueXP

https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/cloud-manager-setup-admin/index.html

BlueXP backup and recovery documentation

https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/cloud-manager-backup-restore/index.html

Azure NetApp Files

https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/products/netapp

Get started with Azure

https://azure.microsoft.com/en-us/get-started/

Copyright information

Copyright © 2025 NetApp, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Printed in the U.S. No part of this document covered by copyright may be reproduced in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or storage in an electronic retrieval system—without prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Software derived from copyrighted NetApp material is subject to the following license and disclaimer:

THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED BY NETAPP "AS IS" AND WITHOUT ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, WHICH ARE HEREBY DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT SHALL NETAPP BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE.

NetApp reserves the right to change any products described herein at any time, and without notice. NetApp assumes no responsibility or liability arising from the use of products described herein, except as expressly agreed to in writing by NetApp. The use or purchase of this product does not convey a license under any patent rights, trademark rights, or any other intellectual property rights of NetApp.

The product described in this manual may be protected by one or more U.S. patents, foreign patents, or pending applications.

LIMITED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subparagraph (b)(3) of the Rights in Technical Data -Noncommercial Items at DFARS 252.227-7013 (FEB 2014) and FAR 52.227-19 (DEC 2007).

Data contained herein pertains to a commercial product and/or commercial service (as defined in FAR 2.101) and is proprietary to NetApp, Inc. All NetApp technical data and computer software provided under this Agreement is commercial in nature and developed solely at private expense. The U.S. Government has a non-exclusive, non-transferrable, nonsublicensable, worldwide, limited irrevocable license to use the Data only in connection with and in support of the U.S. Government contract under which the Data was delivered. Except as provided herein, the Data may not be used, disclosed, reproduced, modified, performed, or displayed without the prior written approval of NetApp, Inc. United States Government license rights for the Department of Defense are limited to those rights identified in DFARS clause 252.227-7015(b) (FEB 2014).

Trademark information

NETAPP, the NETAPP logo, and the marks listed at http://www.netapp.com/TM are trademarks of NetApp, Inc. Other company and product names may be trademarks of their respective owners.