Configure Multi-tenancy on Red Hat OpenShift with NetApp ONTAP

NetApp Solutions

NetApp
September 14, 2021

Table of Contents

Configure Multi-tenancy on Red Hat OpenShift with NetApp ONTAP

Configuring multitenancy on Red Hat OpenShift with NetApp

Many organizations that run multiple applications or workloads on containers tend to deploy one Red Hat OpenShift cluster per application or workload. This allows them to implement strict isolation for the application or workload, optimize performance, and reduce security vulnerabilities. However, deploying a separate Red Hat OpenShift cluster for each application poses its own set of problems. It increases operational overhead having to monitor and manage each cluster on its own, increases cost owing to dedicated resources for different applications, and hinders efficient scalability.

To overcome these problems, one can consider running all the applications or workloads in a single Red Hat OpenShift cluster. But in such an architecture, resource isolation and application security vulnerabilities are one of the major challenges. Any security vulnerability in one workload could naturally spill over into another workload, thus increasing the impact zone. In addition, any abrupt uncontrolled resource utilization by one application can affect the performance of another application, because there is no resource allocation policy by default.

Therefore, organizations look out for solutions that pick up the best in both worlds, for example, by allowing them to run all their workloads in a single cluster and yet offering the benefits of a dedicated cluster for each workload.

One such effective solution is to configure multitenancy on Red Hat OpenShift. Multitenancy is an architecture that allows multiple tenants to coexist on the same cluster with proper isolation of resources, security, and so on. In this context, a tenant can be viewed as a subset of the cluster resources that are configured to be used by a particular group of users for an exclusive purpose. Configuring multitenancy on a Red Hat OpenShift cluster provides the following advantages:

- A reduction in CapEx and OpEx by allowing cluster resources to be shared
- Lower operational and management overhead
- Securing the workloads from cross-contamination of security breaches
- Protection of workloads from unexpected performance degradation due to resource contention

For a fully realized multitenant OpenShift cluster, quotas and restrictions must be configured for cluster resources belonging to different resource buckets: compute, storage, networking, security, and so on. Although we cover certain aspects of all the resource buckets in this solution, we focus on best practices for isolating and securing the data served or consumed by multiple workloads on the same Red Hat OpenShift cluster by configuring multitenancy on storage resources that are dynamically allocated by Astra Trident backed by NetApp ONTAP.

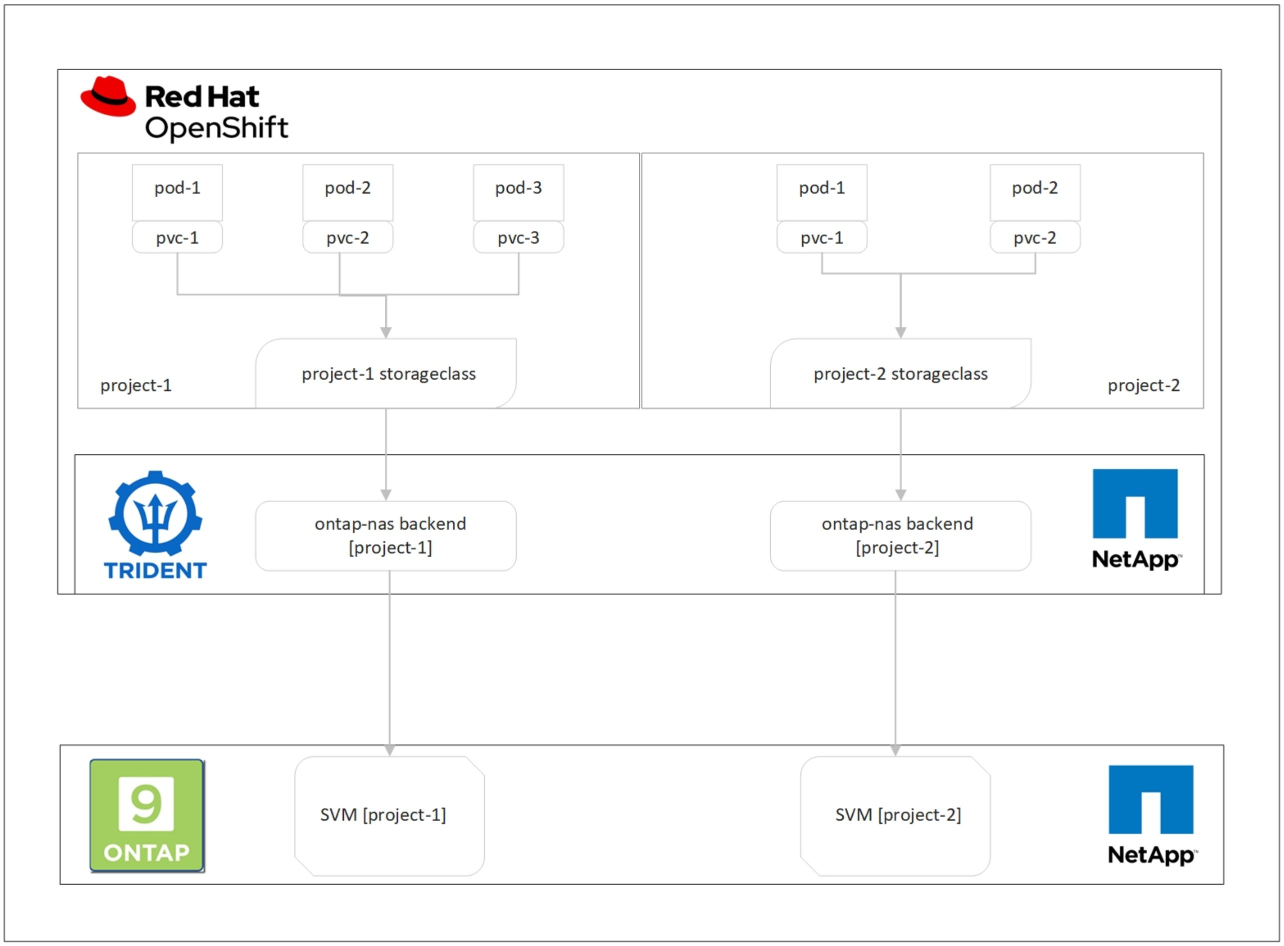
Next: Architecture.

Architecture

Although Red Hat OpenShift and Astra Trident backed by NetApp ONTAP do not provide isolation between workloads by default, they offer a wide range of features that can be used to configure multitenancy. To better understand designing a multitenant solution on a Red Hat OpenShift cluster with Astra Trident backed by NetApp ONTAP, let us consider an example with a set of requirements and outline the configuration around it.

Let us assume that an organization runs two of its workloads on a Red Hat OpenShift cluster as part of two projects that two different teams are working on. The data for these workloads reside on PVCs that are dynamically provisioned by Astra Trident on a NetApp ONTAP NAS backend. The organization has a requirement to design a multitenant solution for these two workloads and isolate the resources used for these projects to make sure that security and performance is maintained, primarily focused on the data that serves those applications.

The following figure depicts the multitenant solution on a Red Hat OpenShift cluster with Astra Trident backed by NetApp ONTAP.



Technology requirements

1. NetApp ONTAP storage cluster
2. Red Hat OpenShift cluster
3. Astra Trident

Red Hat OpenShift – Cluster resources

From the Red Hat OpenShift cluster point of view, the top-level resource to start with is the project. An OpenShift project can be viewed as a cluster resource that divides the whole OpenShift cluster into multiple virtual clusters. Therefore, isolation at project level provides a base for configuring multitenancy.

Next up is to configure RBAC in the cluster. The best practice is to have all the developers working on a single project or workload configured into a single user group in the Identity Provider (IdP). Red Hat OpenShift allows IdP integration and user group synchronization thus allowing the users and groups from the IdP to be imported into the cluster. This helps the cluster administrators to segregate access of the cluster resources dedicated to a project to a user group or groups working on that project, thereby restricting unauthorized access to any cluster resources. To learn more about IdP integration with Red Hat OpenShift, see the documentation here.

NetApp ONTAP

It is important to isolate the shared storage serving as a persistent storage provider for a Red Hat OpenShift cluster to make sure that the volumes created on the storage for each project appear to the hosts as if they are created on separate storage. To do this, create as many SVMs (storage virtual machines) on NetApp ONTAP as there are projects or workloads, and dedicate each SVM to a workload.

Astra Trident

After you have different SVMs for different projects created on NetApp ONTAP, you must map each SVM to a different Trident backend. The backend configuration on Trident drives the allocation of persistent storage to OpenShift cluster resources, and it requires the details of the SVM to be mapped to. This should be the protocol driver for the backend at the minimum. Optionally, it allows you to define how the volumes are provisioned on the storage and to set limits for the size of volumes or usage of aggregates and so on. Details concerning the definition of the Trident backend for NetApp ONTAP can be found here.

Red Hat OpenShift – storage resources

After configuring the Trident backends, the next step is to configure StorageClasses. Configure as many storage classes as there are backends, providing each storage class access to spin up volumes only on one backend. We can map the StorageClass to a particular Trident backend by using the storagePools parameter while defining the storage class. The details to define a storage class can be found here. Thus, there is a one-to-one mapping from StorageClass to Trident backend which points back to one SVM. This ensures that all storage claims via the StorageClass assigned to that project are served by the SVM dedicated to that project only.

Because storage classes are not namespaced resources, how do we ensure that storage claims to storage class of one project by pods in another namespace or project gets rejected? The answer is to use ResourceQuotas. ResourceQuotas are objects that control the total usage of resources per project. It can limit the number as well as the total amount of resources that can be consumed by objects in the project. Almost all the resources of a project can be limited using ResourceQuotas and using this efficiently can help organizations cut cost and outages due to overprovisioning or overconsumption of resources. Refer to the documentation here for more information.

For this use case, we need to limit the pods in a particular project from claiming storage from storage classes that are not dedicated to their project. To do that, we need to limit the persistent volume claims for other storage classes by setting `<storage-class-name>.storageclass.storage.k8s.io/persistentvolumeclaims` to 0. In addition, a cluster administrator must ensure that the developers in a project should not have access to modify the ResourceQuotas.

Next: Configuration.

Configuration

For any multitenant solution, no user can have access to more cluster resources than is required. So, the entire set of resources that are to be configured as part of the multitenancy configuration is divided between cluster-admin, storage-admin, and developers working on each project.

The following table outlines the different tasks to be performed by different users:

Role	Tasks
Cluster-admin	Create projects for different applications or workloads
	Create ClusterRoles and RoleBindings for storage-admin
	Create Roles and RoleBindings for developers assigning access to specific projects
	[Optional] Configure projects to schedule pods on specific nodes
Storage-admin	Create SVMs on NetApp ONTAP
	Create Trident backends
	Create StorageClasses
	Create storage ResourceQuotas
Developers	Validate access to create or patch PVCs or pods in assigned project
	Validate access to create or patch PVCs or pods in another project
	Validate access to view or edit Projects, ResourceQuotas, and StorageClasses

Next: Prerequisites.

Configuration

Prerequisites

- NetApp ONTAP cluster
- Red Hat OpenShift cluster
- Trident installed on the cluster
- Admin workstation with tridentctl and oc tools installed and added to $PATH
- Admin access to ONTAP
- Cluster-admin access to OpenShift cluster
- Cluster is integrated with Identity Provider
- Identity provider is configured to efficiently distinguish between users in different teams

Next: Cluster Administrator Tasks.

Configuration: cluster-admin tasks

The following tasks are performed by the Red Hat OpenShift cluster-admin:

1. Log into Red Hat OpenShift cluster as the cluster-admin.
2. Create two projects corresponding to different projects.

```
oc create namespace project-1
oc create namespace project-2
```

3. Create the developer role for project-1.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: Role
metadata:
  namespace: project-1
  name: developer-project-1
rules:
  - verbs:
      - '*'
    apiGroups:
      - apps
      - batch
      - autoscaling
      - extensions
      - networking.k8s.io
      - policy
      - apps.openshift.io
      - build.openshift.io
      - image.openshift.io
      - ingress.operator.openshift.io
      - route.openshift.io
      - snapshot.storage.k8s.io
      - template.openshift.io
    resources:
      - '*'
  - verbs:
      - '*'
    apiGroups:
      - ''
    resources:
      - bindings
      - configmaps
      - endpoints
      - events
      - persistentvolumeclaims
      - pods
      - pods/log
```

```
      - pods/attach
      - podtemplates
      - replicationcontrollers
      - services
      - limitranges
      - namespaces
      - componentstatuses
      - nodes
  - verbs:
      - '*'
    apiGroups:
      - trident.netapp.io
    resources:
      - tridentsnapshots
EOF
```

The role definition provided in this section is just an example. Developer roles must be defined based on end-user requirements.

4. Similarly, create developer roles for project-2.
5. All OpenShift and NetApp storage resources are usually managed by a storage admin. Access for storage administrators is controlled by the trident operator role that is created when Trident is installed. In addition to this, the storage admin also requires access to ResourceQuotas to control how storage is consumed.
6. Create a role for managing ResourceQuotas in all projects in the cluster to attach it to storage admin.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: ClusterRole
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
metadata:
  name: resource-quotas-role
rules:
  - verbs:
      - '*'
    apiGroups:
      - ''
    resources:
      - resourcequotas
  - verbs:
      - '*'
    apiGroups:
      - quota.openshift.io
    resources:
      - '*'
EOF
```

7. Make sure that the cluster is integrated with the organization's identity provider and that user groups are synchronized with cluster groups. The following example shows that the identity provider has been integrated with the cluster and synchronized with the user groups.

```
$ oc get groups
NAME                          USERS
ocp-netapp-storage-admins     ocp-netapp-storage-admin
ocp-project-1                 ocp-project-1-user
ocp-project-2                 ocp-project-2-user
```

8. Configure ClusterRoleBindings for storage admins.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: ClusterRoleBinding
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
metadata:
  name: netapp-storage-admin-trident-operator
subjects:
  - kind: Group
    apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
    name: ocp-netapp-storage-admins
roleRef:
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: ClusterRole
  name: trident-operator
---
kind: ClusterRoleBinding
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
metadata:
  name: netapp-storage-admin-resource-quotas-cr
subjects:
  - kind: Group
    apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
    name: ocp-netapp-storage-admins
roleRef:
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: ClusterRole
  name: resource-quotas-role
EOF
```

For storage admins, two roles must be bound: trident-operator and resource-quotas.

9. Create RoleBindings for developers binding the developer-project-1 role to the corresponding group (ocp-project-1) in project-1.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: RoleBinding
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
metadata:
  name: project-1-developer
  namespace: project-1
subjects:
  - kind: Group
    apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
    name: ocp-project-1
roleRef:
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: Role
  name: developer-project-1
EOF
```

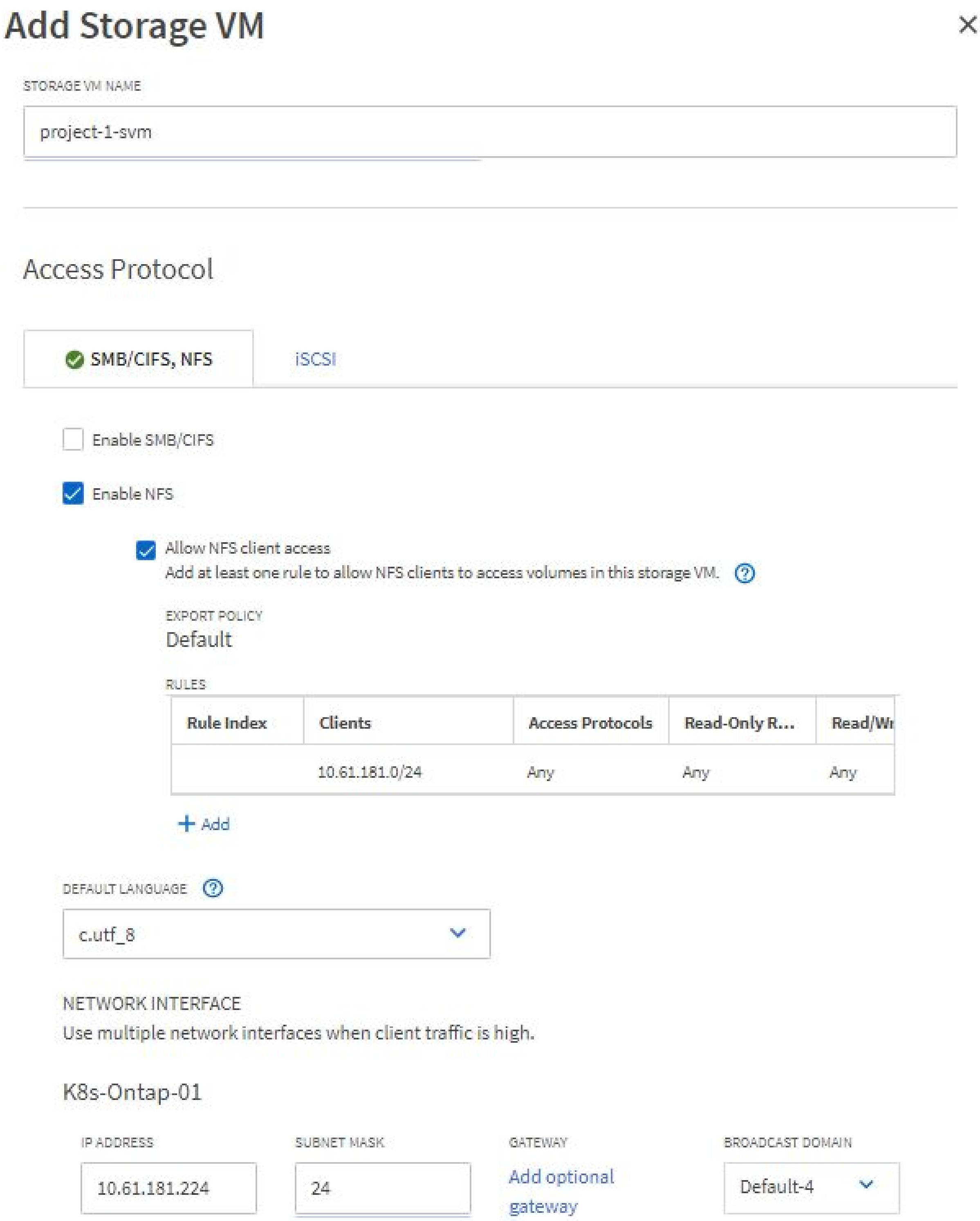
10. Similarly, create RoleBindings for developers binding the developer roles to the corresponding user group in project-2.

Next: Storage Administrator Tasks.

Configuration: Storage-admin tasks

The following resources must be configured by a storage administrator:

1. Log into the NetApp ONTAP cluster as admin.
2. Navigate to Storage > Storage VMs and click Add. Create two SVMs, one for project-1 and the other for project-2, by providing the required details. Also create a vsadmin account to manage the SVM and its resources.



3. Log into the Red Hat OpenShift cluster as the storage administrator.
4. Create the backend for project-1 and map it to the SVM dedicated to the project. NetApp recommends using the SVM’s vsadmin account to connect the backend to SVM instead of using the ONTAP cluster administrator.

```
cat << EOF | tridentctl -n trident create backend -f
{
    "version": 1,
    "storageDriverName": "ontap-nas",
    "backendName": "nfs_project_1",
    "managementLIF": "172.21.224.210",
    "dataLIF": "10.61.181.224",
    "svm": "project-1-svm",
    "username": "vsadmin",
    "password": "NetApp123"
}
EOF
```

> We are using the ontap-nas driver for this example. Use the appropriate driver when creating the backend based on the use case.

> We assume that Trident is installed in the trident project.

5. Similarly create the Trident backend for project-2 and map it to the SVM dedicated to project-2.
6. Next, create the storage classes. Create the storage class for project-1 and configure it to use the storage pools from backend dedicated to project-1 by setting the storagePools parameter.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
apiVersion: storage.k8s.io/v1
kind: StorageClass
metadata:
  name: project-1-sc
provisioner: csi.trident.netapp.io
parameters:
  backendType: ontap-nas
  storagePools: "nfs_project_1:.*"
EOF
```

7. Likewise, create a storage class for project-2 and configure it to use the storage pools from backend dedicated to project-2.
8. Create a ResourceQuota to restrict resources in project-1 requesting storage from storageclasses dedicated to other projects.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: ResourceQuota
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: project-1-sc-rq
  namespace: project-1
spec:
  hard:
    project-2-sc.storageclass.storage.k8s.io/persistentvolumeclaims: 0
EOF
```

9. Similarly, create a ResourceQuota to restrict resources in project-2 requesting storage from storageclasses dedicated to other projects.

Next: Validation.

Validation

To validate the multitenant architecture that was configured in the previous steps, complete the following steps:

Validate access to create PVCs or pods in assigned project

1. Log in as ocp-project-1-user, developer in project-1.
2. Check access to create a new project.

```
oc create ns sub-project-1
```

3. Create a PVC in project-1 using the storageclass that is assigned to project-1.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: test-pvc-project-1
  namespace: project-1
  annotations:
    trident.netapp.io/reclaimPolicy: Retain
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteOnce
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
  storageClassName: project-1-sc
EOF
```

4. Check the PV associated with the PVC.

```
oc get pv
```

5. Validate that the PV and its volume is created in an SVM dedicated to project-1 on NetApp ONTAP.

```
volume show -vserver project-1-svm
```

6. Create a pod in project-1 and mount the PVC created in previous step.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: Pod
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: test-pvc-pod
  namespace: project-1
spec:
  volumes:
    - name: test-pvc-project-1
      persistentVolumeClaim:
       claimName: test-pvc-project-1
  containers:
    - name: test-container
      image: nginx
      ports:
        - containerPort: 80
          name: "http-server"
      volumeMounts:
        - mountPath: "/usr/share/nginx/html"
          name: test-pvc-project-1
EOF
```

7. Check if the pod is running and whether it mounted the volume.

```
oc describe pods test-pvc-pod -n project-1
```

Validate access to create PVCs or pods in another project or use resources dedicated to another project

1. Log in as ocp-project-1-user, developer in project-1.
2. Create a PVC in project-1 using the storageclass that is assigned to project-2.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: test-pvc-project-1-sc-2
  namespace: project-1
  annotations:
    trident.netapp.io/reclaimPolicy: Retain
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteOnce
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
  storageClassName: project-2-sc
EOF
```

3. Create a PVC in project-2.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: test-pvc-project-2-sc-1
  namespace: project-2
  annotations:
    trident.netapp.io/reclaimPolicy: Retain
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteOnce
  resources:
    requests:
      storage: 1Gi
  storageClassName: project-1-sc
EOF
```

4. Make sure that PVCs `test-pvc-project-1-sc-2` and `test-pvc-project-2-sc-1` were not created.

```
oc get pvc -n project-1
oc get pvc -n project-2
```

5. Create a pod in project-2.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: Pod
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: test-pvc-pod
  namespace: project-1
spec:
  containers:
    - name: test-container
      image: nginx
      ports:
        - containerPort: 80
          name: "http-server"
EOF
```

Validate access to view and edit Projects, ResourceQuotas, and StorageClasses

1. Log in as ocp-project-1-user, developer in project-1.
2. Check access to create new projects.

```
oc create ns sub-project-1
```

3. Validate access to view projects.

```
oc get ns
```

4. Check if the user can view or edit ResourceQuotas in project-1.

```
oc get resourcequotas -n project-1
oc edit resourcequotas project-1-sc-rq -n project-1
```

5. Validate that the user has access to view the storageclasses.

```
oc get sc
```

6. Check access to describe the storageclasses.
7. Validate the user’s access to edit the storageclasses.

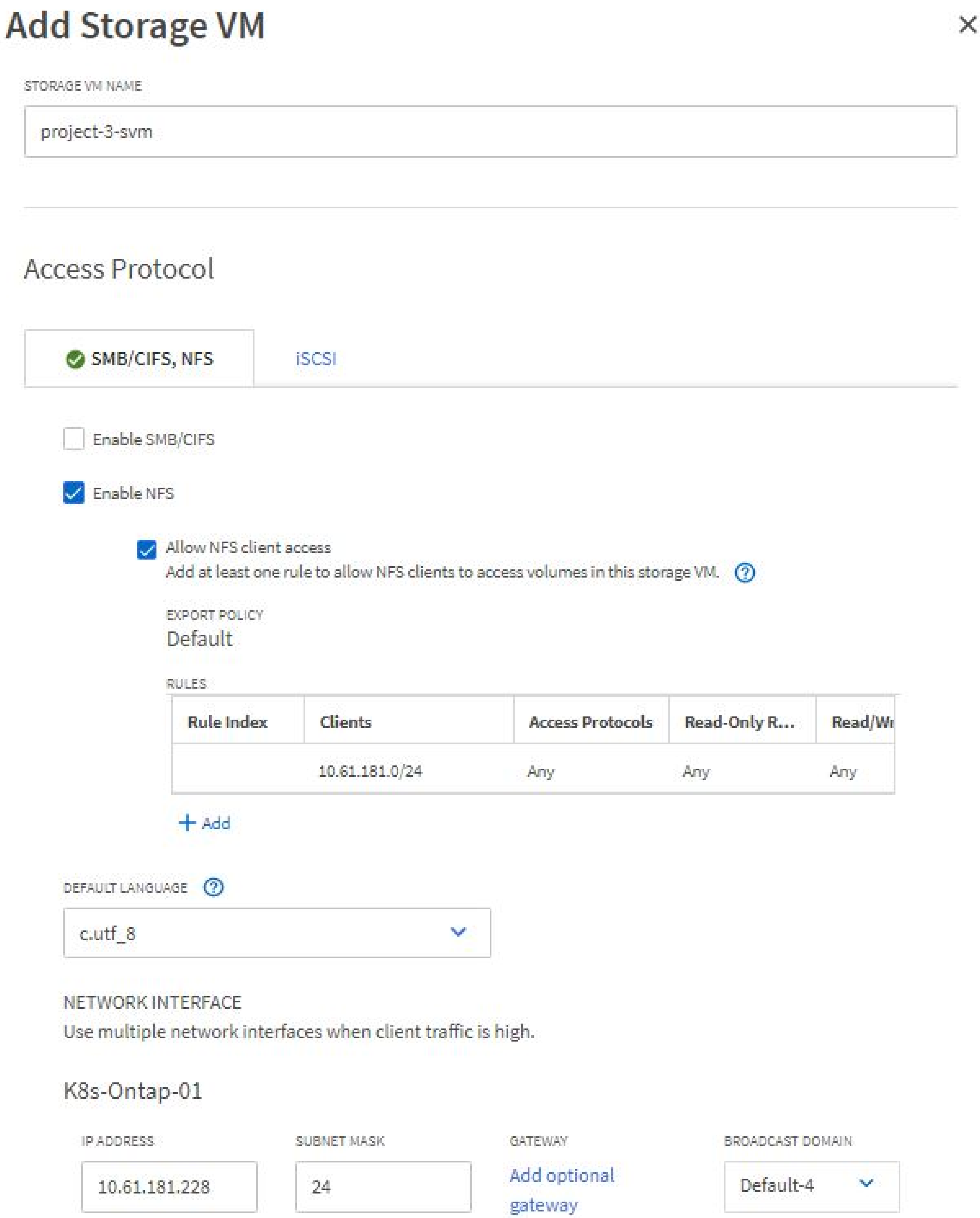
```
oc edit sc project-1-sc
```

Next: Scaling.

Scaling: Adding more projects

In a multitenant configuration, adding new projects with storage resources requires additional configuration to make sure that multitenancy is not violated. For adding more projects in a multitenant cluster, complete the following steps:

1. Log into the NetApp ONTAP cluster as a storage admin.
2. Navigate to `Storage → Storage VMs` and click `Add`. Create a new SVM dedicated to project-3. Also create a vsadmin account to manage the SVM and its resources.



3. Log into the Red Hat OpenShift cluster as cluster admin.
4. Create a new project.

```
oc create ns project-3
```

5. Make sure that the user group for project-3 is created on IdP and synchronized with the OpenShift cluster.

```
oc get groups
```

6. Create the developer role for project-3.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
kind: Role
metadata:
  namespace: project-3
  name: developer-project-3
rules:
  - verbs:
      - '*'
    apiGroups:
      - apps
      - batch
      - autoscaling
      - extensions
      - networking.k8s.io
      - policy
      - apps.openshift.io
      - build.openshift.io
      - image.openshift.io
      - ingress.operator.openshift.io
      - route.openshift.io
      - snapshot.storage.k8s.io
      - template.openshift.io
    resources:
      - '*'
  - verbs:
      - '*'
    apiGroups:
      - ''
    resources:
      - bindings
      - configmaps
      - endpoints
      - events
      - persistentvolumeclaims
      - pods
      - pods/log
      - pods/attach
      - podtemplates
      - replicationcontrollers
      - services
```

```
      - limitranges
      - namespaces
      - componentstatuses
      - nodes
  - verbs:
      - '*'
    apiGroups:
      - trident.netapp.io
    resources:
      - tridentsnapshots
EOF
```

> The role definition provided in this section is just an example. The developer role must be defined based on the end-user requirements.

7. Create RoleBinding for developers in project-3 binding the developer-project-3 role to the corresponding group (ocp-project-3) in project-3.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: RoleBinding
apiVersion: rbac.authorization.k8s.io/v1
metadata:
  name: project-3-developer
  namespace: project-3
subjects:
  - kind: Group
    apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
    name: ocp-project-3
roleRef:
  apiGroup: rbac.authorization.k8s.io
  kind: Role
  name: developer-project-3
EOF
```

8. Login to the Red Hat OpenShift cluster as storage admin
9. Create a Trident backend and map it to the SVM dedicated to project-3. NetApp recommends using the SVM’s vsadmin account to connect the backend to the SVM instead of using the ONTAP cluster administrator.

```
cat << EOF | tridentctl -n trident create backend -f
{
    "version": 1,
    "storageDriverName": "ontap-nas",
    "backendName": "nfs_project_3",
    "managementLIF": "172.21.224.210",
    "dataLIF": "10.61.181.228",
    "svm": "project-3-svm",
    "username": "vsadmin",
    "password": "NetApp!23"
}
EOF
```

> We are using the ontap-nas driver for this example. Use the appropriate driver for creating the backend based on the use-case.

> We assume that Trident is installed in the trident project.

10. Create the storage class for project-3 and configure it to use the storage pools from backend dedicated to project-3.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
apiVersion: storage.k8s.io/v1
kind: StorageClass
metadata:
  name: project-3-sc
provisioner: csi.trident.netapp.io
parameters:
  backendType: ontap-nas
  storagePools: "nfs_project_3:.*"
EOF
```

11. Create a ResourceQuota to restrict resources in project-3 requesting storage from storageclasses dedicated to other projects.

```
cat << EOF | oc create -f -
kind: ResourceQuota
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: project-3-sc-rq
  namespace: project-3
spec:
  hard:
    project-1-sc.storageclass.storage.k8s.io/persistentvolumeclaims: 0
    project-2-sc.storageclass.storage.k8s.io/persistentvolumeclaims: 0
EOF
```

12. Patch the ResourceQuotas in other projects to restrict resources in those projects from accessing storage from the storageclass dedicated to project-3.

```
oc patch resourcequotas project-1-sc-rq -n project-1 --patch
'{"spec":{"hard":{ "project-3-
sc.storageclass.storage.k8s.io/persistentvolumeclaims": 0}}}'
oc patch resourcequotas project-2-sc-rq -n project-2 --patch
'{"spec":{"hard":{ "project-3-
sc.storageclass.storage.k8s.io/persistentvolumeclaims": 0}}}'
```