



Write speed

Cloud Manager

Ben Cammett
January 21, 2021

Table of Contents

- Write speed 1
 - Normal write speed 1
 - High write speed 1
 - How to select a write speed 2
 - What to expect if data loss occurs 3
 - How to stop data access if data loss occurs 3

Write speed

Cloud Manager enables you to choose normal or high write speed for Cloud Volumes ONTAP. Before you choose a write speed, you should understand the differences between the normal and high settings and risks and recommendations when using high write speed.

High write speed is supported with all types of single node systems. It's also supported with HA pairs in AWS and Azure when using a specific instance or VM type (refer to the sections below for the list of supported instances and VM types). High write speed is not supported with HA pairs in GCP.

Normal write speed

When you choose normal write speed, data is written directly to disk. When data is written directly to disk, reduces the likelihood of data loss in the event of an unplanned system outage, or a cascading failure involving an unplanned system outage (HA pairs only).

Normal write speed is the default option.

High write speed

When you choose high write speed, data is buffered in memory before it is written to disk, which provides faster write performance. Due to this caching, there is the potential for data loss if an unplanned system outage occurs.

The amount of data that can be lost in the event of an unplanned system outage is the span of the last two consistency points. A consistency point is the act of writing buffered data to disk. A consistency point occurs when the write log is full or after 10 seconds (whichever comes first). However, the performance of the storage provided by your cloud provider can affect consistency point processing time.

When to use high write speed

High write speed is a good choice if fast write performance is required for your workload and you can withstand the risk of data loss in the event of an unplanned system outage, or a cascading failure involving an unplanned system outage (HA pairs only).

Recommendations when using high write speed

If you enable high write speed, you should ensure write protection at the application layer, or that the applications can tolerate data loss, if it occurs.

Configurations that support high write speed

Not all Cloud Volumes ONTAP configurations support high write speed. Those configurations use normal write speed by default.

AWS

If you use a single node system, Cloud Volumes ONTAP supports high write speed with all instance types.

If you use an HA pair, Cloud Volumes ONTAP supports high write speed with the following instance types,

starting with the 9.8 release:

- c5.9xlarge
- c5.18xlarge
- c5d.4xlarge
- c5d.9xlarge
- c5d.18xlarge
- c5n.9xlarge
- c5n.18xlarge
- m5.2xlarge
- m5.4xlarge
- m5.16xlarge
- m5d.8xlarge
- m5d.12xlarge
- m5n.2xlarge
- r5.2xlarge
- r5.8xlarge
- r5.12xlarge
- r5d.2xlarge

Azure

If you use a single node system, Cloud Volumes ONTAP supports high write speed with all VM types.

If you use an HA pair, Cloud Volumes ONTAP supports high write speed with the following VM types, starting with the 9.8 release:

- DS5_v2
- DS14_v2
- DS15_v2
- E48s_v3

Google Cloud

If you use a single node system, Cloud Volumes ONTAP supports high write speed with all machine types.

Cloud Volumes ONTAP doesn't support high write speed with HA pairs in Google Cloud.

How to select a write speed

You can choose a write speed when you create a new working environment and you can [change the write speed for an existing system](#).

What to expect if data loss occurs

If you choose high write speed and data loss occurs, the system should be able to boot up and continue to serve data without user intervention. Two EMS messages will be reported when a node runs into data loss. One is `waf.root.content.changed` with the ERROR severity level event, the other is `nv.check.failed` with the DEBUG severity level event. Both messages must be present as an indication of data loss.

How to stop data access if data loss occurs

If you are concerned about data loss, want the applications to stop running upon data loss, and the data access to be resumed after the data loss issue is properly addressed, you can use the NVFAIL option from the CLI to achieve that goal.

To enable the NVFAIL option

```
vol modify -volume <vol-name> -nvfail on
```

To check NVFAIL settings

```
vol show -volume <vol-name> -fields nvfail
```

To disable the NVFAIL option

```
vol modify -volume <vol-name> -nvfail off
```

When data loss occurs, an NFS or iSCSI volume with NVFAIL enabled should stop serving data (there's no impact to CIFS which is a stateless protocol). For more details, refer to [How NVFAIL impacts access to NFS volumes or LUNs](#).

To check the NVFAIL state

```
vol show -fields in-nvfailed-state
```

After the data loss issue is properly addressed, you can clear the NVFAIL state and the volume will be available for data access.

To clear the NVFAIL state

```
vol modify -volume <vol-name> -in-nvfailed-state false
```

Copyright Information

Copyright © 2021 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.

RESTRICTED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subparagraph (c)(1)(ii) of the Rights in Technical Data and Computer Software clause at DFARS 252.277-7103 (October 1988) and FAR 52-227-19 (June 1987).

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.