



Configure the MetroCluster software using System Manager

ONTAP MetroCluster

NetApp
January 09, 2026

Table of Contents

Configure the MetroCluster software using System Manager	1
Set up a MetroCluster IP site with ONTAP System Manager	1
Assign a node-management IP address	1
Initialize and configure the cluster	1
Configure ONTAP on a new cluster video	2
Set up MetroCluster IP peering with ONTAP System Manager	2
Perform the peering process from Site A	3
Perform the peering process from Site B	3
Configure a MetroCluster IP site with ONTAP System Manager	3
Configure the connection between clusters	4

Configure the MetroCluster software using System Manager

Set up a MetroCluster IP site with ONTAP System Manager

Beginning with ONTAP 9.8, you can use System Manager to set up a MetroCluster IP site.

A MetroCluster site consists of two clusters. Typically, the clusters are located in different geographical locations.

Before you begin

- Your system should already be installed and cabled according to the [Installation and Setup Instructions](#) that came with the system.
- Cluster network interfaces should be configured on each node of each cluster for intra-cluster communication.

Assign a node-management IP address

Windows System

You should connect your Windows computer to the same subnet as the controllers. This automatically assigns a node-management IP address to your system.

Steps

1. From the Windows system, open the **Network** drive to discover the nodes.
2. Double-click the node to launch the cluster setup wizard.

Other systems

You should configure the node-management IP address for one of the nodes in your cluster. You can use this node-management IP address to launch the cluster set up wizard.

See [Creating the cluster on the first node](#) for information about assigning a node-management IP address.

Initialize and configure the cluster

You initialize the cluster by setting an administrative password for the cluster and setting up the cluster management and node management networks. You can also configure services like a domain name server (DNS) to resolve host names and an NTP server to synchronize time.

Steps

1. On a web browser, enter the node-management IP address that you have configured: "https://node-management-IP"

System Manager automatically discovers the remaining nodes in the cluster.

2. In the **Initialize Storage System** window, perform the following:
 - a. Enter cluster management network configuration data.

- b. Enter Node management IP addresses for all the nodes.
- c. Provide DNS details.
- d. In the **Other** section, select the check box labeled **Use time service (NTP)** to add the time servers.

When you click **Submit**, wait for the cluster to be created and configured. Then, a validation process occurs.

What's Next?

After both clusters have been set up, initialized, and configured, perform the [Set up MetroCluster IP peering](#) procedure.

Configure ONTAP on a new cluster video



Set up MetroCluster IP peering with ONTAP System Manager

Beginning with ONTAP 9.8, you can manage MetroCluster IP configuration operations with System Manager. After setting up two clusters, you set up peering between them.

Before you begin

Set up two clusters. See the [Set up a MetroCluster IP site](#) procedure.

Certain steps of this process are performed by different system administrators located at the geographical sites of each cluster. For the purposes of explaining this process, the clusters are called "Site A cluster" and "Site B cluster".

Perform the peering process from Site A

This process is performed by a system administrator at Site A.

Steps

1. Log in to Site A cluster.
2. In System Manager, select **Dashboard** from the left navigation column to display the cluster overview.

The dashboard shows the details for this cluster (Site A). In the **MetroCluster** section, Site A cluster is shown on the left.

3. Click **Attach Partner Cluster**.
4. Enter the details of the network interfaces that allow the nodes in Site A cluster to communicate with the nodes in Site B cluster.
5. Click **Save and Continue**.
6. On the **Attach Partner Cluster** window, select **I do not have a passphrase**. This lets you generate a passphrase.
7. Copy the generated passphrase and share it with the system administrator at Site B.
8. Select **Close**.

Perform the peering process from Site B

This process is performed by a system administrator at Site B.

Steps

1. Log in to Site B cluster.
2. In System Manager, select **Dashboard** to display the cluster overview.

The dashboard shows the details for this cluster (Site B). In the MetroCluster section, Site B cluster is shown on the left.

3. Click **Attach Partner Cluster** to start the peering process.
4. Enter the details of the network interfaces that allow the nodes in Site B cluster to communicate with the nodes in Site A cluster.
5. Click **Save and Continue**.
6. On the **Attach Partner Cluster** window, select **I have a passphrase**. This lets you enter the passphrase that you received from the system administrator at Site A.
7. Select **Peer** to complete the peering process.

What's next?

After the peering process successfully completes, you configure the clusters. See [Configure a MetroCluster IP site](#).

Configure a MetroCluster IP site with ONTAP System Manager

Beginning with ONTAP 9.8, you can manage MetroCluster IP configuration operations

with System Manager. This involves setting up two clusters, performing cluster peering, and configuring the clusters.

Before you begin

Complete the following procedures:

- [Set up a MetroCluster IP site](#)
- [Set up MetroCluster IP peering](#)

Configure the connection between clusters

Steps

1. Log in to System Manager on one of the sites, and select **Dashboard**.

In the **MetroCluster** section, the graphic shows the two clusters that you set up and peered for the MetroCluster sites. The cluster you are working from (local cluster) is shown on the left.

2. Click **Configure MetroCluster**. From this window, perform the following steps:
 - a. The nodes for each cluster in the MetroCluster configuration are shown. Use the drop-down lists to select the nodes in the local cluster that will be disaster recovery partners with the nodes in the remote cluster.
 - b. Click the check box if you want to configure ONTAP Mediator. See [Configure ONTAP Mediator](#).
 - c. If both clusters have a license to enable encryption, the **Encryption** section is displayed.
To enable encryption, enter a passphrase.
 - d. Click the check box if you want to configure MetroCluster with a shared layer 3 network.



The HA partner nodes and network switches connecting to the nodes must have a matching configuration.

3. Click **Save** to configure the MetroCluster sites.

On the **Dashboard**, in the **MetroCluster** section, the graphic shows a check mark on the link between the two clusters, indicating a healthy connection.

Copyright information

Copyright © 2026 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—with 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.