



Prepare for the MetroCluster installation

ONTAP MetroCluster

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Prepare for the MetroCluster installation

Differences among the ONTAP MetroCluster configurations

The various MetroCluster configurations have key differences in the required components.

In all configurations, each of the two MetroCluster sites are configured as an ONTAP cluster. In a two-node MetroCluster configuration, each node is configured as a single-node cluster.

Feature	IP configurations	Fabric attached configurations		Stretch configurations	
		Four- or eight-node	Two-node	Two-node bridge-attached	Two-node direct-attached
Number of controllers	Four or eight ¹	Four or eight	Two	Two	Two
Uses an FC switch storage fabric	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Uses an IP switch storage fabric	Yes	No	No	No	No
Uses FC-to-SAS bridges	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Uses direct-attached SAS storage	Yes (local attached only)	No	No	No	Yes
Supports ADP	Yes (beginning with ONTAP 9.4)	No	No	No	No
Supports local HA	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Supports ONTAP automatic unplanned switchover (AUSO)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Supports unmirrored aggregates	Yes (beginning with ONTAP 9.8)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supports ONTAP Mediator	Yes (beginning with ONTAP 9.7)	No	No	No	No
Supports MetroCluster Tiebreaker	Yes (not in combination with ONTAP Mediator)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Supports All SAN Arrays	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Notes

1. Review the following considerations for eight-node MetroCluster IP configurations:
 - Eight-node configurations are supported beginning with ONTAP 9.9.1.
 - Only NetApp-validated MetroCluster switches (ordered from NetApp) are supported.
 - Configurations using IP-routed (layer 3) backend connections are not supported.

Support for All SAN Array systems in MetroCluster configurations

Some of the All SAN Arrays (ASAs) are supported in MetroCluster configurations. In the MetroCluster documentation, the information for AFF models applies to the corresponding ASA system. For example, all cabling and other information for the AFF A400 system also applies to the ASA AFF A400 system.

Supported platform configurations are listed in the [NetApp Hardware Universe](#).

Cluster peering

Each MetroCluster site is configured as a peer to its partner site. You must be familiar with the prerequisites and guidelines for configuring the peering relationships. This is important when deciding on whether to use shared or dedicated ports for those relationships.

Related information

[Cluster and SVM peering express configuration](#)

Prerequisites for cluster peering

Before you set up cluster peering, you should confirm that connectivity between port, IP address, subnet, firewall, and cluster-naming requirements are met.

Connectivity requirements

Every intercluster LIF on the local cluster must be able to communicate with every intercluster LIF on the remote cluster.

Although it is not required, it is typically simpler to configure the IP addresses used for intercluster LIFs in the same subnet. The IP addresses can reside in the same subnet as data LIFs, or in a different subnet. The subnet used in each cluster must meet the following requirements:

- The subnet must have enough IP addresses available to allocate to one intercluster LIF per node.

For example, in a four-node cluster, the subnet used for intercluster communication must have four available IP addresses.

Each node must have an intercluster LIF with an IP address on the intercluster network.

Intercluster LIFs can have an IPv4 address or an IPv6 address.



ONTAP 9 enables you to migrate your peering networks from IPv4 to IPv6 by optionally allowing both protocols to be present simultaneously on the intercluster LIFs. In earlier releases, all intercluster relationships for an entire cluster were either IPv4 or IPv6. This meant that changing protocols was a potentially disruptive event.

Port requirements

You can use dedicated ports for intercluster communication, or share ports used by the data network. Ports must meet the following requirements:

- All ports used to communicate with a given remote cluster must be in the same IPspace.

You can use multiple IPspaces to peer with multiple clusters. Pair-wise full-mesh connectivity is required only within an IPspace.

- The broadcast domain used for intercluster communication must include at least two ports per node so that intercluster communication can fail over from one port to another port.

Ports added to a broadcast domain can be physical network ports, VLANs, or interface groups (ifgrps).

- All ports must be cabled.
- All ports must be in a healthy state.
- The MTU settings of the ports must be consistent.

Firewall requirements

Firewalls and the intercluster firewall policy must allow the following protocols:

- ICMP service
- TCP to the IP addresses of all the intercluster LIFs over the ports 10000, 11104, and 11105
- Bidirectional HTTPS between the intercluster LIFs

The default intercluster firewall policy allows access through the HTTPS protocol and from all IP addresses (0.0.0.0/0). You can modify or replace the policy if necessary.

Considerations when using dedicated ports

When determining whether using a dedicated port for intercluster replication is the correct intercluster network solution, you should consider configurations and requirements such as LAN type, available WAN bandwidth,

replication interval, change rate, and number of ports.

Consider the following aspects of your network to determine whether using a dedicated port is the best intercluster network solution:

- If the amount of available WAN bandwidth is similar to that of the LAN ports, and the replication interval is such that replication occurs while regular client activity exists, then you should dedicate Ethernet ports for intercluster replication to avoid contention between replication and the data protocols.
- If the network utilization generated by the data protocols (CIFS, NFS, and iSCSI) is such that the network utilization is above 50 percent, then dedicate ports for replication to allow for nondegraded performance if a node failover occurs.
- When physical 10 GbE or faster ports are used for data and replication, you can create VLAN ports for replication and dedicate the logical ports for intercluster replication.

The bandwidth of the port is shared between all VLANs and the base port.

- Consider the data change rate and replication interval and whether the amount of data, that must be replicated on each interval, requires enough bandwidth. This might cause contention with data protocols if sharing data ports.

Considerations when sharing data ports

When determining whether sharing a data port for intercluster replication is the correct intercluster network solution, you should consider configurations and requirements such as LAN type, available WAN bandwidth, replication interval, change rate, and number of ports.

Consider the following aspects of your network to determine whether sharing data ports is the best intercluster connectivity solution:

- For a high-speed network, such as a 40-Gigabit Ethernet (40-GbE) network, a sufficient amount of local LAN bandwidth might be available to perform replication on the same 40-GbE ports that are used for data access.

In many cases, the available WAN bandwidth is far less than the 10 GbE LAN bandwidth.

- All nodes in the cluster might have to replicate data and share the available WAN bandwidth, making data port sharing more acceptable.
- Sharing ports for data and replication eliminates the extra port counts required to dedicate ports for replication.
- The maximum transmission unit (MTU) size of the replication network will be the same size as that used on the data network.
- Consider the data change rate and replication interval and whether the amount of data, that must be replicated on each interval, requires enough bandwidth. This might cause contention with data protocols if sharing data ports.
- When data ports for intercluster replication are shared, the intercluster LIFs can be migrated to any other intercluster-capable port on the same node to control the specific data port that is used for replication.

Considerations for ISLs

You must determine how many ISLs you need for each FC switch fabric in the MetroCluster configuration. Beginning with ONTAP 9.2, in some cases, instead of

dedicating FC switches and ISLs to each individual MetroCluster configuration, you can share the same four switches.

ISL sharing considerations (ONTAP 9.2)

Beginning with ONTAP 9.2, you can use ISL sharing in the following cases:

- One two-node and one four-node MetroCluster configurations
- Two separate four-node MetroCluster configurations
- Two separate two-node MetroCluster configurations
- Two DR groups within one eight-node MetroCluster configuration

The number of ISLs required between the shared switches depends on the bandwidth of the platform models connected to the shared switches.

Consider the following aspects of your configuration when determining how many ISLs you need.

- Non-MetroCluster devices should not be connected to any of the FC switches that provide the back-end MetroCluster connectivity.
- ISL sharing is supported on all switches except the Cisco 9250i and Cisco 9148 switches.
- All nodes must be running ONTAP 9.2 or later.
- The FC switch cabling for ISL sharing is the same as for the eight-node MetroCluster cabling.
- The RCF files for ISL sharing are same as for the eight-node MetroCluster cabling.
- You should verify that all hardware and software versions are supported.

[NetApp Hardware Universe](#)

- The speed and number of ISLs must be sized to support the client load on both MetroCluster systems.
- The back-end ISLs and the back-end components must be dedicated to the MetroCluster configuration only.
- The ISL must use one of the supported speeds: 4 Gbps, 8 Gbps, 16 Gbps, or 32 Gbps.
- The ISLs on one fabric should all be the same speed and length.
- The ISLs on one fabric should all have the same topology. For example, they should all be direct links, or if your system uses WDM, then they should all use WDM.

Platform-specific ISL considerations

The number of recommended ISLs is platform-model specific. The following table shows the ISL requirements for each fabric by platform model. It assumes that each ISL has a 16-Gbps capacity.

Platform model	Recommended number of ISLs per four-node DR group (per switch fabric)
AFF A900 and FAS9500	Eight
AFF A700	Six

FAS9000	Six
8080	Four
All others	Two

If the switch fabric is supporting eight nodes (either part of a single, eight-node MetroCluster configuration, or two four-node configurations that are sharing ISLs), the recommended total number of ISLs for the fabric is the sum of that required for each four-node DR group. For example:

- If DR group 1 includes four AFF A700 systems, it requires six ISLs.
- If DR group 2 includes four FAS8200 systems, it requires two ISLs.
- The total number of recommended ISLs for the switch fabric is eight.

Considerations for using TDM/WDM equipment with fabric-attached MetroCluster configurations

The Hardware Universe tool provides some notes about the requirements that Time Division Multiplexing (TDM) or Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) equipment must meet to work with a fabric-attached MetroCluster configuration. These notes also include information about various configurations, which can help you to determine when to use in-order delivery (IOD) of frames or out-of-order delivery (OOD) of frames.

An example of such requirements is that the TDM/WDM equipment must support the link aggregation (trunking) feature with routing policies. The order of delivery (IOD or OOD) of frames is maintained within a switch, and is determined by the routing policy that is in effect.

[NetApp Hardware Universe](#)

The following table provides the routing policies for configurations containing Brocade switches and Cisco switches:

Switches	Configuring MetroCluster configurations for IOD	Configuring MetroCluster configurations for OOD
Brocade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AptPolicy must be set to 1 • DLS must be set to off • IOD must be set to on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AptPolicy must be set to 3 • DLS must be set to on • IOD must be set to off

Cisco	<p>Policies for the FCVI-designated VSAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Load balancing policy: srcid and dstid • IOD must be set to on <p>Policies for the storage-designated VSAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Load balancing policy: srcid, dstid, and oxid • VSAN must not have the in-order-guarantee option set 	Not applicable
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When to use IOD

It is best to use IOD if it is supported by the links. The following configurations support IOD:

- A single ISL
- The ISL and the link (and the link equipment, such as TDM/WDM, if used) supports configuration for IOD.
- A single trunk, and the ISLs and the links (and the link equipment, such as TDM/WDM, if used) support configuration for IOD.

When to use OOD

- You can use OOD for all configurations that do not support IOD.
- You can use OOD for configurations that do not support the trunking feature.

Using encryption devices

When using dedicated encryption devices on the ISL or encryption on WDM devices in the MetroCluster configuration, you must meet the following requirements:

- The external encryption devices or WDM equipment has been self certified by the vendor with the FC switch in question.

The self certification should cover the operating mode (such as trunking and encryption).

- The added latency due to encryption should be no more than 10 microseconds.

Requirements for using a Brocade DCX 8510-8 switch

As you prepare for the MetroCluster installation, you should understand the MetroCluster hardware architecture and required components.

- The DCX 8510-8 switches used in MetroCluster configurations must be purchased from NetApp.
- For scalability, you should leave one port-chunk between MetroCluster configurations if cabling only two MetroClusters in 4x48-port modules. This enables you to expand port usage in MetroCluster configurations

without recabling.

- Each Brocade DCX 8510-8 switch in the MetroCluster configuration must be correctly configured for the ISL ports and storage connections. For port usage, see the following section: [Port assignments for FC switches](#).
- ISLs cannot be shared and each MetroCluster requires two ISLs for each fabric.
- The DCX 8510-8 switch used for backend MetroCluster connectivity should not be used for any other connectivity.

Non-MetroCluster devices should not be connected to these switches and non-MetroCluster traffic should not flow through DCX 8510-8 switches.

- One line card can either be connected to ONTAP MetroClusters **or** ONTAP 7-Mode MetroClusters.



RCF files are not available for this switch.

The following are the requirements for using two Brocade DCX 8510-8 switches:

- You must have one DCX 8510-8 switch at each site.
- You must use a minimum of two 48-port blades that contain 16Gb SFPs in each switch.

The following are the requirements for using four DCX 8510-8 switches at each site in a MetroCluster configuration:

- You must have two DCX 8510-8 switches at each site.
- You must use at least one 48-port blade for each DCX 8510-8 switch.
- Each blade is configured as a virtual switch using virtual fabrics.

The following NetApp products are not supported by Brocade DCX 8510-8 switches:

- Config Advisor
- Fabric Health Monitor
- MyAutoSupport (system risks might show false positives)
- Active IQ Unified Manager (formerly OnCommand Unified Manager)



Ensure that all the components needed for this configuration are in the [NetApp Interoperability Matrix Tool](#). Read the notes section in the Interoperability Matrix Tool for information on supported configurations.

Considerations when using unmirrored aggregates

Considerations when using unmirrored aggregates

If your configuration includes unmirrored aggregates, you must be aware of potential access issues that follow switchover operations.

Considerations for unmirrored aggregates when doing maintenance requiring power shutdown

If you are performing a negotiated switchover for maintenance reasons requiring site-wide power shutdown, you should first manually take offline any unmirrored aggregates owned by the disaster site.

If you do not take any unmirrored aggregates offline, nodes at the surviving site might go down due to multi-disk panics. This could occur if switched over unmirrored aggregates go offline, or are missing, because of the loss of connectivity to storage at the disaster site. This is the result of a power shutdown or a loss of ISLs.

Considerations for unmirrored aggregates and hierarchical namespaces

If you are using hierarchical namespaces, you should configure the junction path so that all of the volumes in that path are either on mirrored aggregates only or on unmirrored aggregates only. Configuring a mix of unmirrored and mirrored aggregates in the junction path might prevent access to the unmirrored aggregates after the switchover operation.

Considerations for unmirrored aggregates and CRS metadata volume and data SVM root volumes

The configuration replication service (CRS) metadata volume and data SVM root volumes must be on a mirrored aggregate. You cannot move these volumes to an unmirrored aggregate. If they are on an unmirrored aggregate, negotiated switchover and switchback operations are vetoed. The MetroCluster check command provides a warning if this is the case.

Considerations for unmirrored aggregates and SVMs

SVMs should be configured on mirrored aggregates only, or on unmirrored aggregates only. Configuring a mix of unmirrored and mirrored aggregates can result in a switchover operation that exceeds 120 seconds and result in a data outage if the unmirrored aggregates do not come online.

Considerations for unmirrored aggregates and SAN

In ONTAP versions prior to 9.9.1, a LUN should not be located on an unmirrored aggregate. Configuring a LUN on an unmirrored aggregate can result in a switchover operation that exceeds 120 seconds and a data outage.

Firewall usage at MetroCluster sites

Considerations for firewall usage at MetroCluster sites

If you are using a firewall at a MetroCluster site, you must ensure access for required ports.

The following table shows TCP/UDP port usage in an external firewall positioned between two MetroCluster sites.

Traffic type	Port/services
Cluster peering	11104 / TCP
	11105 / TCP

ONTAP System Manager	443 / TCP
MetroCluster IP intercluster LIFs	65200 / TCP 10006 / TCP and UDP
Hardware assist	4444 / TCP

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