



# **Configure the metadata cache for SMB shares**

**ONTAP 9**

NetApp  
January 23, 2026

This PDF was generated from <https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/ontap/smb-admin/metadata-caching-concept.html> on January 23, 2026. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

# Table of Contents

- Configure the metadata cache for SMB shares ..... 1
  - Learn about ONTAP SMB metadata caching..... 1
  - Enable the ONTAP SMB metadata cache ..... 1
  - Configure the lifetime of ONTAP SMB metadata cache entries..... 2

# Configure the metadata cache for SMB shares

## Learn about ONTAP SMB metadata caching

Metadata caching enables file attribute caching on SMB 1.0 clients to provide faster access to file and folder attributes. You can enable or disable attribute caching on a per-share basis. You can also configure the time-to-live for cached entries if metadata caching is enabled. Configuring metadata caching is not necessary if clients are connecting to shares over SMB 2.x or SMB 3.0.

When enabled, the SMB metadata cache stores path and file attribute data for a limited amount of time. This can improve SMB performance for SMB 1.0 clients with common workloads.

For certain tasks, SMB creates a significant amount of traffic that can include multiple identical queries for path and file metadata. You can reduce the number of redundant queries and improve performance for SMB 1.0 clients by using SMB metadata caching to fetch information from the cache instead.



While unlikely, it is possible that the metadata cache might serve stale information to SMB 1.0 clients. If your environment cannot afford this risk, you should not enable this feature.

## Enable the ONTAP SMB metadata cache

You can improve SMB performance for SMB 1.0 clients by enabling the SMB metadata cache. By default, SMB metadata caching is disabled.

### Step

1. Perform the desired action:

If you want to...	Enter the command...
Enable SMB metadata caching when you create a share	<pre>vserver cifs share create -vserver vserver_name -share-name share_name -path path -share-properties attributecache</pre>
Enable SMB metadata caching on an existing share	<pre>vserver cifs share properties add -vserver vserver_name -share-name share_name -share-properties attributecache</pre>

### Related information

- [Configure the lifetime of metadata cache entries](#)
- [Add or remove share properties on existing shares](#)

# Configure the lifetime of ONTAP SMB metadata cache entries

You can configure the lifetime of SMB metadata cache entries to optimize the SMB metadata cache performance in your environment. The default is 10 seconds.

### Before you begin

You must have enabled the SMB metadata cache feature. If SMB metadata caching is not enabled, the SMB cache TTL setting is not used.

### Step

1. Perform the desired action:

If you want to configure the lifetime of SMB metadata cache entries when you...	Enter the command...
Create a share	<code>vserver cifs share -create -vserver <i>vserver_name</i> -share-name <i>share_name</i> -path <i>path</i> -attribute-cache-ttl [<i>integerh</i>][<i>integerm</i>][<i>integers</i>]</code>
Modify an existing share	<code>vserver cifs share -modify -vserver <i>vserver_name</i> -share-name <i>share_name</i> -attribute-cache-ttl [<i>integerh</i>][<i>integerm</i>][<i>integers</i>]</code>

You can specify additional share configuration options and properties when you create or modify shares. Learn more about `vserver cifs share` in the [ONTAP command reference](#).

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