



# Clone Windows file systems

## SnapCenter software

NetApp

January 09, 2026

This PDF was generated from [https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/snapcenter/protect-scw/task\\_clone\\_from\\_a\\_windows\\_file\\_system\\_backup.html](https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/snapcenter/protect-scw/task_clone_from_a_windows_file_system_backup.html) on January 09, 2026. Always check [docs.netapp.com](https://docs.netapp.com) for the latest.

# Table of Contents

- Clone Windows file systems ..... 1
  - Clone from a Windows file system backup ..... 1
  - Monitor clone operations ..... 6
  - Cancel clone operations ..... 7
  - Split a clone ..... 7

# Clone Windows file systems

## Clone from a Windows file system backup

You can use SnapCenter to clone a Windows file system backup. If you want a copy of a single file that was mistakenly deleted or changed, then you can clone a backup and access that file in the clone.

### Before you begin

- You should have prepared for data protection by completing tasks such as adding hosts, identifying resources, and creating storage virtual machine (SVM) connections.
- You should have a backup of the file system.
- You should ensure that the aggregates hosting the volumes should be in the assigned aggregates list of the storage virtual machine (SVM).
- You cannot clone a resource group. You can only clone individual file system backups.
- If a backup resides on a virtual machine with a VMDK disk, SnapCenter cannot clone the backup to a physical server.
- If you clone a Windows cluster (for example, a shared LUN or a cluster shared volume (CSV) LUN), the clone is stored as a dedicated LUN on the host that you specify.
- For a cloning operation, the root directory of the volume mount point cannot be a shared directory.
- You cannot create a clone on a node that is not the home node for the aggregate.
- You cannot schedule recurring clone (clone lifecycle) operations for Windows file systems; you can only clone a backup on demand.
- If you move a LUN that contains a clone to a new volume, SnapCenter can no longer support the clone. For example, you cannot use SnapCenter to delete that clone.
- You cannot clone across environments. For example, cloning from a physical disk to a virtual disk or vice versa.

### About this task

- The `SCRIPTS_PATH` is defined using the `PredefinedWindowsScriptsDirectory` key located in the `SMCoreServiceHost.exe.Config` file of the plug-in host.

If needed, you can change this path and restart SMcore service. It is recommended that you use the default path for security.

The value of the key can be displayed from swagger through the API: [API /4.7/configsettings](#)

You can use the GET API to display the value of the key. SET API is not supported.

- For ONTAP 9.12.1 and below version, the clones created from the SnapLock Vault Snapshots as part of restore will inherit the SnapLock Vault expiry time. Storage admin should manually cleanup the clones post the SnapLock expiry time.

## SnapCenter UI

### Steps

1. In the left navigation pane, click **Resources**, and then select the appropriate plug-in from the list.
2. In the Resources page, select **File Systems** from the list.
3. Select the host.

The topology view is automatically displayed if the resource is protected.

4. From the resources list, select the backup that you want to clone, and then click the clone icon.
5. In the Options page, do the following:

For this field...	Do this...
Clone server	Choose the host on which the clone should be created.
“Auto assign mount point” or “Auto assign volume mount point under path”	Choose whether to automatically assign a mount point or a volume mount point under a path.  Auto assign volume mount point under path: The mount point under a path enables you to provide a specific directory in which the mount points will be created. Before you choose this option, you must verify that the directory is empty. If there is a backup in the directory, the backup will be in an invalid state after the mount operation.
Archive location	Choose an archive location if you are cloning a secondary backup.

6. In the Script page, specify any prescripts or postscripts you want to execute.



The prescripts or postscripts path should not include drives or shares. The path should be relative to the SCRIPTS\_PATH.

7. Review the summary, and then click **Finish**.
8. Monitor the operation progress by clicking **Monitor > Jobs**.

### PowerShell cmdlets

#### Steps

1. Initiate a connection session with the SnapCenter Server for a specified user by using the Open-SmConnection cmdlet.

```
Open-SmConnection -SMSbaseurl https://snapctr.demo.netapp.com:8146
```

2. List the backups that can be cloned by using the Get-SmBackup or Get-SmResourceGroup cmdlet.

This example displays information about all available backups:

```
C:\PS>PS C:\> Get-SmBackup
```

BackupId	BackupName	BackupTime	BackupType
1	Payroll Dataset_vise-f6_08...	8/4/2015 11:02:32 AM	Full Backup
2	Payroll Dataset_vise-f6_08...	8/4/2015 11:23:17 AM	

This example displays information about a specified resource group, its resources, and associated policies:

```
PS C:\> Get-SmResourceGroup -ListResources -ListPolicies
```

Description :

CreationTime : 8/4/2015 3:44:05 PM

ModificationTime : 8/4/2015 3:44:05 PM

EnableEmail : False

EmailSMTPServer :

EmailFrom :

EmailTo :

EmailSubject :

EnableSysLog : False

ProtectionGroupType : Backup

EnableAsupOnFailure : False

Policies : {FinancePolicy}

HostResourceMapping : {}

Configuration : SMCOREContracts.SmCloneConfiguration

LastBackupStatus :

VerificationServer :

EmailBody :

EmailNotificationPreference : Never

VerificationServerInfo : SMCOREContracts.SmVerificationServerInfo

SchedulerSQLInstance :

CustomText :

CustomSnapshotFormat :

SearchResources : False

ByPassCredential : False

IsCustomSnapshot :

MaintenanceStatus : Production

PluginProtectionGroupTypes : {SMSQL}

Name : Payrolldataset

Type : Group  
Id : 1  
Host :  
UserName :  
Passphrase :  
Deleted : False  
Auth : SMCoreContracts.SmAuth  
IsClone : False  
CloneLevel : 0  
ApplySnapvaultUpdate : False  
ApplyRetention : False  
RetentionCount : 0  
RetentionDays : 0  
ApplySnapMirrorUpdate : False  
SnapVaultLabel :  
MirrorVaultUpdateRetryCount : 7  
AppPolicies : {}  
Description : FinancePolicy  
PreScriptPath :  
PreScriptArguments :  
PostScriptPath :  
PostScriptArguments :  
ScriptTimeout : 60000  
DateModified : 8/4/2015 3:43:30 PM  
DateCreated : 8/4/2015 3:43:30 PM  
Schedule : SMCoreContracts.SmSchedule  
PolicyType : Backup  
PluginPolicyType : SMSQL  
Name : FinancePolicy  
Type :  
Id : 1  
Host :  
UserName :  
Passphrase :  
Deleted : False  
Auth : SMCoreContracts.SmAuth  
IsClone : False  
CloneLevel : 0  
clab-a13-13.sddev.lab.netapp.com  
DatabaseGUID :  
SQLInstance : clab-a13-13  
DbStatus : AutoClosed  
DbAccess : eUndefined  
IsSystemDb : False  
IsSimpleRecoveryMode : False  
IsSelectable : True

```

SqlDbFileGroups : {}
SqlDbLogFiles : {}
AppFileStorageGroups : {}
LogDirectory :
AgName :
Version :
VolumeGroupIndex : -1
IsSecondary : False
Name : TEST
Type : SQL Database
Id : clab-a13-13\TEST
Host : clab-a13-13.sddev.mycompany.com
UserName :
Passphrase :
Deleted : False
Auth : SMCOREContracts.SmAuth
IsClone : False

```

### 3. Initiate a clone operation from an existing backup by using the New-SmClone cmdlet.

This example creates a clone from a specified backup with all logs:

```

PS C:\> New-SmClone
-BackupName payroll_dataset_vise-f3_08-05-2015_15.28.28.9774
-Resources @{"Host"="vise-f3.sddev.mycompany.com";
"Type"="SQL Database";"Names"="vise-f3\SQLExpress\payroll"}
-CloneToInstance vise-f3\sqlexpress -AutoAssignMountPoint
-Suffix _clonefrombackup
-LogRestoreType All -Policy clonefromprimary_ondemand

PS C:> New-SmBackup -ResourceGroupName PayrollDataset -Policy
FinancePolicy

```

This example creates a clone to a specified Microsoft SQL Server instance:

```

PS C:\> New-SmClone
-BackupName "BackupDS1_NY-VM-SC-SQL_12-08-2015_09.00.24.8367"
-Resources @{"host"="ny-vm-sc-sql";"Type"="SQL Database";
"Names"="ny-vm-sc-sql\AdventureWorks2012_data"}
-AppPluginCode SMSQL -CloneToInstance "ny-vm-sc-sql"
-Suffix _CLPOSH -AssignMountPointUnderPath "C:\SCMounts"

```

### 4. View the status of the clone job by using the Get-SmCloneReport cmdlet.

This example displays a clone report for the specified job ID:

```
PS C:\> Get-SmCloneReport -JobId 186

SmCloneId : 1
SmJobId : 186
StartDateTime : 8/3/2015 2:43:02 PM
EndDateTime : 8/3/2015 2:44:08 PM
Duration : 00:01:06.6760000
Status : Completed
ProtectionGroupName : Draper
SmProtectionGroupId : 4
PolicyName : OnDemand_Clone
SmPolicyId : 4
BackupPolicyName : OnDemand_Full_Log
SmBackupPolicyId : 1
CloneHostName : SCSPR0054212005.mycompany.com
CloneHostId : 4
CloneName : Draper_clone__08-03-2015_14.43.53
SourceResources : {Don, Betty, Bobby, Sally}
ClonedResources : {Don_DRAPER, Betty_DRAPER, Bobby_DRAPER,
                  Sally_DRAPER}
```







The information regarding the parameters that can be used with the cmdlet and their descriptions can be obtained by running *Get-Help command\_name*. Alternatively, you can also refer to the [SnapCenter Software Cmdlet Reference Guide](#).

## Monitor clone operations

You can monitor the progress of SnapCenter clone operations by using the Jobs page. You might want to check the progress of an operation to determine when it is complete or if there is an issue.


### About this task

The following icons appear on the Jobs page, and indicate the state of the operation:

-  In progress
-  Completed successfully
-  Failed
-  Completed with warnings or could not start due to warnings
-  Queued
-  Canceled

### Steps



1. In the left navigation pane, click **Monitor**.
2. In the **Monitor** page, click **Jobs**.
3. In the **Jobs** page, perform the following steps:
  - a. Click  to filter the list so that only clone operations are listed.
  - b. Specify the start and end dates.
  - c. From the **Type** drop-down list, select **Clone**.
  - d. From the **Status** drop-down list, select the clone status.
  - e. Click **Apply** to view the operations that are completed successfully.
4. Select the clone job, and then click **Details** to view the job details.
5. In the Job Details page, click **View logs**.

## Cancel clone operations

You can cancel clone operations that are queued.


You should be logged in as the SnapCenter Admin or job owner to cancel clone operations.

### About this task

- You can cancel a queued clone operation from either the **Monitor** page or the **Activity** pane.
- You cannot cancel a running clone operation.
- You can use the SnapCenter GUI, PowerShell cmdlets, or CLI commands to cancel the queued clone operations.
- If you selected **All members of this role can see and operate on other members objects** in Users\Groups page while creating a role, you can cancel the queued clone operations of other members while using that role.

### Step

Perform one of the following actions:

From the...	Action
Monitor page	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. In the left navigation pane, click <b>Monitor &gt; Jobs</b>.</li> <li>b. Select the operation, and click <b>Cancel Job</b>.</li> </ol>
Activity pane	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. After initiating the clone operation, click  on the Activity pane to view the five most recent operations.</li> <li>b. Select the operation.</li> <li>c. In the <b>Job Details</b> page, click <b>Cancel Job</b>.</li> </ol>

## Split a clone

You can use SnapCenter to split a cloned resource from the parent resource. The clone that is split becomes independent of the parent resource.

## About this task

- You cannot perform the clone split operation on an intermediate clone.

For example, after you create clone1 from a database backup, you can create a backup of clone1, and then clone this backup (clone2). After you create clone2, clone1 is an intermediate clone, and you cannot perform the clone split operation on clone1. However, you can perform the clone split operation on clone2.

After splitting clone2, you can perform the clone split operation on clone1 because clone1 is no longer the intermediate clone.

- When you split a clone, the backup copies and clone jobs of the clone are deleted.
- For information about FlexClone volume split operations, see, [Split a FlexClone volume from its parent volume](#).
- Ensure that the volume or aggregate on the storage system is online.


## Steps

1. In the left navigation pane, click **Resources**, and then select the appropriate plug-in from the list.
2. In the **Resources** page, select the appropriate option from the View list:

Option	Description
For database applications	Select <b>Database</b> from the View list.
For file systems	Select <b>Path</b> from the View list.

3. Select the appropriate resource from the list.

The resource topology page is displayed.

4. From the **Manage Copies** view, select the cloned resource (for example, the database or LUN), and then click .
5. Review the estimated size of the clone that is to be split and the required space available on the aggregate, and then click **Start**.
6. Monitor the operation progress by clicking **Monitor > Jobs**.

The clone split operation stops responding if the SMCORE service restarts. You should run the Stop-SmJob cmdlet to stop the clone split operation, and then retry the clone split operation.

If you want a longer poll time or shorter poll time to check whether the clone is split or not, you can change the value of *CloneSplitStatusCheckPollTime* parameter in *SMCoreServiceHost.exe.config* file to set the time interval for SMCORE to poll for the status of the clone split operation. The value is in milliseconds and the default value is 5 minutes.

For example:

```
<add key="CloneSplitStatusCheckPollTime" value="300000" />
```

The clone split start operation fails if backup, restore, or another clone split is in progress. You should restart the clone split operation only after the running operations are complete.

**Related information**

[SnapCenter clone or verification fails with aggregate does not exist](#)

## 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—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.

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.