



Simulating an ILM policy

StorageGRID

NetApp
October 03, 2025

Table of Contents

- Simulating an ILM policy 1
 - Examples for simulating ILM policies 3
 - Example 1: Verifying rules when simulating a proposed ILM policy 3
 - Example 2: Reordering rules when simulating a proposed ILM policy 4
 - Example 3: Correcting a rule when simulating a proposed ILM policy 6

Simulating an ILM policy

You should simulate a proposed policy on test objects before activating the policy and applying it to your production data. The simulation window provides a standalone environment that is safe for testing policies before they are activated and applied to data in the production environment.

What you'll need


- You must be signed in to the Grid Manager using a supported browser.
- You must have specific access permissions.
- You must know the S3 bucket/object-key or the Swift container/object-name for each object you want to test, and you must have already ingested those objects.

About this task

You must carefully select the objects you want the proposed policy to test. To simulate a policy thoroughly, you should test at least one object for each filter in each rule.

For example, if a policy includes one rule to match objects in bucket A and another rule to match objects in bucket B, you must select at least one object from bucket A and one object from bucket B to test the policy thoroughly. If the policy includes a default rule to place all other objects, you must test at least one object from another bucket.

When simulating a policy, the following considerations apply:

- After you make changes to a policy, save the proposed policy. Then, simulate the behavior of the saved proposed policy.
- When you simulate a policy, the ILM rules in the policy filter the test objects, so you can see which rule was applied to each object. However, no object copies are made and no objects are placed. Running a simulation does not modify your data, rules, or the policy in any way.
- The Simulation page retains the objects you tested until you close, navigate away from, or refresh the ILM Policies page.
- Simulation returns the name of the matched rule. To determine which storage pool or Erasure Coding profile is in effect, you can view the Retention Diagram by clicking the rule name or the more details icon .
- If S3 Versioning is enabled, the policy is only simulated against the current version of the object.

Steps

1. Select and arrange the rules, and save the proposed policy.

The policy in this example has three rules:

Rule Name	Filter	Type of Copies	Retention
X-men	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tenant A• User metadata (series=x-men)	2 copies at two data centers	2 years

Rule Name	Filter	Type of Copies	Retention
PNGs	Key ends with .png	2 copies at two data centers	5 years
Two Copies Two Data Centers	<i>None</i>	2 copies at two data centers	Forever

Viewing Proposed Policy - Example ILM policy

Before activating a new ILM policy:

- Review and carefully simulate the policy. Errors in an ILM policy can cause irreparable data loss.
- Review any changes to the placement of existing replicated and erasure-coded objects. Changing an existing object's location might result in temporary resource issues when the new placements are evaluated and implemented.

See [Managing objects with information lifecycle management](#) for more information.

Review the rules in this policy. If this is a proposed policy, click Simulate to verify the policy and then click Activate to make the policy active.

Reason for change: Example policy

Rules are evaluated in order, starting from the top.

Rule Name	Default	Tenant Account
X-men 		Tenant A (94793396288150002349)
PNGs 		Ignore
Two Copies at Two Data Centers 	✓	Ignore

Simulate

Activate

2. Click **Simulate**.

The Simulation ILM Policy dialog box appears.

3. In the **Object** field, enter the S3 bucket/object-key or the Swift container/object-name for a test object, and click **Simulate**.

A message appears if you specify an object that has not been ingested.



Object

photos/test

Simulate

Object 'photos/test' not found.

4. Under **Simulation Results**, confirm that each object was matched by the correct rule.

In the example, the `Havok.png` and `Warpath.jpg` objects were correctly matched by the X-men rule. The `Fullsteam.png` object, which does not include `series=x-men` user metadata, was not matched by the X-men rule but was correctly matched by the PNGs rule. The default rule was not used because all three objects were matched by other rules.




Simulate ILM Policy - Demo

Simulates the active ILM policy or, if there is a proposed ILM policy, simulates the proposed ILM policy. Use this simulation to test the current configuration of ILM rules and determine whether ILM rules copy and place object data as intended.

Object

Simulate

Simulation Results

Object	Rule Matched	Previous Match	
photos/Havok.png	X-men 		✗
photos/Warpath.jpg	X-men 		✗
photos/Fullsteam.png	PNGs 		✗

Finish

Examples for simulating ILM policies

These examples show how you can verify ILM rules by simulating the ILM policy before activating it.

Example 1: Verifying rules when simulating a proposed ILM policy

This example shows how to verify rules when simulating a proposed policy.

In this example, the **Example ILM policy** is being simulated against the ingested objects in two buckets. The policy includes three rules, as follows:

- The first rule, **Two copies, two years for bucket-a**, applies only to objects in bucket-a.
- The second rule, **EC objects > 1 MB**, applies to all buckets but filters on objects greater than 1 MB.
- The third rule is the default rule and does not include any filters.

Viewing Proposed Policy - Example ILM policy

Before activating a new ILM policy:

- Review and carefully simulate the policy. Errors in an ILM policy can cause irreparable data loss.
- Review any changes to the placement of existing replicated and erasure-coded objects. Changing an existing object's location might result in temporary resource issues when the new placements are evaluated and implemented.

See [Managing objects with information lifecycle management](#) for more information.

This policy contains a rule that makes an erasure-coded copy. Confirm that at least one rule uses the Object Size advanced filter to prevent objects that are 200 KB or smaller from being erasure coded. See [Managing objects with information lifecycle management](#) for more information.

Review the rules in this policy. If this is a proposed policy, click Simulate to verify the policy and then click Activate to make the policy active.

Reason for change: Example policy

Rules are evaluated in order, starting from the top.

Rule Name	Default	Tenant Account
Two copies, two years for bucket-a 		—
EC objects > 1 MB 		—
Two copies, two data centers 	✓	—

Simulate

Activate

Steps

1. After adding the rules and saving the policy, click **Simulate**.

The Simulate ILM Policy dialog box appears.

2. In the **Object** field, enter the S3 bucket/object-key or the Swift container/object-name for a test object, and click **Simulate**.

The Simulation Results appear, showing which rule in the policy matched each object you tested.

Simulate ILM Policy - Example ILM policy

Simulates the active ILM policy or, if there is a proposed ILM policy, simulates the proposed ILM policy. Use this simulation to test the current configuration of ILM rules and determine whether ILM rules copy and place object data as intended.

Object

my-bucket/my-object-key or my-container/my-object-name

Simulate

Simulation Results

Object	Rule Matched	Previous Match	
bucket-a/bucket-a object.pdf	Two copies, two years for bucket-a		✗
bucket-b/test object greater than 1 MB.pdf	EC objects > 1 MB		✗
bucket-b/test object less than 1 MB.pdf	Two copies, two data centers		✗

Finish

3. Confirm that each object was matched by the correct rule.

In this example:

- a. bucket-a/bucket-a object.pdf correctly matched the first rule, which filters on objects in bucket-a.
- b. bucket-b/test object greater than 1 MB.pdf is in bucket-b, so it did not match the first rule. Instead, it was correctly matched by the second rule, which filters on objects greater than 1 MB.
- c. bucket-b/test object less than 1 MB.pdf did not match the filters in the first two rules, so it will be placed by the default rule, which includes no filters.

Example 2: Reordering rules when simulating a proposed ILM policy

This example shows how you can reorder rules to change the results when simulating a policy.

In this example, the **Demo** policy is being simulated. This policy, which is intended to find objects that have series=x-men user metadata, includes three rules, as follows:

- The first rule, **PNGs**, filters for key names that end in .png.
- The second rule, **X-men**, applies only to objects for Tenant A and filters for series=x-men user metadata.
- The last rule, **Two copies two data centers**, is the default rule, which matches any objects that do not match the first two rules.

Viewing Proposed Policy - Demo

Before activating a new ILM policy:

- Review and carefully simulate the policy. Errors in an ILM policy can cause irreparable data loss.
- Review any changes to the placement of existing replicated and erasure-coded objects. Changing an existing object's location might result in temporary resource issues when the new placements are evaluated and implemented.

See [Managing objects with information lifecycle management](#) for more information.

Review the rules in this policy. If this is a proposed policy, click **Simulate** to verify the policy and then click **Activate** to make the policy active.

Reason for change: new policy

Rules are evaluated in order, starting from the top.

Rule Name	Default	Tenant Account
PNGs 		Ignore
X-men 		Tenant A (24365814597594524591)
Two copies two data centers 	✓	Ignore

Simulate **Activate**

Steps

1. After adding the rules and saving the policy, click **Simulate**.
2. In the **Object** field, enter the S3 bucket/object-key or the Swift container/object-name for a test object, and click **Simulate**.


The Simulation Results appear, showing that the `Havok.png` object was matched by the **PNGs** rule.

Simulate ILM Policy - Demo

Simulates the active ILM policy or, if there is a proposed ILM policy, simulates the proposed ILM policy. Use this simulation to test the current configuration of ILM rules and determine whether ILM rules copy and place object data as intended.

Object **Simulate**

Simulation Results

Object	Rule Matched	Previous Match	
photos/Havok.png	PNGs 		✗

Finish

However, the rule that the `Havok.png` object was meant to test was the **X-men** rule.

3. To resolve the issue, reorder the rules.
 - a. Click **Finish** to close the Simulate ILM Policy page.
 - b. Click **Edit** to edit the policy.
 - c. Drag the **X-men** rule to the top of the list.

Configure ILM Policy

Create a proposed policy by selecting and arranging rules. Then, save the policy and edit it later as required. Click Simulate to verify a saved policy using test objects. When you are ready, click Activate to make this policy the active ILM policy for the grid.

Name Demo

Reason for change Reordering rules when simulating a proposed ILM policy

Rules

1. Select the rules you want to add to the policy.
2. Determine the order in which the rules will be evaluated by dragging and dropping the rows. The default rule will be automatically placed at the end of the policy and cannot be moved.

+ Select Rules

	Default	Rule Name	Tenant Account	Actions
+		X-men	Tenant A (48713995194927812566)	✕
+		PNGs	—	✕
	✓	Two copies, two data centers	—	✕

Cancel

Save

d. Click **Save**.

4. Click **Simulate**.

The objects you previously tested are re-evaluated against the updated policy, and the new simulation results are shown. In the example, the Rule Matched column shows that the `Havok.png` object now matches the X-men metadata rule, as expected. The Previous Match column shows that the PNGs rule matched the object in the previous simulation.

Simulate ILM Policy - Demo

Simulates the active ILM policy or, if there is a proposed ILM policy, simulates the proposed ILM policy. Use this simulation to test the current configuration of ILM rules and determine whether ILM rules copy and place object data as intended.

Object my-bucket/my-object-name or my-container/my-object-name

Simulate

Simulation Results

Object	Rule Matched	Previous Match	
photos/Havok.png	X-men	PNGs	✕

Finish



If you stay on the Configure Policies page, you can re-simulate a policy after making changes without needing to re-enter the names of the test objects.

Example 3: Correcting a rule when simulating a proposed ILM policy

This example shows how to simulate a policy, correct a rule in the policy, and continue the simulation.

In this example, the **Demo** policy is being simulated. This policy is intended to find objects that have `series=x-men` user metadata. However, unexpected results occurred when simulating this policy against the

Beast.jpg object. Instead of matching the X-men metadata rule, the object matched the default rule, Two copies two data centers.

Simulate ILM Policy - Demo

Simulates the active ILM policy or, if there is a proposed ILM policy, simulates the proposed ILM policy. Use this simulation to test the current configuration of ILM rules and determine whether ILM rules copy and place object data as intended.

Object

my-bucket/my-object-name or my-container/my-object-name

Simulate

Simulation Results

Object	Rule Matched	Previous Match	
photos/Beast.jpg	Two copies two data centers		✖

Finish

When a test object is not matched by the expected rule in the policy, you must examine each rule in the policy and correct any errors.

Steps

- 1. For each rule in the policy, view the rule settings by clicking the rule name or the more details icon on any dialog box where the rule is displayed.
- 2. Review the rule’s tenant account, reference time, and filtering criteria.

In this example, the metadata for the X-men rule includes an error. The metadata value was entered as “x-men1” instead of “x-men.”

X-men

Ingest Behavior:

Balanced

Tenant Account:

06846027571548027538

Reference Time:

Ingest Time

Filtering Criteria:

Matches all of the following metadata:

User Metadata

series

equals

x-men1

Retention Diagram:

Trigger

All Storage Nodes

Day 0

Forever


Duration

Close

7

3. To resolve the error, correct the rule, as follows:

- If the rule is part of the proposed policy, you can either clone the rule or remove the rule from the policy and then edit it.
- If the rule is part of the active policy, you must clone the rule. You cannot edit or remove a rule from the active policy.

Option	Description
Cloning the rule	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Select ILM > Rules.Select the incorrect rule, and click Clone.Change the incorrect information, and click Save.Select ILM > Policies.Select the proposed policy, and click Edit.Click Select Rules.Select the check box for the new rule, uncheck the check box for the original rule, and click Apply.Click Save.
Editing the rule	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Select the proposed policy, and click Edit.Click the delete icon  to remove the incorrect rule, and click Save.Select ILM > Rules.Select the incorrect rule, and click Edit.Change the incorrect information, and click Save.Select ILM > Policies.Select the proposed policy, and click Edit.Select the corrected rule, click Apply, and click Save.

4. Perform the simulation again.



Because you navigated away from the ILM Policies page to edit the rule, the objects you previously entered for simulation are no longer displayed. You must re-enter the names of the objects.

In this example, the corrected X-men rule now matches the `Beast.jpg` object based on the `series=x-men` user metadata, as expected.

Simulate ILM Policy - Demo

Simulates the active ILM policy or, if there is a proposed ILM policy, simulates the proposed ILM policy. Use this simulation to test the current configuration of ILM rules and determine whether ILM rules copy and place object data as intended.

Object

Simulate

Simulation Results

Object	Rule Matched	Previous Match	
photos/Beast.jpg	X-men 		

Finish

Copyright information

Copyright © 2025 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.