NetApp Workload Factory release notes

Release notes

NetApp
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Table of Contents

NetApp Workload Factory release notes

Recent changes in NetApp Workload Factory

Learn about the most recent changes to the workloads that are part of NetApp Workload Factory.

06 October 2025

Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP

BlueXP workload factory now NetApp Workload Factory

BlueXP has been renamed and redesigned to better reflect the role it has in managing your data infrastructure. As a result, BlueXP workload factory has been renamed to NetApp Workload Factory.

Database workloads

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Enhancements for Oracle in the Workload Factory console

Oracle database resource screen

Each Oracle database has its own dedicated resource screen available from the Databases inventory. The resource screen provides an overview with the database name, status (on or offline), tenancy, and deployment type. Also included are charts with the following data over a three-month period: CPU utilization, latency, IOPS, and throughput. Capacity utilization provides total size for the database, written data size, used solid-state drive capacity, and used capacity pool storage.

From the resource screen, you can view information about the Oracle server (deployment model, OS, edition, version, and more), location (AWS account, region, Availability Zone, and subnet), storage and compute (FSx for ONTAP file system details, database instance type, and associated LUNs and volumes), and connectivity (VPC and access protocol). You can also check the well-architected status of the database configurations and view pluggable databases (PDBs) associated with the database.

Support for Oracle pluggable databases

Oracle pluggable databases are viewable in the Databases inventory and from the resource screen of their parent container database. The following information about your PDBs is available: CDB name, host name, protection status, database size, FSx for ONTAP file system, AWS credentials, AWS account, and region.

Well-architected analysis for Oracle

The well-architected analysis includes assessments of configuration issues with the storage layout for Oracle databases over NFS or over iSCSI with or without Automatic Storage Management (ASM) and storage configuration issues on the operating system for Oracle over iSCSI LUNs. You can use this information to make informed decisions about your database deployments and ensure they are running efficiently.

Implement well-architected database configurations in Workload Factory

Databases inventory enhancements

From the instance screen in the Databases inventory, the options to fix, postpone, and dismiss a configuration issue are available for single or multiple instances for Microsoft SQL Server or for single or multiple databases for Oracle.

Optimize savings in the Storage calculator for Amazon Elastic Block Store (EBS)

Workload Factory can analyze your EBS performance usage and then suggest the best and most cost-efficient FSx for ONTAP configuration so that you can save more by switching to FSx for ONTAP.

Explore savings for detected storage environments in the Workload Factory console

Setup and administration

BlueXP workload factory now NetApp Workload Factory

BlueXP has been renamed and redesigned to better reflect the role it has in managing your data infrastructure. As a result, BlueXP workload factory has been renamed to NetApp Workload Factory.

Ask Me integration with MCP

Ask Me, Workload Factory's AI assistant, is integrated with the Model Context Protocol (MCP). Using MCP, Ask Me securely interfaces with external environments and queries API tools to deliver responses tailored to your specific storage environment.

05 October 2025

Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP

Optimize savings in the Storage calculator for Amazon Elastic Block Store (EBS)

Workload Factory can analyze your EBS performance usage and then suggest the best and most cost-efficient FSx for ONTAP configuration so that you can save more by switching to FSx for ONTAP.

Explore savings for detected storage environments in the Workload Factory console

Quick access to resource screen from file system inventory

You can quickly navigate to an FSx for ONTAP file system resource screen by selecting the file system name, now a hyperlink, from the FSx for ONTAP inventory.

Discover cache relationships in the Workload Factory console

If you have *cache* relationships between FSx for ONTAP file system and another type of ONTAP storage (on-premises system, Cloud Volumes ONTAP, and FSx for ONTAP), you can discover and view them from the Workload Factory console. This allows you to better understand data flows, optimize cache utilization, and improve efficiency across distributed environments.

Discover and view cache relationships in the Workload Factory console

Well-architected analysis update

Workload factory now analyzes your FSx for ONTAP file systems for the following configuration:

Volume file capacity utilization threshold: checks whether the file capacity thresholds are set to 80% or lower. This helps you avoid running out of space on your file systems.

View the well-architected status of your FSx for ONTAP file systems

Improvements to actions for configuration issues

From the **Well-architected analysis** tab in the dashboard for an FSx for ONTAP file system, instead of dismissing an entire configuration for a file system, you can also select one or more volumes within a file system to fix, dismiss, or reactivate.

Additional notification for Storage

The NetApp Workload Factory notification service includes the notification for well-architected configuration issues on a weekly basis.

Notification types and messages in the Workload Factory setup and administration documentation

Immutable files support privileged delete

With this feature, you can configure privileged delete access for immutable files in your FSx for ONTAP file systems. This allows you to protect critical data from accidental or malicious deletion while still enabling authorized users to override the lock and delete these files as needed. Enabling privileged delete is available during volume creation or for existing volumes.

VMware workloads

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Introducing the VMware workloads planning center

The VMware workloads planning center enables you to view and manage your VM inventory and migration plans from one place. You can upload and save multiple VM inventories from different environments, and start planning a migration to AWS EC2 or Amazon Elastic VMware service for any of them. You can also create and save AWS EC2 or EVS migration plans.

Explore the VMware workloads planning center

Introducing migration advisor support for Amazon Elastic VMWare Service

BlueXP Workload Factory for VMware now enables you to use the Amazon Elastic VMware Service migration advisor to rapidly migrate your on-premises VMware workloads to Amazon Elastic VMware Service. After you create a migration plan using the migration advisor, it is automatically saved in the list of migration plans in the planning center.

Create a deployment plan for Amazon EVS using the migration advisor

GenAI workloads

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Support for adding generic NFS/SMB data sources in NetApp connectors for Amazon Q Business

Using the Workload Factory API, you can now add a data source from a generic NFSv3, NFSv4, or SMB share to a NetApp Connector for Amazon Q Business. This enables you to include files that are stored on volumes hosted by filesystems other than Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP.

Create a NetApp Connector for Amazon Q Business

Add data sources to a connector

Advanced chat configuration for knowledge bases

You can now configure advanced chat settings that are applicable to the chat model for the knowledge base such as the response length, temperature, reasoning settings, and more. Some of these settings, such as recency and modification time settings, advanced retrieval settings, and system prompt are available only using the Workload Factory API.

Create a GenAI knowledge base

Inference type selection now supported for embedding, chat, and reranking models

If your chosen embedding, chat, or reranking model has inference settings, you can now select an inference type. This enables you to better tune the chatbot performance and resource requirements to your needs.

Create a GenAI knowledge base

Setup and administration

New notification for Storage

The NetApp Workload Factory notification service includes the notification for well-architected issues for Storage.

Notifications for NetApp Workload Factory

Builders workloads

BlueXP workload factory now NetApp Workload Factory

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09 September 2025

Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP

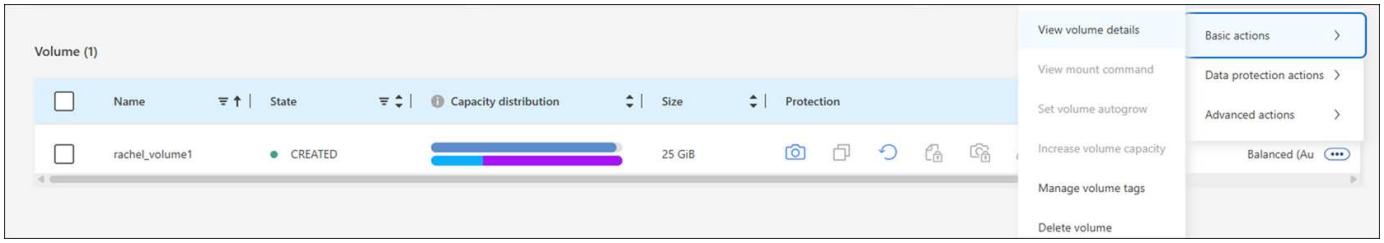
Storage inventory report enhancements

Workload factory has enhanced the data reported for your FSx for ONTAP file systems. The downloadable report from the FSx for ONTAP inventory page includes the following new columns:

- SSD used: shows the value of SSD capacity used
- SSD utilization: shows the percentage of SSD capacity in use
- Throughput utilization: shows average and peak utilization for the last 30 days
- IO utilization: shows average and peak IO utilization for the last 30 days
- CPU utilization: shows average and peak CPU utilization for the last 30 days

Snapshot management enhancements

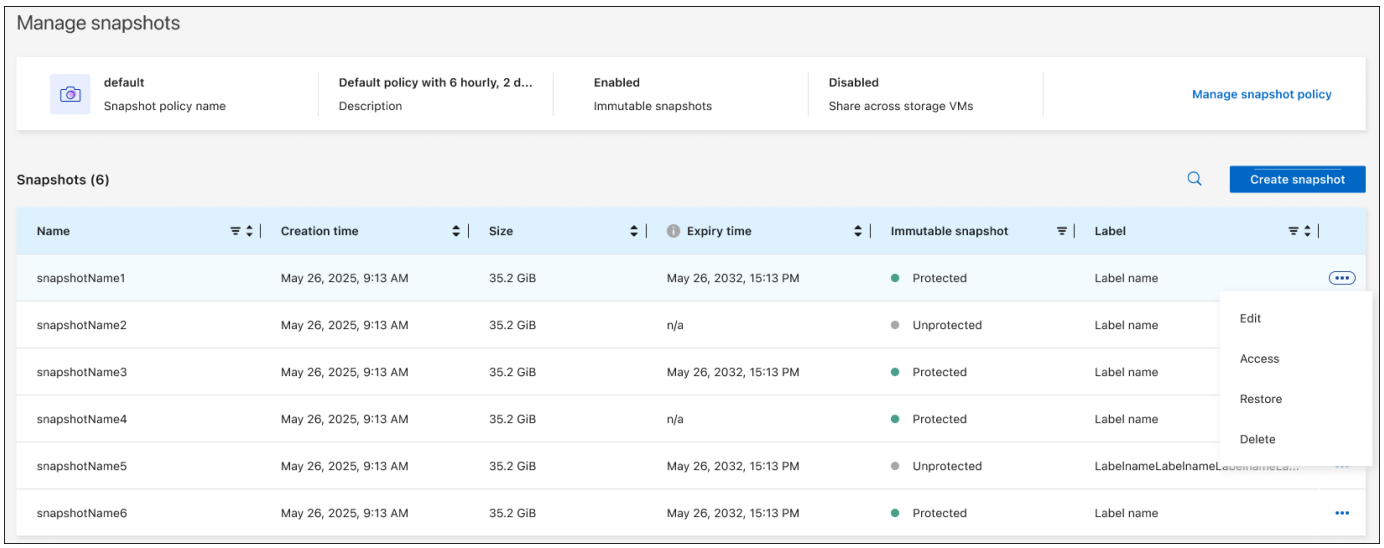
Workload factory has made several enhancements to view volume snapshot details and manage volume snapshots. These enhancements make it easier for you to understand the status of your snapshots and protect your data.



Additional items appear in Volume details under the Protection tab:

- Snapshot policy name
- Snapshot space reservation
- Snapshot space reservation capacity

The new snapshot management screen is accessible from a volume; it provides information about the snapshot policy for the volume and includes a table with all volume snapshots. The table displays the following snapshot details: creation time, size, expiry time, immutable snapshot protection, and labels. From the management screen, you can change the snapshot policy for the volume, create a snapshot manually, and edit, access, restore, and delete snapshots.



SSD storage capacity decrease available

Workload factory supports decreasing the solid-state drive (SSD) capacity of your second-generation file systems. With elastic file system capacity, you can dynamically adjust the capacity of your file systems to match the needs of your workloads.

Adjust file system capacity

Setup and administration

New notification for Storage

The NetApp Workload Factory notification service includes the notification for automatic capacity management for Storage.

Notifications for NetApp Workload Factory

01 September 2025

Database workloads

Agentic AI-powered error log analyzer

The Agentic AI-powered error log analyzer is a new feature that leverages advanced machine learning algorithms to automatically detect and analyze errors in log files. This tool aims to streamline the troubleshooting process by providing developers with actionable insights and recommendations based on the patterns it identifies in the logs.

Learn more about the Agentic AI-powered error log analyzer

Oracle support

Workload factory includes support for Oracle databases. In the workload factory console, you can view your Oracle databases from the inventory, register databases to use advanced features in workload factory, and analyze Oracle databases for alignment with best practices using the well-architected feature. The well-architected analysis determines whether the storage configurations for Oracle databases are optimized. You can use this information to make informed decisions about your database deployments and ensure they are running efficiently.

Implement well-architected database configurations in workload factory

Support for Microsoft SQL Server deployments on second-generation FSx for ONTAP file systems

Workload factory supports Microsoft SQL Server deployments on second-generation FSx for ONTAP file systems. This enhancement allows you to leverage the latest features and performance improvements available in the second-generation file systems while managing your SQL Server workloads.

Windows authentication for SQL Server protection

Authenticating Microsoft SQL Server instances with Windows credentials is embedded in the workflow to prepare Microsoft SQL Server hosts for protection with BlueXP backup and recovery. This used to be a prerequisite step to complete manually. Instead, you'll be prompted to share Windows credentials with administrative access if you haven't registered the hosts in workload factory using Windows credentials.

Learn how to protect Microsoft SQL Server workloads via the workload factory console.

Well-architected analysis includes MTU alignment for SQL Server

The well-architected analysis assesses and fixes Maximum Transmission Unit (MTU) misalignment across endpoints for Microsoft SQL Server on FSx for ONTAP storage. Aligning MTU settings helps to optimize network performance and reduce latency for SQL Server workloads.

Implement well-architected database configurations in workload factory

12 August 2025

Database workloads

BlueXP backup and recovery now supports Microsoft SQL Server workloads

BlueXP backup and recovery enables you to back up, restore, verify, and clone Microsoft SQL Server databases and availability groups. From the workload factory console, you can access and use BlueXP backup and recovery to protect Microsoft SQL Server workloads.

Learn how to protect Microsoft SQL Server workloads via the workload factory console.

For details about BlueXP backup and recovery, refer to the Protect Microsoft SQL workloads overview with BlueXP backup and recovery.

04 August 2025

Database workloads

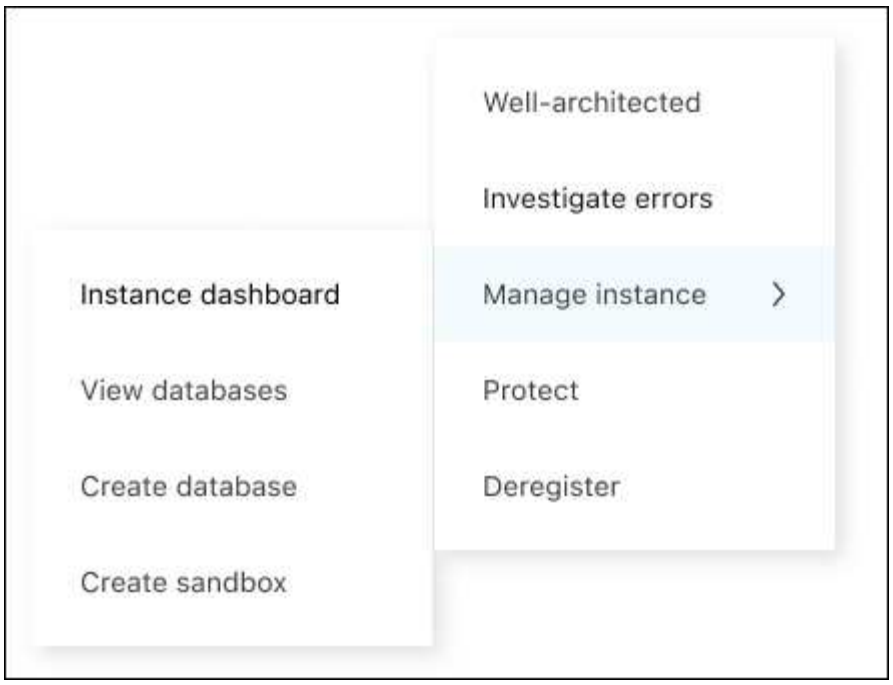
Well-architected analysis includes high-availability cluster validation

The well-architected analysis now includes validation for high-availability clusters. This validation checks all cluster-related configurations from the server side, including disk availability and configuration on both nodes, Windows cluster configuration, and failover readiness. This ensures that the Windows cluster is properly set up and can successfully failover when needed.

Implement well-architected database configurations in workload factory

Multi-level menu available for instances

The workload factory console now includes a multi-level menu for instances. This change provides a more organized and intuitive navigation structure for managing instances. Menu options for instance management include viewing the instance dashboard, viewing databases, creating a database, and creating a sandbox clone.



New authentication option to explore savings

When the `NT Authority\SYSTEM` user doesn't have sufficient permissions on the Microsoft SQL Server, you can authenticate with SQL Server credentials or add the missing SQL Server permissions to `NT Authority\SYSTEM`.

Explore potential savings for your database environments with Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP

03 August 2025

Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP

Enhancements to Replication relationships tab

We've added several new columns to the replication relationships table to give you more information about your replication relationships in the **Replication relationships** tab. The table now includes the following columns:

- SnapMirror policy
- Source file system
- Target file system
- State of the relationship
- Last transfer time

Enhancements to NetApp Autonomous Ransomware Protection with AI (ARP/AI)

This release introduces the updated term "NetApp Autonomous Ransomware Protection with AI (ARP/AI)" to better reflect the integration of artificial intelligence in our ransomware protection capabilities.

In addition, the following enhancements have been made to ARP/AI:

- Volume-level ARP/AI: You can now enable ARP/AI at the volume level, allowing you to protect specific volumes within your FSx for ONTAP file systems.
- Automatic snapshot creation: You can set the ARP/AI policy to take automatic snapshots and define how often snapshots are taken for volumes with ARP/AI enabled, enhancing your data protection strategy.
- Immutable snapshots: ARP/AI now supports immutable snapshots, which cannot be deleted or modified, providing an additional layer of security against ransomware attacks.
- Detection: includes various detection methods such as high entropy data rate at volume level, file create rate, file rename rate, file delete rate, and behavioral analysis, and never seen before file extension that help to detect anomalies and potential ransomware attacks.

Protect your data with NetApp Autonomous Ransomware Protection with AI (ARP/AI)

Well-architected analysis updates

Workload factory now analyzes your FSx for ONTAP file systems for the following configurations:

- Long-term retention data reliability: checks whether labels assigned to the snapshot policy of the source volume are identical to the labels assigned to the long-term retention policy. When labels are identical, data replication is reliable between source and target volumes.
- NetApp Autonomous Ransomware Protection with AI (ARP/AI): checks whether ARP/AI is enabled on your file systems. This feature helps you detect and recover from ransomware attacks.

View the well-architected status of your FSx for ONTAP file systems

Dismiss a configuration from the well-architected analysis

You can now dismiss one or more configurations from the well-architected analysis. This allows you to ignore specific configurations that you don’t want to address at the moment.

Dismiss a configuration from the well-architected analysis

Terraform support for link creation

You can now use Terraform from the Codebox to create a link for association with an FSx for ONTAP file system. This functionality is for users who create links manually.

Connect to an FSx for ONTAP file system with a Lambda link

New region support for exploring savings in Storage

The following new regions are now supported for exploring savings for Amazon Elastic Block Store (EBS), FSx for Windows File Server, and Elastic File Systems (EFS):

- Mexico
- Thailand

Enhancements to SMB/CIFS shares creation and management

You can now create SMB/CIFS shares which point to directories within a volume. Within the volume, you’ll be able to see which shares exist, where the shares are the pointing to, and the permissions granted to specific users and groups.

For data protection volumes, the flow of creating an SMB/CIFS share now includes the creation of a junction path to the volume for mounting purposes.

Create a CIFS share for a volume

VMware workloads

Improved migration advisor support for Amazon Elastic VMWare Service

NetApp Workload Factory now supports automatic deployment and mounting of your Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP filesystem. This enables you to begin deploying your VMs on FSx for ONTAP filesystems when migration to the Amazon EVS environment is complete.

Create a deployment plan for Amazon EVS using the migration advisor

Calculate cost savings of migrating to Amazon Elastic VMware Service

You can now explore the potential savings for migrating your VMware workloads to Amazon Elastic VMware Service (EVS). The savings calculator enables you to compare costs of using Amazon EVS with and without Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP as underlying storage. The calculator displays potential savings in real-time as you adjust characteristics of your environment.

Explore savings for Amazon Elastic VMware Service with BlueXP Workload Factory

GenAI workloads

Secure storage for structured data results

If chatbot query results contain structured data, GenAI can store the results in an Amazon S3 bucket. When these results are stored in an S3 bucket, you can download them using the download link within the chat session.

Create a GenAI knowledge base

MCP server availability

NetApp now provides a Model Context Protocol (MCP) server with NetApp Workload Factory for GenAI. You can install the server locally to enable external MCP clients to discover and retrieve query results from a GenAI knowledge base.

NetApp Workload Factory GenAI MCP server

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