



NetApp®



## Datasheet

# Maintain Availability of Vital Business Data

NetApp MetroCluster software provides continuous data availability for mission-critical applications at half the cost and half the complexity of competitive solutions



### KEY BENEFITS

- Active-active array-based clustering that provides continuous availability for critical applications and virtual environments
- Zero change management through automatic mirroring of changes to user, configuration, and application data
- Zero unplanned downtime and rapid transparent recovery from data center failures caused by hardware, network, and environmental faults or metropolitan disasters
- Zero planned downtime through nondisruptive upgrades for storage hardware and software
- Single system administration through “set it once” functionality that is simple to deploy, with no scripts or dependencies on the application or operating system
- 50% lower cost, no host-based clustering required, and added efficiency through data deduplication and server virtualization

### The Challenge

Enterprise-class customers must meet increasing service-level demands while maintaining cost- and operational efficiency. As data volumes explode and more applications move to shared virtual infrastructures, the need for continuous availability for both mission-critical and other business applications dramatically increases.

With highly virtualized infrastructures running hundreds of non-mission-critical applications, the enterprise would be severely affected if these applications were to become unavailable. In that case, it is the infrastructure that is mission-critical, requiring zero data loss and recovery within minutes rather than hours. This is true for both private and public cloud infrastructures, as well as the hybrid cloud infrastructures that bridge the two.

### The Solution

NetApp® MetroCluster™ software is a solution that combines array-based clustering with synchronous mirroring to deliver continuous availability and zero data loss at the lowest cost. Administration of the array-based cluster is simpler because the dependencies and complexity normally associated with host-based clustering are eliminated. MetroCluster immediately duplicates

all your mission-critical data on a transaction-by-transaction basis, providing uninterrupted access to your applications and data. And unlike standard data-mirroring solutions, MetroCluster works seamlessly with your host environment to provide continuous data availability while eliminating the need to create and maintain complicated failover scripts.

### Continuous Availability

NetApp MetroCluster enhances the built-in high availability and nondisruptive operations of NetApp hardware and clustered Data ONTAP® software, providing an additional layer of protection for the entire storage and host environment. Whether your environment is composed of standalone servers, high-availability server clusters, or virtualized servers, MetroCluster seamlessly maintains application availability in the face of a total storage outage due to loss of power, cooling, or network connectivity; storage array shutdown; or operational error. This is because MetroCluster is an array-based active-active clustered solution, eliminating the need for complex failover scripts, server reboots, or application restarts. In fact, most MetroCluster customers report that their users experience no application interruption when a cluster recovery takes place.

## Flexible Deployment Options

### True high-availability data center

NetApp MetroCluster is ideal for organizations that require 24/7 operation for mission-critical business applications. By synchronously replicating data between NetApp FAS systems that run clustered Data ONTAP and that are colocated in the same data center, between buildings, or across a campus, MetroCluster provides a zero-touch continuous availability solution that guards against faults inside and outside the array. Third-party storage systems are also supported with NetApp FlexArray software.

### Campuswide and metrowide protection

NetApp MetroCluster can also significantly simplify the design, deployment, and maintenance of campuswide or metropolitan-wide high-availability solutions. During a total site disruption, data services are restored at the secondary site in a matter of seconds with an automated single command, with no complex failover scripts or restart procedures.

### WAN-based disaster recovery

If your business is geographically dispersed beyond metropolitan distances, you can add NetApp SnapMirror® software to replicate data across your global network simply and reliably. NetApp SnapMirror software replicates data at high speeds over WAN connections, protecting your mission-critical applications from regional disruptions.

### Single System Administration: “Set It Once”

Most array-based data-mirroring solutions require duplicate efforts in terms of storage system administration, configuration, and maintenance because the replication relationships between

the primary and secondary storage arrays are managed separately. This not only increases management overhead, but it can also expose you to greater risk if configuration inconsistencies arise between the primary and secondary storage arrays. Because NetApp MetroCluster is a true clustered storage solution, the active-active storage pair is managed as a single entity, eliminating duplicate administration work and maintaining configuration consistency.

### A Complete End-to-End Continuous Availability Solution

NetApp MetroCluster has been tested and proven with leading server virtualization, application, and host clustering technologies from VMware, Microsoft, Oracle, Symantec, IBM, and many others. Our strong industry partnerships mean that MetroCluster integrates smoothly into your IT environment, enhancing the high-availability and recovery features of those products.

### Enhance Your VMware Environment with MetroCluster

The combination of VMware® infrastructure and NetApp MetroCluster resolves a number of customer challenges from both the server and the storage perspectives. VMware infrastructure provides a robust server consolidation solution with high application availability. MetroCluster provides continuous access to your data in a data center, across a campus, or in a metro area, and when MetroCluster is combined with SnapMirror software, data can be protected at a regional level as well.

### Protect All Your Data Without Doubling Your Storage Costs

Traditional data-mirroring solutions require that the backup array have storage capacity that is the same as or greater than in the primary array,

doubling storage costs and administration overhead. NetApp deduplication offers space savings across all storage tiers: primary data, backup data, and archival data. NetApp deduplication is included with all NetApp FAS systems. Unlike other deduplication solutions, no additional hardware or software license is required, and NetApp deduplication is application- and protocol-agnostic.

### Partner for Success

When you partner with our Professional Services and Customer Success Services teams, you gain access to our extensive storage expertise, innovative technologies, and best practices. You can accelerate the return on your infrastructure investments and get the most business benefit from them. We respond quickly to your problems, no matter where in the world they occur. And because we offer one of the most flexible support programs in the industry, you get just the support you need for your unique IT and business requirements.

### About NetApp

Leading organizations worldwide count on NetApp for software, systems and services to manage and store their data. Customers value our teamwork, expertise and passion for helping them succeed now and into the future.

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