Product Bulletin

Product Bulletin:

MetroCluster Unification Strategy

Revision History

7 May 2010 - Initial version
21 June 2010 – Version 2: Changed wording to reflect that any new deployments, even those for existing customers, must meet requirements of the FAS support envelope
2 December 2010 – Version 3: Updated for new arrays and Open SAN

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This product bulletin informs NetApp sales and NetApp partners about new or changed NetApp® products or services.

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1. Summary

This product bulletin is an update of the MetroCluster™ bulletin that was published in May due to the change in the V-Series MetroCluster supported environment policy for new and existing deployments. V-Series MetroCluster refers to the use of V-Series controllers and LUNs from third-party arrays for a Stretch or Fabric MetroCluster. FAS MetroCluster refers to the use of FAS controllers and NetApp disk shelves in the MetroCluster.

V-Series MetroCluster configurations will align with the FAS MetroCluster Compatibility Matrix when attaching the V-Series controller to the corresponding back-end storage.

- V-Series has supported some configurations that diverged from the same type of FAS MetroCluster systems. These diverged configurations will not be supported for new deployments.
- Changes to existing deployments will be limited to back-end array hardware refreshes and microcode and switch microcode updates with an approved PVR.
- Data ONTAP®, controller, and switch upgrades will only be supported per the unified FAS and V-Series environment.

The unified MetroCluster environment now includes FAS and V-Series systems. The intent is to expand over time.

2. What's New?

The list of planned supported arrays for V3200 and V6200 in V-Series Stretch and Fabric MetroCluster configurations are shown below.

- V3200 MetroCluster support planned for Data ONTAP 7.3.5 and 8.0.1 by Q1CY'11

  - IBM: DS8700, XIV
  - EMC: V-MAX (8.1 only), CX4
  - HDS: USPV/M, AMS 2x00
  - HP: XP 20/24k, EVA x400

V6200 MetroCluster support planned for Data ONTAP 8.1 (* denotes 8.0.2 in addition)

  - IBM: DS8700, XIV
  - EMC: V-MAX, CX4
  - HDS: USPV/M*, AMS 2x00*
  - HP: XP 20/24k*, EVA x400

As always, please see the V-Series Support Matrix for the latest supported arrays for both MetroCluster and non MetroCluster configs.

New deployments of V-Series Fabric-Attached MetroCluster systems running Data ONTAP 8.0x or later must use the FAS MetroCluster Compatibility Matrix for back-end fabric attach to storage. Support will be limited to dedicated SANs with Brocade Edge switches (300 and 5100) per the support matrix. Support for dedicated SANs with Cisco Edge switches (MDS 9222i and MDS 9148) is under consideration for Data ONTAP 8.1.1.

The legacy shared SAN configurations will only be supported in the Data ONTAP 7.3.x code stream for existing deployments. They will not be carried forward to Data ONTAP 8 or future releases or platforms. We highly recommend that all new deployments be designed to use configurations that are dedicated fabrics so they will be supported in Data ONTAP 8.

Installing V32xx / V62xx follow-on controllers to the V31xx or V60x0 or upgrading to Data ONTAP 8.x with existing V30x0, V31xx, or V60x0 controllers will only be supported in a dedicated back-end fabric configuration that aligns with the FAS MetroCluster Compatibility Matrix.

Upgrade options for existing V-Series Fabric-Attached MetroCluster systems are:

a) V-Series deployments that fall outside the FAS MetroCluster Compatibility Matrix and need to have their controllers upgraded beyond V30x0, V31xx, or V60x0 must first have the back-end SAN reconfigured to meet the base requirements of closed SAN and Brocade 300 and 5100 switches.
b) Deployed systems using an open SAN will only be supported on existing V30x0, V31xx, or V60x0 controllers running Data ONTAP 7.3.x. These existing deployments cannot be upgraded to Data ONTAP 8.0 or replace the controllers with follow-on controllers to the V31xx or V60x0.
c) Deployed systems using Cisco switches will only be supported on V30x0, V31xx, or V60x0 controllers running Data ONTAP 7.3.x. These existing deployments cannot upgrade to Data ONTAP 8.0 or replace the controllers with follow-on controllers to the V31xx or V60x0.
d) Deployed systems that require an array replacement will require a PVR and will be limited to the array refresh model only.
e) Deployed systems that require an upgrade to array microcode or switch microcode will require a PVR and must continue to use the existing approved configuration.
f) Changes to fabric hardware including upgraded blades or new switches will only be supported in a dedicated SAN configuration that aligns with the FAS MetroCluster Support Matrix.

3. Sales and Customer-Ready Tools (Training, SE, Customer Presentations, Datasheets, Sales Guides)

The V-Series Support Matrix will be updated to be in sync with the changes mentioned in this bulletin and will refer to the FAS MetroCluster Support Matrix as needed.

TR-3461, "V-Series Best Practices Guide," will be updated to be in sync with the changes mentioned in this bulletin.

4. System Requirements

There are no additional system requirements.

5. Warranty and Service

Standard software warranty and services apply.

6. Additional Information

The plan for FAS and V-Series MetroCluster systems going forward is to support the same type of environment and back-end FC topology. V-Series MetroCluster systems have diverged in the past from the FAS MetroCluster support envelope and those configs will not be supported for new deployments. Existing diverged V-Series systems will be restricted in upgrade options.

FAS and V-Series systems will have a converged support envelope and the intent is to widen overall support. Please note that there are no plans to support any kind of open SAN or shared SAN configurations at the present time. For additional information, please contact the V-Series Product Management team.

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