■ NetApp

Technical Report

Simplify your data science journey with Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP and Iguazio

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Abstract

This document is intended to help customers set up their environment to simplify the data science journey with Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP and Iguazio.

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Solution overview

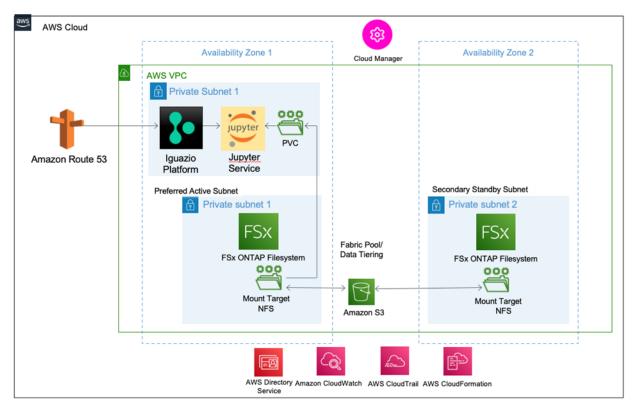
The Iguazio Data Science Platform is a fully integrated and secure data science platform (PaaS) that simplifies development, accelerates performance, facilitates collaboration, and addresses operational challenges. The FSx for ONTAP is a fully integrated managed storage built on the popular NetApp® ONTAP® data management software. The Iguazio Jupyter Notebook takes advantage of the data protection available FSx for ONTAP by mounting the FSx ONTAP volumes to the Jupyter Notebook or mounting them as a data directory for the training jobs.

The FSx for ONTAP file system is tightly integrated with NetApp Data Management Toolkit for traditional environments. The Iguazio Jupyter Notebook takes advantage of the data protection available in FSx for ONTAP.

The Iguazio Data Science Platform provides a complete data science workflow in a single ready-to-use platform that includes all the required building blocks for creating data science applications from research to production. One of the managed services is Jupyter Notebook. Each developer gets its deployment of a notebook container with the resources they need for development. Customers can assign the volume to their container to give them access to the FSX for ONTAP volume.

Architecture

Figure 1) Iguazio integrating with NFS file shared running in FSx for ONTAP.



Walkthrough

This section walks through Iguazio Notebook instances integration with NFS files shares running in FSx for ONTAP. This walkthrough highlights two separate ways to provision the volume: how to provision the

volume and use the volume with the Jupyter Notebook and how to use the data directory with the training data.

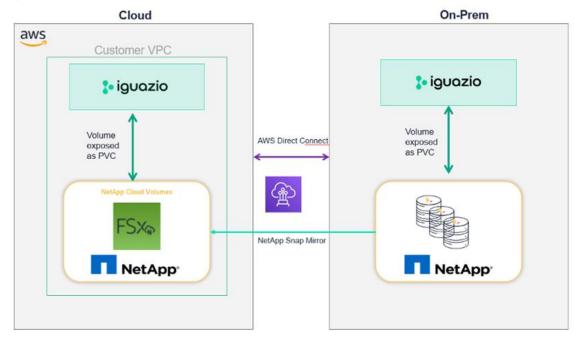
Use cases

The NetApp and Iguazio solution provides seamless integration of NetApp storage, Amazon Web Service (AWS) cloud services, and Iguazio MLOps automation. You can enjoy a seamless flow from storage to production and use the data in your machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) workflows, generating automated, reproducible pipelines that accelerate the deployment of artificial intelligence (AI) in production and enable the continuous rollout of new AI services. You will receive the managed services directly from AWS in a few clicks from your AWS account. You do not need to obtain separate licenses, connectors, and so on. With this solution, you save time, effort, and resources and can focus on data science. The seamless hybrid deployments enable real-time use cases.

Run Kubernetes Job with attached FSx PVC

Persistent storage Kubernetes offers applications in K8s a handy way to request and consume storage resources. The challenge for the data scientist is to use the data from the on-premises without migrating the data to S3. This challenge can be addressed by running a Kubernetes job with the attached FSx ONTAP PVC, where the data was snapmirrored (see Figure 2) from the on-premises NetApp storage to the FSx ONTAP volume in the cloud. The data scientist can provision the FSx volume to the training jobs and use the data that was replicated using the SnapMirror from the on-premises ONTAP.

Figure 2) Seamless integration of NetApp storage, AWS cloud services, and Iguazio MLOps automation in the hybrid environment.



Create Jupyter Service in Iguazio with attached FSx PVC

Data scientists face several challenges today, one of them being the inability to create a space-efficient data volume that's an exact copy of an existing volume. By creating a Jupyter service in Iguazio with attached FSx ONTAP PVC, you can take advantage of the data protection features that come with FSx for ONTAP. The integration helps data scientists quickly create clones of datasets that they can reformat, normalize, and manipulate while preserving the original "gold-source" dataset.

Prerequisites

- AWS credentials that provide the necessary permissions to create the resources. In this example, we
 use admin credentials.
- FSx for ONTAP file systems and volumes with valid credentials and a route to the Virtual Private
 Cloud (VPC) already created. To set up FSx for ONTAP, see "Getting started with Amazon FSx for
 NetApp ONTAP."
- API key and Vault URL from Iguazio for cluster creation.

Note on connectivity

The most important part of this process is ensuring connectivity between the Iguazio nodes and the FSx storage virtual machine (SVM) by using the appropriate VPC, subnet, route table, and security groups. There are many ways to accomplish this connectivity, however, in this guide, we will be installing in the same VPC and subnet.

Deployment steps

Create an Amazon VPC

This deployment step is optional because it is likely that a VPC already exists. Make sure there is connectivity between the Iguazio nodes and the FSx SVM, as explained in the previous section, "Note on connectivity".

In this guide, we will be creating a VPC and subnets to install FSx and Iguazio through the AWS Console UI; however, feel free to use the tool of your choice. To create the VPC, use the VPC wizard with the settings shown in Figure 3 and Figure 4.

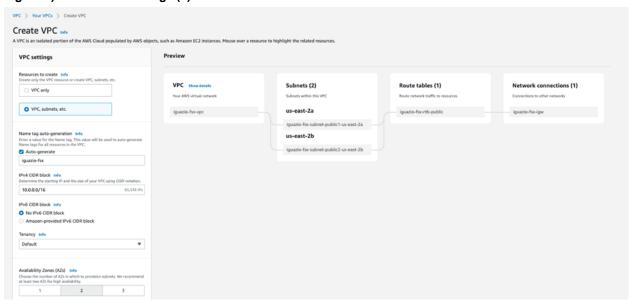


Figure 3) VPC wizard settings (1).

Figure 4) VPC wizard settings (2).

| Default | VPC | Shaw of relation | VPC | VPC | Shaw of relation | VPC | VPC | Shaw of relation | VPC |

Enable auto-assign IPv4 IP addresses on subnets

The Iguazio cluster requires that you enable auto-assign IPv4 IP addresses in the subnet if you are using public IP addresses. If you are not using public IP addresses, then this step is optional.

To enable this setting on the newly created subnets, navigate to the Subnets page and enable auto-assign public IPv4 address by following the steps for each of the new subnets.

Figure 5) Enable auto-assign IPv4 IP addresses on subnets 1.

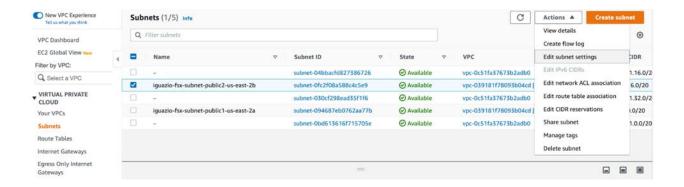
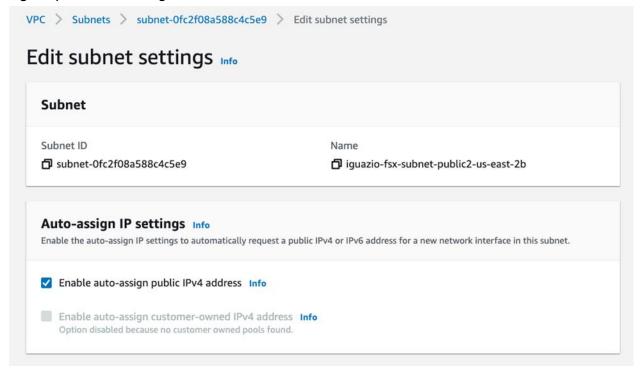


Figure 6) Enable auto-assign IPv4 IP addresses on subnets 2.



Create the FSx for ONTAP file system

You can create the FSx for ONTAP file system using two options: the Quick Create or Standard Create option in the Amazon console. To create the FSx for ONTAP file system, see Step 1: Create an Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP file system. For information about using the Standard Create option to create a file system with a customized configuration, see Creating FSx for ONTAP file systems. The Quick Create option creates a file system with one SVM (fsx) and one volume (vol1). The volume has a junction path of /vol1.

Create the FSx for ONTAP file system using standard methos

If you already have an existing FSx cluster, still read through this section to understand the necessary networking configuration regarding VPC, subnet, security group, and route table. You will need to make these configuration changes yourself.

If you do not have an existing FSx cluster, navigate to the FSx section in the AWS console and create a new NetApp ONTAP file system using the Standard Create option (follow the instructions on the AWS page titled Creating FSx for ONTAP file systems). Unless specified below, leave the values at their defaults:

- Creation method:
 - Creation method: Standard Create
- File system details:
 - File system name: Assign this optional value at your discretion, but it is recommended
 - SSD storage capacity: At least 1024GB (FSx minimum)
- Network and security:
 - VPC: The newly created VPC from above
 - VPC security groups: Leave as VPC default security group, but make note of the security group for later

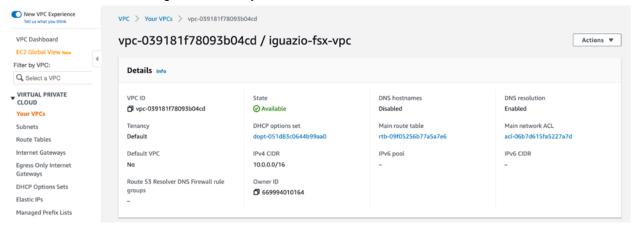
- Preferred subnet: One of the subnets created above. Make a note of which subnet you choose as the preferred subnet; you will be using it later during Iguazio installation.
- Standby subnet: One of the other subnets created above.
- VPC route tables: Select one or more VPC route tables. Select the corresponding route table for the newly created VPC above.
- Security and encryption:
 - File system administrative password: Set a password of your choice (remember this password for later).
- Default SVM configuration:
 - SVM name: Name of your choice (you will use this name later).
 - Specify a password: Set a password of your choice (remember this password for later).

Ensure VPC Connectivity to FSx security group

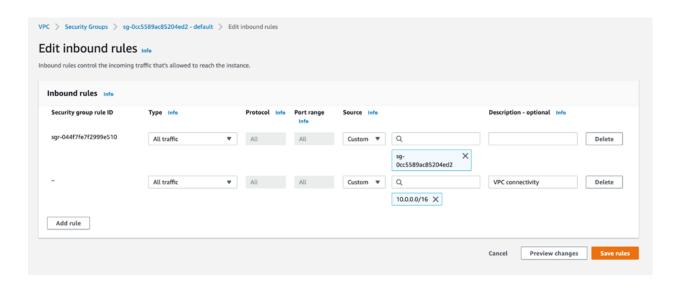
As previously mentioned, there are many ways to ensure network connectivity in AWS - you will need to determine the best way for your needs. In the examples in this guide, we install FSx and Iguazio into the same VPC and subnet.

We will need to ensure that the VPC has access to the security group used during the FSx file system creation. One way to do this is to add an inbound rule to the security group allowing all traffic within the VPC.

1. Get the IPv4 CIDR range for the newly created VPC.



- 2. Navigate to the security group used when creating the FSx file system. In this example, it is the default security group for the newly created VPC.
- 3. Add the following incoming rule to the security group (denoted VPC connectivity). This rule allows access from within the VPC.



Create the Iguazio cluster

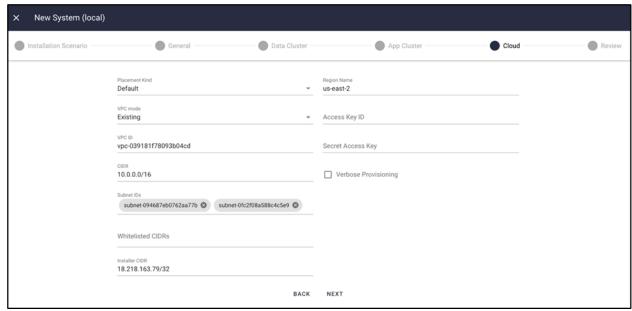
To install the Iguazio cluster, follow the <u>AWS Installation Documentation</u>. This process entails using the web installer running on a provisioning machine that has access within the VPC. If your laptop or workstation does not have connectivity within the VPC, a small temporary EC2 instance is one way to achieve this.

The web installer will provision servers, install Kubernetes, and install the Iguazio MLOps platform for you.

Note: You need an API key and vault URL from Iguazio (as described in the prerequisites).

Follow the guide as described, filling in your own information where necessary. The main screen you should be concerned with regarding FSx connectivity is the Cloud screen (Figure 7).

Figure 7) Create the Iguazio cluster.



The relevant fields are as follows:

VPC Mode. The existing value.

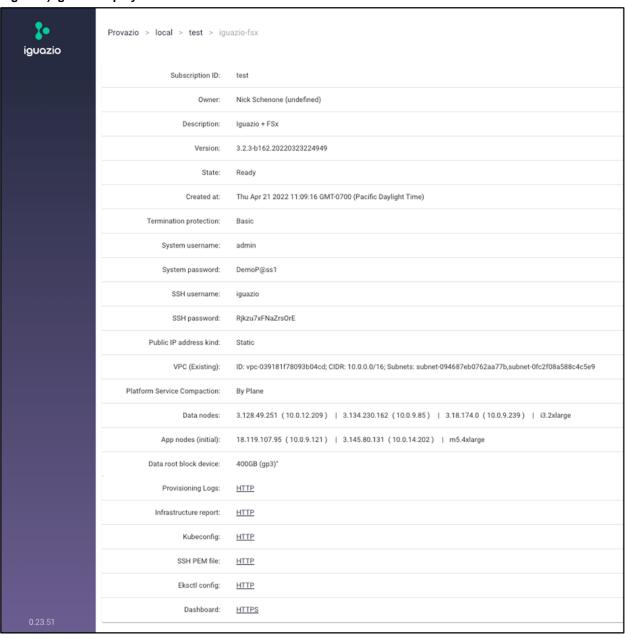
- VPC-ID. The ID of the VPC created earlier.
- CIDR. The IPv4 CIDR of the VPC created earlier.
- Subnet IDs. The two subnets created earlier.

Note: The first listed subnet should be the primary subnet for FSx.

• **Installer CIDR.** The public IP address of your provisioning machine. In this example, a temporary EC2 instance in the same VPC.

After the Iguazio cluster is deployed, you will see a page that looks like the one in Figure 8.

Figure 8) Iguazio deployment confirmation.



Deploy Trident Operator on Iguazio cluster

Now that both the FSx file system and Iguazio cluster are deployed, connect them using the Trident Operator. SSH into one of the Iguazio data nodes (see the cluster creation output for data node IP addresses) and install the Trident Operator through Helm (as described in this <u>documentation</u>).

You can also follow run the following commands:

```
wget https://github.com/NetApp/trident/releases/download/v22.01.1/trident-installer-
22.01.1.tar.gz
tar -xvf trident-installer-22.01.1.tar.gz
cd trident-installer/helm/
kubectl create ns trident
helm install trident trident-operator-22.01.1.tgz -n trident
cd ..
```

Define the backend and storage class for FSx

We will need to define a Trident backend for FSx to use. You can follow the full <u>documentation</u> for creating the backend, or use the following as a template:

```
# backend.json

{
    "version": 1,
    "storageDriverName": "ONTAP-nas",
    "backendName": "igzfsx",
    "managementLiF": "<SVM_MANAGEMENT_IP",
    "svm": "<SVM_NAME>",
    "username": "vsadmin",
    "password": "<SVM_PASSWORD>"
}
```

The relevant fields are as follows:

- storageDriverName: ONTAP-nas
- backendName: Assign this value at your discretion.
- managementLIF: The management IP address of the SVM for your FSx file system.
- svm: The name of the SVM for your FSx file system.
- username: vsadmin
- password: Defined a password for the SVM when creating the FSx file system.

We will also need a storage class for FSx to use. You can follow the full <u>documentation</u> for creating the storage class, or use the following as a template:

```
# storage-class-basic.yaml
apiVersion: storage.k8s.io/v1
kind: StorageClass
metadata:
   name: basic
provisioner: csi.trident.netapp.io
parameters:
   backendType: "ONTAP-nas"
```

```
fsType: "__FILESYSTEM_TYPE__"
```

The relevant fields are as follows:

- metadata.name: Assign this optional value as your discretion, but you will be using this later to create FSx volumes dynamically.
- parameters.backendType: ONTAP-nas

Ensure login access to SVM

To install the backend, you should be able to SSH into the SVM using the IP address, vsadmin user, and password defined during installation.

1. Try the following and enter the password defined during installation:

```
ssh vsadmin@SVM_MANAGEMENT_IP
```

- 2. If you are successful, proceed to the "Create the Trident backend and storage class for FSx" section.
- 3. If you get a message that says: Error: Account currently locked. Contact the storage administrator to unlock it., unlock the vsadmin account to proceed.
- 4. To unlock the account, log in to the FSx management console with the following command and the file system administrative password defined during file system creation:

```
ssh fsxadmin@FSX_MANAGEMENT_IP
```

5. Change the password for the vsadmin user; for example:

```
security login password -vserver <SVM NAME> -username vsadmin
```

6. <u>Unlock the vsadmin administrator account;</u> for example:

```
security login unlock -vserver <SVM NAME> -username vsadmin
```

You should now be able to SSH into the SVM by using the IP address, vsadmin user, and password defined during installation. Verify with the same command from before.

Create the Trident backend and storage class for FSx

After your backend is defined, you can create it on the cluster easily by using tridentctl.

Note: You should still be SSH'd into one of the Iguazio data nodes and in the same directory as the previously downloaded the tridentctl tool.

1. To create the backend, run the following command:

```
./tridentctl -n trident create backend -f backend.json
```

2. To create the storage class, run the following command:

```
kubectl create -f storage-class-basic.yaml
```

Dynamically provision FSx volumes by creating a PVC

At this point, the setup process is complete. Creating a PVC can be done now or later on-demand within the Iguazio MLOps platform.

For the sake of this guide, create a PVC now to attach to a new Jupyter service later.

1. To create an FSx volume on-demand, define a PVC; for example:

```
# my-fsx-pvc.yaml
kind: PersistentVolumeClaim
apiVersion: v1
metadata:
  name: my-fsx-pvc
spec:
  accessModes:
    - ReadWriteMany
resources:
  requests:
    storage: 1Gi
storageClassName: basic
```

The relevant fields are as follows:

- metadata.name: Assign a name; you will use this value when attaching the PVC to the Jupyter service.
- spec.accessModes: Should be ReadWriteMany so that the PVC can be consumed by multiple sources (such as Jupyter service and training job)
- spec.resources.requests.storage: The size of FSx volume to provision on demand.
- spec.storageClassName: This value should match the previously created storage class (in this example, it is basic).
- 2. Create the PVC; for example:

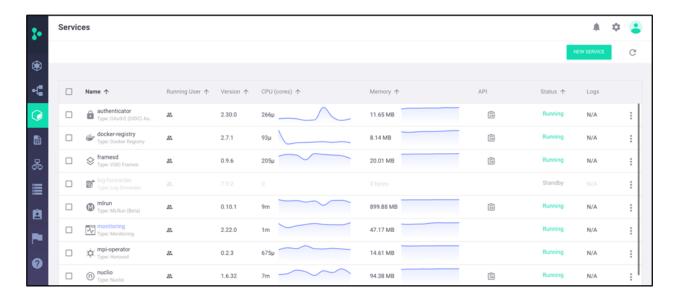
```
kubectl create -n default-tenant -f my-fsx-pvc.yaml
```

Note: The Kubernetes namespace needs to be default-tenant, because that is where the services are running in Iguazio.

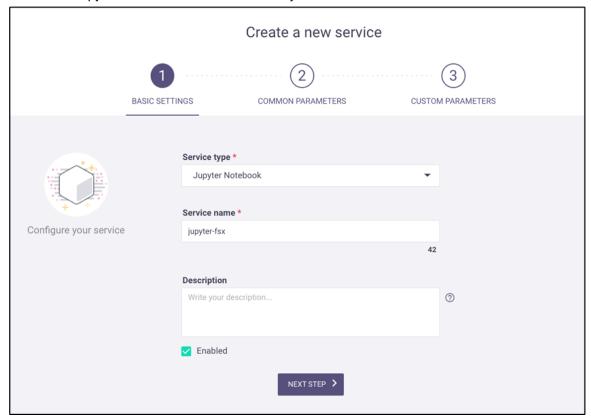
Create Jupyter Service in Iguazio with attached FSx PVC

Now you can easily create a Jupyter service in Iguazio and attach the newly created FSx PVC.

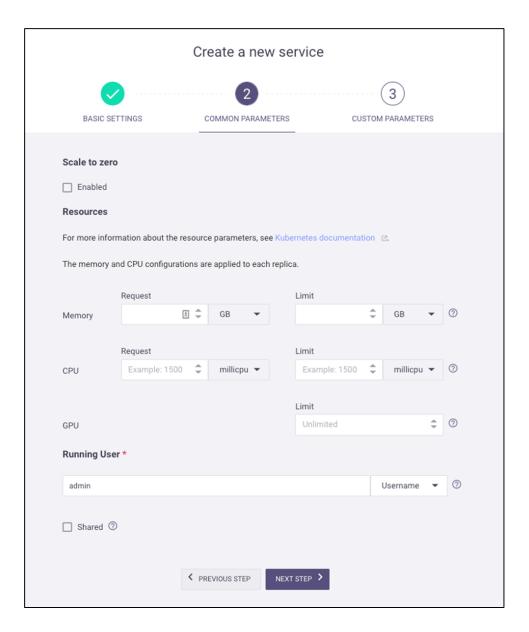
1. In the Iguazio platform, navigate to the Services tab and select New Service in the top-right corner.



2. Select Jupyter as the service to create with your desired name.

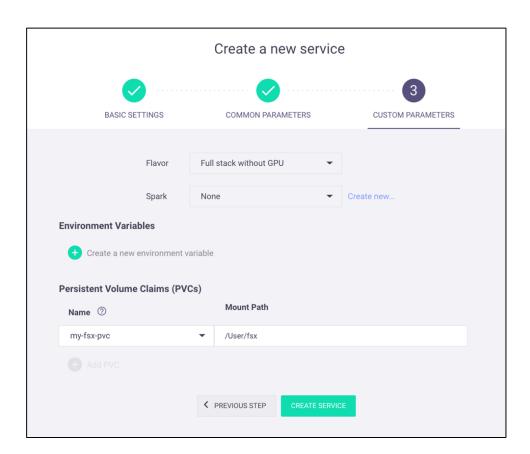


Add Kubernetes resources and share with additional users as desired. For this guide, leave everything at the default values.

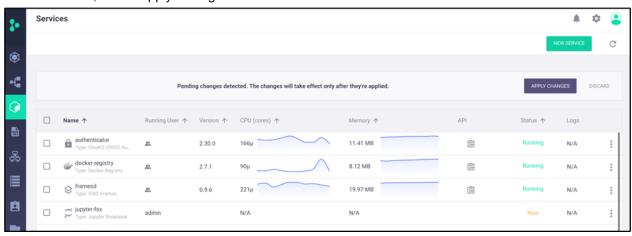


4. Add the newly created FSx PVC.

Note: The name of the PVC matches the name in the YAML definition. For convenience, the mount path should start with /User because that is the home directory in the Jupyter service.



5. From there, select Apply Changes.



6. While the service is creating, this dialog at the top is displayed.

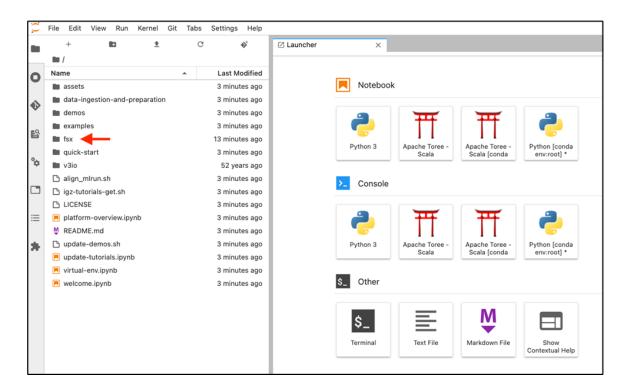


7. After the service is successfully created, this dialog at the top is displayed.



You will also be able to select the new Jupyter service, which open in a new tab.

Note: The fsx directory is in the file browser. This is our dynamically provisioned FSx volume:



Run Kubernetes job with attached FSx PVC

1. To showcase the ability to mount the FSx file system, create some files in the Jupyter terminal; for example:



2. Create a simple script to list the files in the directory that you mount to the job. When you create the job, mount the FSx volume to /mnt/my_fsx_mount.

```
# my_job.py
import os
def print_fsx(context):
    print("FSX VOLUME CONTENTS", os.listdir("/mnt/my_fsx_mount")
```

3. Use Iguazio's ability to easily containerize and run code on Kubernetes to showcase the volume mount within the job.



Although this is a trivial example, this example could easily be expanded to loading a large dataset for a training job or a utilizing the shared filesystem to store models and artifacts.

Use the NetApp DataOps Toolkit to perform data management operations

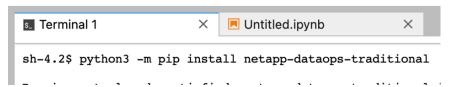
Prerequisites

Access a Jupyter Notebook terminal.

Install NetApp DataOps Toolkit for traditional environments

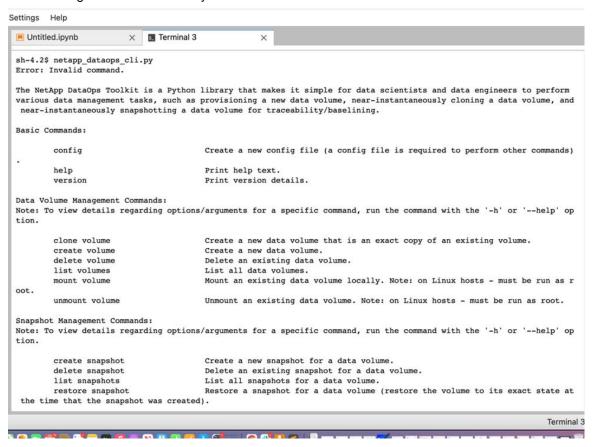
To install the NetApp DataOps toolkit, complete the following steps:

1. Follow https://github.com/NetApp/netapp-dataops-toolkit/tree/main/netapp_dataops_traditional and install netapp-dataops-traditional.



2. Import the functions. See Advanced: Importable Library of Functions.

3. After the NetApp DataOps Toolkit for traditional environments is installed, you can execute the following command and verify the installation.



Example operation: Clone a volume using the NetApp DataOps Toolkit

You can use the NetApp DataOps Toolkit to clone the mounted volume. The following command will help to clone the volume in use.

```
sh-4.2$ netapp_dataops_cli.py clone volume --name=demo_vol --source-volume=vol1
Creating clone volume 'demo_vol' from source volume 'vol1'.
Clone volume created successfully.
sh-4.2$
```

Other operations

You can also use the NetApp DataOps Toolkit to perform other operations. For example, you can use the NetApp DataOps Toolkit to create a read-only snapshot of the mounted volume for traceability purposes. For more information, see the toolkit's "create snapshot" operation.

Conclusion

Customers can benefit by taking advantage of the enterprise-level performance, scalability for high-performance workloads, and data protection features provided by FSx for ONTAP. This is a simple end-to-end solution for deploying and managing large-scale AI applications in hybrid and real-time environments. This solution brings automation of the data science process and twelve times acceleration in the deployment of AI products. This solution helps data scientists run a Kubernetes job with the attached FSx ONTAP PVC. They have the ability to snapmirror the data from on-premises ONTAP, which eliminates the migration of data. Data scientists can also create a Jupyter Notebook with the persistent volume and the traditional NetApp DataOps Toolkit; they do not have to redo the environment every time. Data scientists can destroy the environment whenever it is not needed because the data resides in the persistent volume. A traditional NetApp DataOps Toolkit provides the data protection features required.

Where to find additional information

To learn more about the information that is described in this document, review the following documents and/or websites:

- NetApp Product Documentation https://www.netapp.com/support-and-training/documentation/
- Amazon FSx for NetApp ONTAP documentation https://docs.aws.amazon.com/fsx/latest/ONTAPGuide/what-is-fsx-ontap.html
- Iguazio Product Page https://www.iguazio.com/
- Iguazio Product Documentation https://www.iguazio.com/docs/latest-release/

Version history

Version	Date	Document version history
Version 1.0	June 2022	Initial release.

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