

THE NETAPP AFX AI PORTFOLIO



As AI transforms from a science project to an enterprise workload, customers can't afford fragile, siloed storage that adds risk, complexity and cost. Enterprise AI initiatives need enterprise-grade security, reliability, and operational efficiency to deliver ROI. The NetApp® AFX AI portfolio is a tightly integrated enterprise-grade solution designed to eliminate data silos, automate change tracking and synchronization, and integrate seamlessly with AI workflows. It consists of the NetApp AFX storage system and the NetApp AI Data Engine (AIDE). The AFX system delivers scalable, disaggregated storage with a natively parallel architecture for high performance. AIDE simplifies and secures the AI data pipeline with integrated data discovery, curation, guardrails, and vectorization for GenAI.

Built on NetApp ONTAP® technology, the AFX AI portfolio is part of the NetApp data platform, the unified, enterprise-grade foundation for intelligent data infrastructure, delivering consistent operations, deep cloud integration, and embedded intelligence across environments.

Together, AFX and AIDE unify high-performance storage and intelligent data services, ensuring that enterprise data is immediately AI-ready across hybrid and multicloud environments

Business challenges

Enterprise AI is at a turning point. What began as exploratory science projects is now expected to deliver measurable business outcomes. Organizations are under pressure to move from experimentation to production, but many are struggling to operationalize AI at scale. The biggest hurdle isn't the model, it's the data. AI workflows depend on aggregating and preparing data from across the enterprise, and that data is often fragmented across infrastructure silos that lack the enterprise-grade capabilities needed for success.

These silos may offer performance, but they fall short on efficiency, resilience, traceability, and security. As a result, organizations report spending up to 80% of AI project time on making data AI ready (data preparation, movement, and management of data). This drives up costs, delays implementation, and creates a high risk of project failure. In fact, Gartner predicts that 60% of AI projects will be abandoned through 2026 due to lack of AI-ready data.

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The solution

The NetApp AFX AI portfolio delivers enterprise-grade performance, scalability, and resilience to support AI workloads from experimentation to production. By eliminating specialized infrastructure silos, it enables seamless access to data across on-premises and cloud environments, without replication or replatforming.

At its core, the portfolio includes a global metadata catalog for rapid data identification, selection, and publication. It automates change detection and synchronization, so AI models operate on the most current enterprise data. In-place vectorization supports model training, fine-tuning, and retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) workflows without the need for external tools.

Security and governance are embedded throughout the data lifecycle, with integrated data tagging, masking, and policy enforcement. Resilient operations are powered by ONTAP, featuring immutable NetApp Snapshot™ copies and Autonomous Ransomware Protection with AI.

Native integration with leading AI platforms, including Domino, NVIDIA, and Informatica, enables compatibility with enterprise workflows. NetApp's zero-copy caching and native cloud connectivity provide instant data visibility across any site, cloud, or model, so you can accelerate time to insight and enable agentic AI applications with confidence.

KEY BENEFITS

- **Unified storage:** Eliminate silos, and data moves – AI starts where your data lives.
- **Infrastructure efficiency:** Scale compute and capacity independently and across hybrid-multicloud.
- **High performance, low latency:** Native parallel architecture delivers consistent speed without HPC complexity.
- **Smarter data operations:** AIDE enables real-time indexing, semantic search, and in-place vectorization.
- **Automated transformation:** Advanced data reduction shrinks AI data bloat by 5 – 10x.
- **Built-in governance:** Policy-driven data guardrails maintains privacy, compliance, and trust in AI outcomes.
- **Lower overhead:** Zero-copy caching, space reduction, and SnapMirror® reduce costs and data movement.
- **Certified storage for NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD™:** Validating its performance and scalability for the most demanding AI workloads.
- **Enterprise-ready:** NetApp delivers speed, scale, security, and data management, the full set of capabilities required by enterprise AI.



USE CASES

- **RAG inferencing with real-time data.**
Automatically detect changes and synchronize enterprise data to support RAG workflows, so models operate on the most current and relevant information.
- **Confident model fine-tuning on enterprise data.**
Use secure, policy-driven data pipelines to fine-tune models with sensitive corporate data, for compliance, traceability, and performance.
- **Agentic AI orchestration.** Enable autonomous agents to interact with enterprise data in real time, leveraging built-in guardrails, semantic search, and vectorized pipelines to support decision-making, task execution, and continuous learning.
- **AI factory enablement.** Power scalable, repeatable AI workflows, from data ingestion to model deployment, using NetApp's unified data foundation, integrated metadata services, and zero-copy caching to streamline operations across teams, clouds, and models.

Enterprise-grade, high-performance disaggregated storage

The AFX AI portfolio starts with NetApp AFX, a modern high-performance storage controller architecture built on decades of enterprise expertise in unstructured data management. AFX technology delivers disaggregated storage with proven high availability, so organizations can scale AI infrastructure efficiently while maintaining enterprise-grade resilience, security, and data management. The disaggregated design allows storage systems to add compute and capacity resources independently, enabling flexible scaling of resources to meet different workload needs without overprovisioning or complex hardware changes.

Its natively parallel architecture supports standard file and object protocols, eliminating the need for custom clients and simplifying deployment. Integrated cyber-resilience features, including autonomous ransomware detection, immutable backups, and automated recovery workflows, provide robust protection for critical intellectual property.

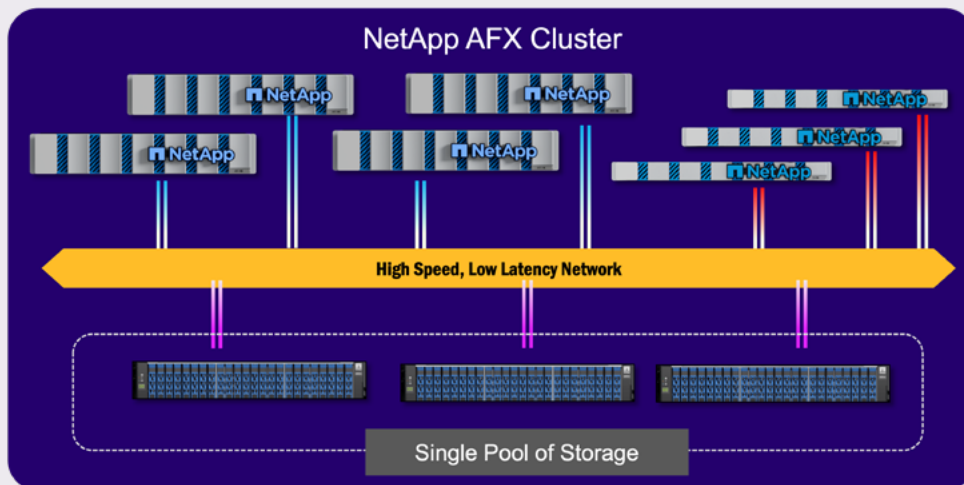
Unified data foundation

Powered by ONTAP, the AFX AI portfolio provides a unified view of enterprise data across on-premises and cloud environments. Unlike other solutions, NetApp is the only vendor with first-party, fully integrated offerings on all three major public clouds, AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud, allowing seamless data access and consistent operations wherever your data resides. This deep cloud integration eliminates silos and enables true data unification across hybrid and multicloud environments.

A global metadata catalog and unified namespace allow consistent visibility and management, while advanced data services such as replication, deduplication, and compression optimize movement and storage. NetApp FlexCache® software extends this capability by enabling zero-copy, real-time data distribution across geographies and clouds. This allows AI workloads to access only the data they need, when they need it, instantly and securely, without duplicating entire datasets. Together, these capabilities create a globally accessible, tightly integrated data foundation that supports scalable, secure, and efficient AI operations across any environment.

Accelerated data pipeline

NetApp AI Data Engine (AIDE) is an end-to-end data service that makes AI simple, affordable, and secure, from preparing to serving data to AI applications. Integrated into ONTAP, AIDE provides a global, real-time, structured view of your entire NetApp data estate for fast search and curation. It automates change detection and data synchronization to eliminate redundant copies, and bakes in guardrails that follow data throughout the AI lifecycle.



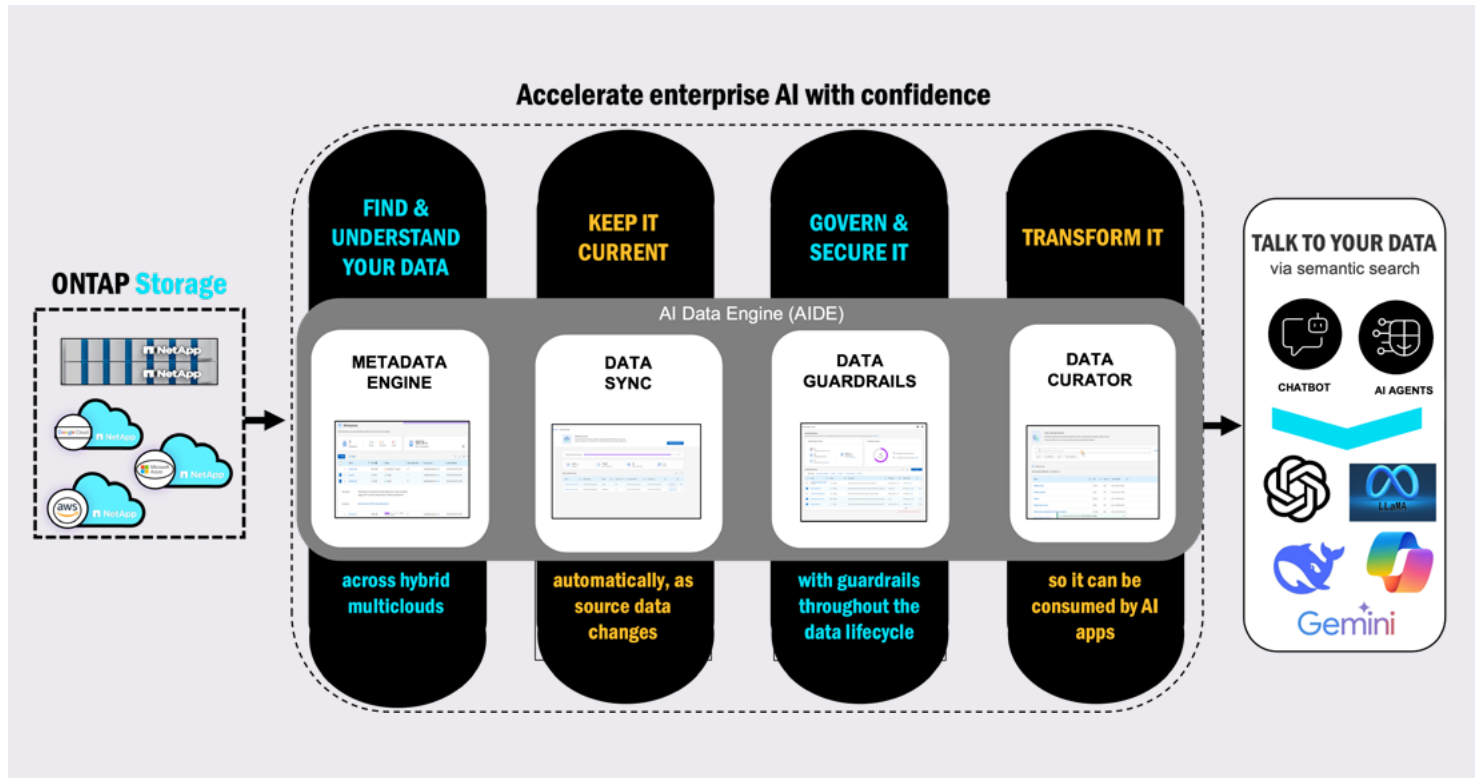
By combining automated vectorization for GenAI powered by NVIDIA NIM™, with advanced compression and retrieval, semantic discovery, and secure policy-driven workflows, AIDE equips organizations with the efficiency, data clarity, and governance needed to accelerate enterprise AI with confidence.

Delivering what modern AI requires

AI is entering a new phase, shifting from research-driven experimentation to a business-critical enterprise tool. As organizations begin using proprietary data to power these systems, secure, streamlined access becomes essential.

Poor data quality, driven by silos, complexity, and time-consuming preparation, remains the top challenge for AI practitioners. Building dedicated AI silos only adds to the fragmentation and fails to meet the demands of enterprise-grade AI.

The NetApp AFX AI portfolio, built on the NetApp data platform, delivers what modern AI requires: scalable performance, resilient and secure data management, seamless cloud integration, and an intelligent pipeline to operationalize AI workflows. It's not just about enabling AI, it's about making it work for the enterprise.



Contact Us

About NetApp

NetApp is the intelligent data infrastructure company, combining unified data storage, integrated data services, and CloudOps solutions to turn a world of disruption into opportunity for every customer. NetApp creates silo-free infrastructure, harnessing observability and AI to enable the industry's best data management. As the only enterprise-grade storage service natively embedded in the world's biggest clouds, our data storage delivers seamless flexibility. In addition, our data services create a data advantage through superior cyber resilience, governance, and application agility. Our CloudOps solutions provide continuous optimization of performance and efficiency through observability and AI. No matter the data type, workload, or environment, with NetApp you can transform your data infrastructure to realize your business possibilities. www.netapp.com

