



Datasheet

NetApp Element Software Product Brief

Simplify and automate data management at scale

Scale, Predict, Automate

NetApp® Element® software delivers agility through scale-out flexibility, predictable performance and automation integrations so you can build clouds to accelerate new services:

- Achieve nondisruptive system expansion with instant resource availability.
- Deliver predictable performance to hundreds of applications on a single platform.
- Drive your business forward with automated operational simplicity.
- Provide flexible deployment models to fit your next-generation center needs.

The pace of innovation has raised the bar on expectations for IT and service delivery. To cultivate business growth while meeting expected demands, IT architects are looking for new ways to scale dynamically in order to deploy applications faster while maintaining performance and enabling self-service models. While companies are increasingly looking toward the cloud to solve many of these problems, the speed of cloud adoption is limited by regulations, cost, and complexity.

Element software enables innovative architectures with unmatched flexible scale for your private cloud. A private cloud that scales simply with your business demands prevents a number of the headaches originating from the pressure of moving your data to the public cloud. Integrated into the NetApp Data Fabric, Element software delivers flexibility not only to your infrastructure, but to your data as well.

Scalable

The relentless pace of business change demands constant flexibility to adapt to workload changes. With Element software, dynamically scale storage resources to meet those ever-shifting, unpredictable business and application demands.

Element software allows for nondisruptive system expansion with instant resource availability. Multiyear capacity and performance planning cycles are eliminated with Element software because your cloud infrastructure can grow independently with these resource demands. Your cloud starts with today's requirements, and your storage platform can expand in granular increments over time. Each new node delivers a precise amount of additional performance and capacity to a usable pool. Data is automatically load-balanced in the background across all nodes in the cluster, maintaining even utilization as the system grows.

Forget forklift upgrades. Element software lets you simply add new nodes into an established cluster. Old nodes are removed and retired on your schedule, not your vendors'. You have nothing to migrate, no interruptions, and no settings to change. The scale-out architecture makes sure that there's plenty of horsepower to reduce and rehydrate data, regardless of performance and capacity demands placed on the system. With Element software, infrastructure managers can easily allocate, manage, and guarantee storage performance natively from each of these orchestration layers, creating efficiencies that actually improve with scale, not vice versa.

Predictable

To ensure system performance in mixed workload environments, your system needs to be able to guarantee quality of service (QoS) to each workload. Element software has fine-grained performance control with user-defined minimum, maximum, and burst settings for every workload or application on the system, allowing for meaningful consolidation while protecting the performance of each application.

Element lets you allocate and manage performance independently from capacity. Forget adding capacity to realize unpredictable performance gains. Each storage volume in a system enabled by Element software can be allocated a precise amount of capacity and performance, both of which can be changed dynamically without migrating data or interrupting I/O.

This ability means you can guarantee firm performance SLAs for applications, workloads, and tenants across your infrastructure, a key differentiator for cloud service providers and enterprise clouds alike. With Element software, your infrastructure can host a broad range of performance-sensitive and business-critical applications. You can offer performance SLAs to internal or external customers and facilitate the migration of applications to a more cost-effective and predictable storage infrastructure.

Always-on efficiencies maximize utilization of resources, reduce your data center footprint, and lower operational costs. Embedded global data deduplication techniques, multilayer data compression, and granular thin provisioning solve traditional storage deficiencies dynamically to make flash at scale an economic reality, all while delivering superior performance.

Automated

In large storage deployments, automation is the key to operational efficiency. By automating complex storage management tasks, orchestrating workflows, and delivering deep management integration, you can efficiently satisfy your service delivery needs and focus on driving your business forward.

Element's management frameworks provide both an intuitive web-based user interface and a robust REST-based API to automate every aspect of storage provisioning, management, and reporting. Whether you build your own management framework or use an off-the-shelf management stack, our API makes automating storage management simple and straightforward.

Deep integration with industry-leading virtualization and cloud platforms helps minimize your development time and overhead, which enables more complete and agile solutions. Standard tools and integrations coupled with ecosystem plug-ins make direct management seamless.

For VMware environments, Element software integrates seamlessly into VAAI, VASA, VVols, and vRealize, the tools you already use to automate your VMware infrastructure. And Element API functionality has been integrated with the OpenStack, CloudStack, Flexiant, and OnApp frameworks to simplify block storage integration and automation.

Protected

As with any enterprise storage, your data's protection should always be forefront. Element software delivers ironclad data assurance using a resilient, self-healing architecture that reduces operational overhead and risk. Its Helix® data protection can absorb multiple concurrent faults across all levels of the solution without affecting application performance.

Recovering from a failure takes only minutes. In a failure event, each drive in the system redistributes a small percentage of its data in parallel to the free space on all remaining drives. Failure recovery requires no operator intervention, eliminating the fire drills common with traditional RAID-based architectures.

Built-in real-time replication, consistent group Snapshot™ copies, and integration with VMware Site Recovery Manager (SRM) provide a comprehensive set of features that make sure of end-to-end system integrity. Seamless integration with third-party backup applications and any S3 or SWIFT-compatible system makes it easier to create and execute a comprehensive disaster recovery strategy, allowing business operations to continue without impact.

As a part of the NetApp Data Fabric, Element software provides data protection options through SnapMirror® replication. Move your data from an Element powered platform to a platform enabled by ONTAP® for disaster recovery. With the Data Fabric, customers can leverage the extended NetApp portfolio of products to protect against storage outages, with easy setup of disaster recovery relationships. Data replicated from either NetApp HCI or SolidFire system to AFF or FAS is stored in native format and can benefit from the rich data management capabilities of ONTAP.

Consumption Models

As companies move from traditional storage infrastructure to the next-generation cloud infrastructure, they have more options for consuming storage than ever before. Even if one consumption model can accommodate an enterprise's IT needs today, CIOs should expect to accommodate change over time.

The benefits of Element software can be realized on a highly flexible platform that grows with your business needs. And no matter which model you choose, we have you covered with the only consistent software platform able to provide the same features and functionality across every storage consumption model. Now it's extremely simple and economical to use Element OS across an entire data center footprint, precisely aligned with ever-changing data center needs.

NetApp HCI

NetApp HCI redefines what a hyper converged infrastructure can offer. With simple deployment, predictable performance and flexible scale, NetApp HCI packs all the benefits of Element software into a low-touch solution.

SolidFire All-Flash Storage System

SolidFire is a 100% programmable platform that delivers unmatched agility and guaranteed application performance. With the ability to mix nodes within a cluster, you can build a private cloud architecture to meet your business needs at any scale.

Capacity Licensing

Capacity licensing offers an innovative pricing model to meet the needs of businesses at scale. It decouples purchasing Element software from the underlying NetApp HCI or SolidFire hardware, resulting in a game-changing option for how storage is bought, deployed, and consumed. This model delivers the cost and flexibility benefits of software-only storage without the supply chain, system integration, and support complexity normally associated with this approach.

About NetApp

NetApp is the data authority for hybrid cloud. We empower customers to simplify and integrate data management across cloud and on-premises environments to accelerate digital transformation. Together with our partners, we provide a full range of hybrid cloud data services to help global organizations unleash the full potential of their data to expand customer touchpoints, foster greater innovation and optimize their operations. For more information, visit www.netapp.com.
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