Datasheet

NetApp Converged Systems Advisor

Lifecycle management automation software
for FlexPod infrastructure

Key Benefits

Validate

- Assurance that the implemented data center infrastructure is a supported and compliant FlexPod® system
- Simplified assessment and inventory of data center infrastructure and firmware
- A centralized view of software and hardware for storage, compute, and network components

Monitor

- Centralized system-level notifications for compliance issues
- An automated health check history for improved maintenance processes and change control review
- Reduced time to resolution for support issues
- Continual monitoring for assurance of business continuity

Optimize

- Scheduled notifications for bottlenecks and resource constraints
- A holistic view of data center infrastructure to maximize health across system infrastructure
- Investment protection for mission-critical infrastructure with a simplified view of component lifecycle and support expirations

Automating Lifecycle Management

The rapid pace of new service deployments presents IT managers with several challenges in the data center. Because applications change so fast, it can become difficult to maintain enough compute, storage, and networking resources for customer satisfaction. Frequent changes in the middle of a system lifecycle endanger business continuity and service uptime. Firmware updates and security patches need to be reviewed for interoperability. Staff have finite resources for supporting the increasing scale in data center infrastructure, software, and data.

The FlexPod platform is built to meet these challenges with prevalidated designs and integration that reduce the risk and accelerate the deployment of data center infrastructure. As the pace and requirements for service delivery increase, refined automation tools bring the next level of productivity to IT managers.

NetApp® Converged Systems Advisor (CSA) targets key challenges in the data center operations lifecycle. An on-premises agent combines with cloud analytics to validate, monitor, and optimize the deployment of your FlexPod infrastructure. This tool simplifies key tasks for administrative support with an automated review of over 100 best practices, component support updates, and resilient design requirements. With continual remote monitoring and notifications, NetApp CSA helps administrators prevent gaps in system supportability, and more easily protect their investment in mission-critical data center infrastructure. These capabilities simplify lifecycle management, improve productivity with infrastructure support, and facilitate the management of infrastructure.

A simple assessment tool maps the cabling, connectivity, and topology to validate the configuration of new or existing FlexPod deployments. This data is then analyzed with a comprehensive set of FlexPod requirements and best practices. The tool makes recommendations to return at-risk configuration, such as out-of-date firmware, back to a fully compliant state. This feature provides assurance that your FlexPod system health is in an optimal state. Beyond initial installation, NetApp CSA continues to monitor your FlexPod system and capture its configuration state at scheduled intervals. These scheduled health checks are analyzed, and notifications can be configured for unexpected noncompliance events such as loss of power or network link connectivity. This feature helps IT teams simplify processes for repair, fault identification, and change control systems documentation.

NetApp®

Finally, NetApp CSA provides up-to-date practices to optimize system health. It compiles component-level information for FlexPod infrastructure and assesses the requirements for hardware and firmware updates. You can generate consolidated reports of component inventory, health, and support information for your FlexPod platform on demand. With NetApp CSA, administrators can quickly identify outdated equipment, platforms, and firmware interoperability. Combined with interoperability tools, NetApp CSA provides administrators with the data and insights they need to plan and execute full-stack upgrades for compute, storage, and network components.

How It Works

An on-premises agent is installed as a virtual machine with network access to your FlexPod system. An autodiscovery tool maps out a comprehensive list of FlexPod components, along with cabling and connectivity. The resulting system configurations and firmware are then sent to the NetApp CSA customer portal for analysis. After analysis, the data and lifecycle management capabilities are available for access through a secure login to the customer portal. Scheduled notifications can also be configured to email reports and updates to administrators. The customer portal includes dashboards for component configurations, map views, and summary views of compliance rules. The component configuration views show comprehensive details of system configurations, including interfaces, modules, memory, and firmware. The map view shows a topology with cabling and connectivity, and health of system connectivity. The summary view shows compliance rules and recommended best practices.

NetApp CSA simplifies and automates manual lifecycle management tasks for monitoring and optimizing system performance by sending regularly scheduled notifications and report views through the CSA portal. It also directly validates best practices and compliance requirements from the experts in the FlexPod team. Your support teams can repair fault conditions more quickly with an easy-to-use record of change history and last known good state. Taken together, these benefits protect your FlexPod investment for maximal system health.

Licensing and Support

NetApp Converged Systems Advisor is available through one-year licenses. NetApp provides a downloadable agent and customer portal when you purchase a license key. Product support is also provided directly by NetApp, and is included with each purchase. Two levels of management are available for purchase:

- **Standard.** Complete system discovery and assessment, with a cloud-based customer portal that offers configuration monitoring, a health dashboard, map view, and a compliance summary.
- **Premium.** All the elements of the standard license with notifications and reporting. You can set notifications for regularly scheduled updates to show items such as change history, optimization recommendations, and lifecycle changes for system components.

To learn more about how FlexPod Lifecycle Management can benefit your data center, contact your local NetApp sales team.

About NetApp

NetApp is the data authority for hybrid cloud. We provide a full range of hybrid cloud data services that simplify management of applications and data across cloud and on-premises environments to accelerate digital transformation. Together with our partners, we empower global organizations to 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. #DataDriven