



HPE NIMBLE STORAGE dHCI

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INTRODUCTION

The frequently asked questions provided in this document are meant to address the most common questions from HPE sales employees about the new HPE Nimble Storage dHCI offering. Access the following topic-specific sales briefcases for up-to-date top selling resources:

- [HPE Nimble Storage dHCI Sales Briefcase](#)
- [Unleash the Power of your Data with Intelligent Storage Briefcase](#)

Contact the [HPE Sales Response Center](#) if you have questions about the contents of this document.

NEW HPE NIMBLE STORAGE dHCI

Q. What is the new HPE Nimble Storage dHCI?

A. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI radically simplifies infrastructure for every application by reimagining HCI without limitations. Built for business-critical apps and mixed workloads, HPE Nimble Storage dHCI enables IT agility while ensuring apps are always-on and always-fast. VM-centric and AI-driven operations make it effortless, while 99.9999% guaranteed data availability and consistent sub-millisecond latency mean it's ideal for the most demanding applications and workloads. It lowers costs with flexible, independent scaling of compute and storage and industry-leading data efficiency. Finally, HPE Nimble Storage dHCI maximizes agility by unlocking the cloud experience across hybrid cloud. HPE calls it HCI 2.0 as it's HCI without limitations.

Q. Why is this important?

A. IT is increasingly looking to streamline operations, unlock agility, and do more with less. Hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) brought an experience that makes it simple to deploy, manage, and upgrade their infrastructure. But while acceptable for general-purpose apps, HCI comes at a cost to reliability, performance, and economics for business-critical apps and mixed-workloads.

Organizations should haven't to make compromises for agility. Instead, there's a need to evolve HCI to HCI 2.0—with a new architecture that delivers the HCI experience of unified management and VM-centric operations, but with higher availability, faster performance, and a lower total cost of ownership for business-critical apps and mixed-workloads.

Disaggregated HCI (dHCI) is that evolution—a reimagination of HCI for agility without compromise.

Q. What are the key benefits of HPE Nimble Storage dHCI?

A. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI is intelligently simple, absolutely resilient, and efficiently scalable.

1. It's **intelligently simple** with native, full-stack intelligence from storage to VMs and policy-based automation for virtualized environments.
2. It's ready for business-critical apps with **absolute resiliency** with over six-nines of measured data availability and sub-ms of low latency at consistent, high performance.
3. Built for **efficient scale** with the ability to independently scale compute and storage non-disruptively with industry-leading data efficiency guaranteed.

Q. Isn't the term Disaggregated Hyperconverged conflicting?

A. Disaggregated refers to the ability to independently scale Compute, Network, and Storage. Hyperconverged refers to the flexibility, ease of use simplicity of HCI as well as the ability to converge multiple types of workloads. HPE has gained tremendous analyst recognition and awards for this new technology innovation based on research by IDC, who has created a new category called Disaggregated Hyperconverged, Gartner references dHCI in the Hype Cycle for Compute Infrastructure, 2020, and finally HPE Nimble Storage dHCI won a "Best of VMworld®" 2020 award for Virtualization and Cloud Infrastructure.

Q. What are the outcomes enabled by HPE Nimble Storage dHCI?

A.

- **Run faster:** Accelerate app and service delivery—15 minutes rack to apps¹
- **End firefighting:** Predict and prevent disruptions—99.9999% data availability²
- **Optimize everything:** Drive productivity and resource efficiency—Zero wasted resources³
- 10 Times faster⁴
- 5 Times more efficient⁵
- 4 Times more resilient⁶

^{1,3} "ESG Technical Validation: Extending the Hyperconverged Experience to Workloads with Unpredictable Growth," June 2019
psnow.ext.hpe.com/doc/a00075391enw

² psnow.ext.hpe.com/doc/a00026086enw. **Note:** HPE 99.9999% data availability guarantee is applicable to storage array only.

^{4,5,6} psnow.ext.hpe.com/doc/a00058506enw



READINESS AND AVAILABILITY

Q. What options are available to provide product demo capability to various Geos?

A. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI live and recorded demos are available [HPE Demo Portal](#) for Partners and HPE Employees.

HOW TO PURCHASE

Q. How is the offering purchased?

A. It is a one solution SKU (for tracking purposes only) with several different product SKUs (a server SKU, a networking SKU, and a storage SKU). With regard to OCA, HPE Nimble Storage dHCI will not be a single product SKU or a single product line, but the ordering experience is designed to be simple. It should be viewed as a single solution.

Specific SKUs and ordering processes are designed for fast delivery to customers.

Q. Is it possible for a customer to build a dHCI if they have all the components?

A. No, they need to purchase an HPE Nimble Storage (AF/HF) or HPE Alletra 6000 array with the appropriate software SKUs.

Customers can protect their existing investment in HPE ProLiant servers by adding them to a dHCI system. With just five simple steps from VMware vCenter® they can add existing HPE ProLiant servers and approved switches. See [HPE validated configuration matrix](#) on HPE InfoSight for the full list of HPE ProLiant models. The HPE Nimble Storage dHCI integration is ready within 15 minutes.

Source: HPE Nimble Storage dHCI: Extending the Hyperconverged Experience to Workloads with Unpredictable Growth, June 2019 psnow.ext.hpe.com/doc/a00075391enw

Q. Can an existing customer, who has both servers and HPE Nimble Storage, upgrade the HPE Nimble Storage OS and create a dHCI solution?

A. No. They would need to purchase a new HPE Nimble Storage (AF/HF series) or HPE Alletra 6000 array.

Q. How is HPE Pointnext Services involved in the dHCI offering?

A. It is involved in two ways—For deployment services, where HPE Pointnext Services will be offering a deployment service and there will be a deployment SKU. HPE GreenLake offers a modern pay-as-you-go consumption model for HPE Nimble Storage dHCI infrastructure.

POSITIONING

Q. Does the new product solve a new customer problem or does it serve existing customer segments?

A. **For new customer problem:** HPE Nimble Storage dHCI extends the hyperconverged experience to use cases, complementing HPE SimpliVity.

HPE SimpliVity is optimized for workloads for edge, remote sites and general purpose apps, and HPE Nimble Storage dHCI is optimized for workloads running at the core such as business-critical and mixed workloads.

For existing customer segments:

1. Customers who want HCI delivered as an all-in-one appliance with built-in backup in small footprint and linear scaling of compute and storage—they will win with HPE SimpliVity.
2. Customers who prefer the HCI experience for more applications such as business-critical applications and mixed workloads. They want unified management and VM-centric operations with higher availability, faster performance, and flexibility at scale—they will win with HPE Nimble Storage dHCI.



TECHNICAL FAQs

Q. Are there any restrictions or caveats with regard to the HPE Nimble Storage or HPE Alletra 6000 product models, which are supported within the solution?

A. No. All HPE Nimble Storage or HPE Alletra 6000 product models are eligible/supported within the dHCI solution.

Q. Can a customer convert a non-dHCI HPE Nimble Storage or HPE Alletra 6000 array to HPE Nimble Storage dHCI?

A. No. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI is an end-to-end SW integrated solution with specific installation, monitoring, and management workflows.

Q. Does HPE Nimble Storage dHCI support the Fibre Channel protocol?

A. While it is certainly possible to enable FC after the initial HPE Nimble Storage dHCI setup by adding FC HBAs, the first HPE Nimble Storage dHCI release has been officially only tested and supported with iSCSI.

Q. Is there a limit on the number of HPE ProLiant servers an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI solution supports?

A. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI supports up to a maximum of 32 server nodes.

Q. Can VMware vSAN™ be configured on an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI cluster?

A. While technically this should work, it has not been qualified by Engineering.

Q. Does HPE Nimble Storage dHCI support direct attached iSCSI?

A. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI (and non-HPE Nimble Storage dHCI) deployments require Ethernet switches.

Q. Can multiple HPE Nimble Storage dHCI arrays register to the same VMware vCenter?

A. Yes.

Q. Can one HPE Nimble Storage dHCI register with multiple vCenter servers?

A. No.

Q. Does HPE Nimble Storage dHCI support HPE Nimble Storage scale-out pool (striped volumes)?

A. No.

Q. I have a customer who wants to deploy HPE Nimble Storage dHCI and then add some non-HPE ProLiant servers to the cluster. Is this supported?

A. While the non-HPE ProLiant servers can be managed by the same VMware vCenter Server® they will reside in a separate cluster (outside of the HPE Nimble Storage dHCI cluster). Adding non-HPE ProLiant servers to an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI cluster has not been qualified and is not supported.

Q. Can I add more network interfaces to an already deployed HPE Nimble Storage dHCI array?

A. Yes.

Q. Does HPE Nimble Storage dHCI support Peer Persistence?

A. Peer Persistence is supported. The DR HPE Nimble Storage dHCI array needs to be added to the same group as the source HPE Nimble Storage dHCI array after the initial source array setup is completed.

Q. After jumbo frames (MTU 9000) are configured on the HPE Nimble Storage dHCI array, do I need to manually configure the vSwitches and VMkernel adapters?

A. No. The setup automatically ensures MTU size is properly setup on the vSwitches and VMkernel adapters.

Q. Is the vCenter plugin required for HPE Nimble Storage dHCI to function?

A. During HPE Nimble Storage dHCI initial setup the stack setup wizard needs to run and the plugin registers with vCenter. However, once the HPE Nimble Storage dHCI solution has been set up the plugin is not required in order to provision storage. While all management functions can be completed manually, we highly recommend using the plugin for centralized management and monitoring.

Q. Does the HPE Nimble Storage dHCI setup wizard use iSCSI Volume Scope Target (VST) or Group Scope Target (GST)?

A. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI uses HPE NimbleOS 5.1 or above which leverages GST as the default iSCSI deployment method.



Q. Can a customer provision a datastore without using the vCenter plugin?

A. Yes. You can always provision a datastore without using a plugin however, from a management, best practices and ease of use perspective we recommend using the plugin.

Q. Does HPE Nimble Storage dHCI support Distributed vSwitches?

A. Not in the first release, however we expect to support them in a subsequent release.

Q. Which network switches does HPE Nimble Storage dHCI support?

A. Refer to the HPE validated configuration matrix on HPE InfoSight for the supported switches for Greenfield and Brownfield deployments.

Q. My customer has 10GbE or 25GbE switches that have not been validated for HPE Nimble Storage dHCI use. Can they be used?

A. Customers using non-validated switches, will get a component-based support model. This means that they will need to open a support case with each vendor if needed. HPE Nimble Storage support will still provide the same great support, to the extent they are able to, for the given switch configuration. However, the customer will not get the differentiated support experience that we would like HPE Nimble Storage dHCI to be known for.

Furthermore, should future HPE Nimble Storage dHCI feature releases include additional network integration, non-validated switches will not be applicable for said features.

Q. Does the setup wizard enable vMotion on the ESXi hosts?

A. Yes. The HPE Nimble Storage dHCI setup wizard enables vMotion on the VMkernel port.

Q. What is the minimum VMware vSphere® license package I need?

A. VMware vSphere Standard. To leverage the 1-click upgrade functionality, Enterprise Plus is required as DRS is leveraged.

Q. What is the minimum vCenter license I need?

A. VMware vCenter Standard.

Q. I have a customer with VMware® ROBO licenses can he use HPE Nimble Storage dHCI?

A. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI requires VMware HA and DRS licenses therefore a ROBO Enterprise will work.

In the event the customer has ROBO Standard or ROBO Advanced edition which do not contain DRS in maintenance mode, during a Greenfield setup, the ESXi hosts will be deployed with temporary licenses which contain a DRS license. After the setup is completed, the customer can switch to using ROBO Standard or ROBO Advanced editions.

Q. Can I connect a non-HPE ProLiant host to HPE Nimble Storage dHCI?

A. Yes, however, these will not be managed/monitored by the HPE Nimble Storage dHCI UI.

Q. I have a customer who wants to purchase HPE Nimble Storage dHCI today, set it up as non-HPE Nimble Storage dHCI and at some point purchase HPE ProLiant servers and create an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI cluster. Is this possible?

A. As part of the initial deployment process, HPE Nimble Storage dHCI imaged arrays leverage a stack setup workflow, which requires HPE ProLiant servers. There is no option to deploy an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI array as non-HPE Nimble Storage dHCI and vice versa. However, after the initial setup, it is possible to provision storage to non-HPE Nimble Storage dHCI hosts.

Q. In an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI configuration is the HPE Nimble Storage array access and capacity exclusive to the HPE Nimble Storage dHCI hosts or can the array provision volumes to another non-HPE Nimble Storage dHCI environment as well?

A. We do not lock down the HPE Nimble Storage dHCI vCenter Plugin or the Array UI therefore the vCenter plugin can be used to create a new datastore for use on another host cluster in vCenter.

Q. What is the minimum number of HPE ProLiant servers required for an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI deployment?

A. Two (2) HPE ProLiant servers.

Q. What versions of VMware vSphere are supported?

A. VMware vSphere 6.5, 6.7, and 7.0.



Q. Is the HPE Storage Connection Manager (SCM) required?

A. Yes. SCM is required for both Greenfield and Brownfield deployments. For Greenfield, SCM is preinstalled onto the HPE ProLiant servers at the factory. For Brownfield, the customer or the partner will need to install it before proceeding the setup.

Q. How many VLANs do I need?

A. For best practices and proper functionality, at least three (3) VLANs are required. For details see the [HPE Nimble Storage dHCI and VMware vSphere Deployment Guide—New Servers Deployment](#).

Q. Does HPE Nimble Storage dHCI support vCenter Linked mode?

A. Yes. The HPE Nimble Storage array should be running minimum NimbleOS v5.1.3.100. The HPE Alletra 6000 array should be running HPE Alletra 6.0.0 OS.

Q. Does HPE Nimble Storage dHCI need iLO Amplifier Pack to send data to HPE InfoSight?

A. No. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI already has the connector to send directly HPE ProLiant data to HPE InfoSight.

Q. In a Greenfield deployment are the network switches manually configured?

A. Some switch models support automated network configuration. All other models require manual network configuration. For step-by-step details, please consult the [HPE Nimble Storage dHCI and VMware vSphere Deployment Guide](#).

Q. How does the setup wizard discover the HPE ProLiant ESXi hosts?

A. The HPE Nimble Storage dHCI setup wizard uses the Service Location Protocol (SLP) for discovery. By default, SLP should be running on all ESXi hosts. Additionally, multicast may need to be enabled on the network switches. For more information, please consult the [HPE Nimble Storage dHCI and VMware vSphere Deployment Guide](#).

Q. What tool do I use to size an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI solution?

A. Please use the HPE Nimble Storage dHCI sizing tool on HPE InfoSight at [HPE Nimble Storage dHCIsizingtool](#).

Q. What is the recommended network configuration for the HPE ProLiant servers?

A. Four (4) NIC 10GbE NIC Ports (excluding iLO) to be used for iSCSI Traffic (2 ports), Management, VM Network-vMotion (2).

For a Brownfield deployment, if the servers do not have a pair of 10GbE ports available for iSCSI traffic, you must trunk the iSCSI VLAN on your existing 10GbE ports.

Q. What options are available to provide product demo capability to various Geos?

A. We have a HPE Nimble Storage Virtual Array and VMware ESXi™ VM that can be used to test/demo different capabilities. We have live demo capabilities in the [HPE Demo Portal](#).

Q. Is there an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI array Virtual Array and Deployment guide I can download so I can build my own demo lab?

A. Yes. The HPE Nimble Storage dHCI Virtual Array image and Lab deployment guide can be accessed at [HPE InfoSight](#). Select “show other versions” to expand. The HPE Nimble Storage dHCI Virtual Array is available to Internal HPE SEs and HPE Channel Partners for testing and demo purposes only.

Q. If I deploy Peer Persistence and my DR array is not an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI array will I lose the ability to perform 1-button updates at the DR when these become available?

A. A non-HPE Nimble Storage dHCI array does not contain the stack setup wizard and stack manager therefore any additional features such as 1-button updates will not be available for that array.

Q. My customer wants HPE Nimble Storage dHCI with Peer Persistence. How do I build this configuration within OCA?

A. You will need to build 2 configurations each, one per site, each with servers and an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI array.

Q. Can the HPE ProLiant iLO ports be connected to physically separate network switches?

A. For Greenfield deployments the stack wizard configures the iLO management networking. Separate networks are supported for ESXi management and iLO management.

Q. When evacuating an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI ProLiant host from an HPE Nimble Storage dHCI cluster, will the VMs be live migrated to the remaining hosts?

A. Before a host is evacuated from a VMware cluster the host must first enter maintenance mode and the VMs must be moved via vMotion to other hosts. If VMware DRS is licensed, all VMs will be live migrated by DRS. If the DRS feature is not licensed, the user needs to manually migrate the VMs first prior to the host entering maintenance mode.



Frequently asked questions

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Q. Does HPE Nimble Storage dHCI support 1-click upgrades?

A. HPE Nimble Storage dHCI has simplified lifecycle management with single-click, non-disruptive software upgrades for ESXi hosts, Storage OS, HPE Storage Connection Manager (SCM), and HPE ProLiant firmware (SPP) at full scale. This eliminates the need to install software upgrades individually across servers and storage, saving IT productivity time and de-risking upgrades. The upgrades can be performed directly in VMware vCenter, making HPE Nimble Storage dHCI the first disaggregated platform to enable this level of automated lifecycle management. VMware DRS is required for 1-click upgrades.

SALES RESOURCES

Q. What resources are available to sales and customers?

A. The top selling resources on the new portfolio are available in the following sales briefcases on Seismic:

- [HPE Nimble Storage dHCI Sales Briefcase](#)
- [Disrupt HCI Program Briefcase](#)
- [HPE Storage May 2021 Announcement Briefcase](#)
- [Simplify and Unlock Agility briefcase](#)
- [Unleash the Power of Your Data briefcase](#)

These include a wide range of resources for you, your customers, and your partners, including a customer letter, presentations, talking points, sales play cards, training links, and more.

If you have questions, contact the [HPE Sales Response Center](#).

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