



# Going Cloud-Native: Choosing the Right Cloud-Based Storage Solution for Your Business

Prowess Consulting looked at business-class cloud-native NAS solutions for Amazon Web Services® (AWS®).

Many businesses are moving their resources into the cloud in order to experience its scalability, flexibility, security, and manageability. While network-attached storage (NAS) is a familiar, trusted storage technology, cloud-based versions are still emerging, so their feature sets can vary widely from one offering to the next.

Prowess Consulting decided to dig deeper into this new usage for a trusted storage technology to see how these emerging technologies could help ease an organization's journey into the public cloud. We uncovered two prominent options in the cloud-native NAS market: Dell™ APEX File Storage for AWS and NetApp® Cloud Volumes ONTAP® high availability (HA) configuration.

## Essential Features

Our research focused on enterprise- and business-class NAS solutions offering high-performance storage that is capable of handling massive unstructured datasets and heavy analytics workloads. This meant eliminating single-user or personal cloud storage (PCS) solutions from consideration because they lack the capacity, security, scalability, performance, and management required by most businesses.

Looking at the challenges that arise during an organization's journey into the cloud, we determined that the following features are necessary for success:

- Easy data mobility that includes native data replication within the same storage architecture
- Seamless integration with hybrid and multicloud environments
- A consistent user experience (UX) across on-premises, hybrid, and cloud environments
- Support for multiple file protocols
- Scalable server clusters
- High performance in the cloud

### Highlights:



An **easy button for data mobility**, plus fast data transfer<sup>1</sup>



A **scale-out architecture** with six nodes per cluster<sup>1</sup>



**Up to 4.3x** higher bandwidth per cluster<sup>1</sup>

Our side-by-side comparison identified several critical differences between the Dell and NetApp solutions. We concluded that the Dell APEX File Storage for AWS solution can deliver easier migration, more bandwidth, and greater scalability, making it well-suited for organizations looking to extend data storage into the public cloud.

## Cloud Storage Undergoes a Growth Spurt

“Clearly, hybrid cloud is the new normal.”  
— Deloitte<sup>2</sup>

Organizations moving data into the cloud are driving phenomenal growth in hybrid and multicloud computing environments. Deloitte reports that the cloud computing market has exhibited triple-digit growth in just a few years. IT decision makers (ITDMs) rank infrastructure as a service (IaaS), which includes cloud-based storage, among their top five cloud-planning priorities.<sup>2</sup>

## Learn more

Get the full story by reading our technical research study, [“Going Cloud-Native: Tips for Choosing the Right Cloud-Based Storage Solution for Your Business.”](#)

<sup>1</sup> Based on normalized results and features analysis conducted by Prowess Consulting as of April 2023. For details, see “Going Cloud-Native: Tips for Choosing the Right Cloud-Based Storage Solution for Your Business.” 2023.

[www.prowessconsulting.com/labs/dell-apex-cloud-storage-delivers-easy-migration-superior-scalability-performance](http://www.prowessconsulting.com/labs/dell-apex-cloud-storage-delivers-easy-migration-superior-scalability-performance).

<sup>2</sup> Deloitte. “The cloud migration forecast: Cloudy with a chance of clouds.” December 2020. [www2.deloitte.com/xe/en/insights/industry/technology/technology-media-and-telecom-predictions/2021/cloud-migration-trends-and-forecast.html](http://www2.deloitte.com/xe/en/insights/industry/technology/technology-media-and-telecom-predictions/2021/cloud-migration-trends-and-forecast.html).



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