

# **NetApp Astra Control Center Overview**

NetApp Solutions

NetApp May 17, 2024

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## **NetApp Astra Control overview**

NetApp Astra Control Center offers a rich set of storage and application-aware data management services for stateful Kubernetes workloads, deployed in an on-prem environment, powered by trusted data protection technology from NetApp.

Unresolved directive in containers/vtwn\_overview\_astra.adoc - include::../../\_include/containers\_common\_intro\_sections.adoc[tags=astra\_cc\_overview]

## **Astra Control Center automation**

Astra Control Center has a fully functional REST API for programmatic access. Users can use any programming language or utility to interact with Astra Control REST API endpoints. To learn more about this API, see the documentation here.

If you are looking for a ready-made software development toolkit for interacting with Astra Control REST APIs, NetApp provides a toolkit with the Astra Control Python SDK that you can download here.

If programming is not appropriate for your situation and you would like to use a configuration management tool, you can clone and run the Ansible playbooks that NetApp publishes here.

## **Astra Control Center installation prerequisites**

Astra Control Center installation requires the following prerequisites:

- One or more Tanzu Kubernetes clusters, managed either by a management cluster or TKGS or TKGI. TKG workload clusters 1.4+ and TKGI user clusters 1.12.2+ are supported.
- Astra Trident must already be installed and configured on each of the Tanzu Kubernetes clusters.
- One or more NetApp ONTAP storage systems running ONTAP 9.5 or greater.



It's a best practice for each Tanzu Kubernetes install at a site to have a dedicated SVM for persistent storage. Multi-site deployments require additional storage systems.

- A Trident storage backend must be configured on each Tanzu Kubernetes cluster with an SVM backed by an ONTAP cluster.
- A default StorageClass configured on each Tanzu Kubernetes cluster with Astra Trident as the storage provisioner.
- A load balancer must be installed and configured on each Tanzu Kubernetes cluster for load balancing and exposing Astra Control Center if you are using ingressType AccTraefik.
- An ingress controller must be installed and configured on each Tanzu Kubernetes cluster for exposing Astra Control Center if you are using ingressType Generic.
- A private image registry must be configured to host the NetApp Astra Control Center images.
- You must have Cluster Admin access to the Tanzu Kubernetes cluster where Astra Control Center is being installed.
- You must have Admin access to NetApp ONTAP clusters.
- A RHEL or Ubuntu admin workstation.

## **Install Astra Control Center**

This solution describes an automated procedure for installing Astra Control Center using Ansible playbooks. If you are looking for a manual procedure to install Astra Control Center, follow the detailed installation and operations guide here.

Unresolved directive in containers/vtwn\_overview\_astra.adoc - include::../../\_include/containers\_astra\_cc\_install\_ansible.adoc[Install Astra Control Center using Ansible]

#### **Post Install Steps**

1. It might take several minutes for the installation to complete. Verify that all the pods and services in the netapp-astra-cc namespace are up and running.

```
[netapp-user@rhel7 ~]$ kubectl get all -n netapp-astra-cc
```

2. Check the acc-operator-controller-manager logs to ensure that the installation is completed.

```
[netapp-user@rhel7 ~]$ kubectl logs deploy/acc-operator-controller-
manager -n netapp-acc-operator -c manager -f
```



The following message indicates the successful installation of Astra Control Center.

```
{"level":"info","ts":1624054318.029971,"logger":"controllers.AstraControlCenter","msg":"Successfully Reconciled AstraControlCenter in [seconds]s","AstraControlCenter":"netapp-astra-cc/astra","ae.Version":"[22.04.0]"}
```

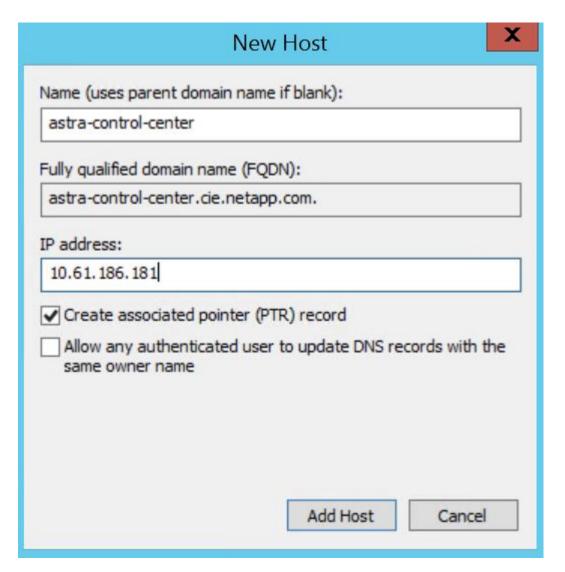
3. The username for logging into Astra Control Center is the email address of the administrator provided in the CRD file and the password is a string ACC- appended to the Astra Control Center UUID. Run the following command:



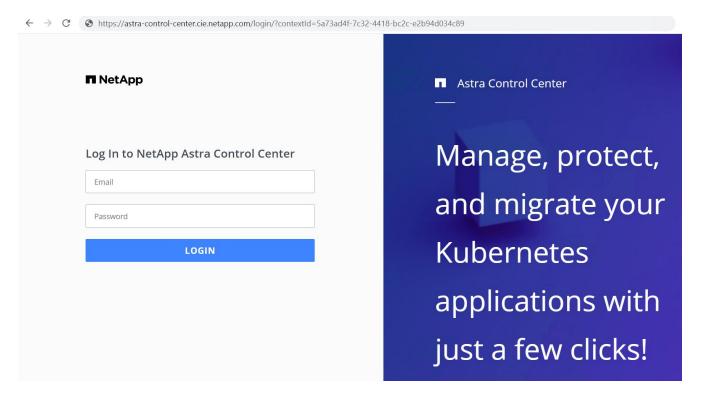
In this example, the password is ACC-345c55a5-bf2e-21f0-84b8-b6f2bce5e95f.

4. Get the traefik service load balancer IP if the ingressType is AccTraefik.

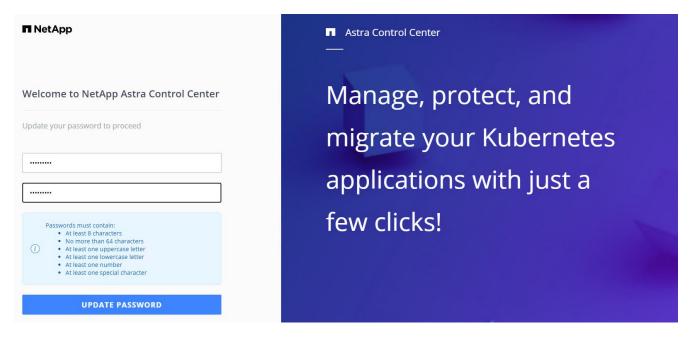
5. Add an entry in the DNS server pointing the FQDN provided in the Astra Control Center CRD file to the EXTERNAL-IP of the traefik service.



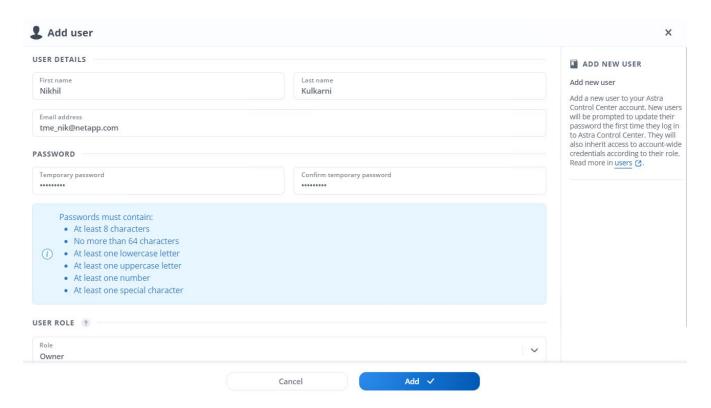
6. Log into the Astra Control Center GUI by browsing its FQDN.



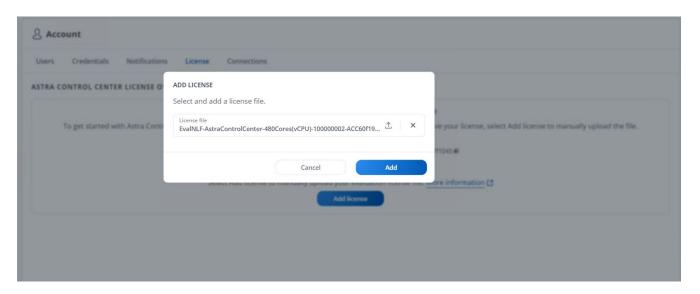
When you log into Astra Control Center GUI for the first time using the admin email address provided in CRD, you need to change the password.



8. If you wish to add a user to Astra Control Center, navigate to Account > Users, click Add, enter the details of the user, and click Add.



9. Astra Control Center requires a license for all of its functionalities to work. To add a license, navigate to Account > License, click Add License, and upload the license file.





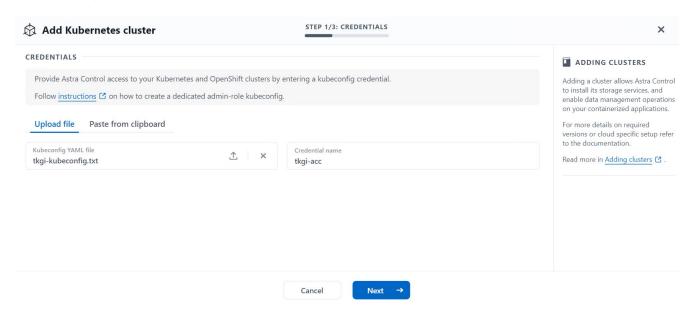
If you encounter issues with the install or configuration of NetApp Astra Control Center, the knowledge base of known issues is available here.

# Register your VMware Tanzu Kubernetes Clusters with the Astra Control Center

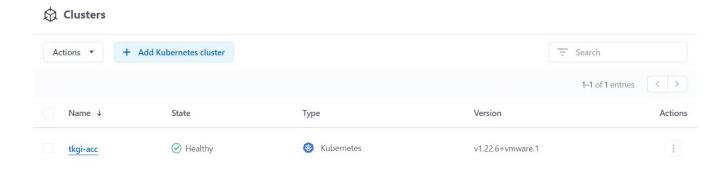
To enable the Astra Control Center to manage your workloads, you must first register your Tanzu Kubernetes clusters.

### Register VMware Tanzu Kubernetes clusters

 The first step is to add the Tanzu Kubernetes clusters to the Astra Control Center and manage them. Go to Clusters and click Add a Cluster, upload the kubeconfig file for the Tanzu Kubernetes cluster, and click Select Storage.



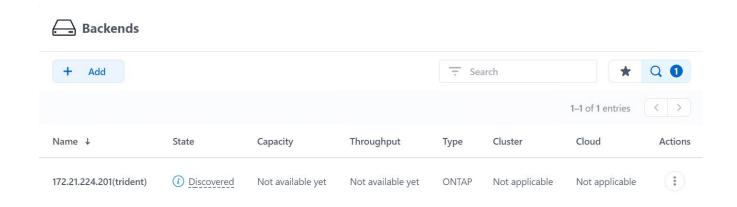
- Astra Control Center detects the eligible storage classes. Now select the way that storageclass provisions volumes using Trident backed by an SVM on NetApp ONTAP and click Review. In the next pane, verify the details and click Add Cluster.
- 3. When the cluster is added, it moves to the Discovering status while Astra Control Center inspects it and installs the necessary agents. The cluster status changes to Healthy after it is successfully registered.



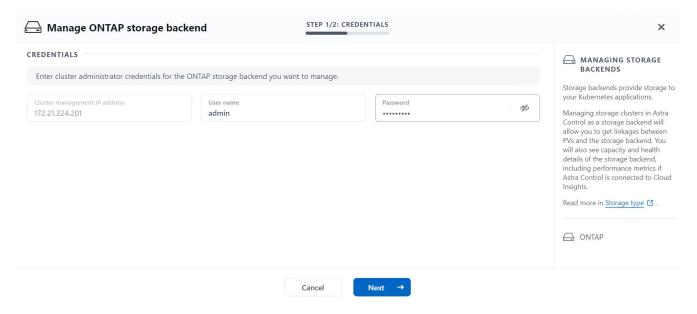


All Tanzu Kubernetes clusters to be managed by Astra Control Center should have access to the image registry that was used for its installation as the agents installed on the managed clusters pull the images from that registry.

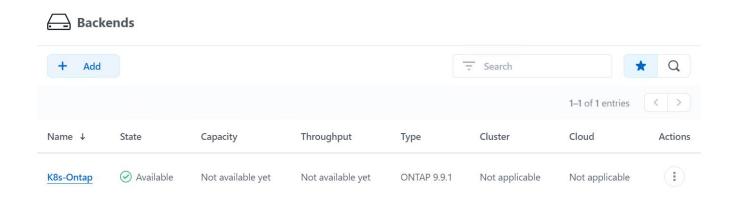
4. Import ONTAP clusters as storage resources to be managed as backends by Astra Control Center. When Tanzu Kubernetes clusters are added to Astra and a storageclass is configured, it automatically discovers and inspects the ONTAP cluster backing the storageclass but does not import it into the Astra Control Center to be managed.



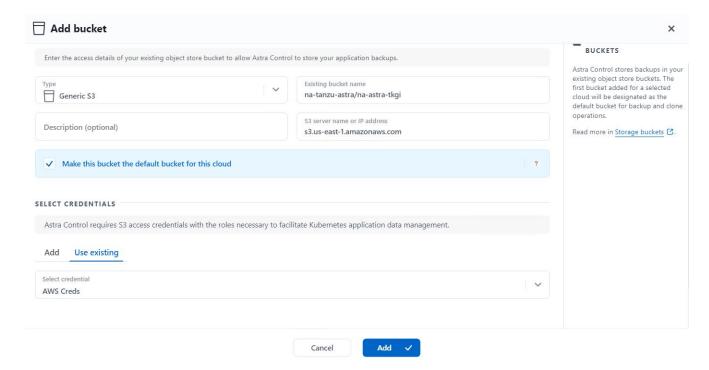
5. To import the ONTAP clusters, navigate to Backends, click the dropdown, and select Manage next to the ONTAP cluster to be managed. Enter the ONTAP cluster credentials, click Review Information, and then click Import Storage Backend.



6. After the backends are added, the status changes to Available. These backends now have the information about the persistent volumes in the Tanzu Kubernetes cluster and the corresponding volumes on the ONTAP system.



7. For backup and restore across Tanzu Kubernetes clusters using Astra Control Center, you must provision an object storage bucket that supports the S3 protocol. Currently supported options are ONTAP S3, StorageGRID, AWS S3, and Microsoft Azure Blob storage. For the purpose of this installation, we are going to configure an AWS S3 bucket. Go to Buckets, click Add bucket, and select Generic S3. Enter the details about the S3 bucket and credentials to access it, click the checkbox Make this Bucket the Default Bucket for the Cloud, and then click Add.

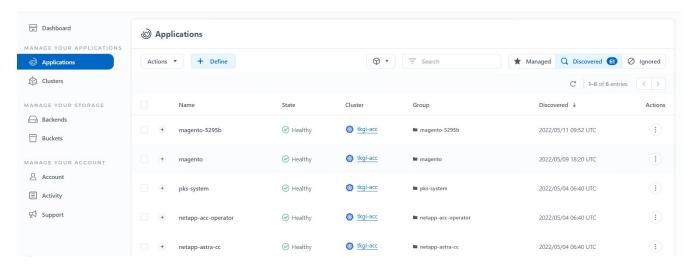


## Choose the applications to protect

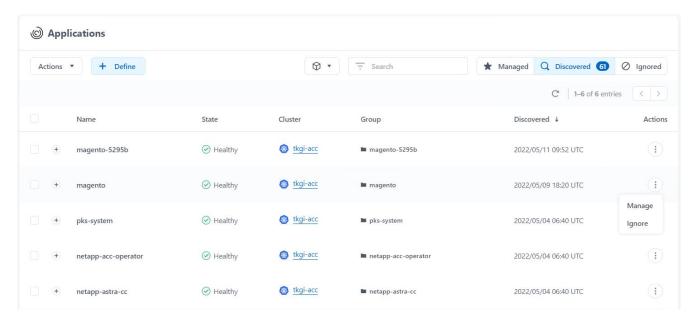
After you have registered your Tanzu Kubernetes clusters, you can discover the applications that are deployed and manage them via the Astra Control Center.

## **Manage applications**

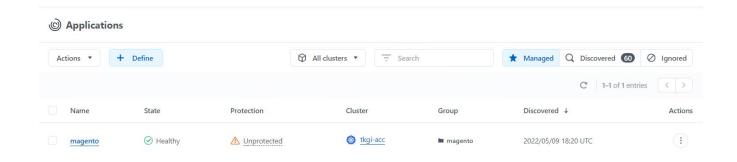
1. After the Tanzu Kubernetes clusters and ONTAP backends are registered with the Astra Control Center, the control center automatically starts discovering the applications in all the namespaces that are using the storageclass configured with the specified ONTAP backend.



2. Navigate to Apps > Discovered and click the dropdown menu next to the application you would like to manage using Astra. Then click Manage.



3. The application enters the Available state and can be viewed under the Managed tab in the Apps section.



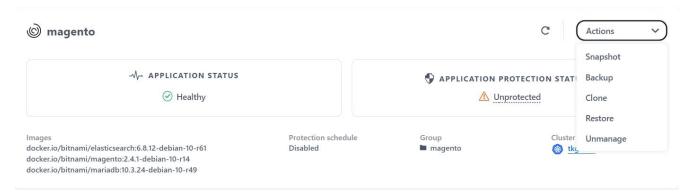
## **Protect your applications**

After application workloads are managed by Astra Control Center, you can configure the protection settings for those workloads.

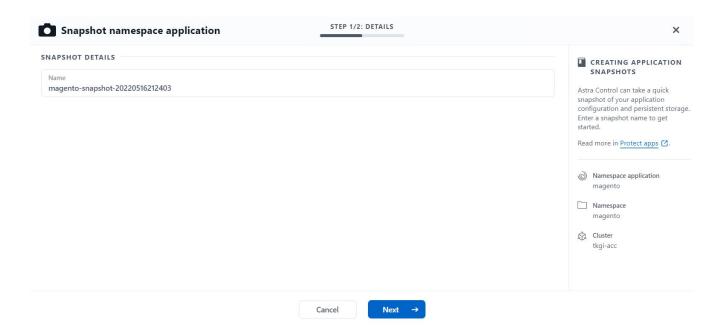
## Create an application snapshot

A snapshot of an application creates an ONTAP Snapshot copy and a copy of the application metadata that can be used to restore or clone the application to a specific point in time based on that Snapshot copy.

To take a snapshot of the application, navigate to the Apps > Managed tab and click the application you
would like to make a Snapshot copy of. Click the dropdown menu next to the application name and click
Snapshot.



2. Enter the snapshot details, click Next, and then click Snapshot. It takes about a minute to create the snapshot, and the status becomes Available after the snapshot is successfully created.



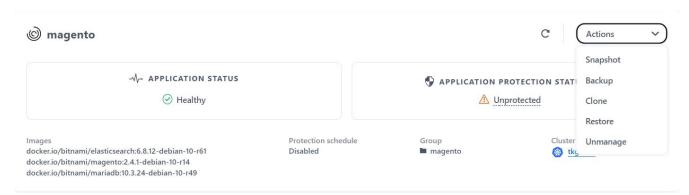
## Create an application backup

A backup of an application captures the active state of the application and the configuration of it's resources, coverts them into files, and stores them in a remote object storage bucket.

 For the backup and restore of managed applications in the Astra Control Center, you must configure superuser settings for the backing ONTAP systems as a prerequisite. To do so, enter the following commands.

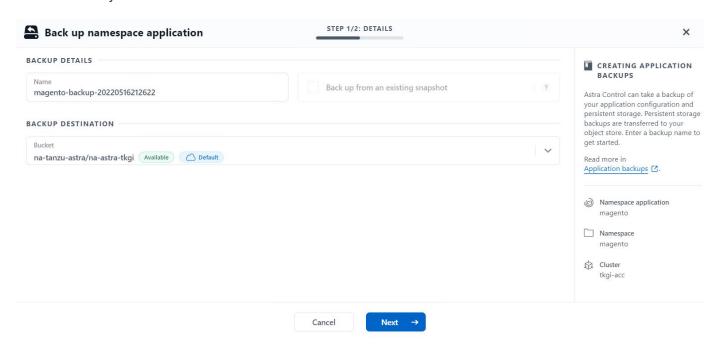
```
ONTAP::> export-policy rule modify -vserver ocp-trident -policyname default -ruleindex 1 -superuser sys
ONTAP::> export-policy rule modify -policyname default -ruleindex 1 -anon 65534 -vserver ocp-trident
```

To create a backup of the managed application in the Astra Control Center, navigate to the Apps >
 Managed tab and click the application that you want to take a backup of. Click the dropdown menu next to
 the application name and click Backup.



3. Enter the backup details, select the object storage bucket to hold the backup files, click Next, and, after reviewing the details, click Backup. Depending on the size of the application and data, the backup can take several minutes, and the status of the backup becomes Available after the backup is completed

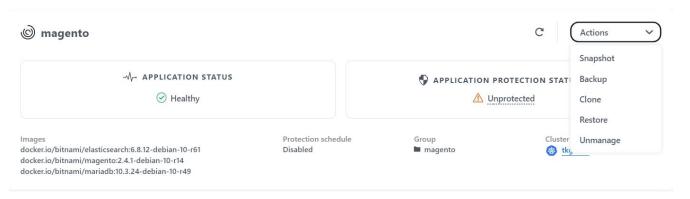
successfully.



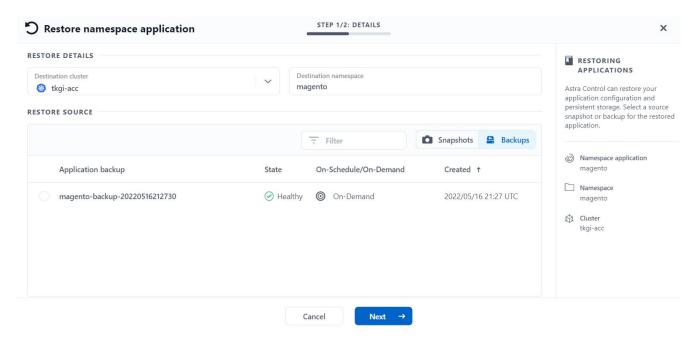
## Restoring an application

At the push of a button, you can restore an application to the originating namespace in the same cluster or to a remote cluster for application protection and disaster recovery purposes.

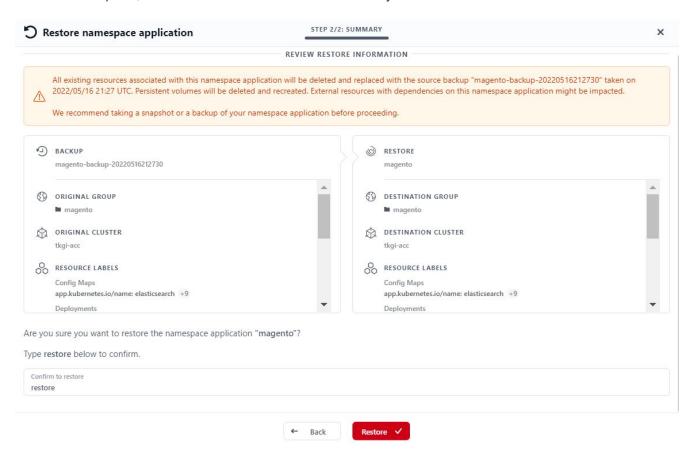
1. To restore an application, navigate to the Apps > Managed tab and click the app in question. Click the dropdown menu next to the application name and click Restore.



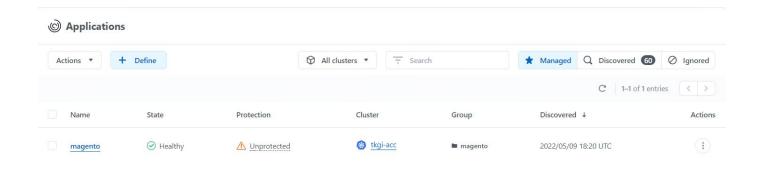
2. Enter the name of the restore namespace, select the cluster you want to restore it to, and choose if you want to restore it from an existing snapshot or from a backup of the application. Click Next.



3. On the review pane, enter restore and click Restore after you have reviewed the details.



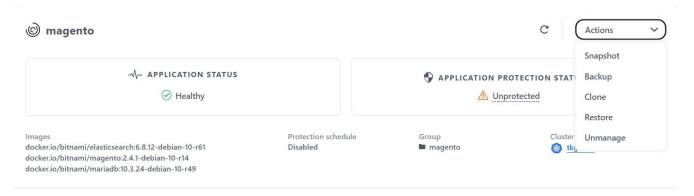
4. The new application goes to the Restoring state while Astra Control Center restores the application on the selected cluster. After all the resources of the application are installed and detected by Astra, the application goes to the Available state.



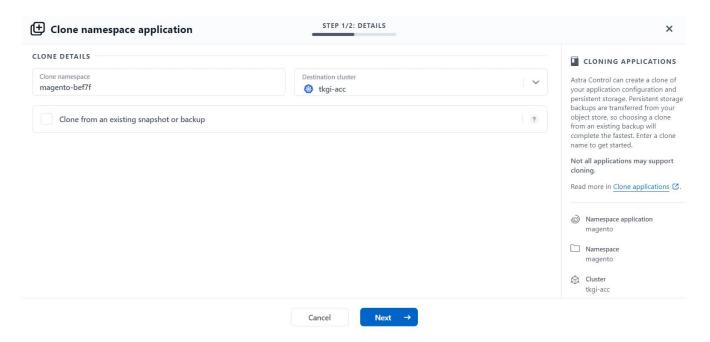
## Cloning an application

You can clone an application to the originating cluster or to a remote cluster for dev/test or application protection and disaster recovery purposes. Cloning an application within the same cluster on the same storage backend uses NetApp FlexClone technology, which clones the PVCs instantly and saves storage space.

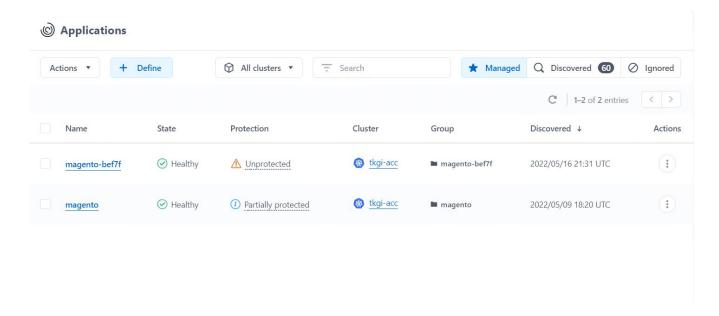
1. To clone an application, navigate to the Apps > Managed tab and click the app in question. Click the dropdown menu next to the application name and click Clone.



2. Enter the details of the new namespace, select the cluster you want to clone it to, and choose if you want to clone it from an existing snapshot, from a backup, or from the current state of the application. Click Next and then click Clone on the review pane after you have reviewed the details.



3. The new application goes to the Discovering state while Astra Control Center creates the application on the selected cluster. After all the resources of the application are installed and detected by Astra, the application goes to the Available state.



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