



## F5 Intelligent File Virtualization and NetApp Network-Attached Storage

In today's global economy, IT organizations have to support businesses that operate 24x365. This means ensuring that users and applications have access to critical business data from anywhere in the world, at any time of the day. The requirements on business uptime create significant challenges for organizations that are planning new storage deployments or refreshing existing installations.

F5® ARX® intelligent file virtualization helps IT organizations to quickly, easily, and seamlessly deploy new NetApp® Network-Attached Storage (NAS) devices. ARX solutions eliminate the disruption associated with, and automate the process of, moving file data. Whether transitioning from another vendor or refreshing an existing NetApp installation, ARX helps reduce the time and IT resources required to migrate or consolidate file storage infrastructure.

### Challenges

Companies deploying new file storage solutions are faced with the challenge of managing downtime and business disruption associated with data migration and consolidation projects. Migrating data is an inherently disruptive and cumbersome operation, as static file mappings are broken and mount points invalidated. To minimize the business impact, IT performs migrations within downtime windows negotiated with its business groups and users—often during nights and weekends. In addition, the migration process is manual, time-consuming, and error-prone. Affected client systems must be reconfigured to access data through new network shares and mount points, and IT often spends considerable time updating broken links and references in applications, documents, and user drive mappings. As a result, migration and consolidation projects in even small environments can take weeks or months to implement as IT manages the business disruption.

### Key benefits

- Reduce the time and operational costs required to perform data migrations, consolidations, expansions, or technology refreshes.
- Simplify deployment of NetApp file storage solutions into heterogeneous environments.
- Automate the migration of data from existing file storage environments to NetApp NAS.
- Upgrade or refresh existing NetApp environments without disrupting users and applications.



Advantage Alliance Partner

## Benefits and F5 Value

### Transparent data mobility with F5 ARX

F5 ARX is the industry's leading file virtualization and data management solution. ARX utilizes file virtualization technology to create a logical abstraction of the physical file storage environment. This virtualization layer enables simple, logical access to physical file systems and hides storage changes from clients. As a result, organizations can move their data at any time of the day, even during business hours, without disrupting users or applications and without requiring client or application reconfiguration. ARX combines file virtualization with powerful data migration policies to automate the migration process and preserve online user access to data, even while migration is taking place.

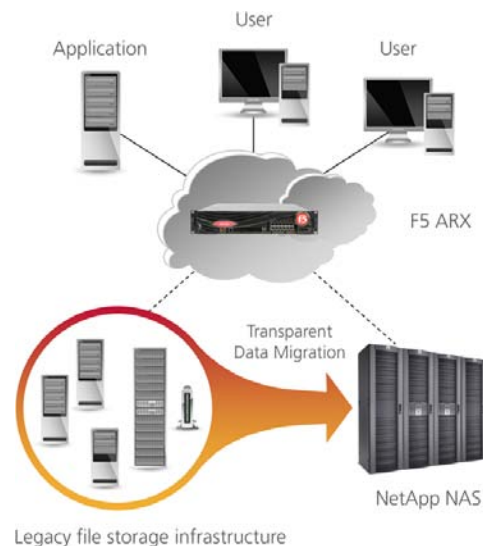
### Heterogeneous migration to NetApp NAS

ARX solutions dramatically simplify data migrations and consolidations in heterogeneous file storage environments. File virtualization reduces the amount of time required to migrate data, while embedded data management policies automate the migration process and reduce the need for manual intervention. In addition, ARX hides differences between different types of storage to enable transparent migration from other storage platforms to NetApp NAS. With ARX, organizations can migrate to NetApp file storage solutions in less time and with fewer IT resources, significantly reducing operational expenditures and business downtime.

### Expand or refresh existing NetApp environments

ARX provides a seamless migration path for existing NetApp customers to upgrade to the latest NetApp hardware platforms or Data ONTAP operating system releases. File-level policies support one-to-many and many-to-one migrations that provide the flexibility to restructure existing data layout to meet evolving business requirements or take advantage of new capabilities such as NetApp FlexVol. In addition, organizations can use ARX to seamlessly rebalance data across additional storage devices when expanding existing NetApp environments.

F5 ARX enables transparent data migration and consolidation with NetApp NAS



## About F5

F5 Networks offers solutions that enable organizations to scale, adapt, and align their IT infrastructure with changing business demands. Its award-winning ARX intelligent file virtualization solutions help organizations effectively manage storage growth by reducing the cost and complexity of data management. For more information, go to [www.f5.com](http://www.f5.com).

## About NetApp

NetApp creates innovative storage and data management solutions that accelerate business breakthroughs and deliver outstanding cost efficiency. Discover NetApp's passion for helping companies around the world go further, faster at [www.netapp.com](http://www.netapp.com).

## Learn more

For more information about the partnership between F5 and NetApp, visit <http://www.f5.com/netapp>.

### Deployment Guide

[Deploying the F5 ARX with NetApp Filers](#)

### Case Study

[Toshiba America Completes Large-scale NAS Upgrade with F5 ARX](#)

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