



Solution Brief

File Collaboration with NetApp and Peer Software in the Hybrid Cloud

Top features

Global Collaboration

PeerLink allows distributed teams to work together on the same project files. Distributed file locking ensures that users cannot interfere with each other's open files.

Increased User Productivity

Full read-write copies of project files are kept in sync in real-time at each site, providing users with immediate access – no more waiting for files to download from and upload to a central site.

WAN-optimized

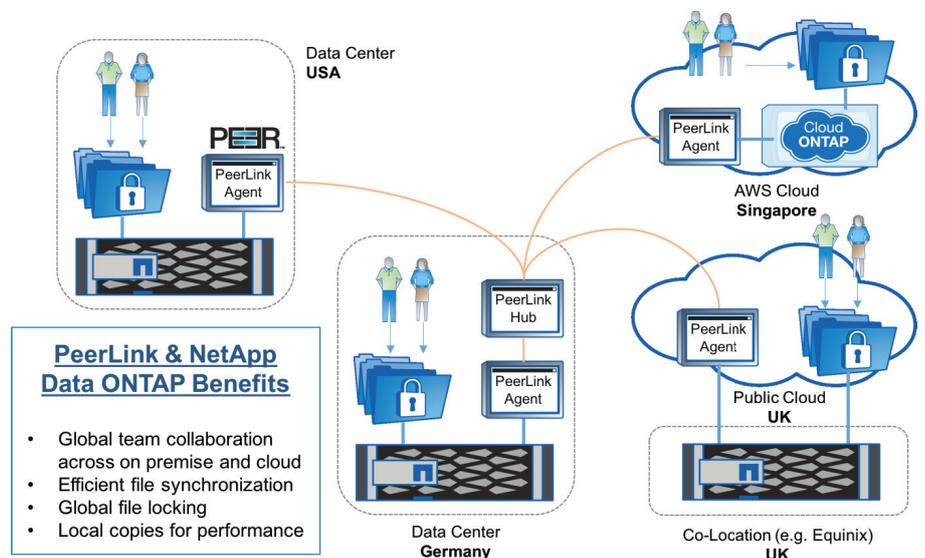
By using NetApp's and Peer Software's efficient technologies, only changed bytes need to be transferred to other sites when a file is updated.

Based on Peer Software's DFSR+® technology, PeerLink was created to provide distributed teams with a fast and efficient way to collaborate with shared files. PeerLink integrates an enterprise-class, real-time synchronization engine with distributed file locking. The real-time synchronization engine ensures that the same data exists on all participating servers, regardless of where changes may occur. The file locking component prevents users from accessing files that are currently being worked on by another user at any location.

The entire system works across both NetApp and Windows platforms and can span multiple private data centers, as well as public and private clouds with NetApp Cloud ONTAP and NetApp Private Storage. PeerLink and NetApp enable a true hybrid cloud collaboration platform.

PeerLink does not use any type of proprietary namespace or storage technology. Instead, this software-based solution adds distributed replication and locking support to existing file systems and DFS Namespaces. One or more file collaboration jobs can be created across the PeerLink environment to work with different groupings of projects, data, servers, and/or sites. Each job consists of two or more participating servers and a folder structure on each participating server. This folder structure is called the "Watch Set" and is kept synchronized across all participating servers in real-time. In addition, locks are propagated across all participating servers as users open and begin modifying files at any one location.

The main pieces of the architecture are the PeerLink Hub/Broker and the PeerLink Agent. The former handles communication, monitoring, and management. The latter is installed on all file servers that are to participate in collaboration. In the case of NetApp environments, the PeerLink Agent is installed on a Windows machine in front of the NetApp device, allowing PeerLink to interact with NetApp.



Cross-platform for NetApp and Windows

PeerLink works across mixed environments of NetApp 7-Mode, Clustered Data ONTAP, and Cloud ONTAP, as well as Windows File Servers. If Data ONTAP is in the mix, the PeerLink Agent will be installed on a Windows server (physical or virtual) in front of the NetApp device, communicating with it via CIFS/SMB and FPolicy. This architecture is the same for both on premise and Cloud ONTAP installations.

Cross domain / cross AD support

Distributed synchronization and locking is supported across different Domains and even AD Forests, allowing organizations to securely collaborate on project files with both internal teams and external partners.

Centralized management and monitoring

PeerLink's central management console allows IT administrators to easily configure and monitor all file collaboration jobs, each with different groupings of projects, data, servers, and/or sites. This ensures that all Service Level Agreements are met.

Easy setup & unobtrusive operation

PeerLink is a software-based solution that integrates into existing infrastructure without altering how users access files and folders. User access is never routed through the PeerLink Agent. In addition, PeerLink works with existing DFS Namespaces.

Intelligent connection check

PeerLink is tuned to gracefully handle momentary WAN connection breaks between any two parts of the PeerLink environment. When connectivity is restored, any events (such as file opens or file modifications) that have been missed by any participating file servers will be processed immediately.

Supported file types

PeerLink can lock file types from applications that hold handles on files. These handles prevent multiple users from modifying the same file at the same location at the same time. If this functionality is available on a single file server, it will work with PeerLink in a distributed environment.

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