



TECHNOLOGIES INC

Nimble Storage vs NetApp: A Comparison Snapshot

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INTRODUCTION:

Founders incorporated Nimble Storage in 2008 with a mission to provide customers with exceptional enterprise application performance that would meet their increasing storage demands.

They believed flash, cloud and big data analytics were going to disrupt the storage market so they introduced several solutions over the years, including their integrated infrastructure solution, SmartStack, created with partner Cisco.

This versatile and predictive platform allows IT teams to free up important time and drive down OPEX without sacrificing performance.



You Will Discover a Side-by-side Comparison in the Following Areas:

- Performance & Capacity Efficiency
- Scalability & Integration
- Data Protection
- Solution Support & Simplicity
- Pricing
- Type of Business Solution is Best-Suited For



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INTRODUCTION CONT.:

Over a decade before Nimble was founded, NetApp was planting its roots in 1993. In the decades since, it has focused on being a model company by building loyal relationships with its customers and employees.

Because of this dedication to detail, NetApp lands itself on numerous lists as one of the best companies to work for, which is good because a happy workforce makes for happy customer relations.

Acquiring Boulder-based flash storage company, SolidFire, in 2015, NetApp introduced its “next-generation data center” and continued the transition to a multi-platform company, offering FAS, E-Series, Flash array and StorageGRID solutions.



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Performance & Capacity Efficiency

Nimble:

- Data reduction features
- Performance is only limited by CPU and doesn't depend on disk, which leads to greater performance in a denser form factor.
 - Nimble can lower data center footprint by 6x.
- Snapshots are more efficient (compressed 4K) and offer a deeper retention period (i.e. 90+ days) than NetApp's.
- Active/standby architecture guarantees consistent performance through failover.

NetApp:

- FAS: data reduction - block-level de-dupe, compression and thin provisioning
- NetApp's spindle-bound architectures (FAS/E-Series) still rely on utilizing disk drives for performance.
 - This legacy architecture especially applies to write intensive applications, resulting in a much larger footprint.
- Hybrid solutions use flash as read cache or read/write cache, which means no storage tiering.



Scalability & Integration

Nimble:

- No forklift upgrade or PS engagement for scale-out capability.
- Automated load-balancing eliminates capacity silos and performance hotspots.
- Simple and non-disruptive approach to system's life-cycle management of arrays.
- Non-disruptive HW and SW upgrades.

NetApp:

- FAS: Scalable platform starting at <\$10K entry point up to higher performance.
- Non-disruptive HW and SW upgrades.
- Lengthy ONTAP 7-mode to Clustered ONTAP migration.

Data Protection

Nimble:

- Built-in snapshots/replication – no extra licensing needed.
 - Replication leverages thin, space-efficient snapshots and offers different retention schedules on each side of a replication pair.
- Advanced data protection with high performance & efficient triple parity RAID.
- Store 90+ days of storage snapshots.
 - Nearly a third of Nimble customers store 90 or more days of snaps on primary storage.
- WAN-efficient Replication
 - No re-hydration of replicated data.
 - Only compressed, changed blocks sent over the wire.

NetApp:

- WAN-efficient replication
- E-Series: Mature block storage platform and large installed base.
- No integrated solution data protection.
- Less ability to store snapshots on primary storage.



Solution Support & Simplicity

Both Nimble and NetApp have proven 5X9s availability across entire installed base, but Nimble's storage solutions are much simpler and easier to manage overall. However, a NetApp top feature is its FAS integration with key business applications: VMware, MSFT, Oracle, etc.

Nimble:

- Offers include deep-data performance analytics with InfoSight.
- Single platform to manage: The CS-Series.
- Offers simple provisioning with global space allocation
- No aggregates, LUNs, qtrees, reserves, etc.
- All software is included.

NetApp:

- NetApp has multiple platforms to manage: 7-mode, C-mode, E-Series, StorageGRID, FlashRay.
- NetApp is complex to manage: disks, raid, aggregates, flexvols, qtrees, luns, vservers.
 - NetApp has little integration between their multiple product sets.
- SW upgrades can mean more money out of pocket.



Pricing

Nimble:

- Everything's included in the upfront solution price package.
- There are no expensive or complicated software licenses to buy.

NetApp:

- Charges for individual software features and has made the move to capacity-based ONTAP pricing.
 - Capacity-based pricing has traditionally been very unpopular with customers.
- NetApp is known to charge high prices for support after a few years, which can lead to forced upgrades.



BEST-SUITED FOR

Take company specifics into consideration.

Both Nimble Storage and NetApp offer solutions with pros and cons that may benefit different companies in different ways. Because your business' storage needs and future goals are unique, one solution will seem like a better choice than the other.

We believe NetApp is best-suited for:

- Companies that prioritize a flexible, unlimited All-Flash storage solution.

We believe Nimble Storage is best-suited for:

- Companies interested in a dynamic hybrid flash solution that offers out-of-house management in the form of predictive analytics, easing workload while keeping system robust and running 24/7.

If you need help narrowing down your options, call and speak to one of our sales associates today.



WE CAN HELP

CTC Technologies, Inc. Can Help With Your Next Steps To Enterprise SAN Storage.

Our team at CTC Technologies has implemented several SAN storage solutions for companies of all sizes in light of their growing storage demands and the increasing flash availability in today's market.

Whether you're looking for hybrid or all-flash storage, our sales team has the experience and the know-how to help you choose the right vendor, and our highly-skilled engineers can help implement whichever solution you choose.

We can help you find the perfect solution with respect to your budget, expected growth, physical data center space, storage demand and more.

Tell us a little more about your storage needs by [filling out our form](#) or giving us a call at 734.408.1993.

