

StarWind Virtual SAN: Configuration Guide for VMware vSphere [ESXi], VSAN NVMe-oF/TCP Deployed as a Controller VM

2026

TECHNICAL PAPERS



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StarWind is a pioneer in virtualization and a company that participated in the development of this technology from its earliest days. Now the company is among the leading vendors of software and hardware hyper-converged solutions. The company's core product is the years-proven StarWind Virtual SAN, which allows SMB and ROBO to benefit from cost-efficient hyperconverged IT infrastructure. Having earned a reputation of reliability, StarWind created a hardware product line and is actively tapping into hyperconverged and storage appliances market. In 2016, Gartner named StarWind “Cool Vendor for Compute Platforms” following the success and popularity of StarWind HyperConverged Appliance. StarWind partners with world-known companies: Microsoft, VMware, Veeam, Intel, Dell, Mellanox, Citrix, Western Digital, etc.

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Annotation

Relevant Products

This guide is applicable to StarWind Virtual SAN NVMe-oF/TCP HA starting from V8 build 20089

Purpose

This guide provides a comprehensive outline on how to deploy and configure StarWind Virtual SAN within the VMware vSphere environment and create StarWind NVMe-oF TCP devices using the Web UI. It includes links to the system requirements, RAID settings, best practices, and steps to ensure a seamless setup and integration.

Audience

The guide is created for IT specialists, system administrators, and VMware professionals who are keen on deploying and configuring StarWind Virtual SAN on VMware vSphere.

Expected Result

Users will possess a robust understanding of the steps and best practices for deploying and configuring StarWind Virtual SAN in a VMware vSphere environment.

Starwind Virtual San For Vsphere Vm Requirements

Prior to installing StarWind Virtual SAN Virtual Machines, please make sure that the system meets the requirements, which are available via the following link:

<https://www.starwindsoftware.com/system-requirements>

Storage provisioning

guidelines: <https://knowledgebase.starwindsoftware.com/guidance/how-to-provision-physical-storage-to-starwind-virtual-san-controller-virtual-machine/>

Recommended RAID settings for HDD and SSD disks:

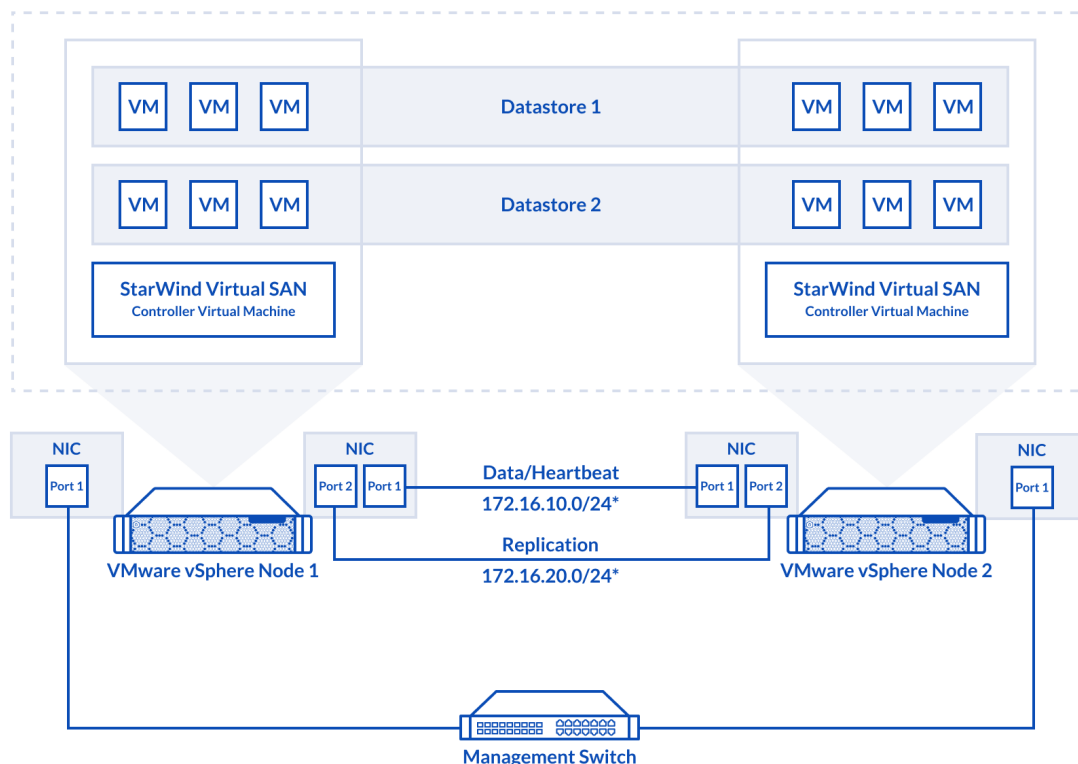
<https://knowledgebase.starwindsoftware.com/guidance/recommended-raid-settings-for-hdd-and-ssd-disks/>

Please read StarWind Virtual SAN Best Practices document for additional information:

<https://www.starwindsoftware.com/resource-library/starwind-virtual-san-best-practices>

Pre-Configuring The Servers

The diagram below illustrates the network and storage configuration of the solution:



1. ESXi hypervisor should be installed on each host.
 2. StarWind Virtual SAN for vSphere VM should be deployed on each ESXi host from an OVF template, downloaded on this page:
<https://www.starwindsoftware.com/vsan#download>
 3. The network interfaces on each node for Synchronization and NVMe-oF/StarWind heartbeat interfaces should be in different subnets and connected directly according to the network diagram above. Here, the 172.16.10.x subnet is used for the NVMe-oF/StarWind heartbeat traffic, while the 172.16.20.x subnet is used for the Synchronization traffic.
- NOTE: Do not use NVMe-oF/Heartbeat and Synchronization channels over the same physical link. Synchronization and iSCSI/Heartbeat links can be connected either via redundant switches or directly between the nodes.

vCenter Server should be deployed separately on another host or as VCSA on cluster nodes and moved to StarWind shared storage, created in this guide.

Preparing Environment For Starwind Vsan Deployment

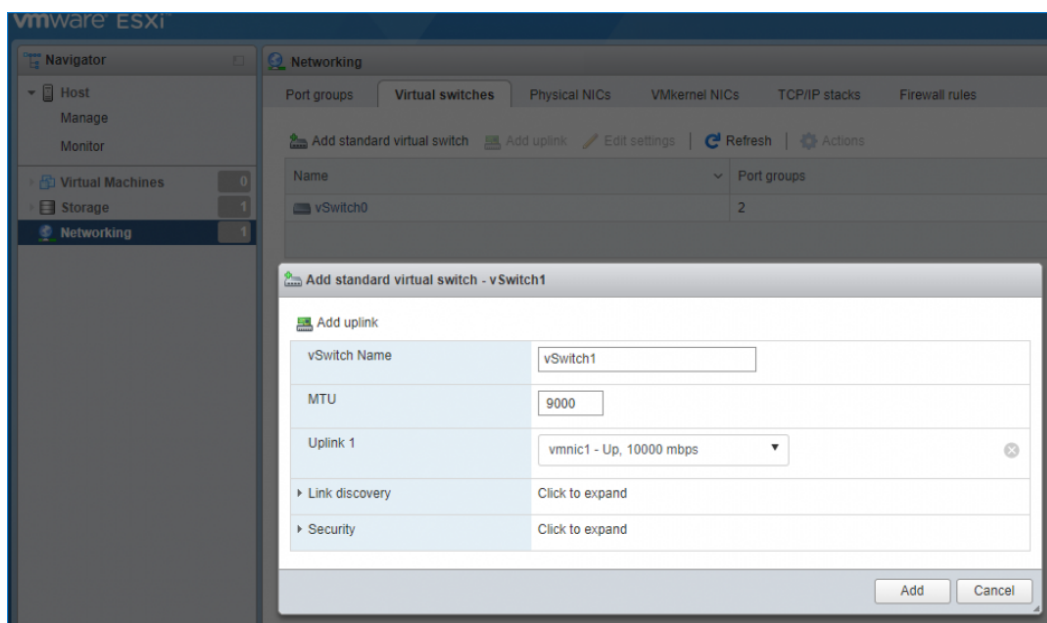
Configuring Networks

Configure network interfaces on each node to make sure that Synchronization and NVMe-oF/StarWind heartbeat interfaces are in different subnets and connected physically according to the network diagram above. All actions below should be applied to each ESXi server.

NOTE: Virtual Machine Port Group should be created for both NVMe-oF/StarWind Heartbeat and the Synchronization vSwitches. VMKernel port should be created only for NVMe-oF traffic. Static IP addresses should be assigned to VMKernel ports.

NOTE: It is recommended to set MTU to 9000 on vSwitches and VMKernel ports for NVMe-oF and Synchronization traffic. Additionally, vMotion can be enabled on VMKernel ports.

1. Using the VMware ESXi web console, create two standard vSwitches: one for the NVMe-oF/StarWind Heartbeat channel (vSwitch1) and the other one for the Synchronization channel (vSwitch2).



2. Using the VMware vSphere web console, create a VMKernel port for the NVMe-

oF/StarWind Heartbeat channel.

Add Networking

- Select connection type
- Select target device
- Port properties
- IPv4 settings
- Ready to complete

Ready to complete

Review your selections before finishing the wizard

✓ Select target device

Standard switch	vSwitch1
-----------------	----------

✓ Port properties

New port group	NVMe-oF VMK
MTU	9000
vMotion	Enabled
Provisioning	Disabled
Fault Tolerance logging	Disabled
Management	Disabled
vSphere Replication	Disabled
vSphere Replication NFC	Disabled
vSAN	Disabled
vSphere Backup NFC	Disabled
NVMe over TCP	Enabled
NVMe over RDMA	Disabled

✓ IPv4 settings

CANCEL
BACK
FINISH

3. Add a Virtual Machine Port Groups on the vSwitch for iSCSI traffic (vSwitch1) and on the vSwitch for Synchronization traffic (vSwitch2).

Add Networking

- Select connection type
- Select target device
- Connection settings
- Ready to complete

Ready to complete

Review your selections before finishing the wizard

- ✓ Select target device

Standard switch	vSwitch2
-----------------	----------
- ✓ Connection settings

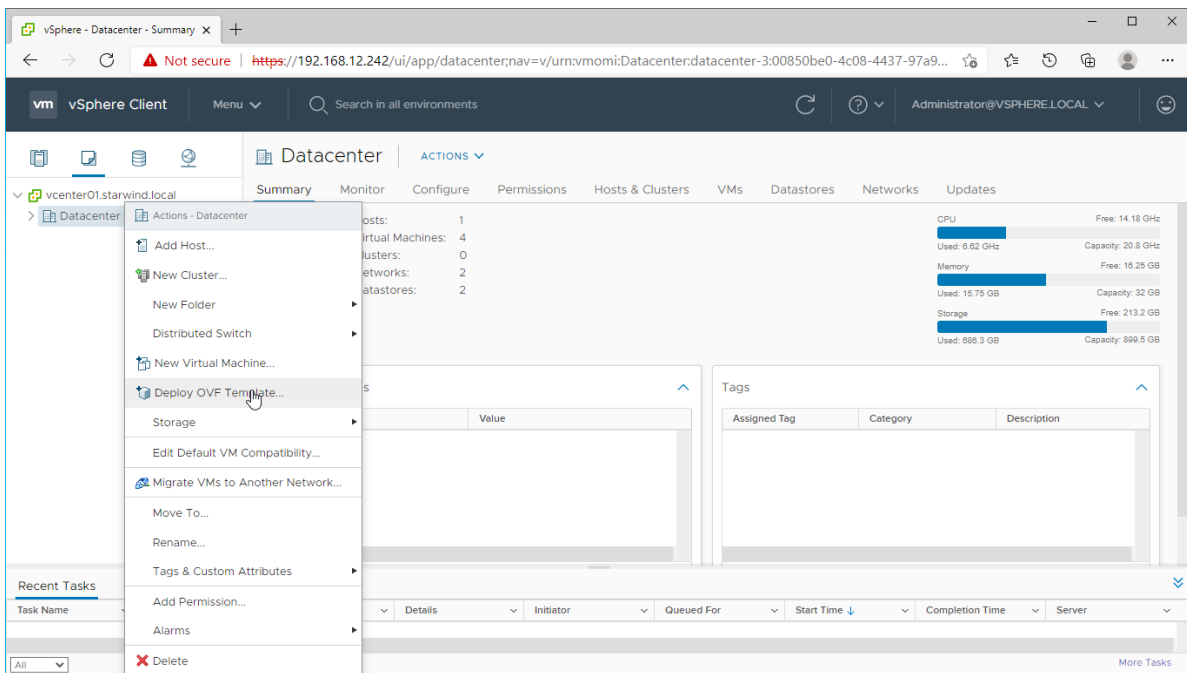
New port group	NVMe-oF
VLAN ID	None (0)

CANCEL
BACK
FINISH

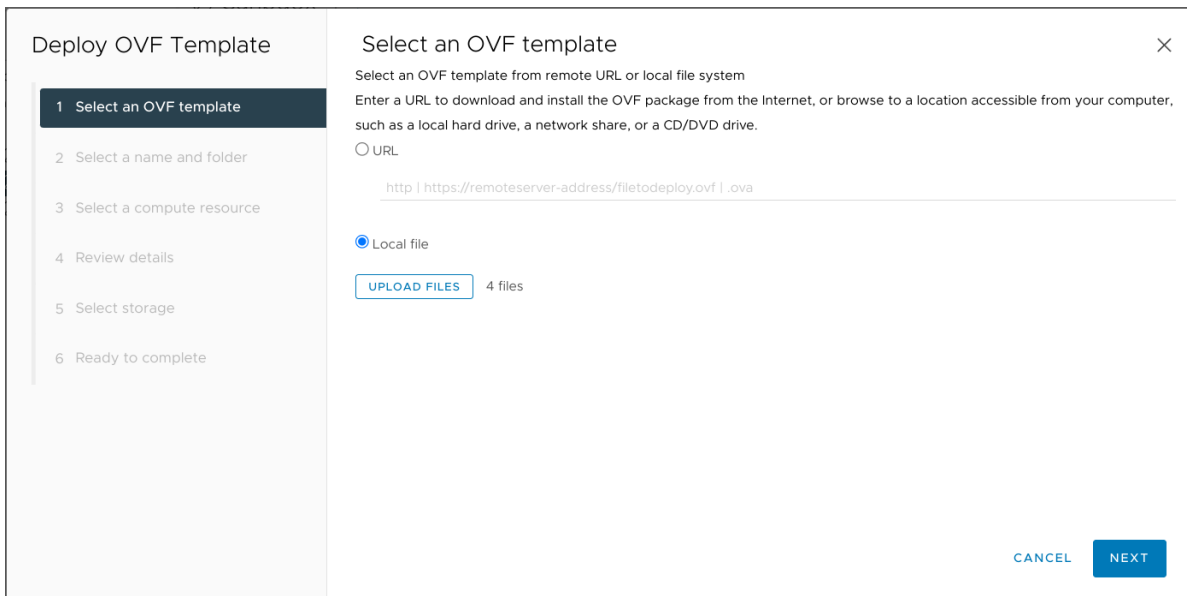
4. Repeat steps 1-3 for any other links intended for Synchronization and NVMe-oF/Heartbeat traffic on ESXi hosts.

Deploying Starwind Virtual San For Vsphere

1. Download zip archive that contains StarWind Virtual SAN: <https://www.starwindsoftware.com/vsan#download>
2. Extract the virtual machine files.
3. Deploy the control virtual machine to the VMware vSphere. Right-click on the Datacenter, cluster, or node menu and select the "Deploy OVF Template..." option from a drop-down menu.



4. In the first step of the wizard, point to the location of the OVF template. Select the VM files and click Next.



5. Specify the VM name and target location.

Deploy OVF Template

- Select an OVF template
- Select a name and folder**
- Select a compute resource
- Review details
- Select storage
- Ready to complete

Select a name and folder

Specify a unique name and target location

Virtual machine name:

Select a location for the virtual machine.

cluster01.prod.local

HQ DC

CANCEL
BACK
NEXT

6. Select a compute resource intended to run the StarWind vSAN CVM

Deploy OVF Template

- Select an OVF template
- Select a name and folder
- Select a compute resource**
- Review details
- Select storage
- Ready to complete

Select a compute resource

Select the destination compute resource for this operation

HQ DC

Production Cluster

Compatibility

✓ Compatibility checks succeeded.

CANCEL
BACK
NEXT

7. Review the template details. Click Next.

Deploy OVF Template

- Select an OVF template
- Select a name and folder
- Select a compute resource
- Review details**
- Select storage
- Select networks
- Customize template
- Ready to complete

Review details

Verify the template details.

⚠ The OVF package contains advanced configuration options, which might pose a security risk. Review the advanced configuration options below. Click next to accept the advanced configuration options.

Publisher	No certificate present
Product	StarWind Appliance
Vendor	StarWind Software Inc.
Download size	Unknown
Size on disk	Unknown (thin provisioned) 30.0 GB (thick provisioned)
Extra configuration	disk.EnableUUID = true nvram = ovf:/file/file2

CANCEL
BACK
NEXT

8. In the second step of the wizard, specify the virtual machine provisioning type, VM Storage Policy, and select the direct-attached storage for the appliance system drive. Click Next.

Deploy OVF Template

- Select an OVF template
- Select a name and folder
- Select a compute resource
- Review details
- Select storage**
- Select networks
- Customize template
- Ready to complete

Select storage

Select the storage for the configuration and disk files

Select virtual disk format: Thick Provision Lazy Zeroed

VM Storage Policy:

☐ Disable Storage DRS for this virtual machine

Name	Storage Compatibility	Capacity	Provisioned	Free	Type	Cluster
Datastore	--	10 TB	3.38 TB	6.61 TB		

4 items

Compatibility

✓ Compatibility checks succeeded.

CANCEL
BACK
NEXT

9. Select the destination network for each network adapter assigned to the VM.

The default naming for virtual switches:

- the Management virtual switch is "Management vSwitch",
- the NVMe-oF virtual switch is "Data/NVMe-oF vSwitch",
- the Synchronization virtual switch is "Replication/Sync vSwitch".

Specify corresponding network connections according to your virtual network naming.
Click Next.

Deploy OVF Template

- Select an OVF template
- Select a name and folder
- Select a compute resource
- Review details
- Select storage
- Select networks**
- Customize template
- Ready to complete

Select networks

Select a destination network for each source network.

Source Network	Destination Network
Management Network	Management
Data Network	Data network
Replication Network	Replica network

3 items

IP Allocation Settings

IP allocation: Static - Manual

IP protocol: IPv4

CANCEL BACK NEXT

10. Specify the hostname, static IPv4 address, gateway, DNS, and additional network settings for Management and NVMe-oF/Data network interfaces:

Deploy OVF Template

- Select an OVF template
- Select a name and folder
- Select a compute resource
- Review details
- Select storage
- Select networks
- Customize template**
- Ready to complete

Customize template

Customize the deployment properties of this software solution.

All properties have valid values

Management interface network settings

5 settings

Hostname	Hostname of StarWind Appliance SW1
IPv4 address for Management interface	IPv4 address for Management interface (example 192.168.1.100) 192.168.12.206
IPv4 netmask for Management interface	IPv4 netmask for Management interface (example 24) 23
IPv4 gateway for Management interface	IPv4 gateway for Management interface (example 192.168.1.1) 192.168.12.1
DNS Server for Management interface	DNS Server for Data interface (example 8.8.8.8) 192.168.12.17

CANCEL BACK NEXT

NOTE: To manage the StarWind appliances via the StarWind vCenter plugin, the static IPv4 address must be assigned.

Deploy OVF Template

- Select an OVF template
- Select a name and folder
- Select a compute resource
- Review details
- Select storage
- Select networks
- Customize template**
- Ready to complete

Customize template

192.168.12.1

DNS Server for Management interface
DNS Server for Data interface (example 8.8.8.8)

192.168.12.17

▼ Data Interface network settings
3 settings

IPv4 address for Data interface
IPv4 address for Data interface (example 172.16.10.10)

172.16.10.100

IPv4 netmask for Data interface
IPv4 netmask for Data interface (example 24)

24

MTU for Data interface
MTU for Data interface (example 9000)

9000

▼ Enable additional services
1 settings

Enable SSH
SSH is disabled by default. Select the checkbox to enable it

☒

CANCEL

BACK

NEXT

NOTE: if a DHCP server is available on the given network, you can skip setting the additional parameters for that interface.

11. Review the deployment summary information and click to start the VM creation.

Deploy OVF Template

- Select an OVF template
- Select a name and folder
- Select a compute resource
- Review details
- Select storage
- Select networks
- Customize template
- Ready to complete**

Ready to complete

▼ Select networks

Network mapping
3

Management Network
Management

Data Network
Data network

Replication Network
Replica network

IP allocation settings

IP protocol
IPv4

IP allocation
Static - Manual

▼ Customize template

Properties

Hostname = SW1
IPv4 address for Management interface = 192.168.12.206
IPv4 netmask for Management interface = 23
IPv4 gateway for Management interface = 192.168.12.1
DNS Server for Management interface = 192.168.12.17
IPv4 address for Data interface = 172.16.10.100
IPv4 netmask for Data interface = 24
MTU for Data interface = 9000
Enable SSH = True

CANCEL

BACK

FINISH

12. Repeat the VM deployment on each other ESXi hosts.

NOTE: In some cases, it's recommended to reserve memory for StarWind VSAN VM.

NOTE: When using StarWind with the synchronous replication feature inside of a Virtual Machine, it is recommended not to make backups and/or snapshots of the Virtual Machine with the StarWind VSAN service installed, as this could pause the StarWind

Virtual Machine. Pausing the Virtual Machines while the StarWind VSAN service is under load may lead to split-brain issues in synchronous replication devices, thus to data corruption.

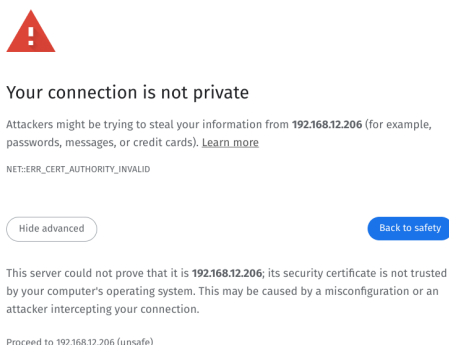
Initial Configuration Wizard

1. Start the StarWind Virtual SAN Controller Virtual Machine.
2. Launch the VM console to view the VM boot process and obtain the IPv4 address of the Management network interface.

NOTE: If the VM does not acquire an IPv4 address from a DHCP server, use the Text-based User Interface (TUI) to set up the Management network manually.

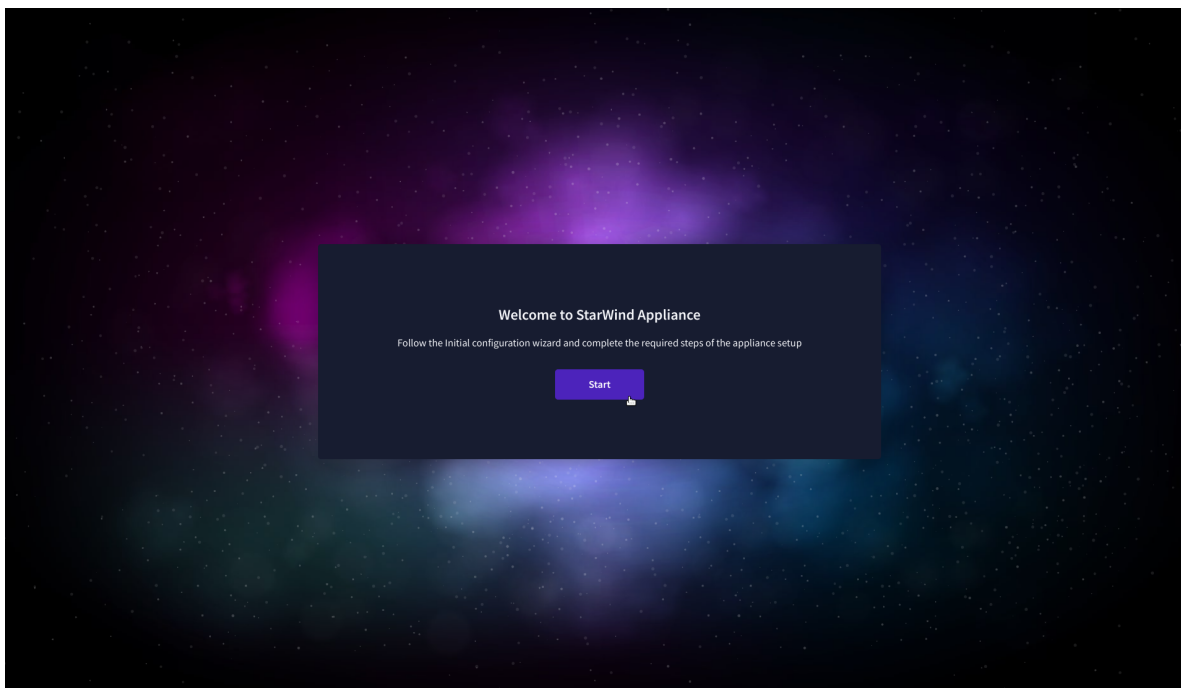
Default credentials for TUI: user/rds123RDS

3. Using a web browser, open a new tab and enter the VM's IPv4 address to access the StarWind VSAN Web Interface. On the Your connection is not private screen, click Advanced and then select Continue to...

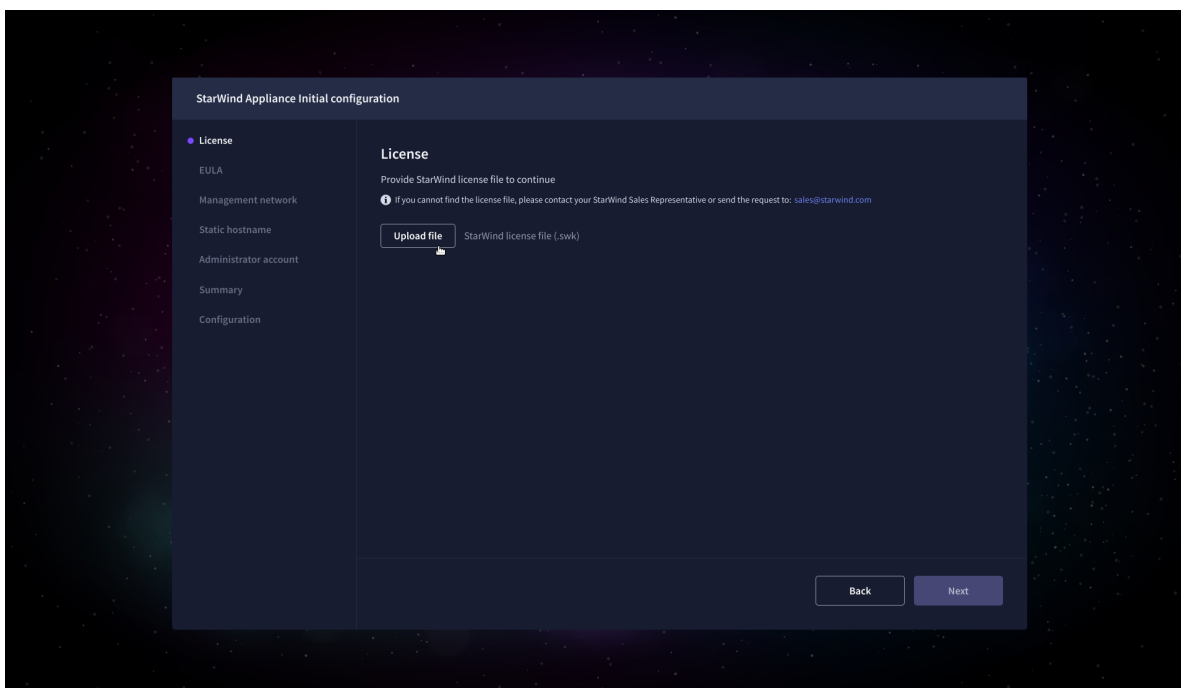


4. On the Welcome to StarWind Appliance screen, click Start to launch the Initial

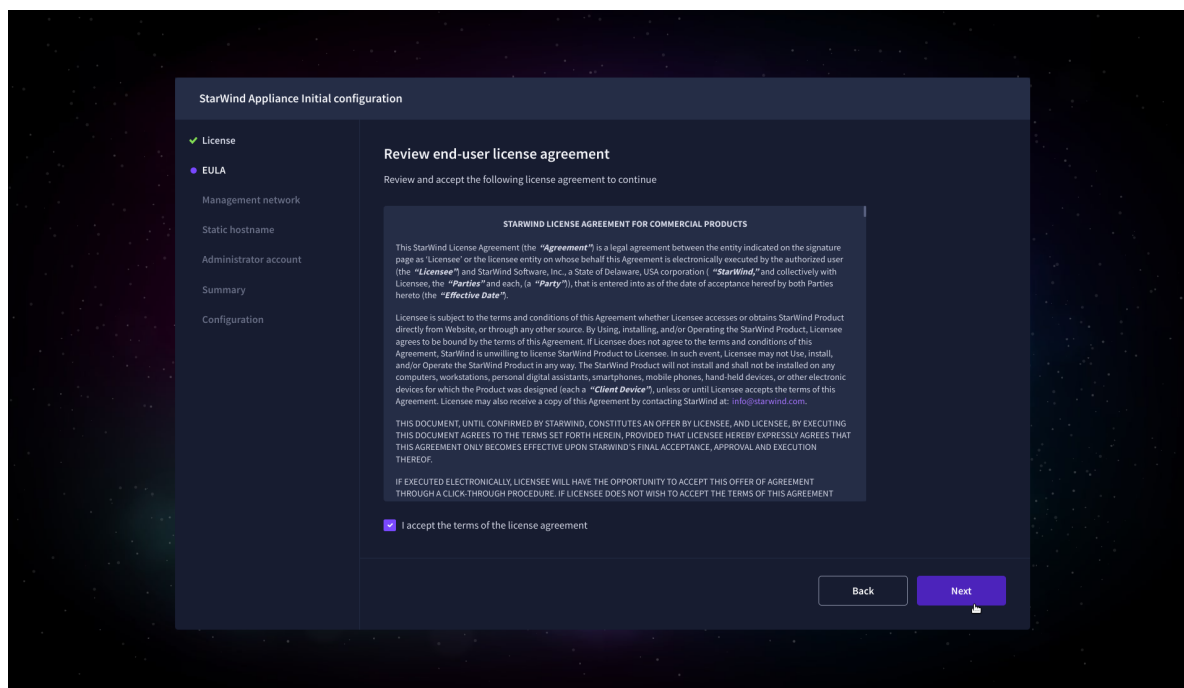
Configuration Wizard.



5. On the License step, upload the StarWind Virtual SAN license file.

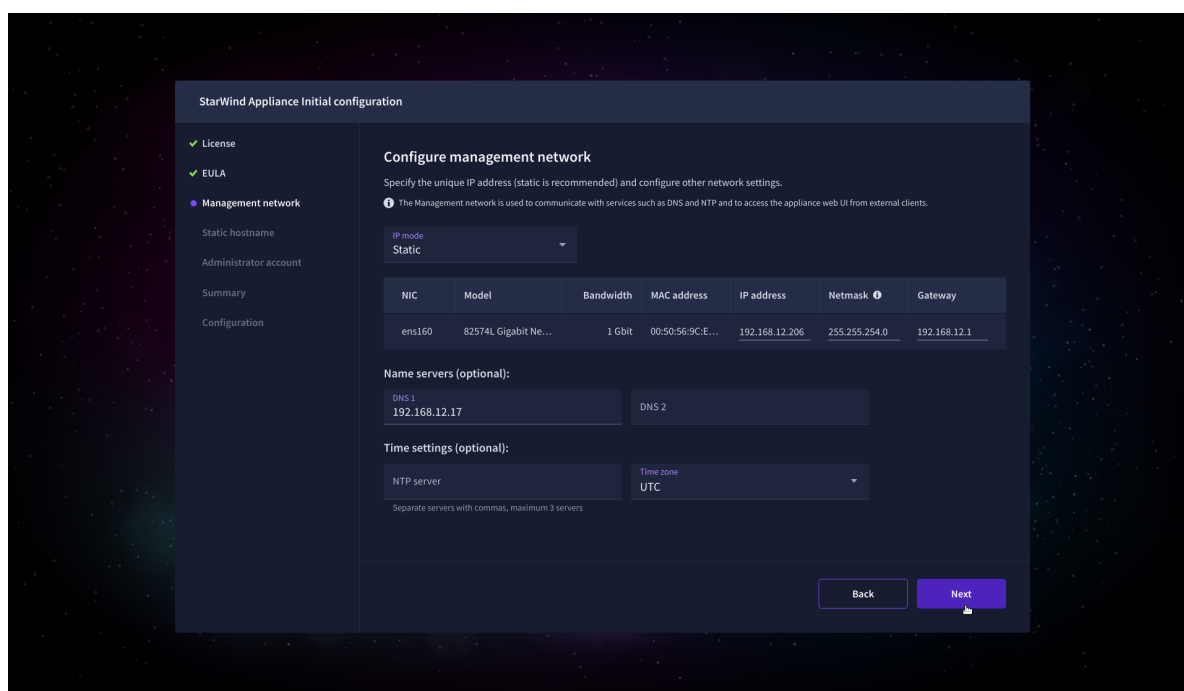


6. On the EULA step, read and accept the End User License Agreement to continue.

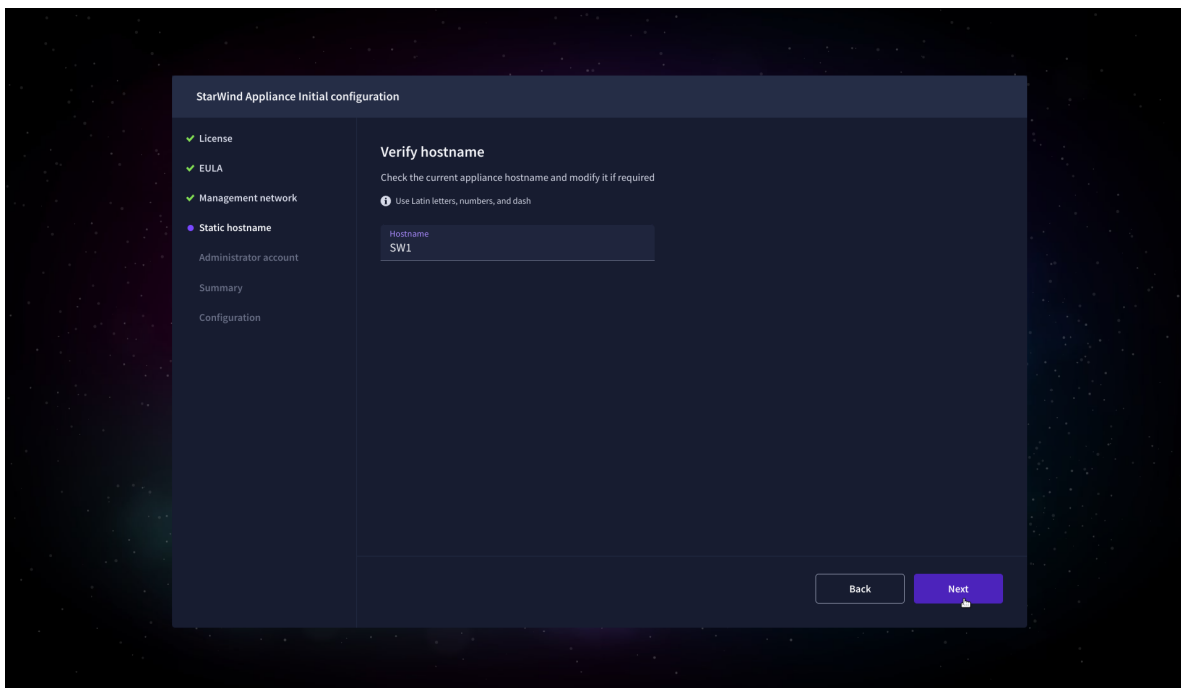


7. On the Management network step, review or edit the network settings and click Next.

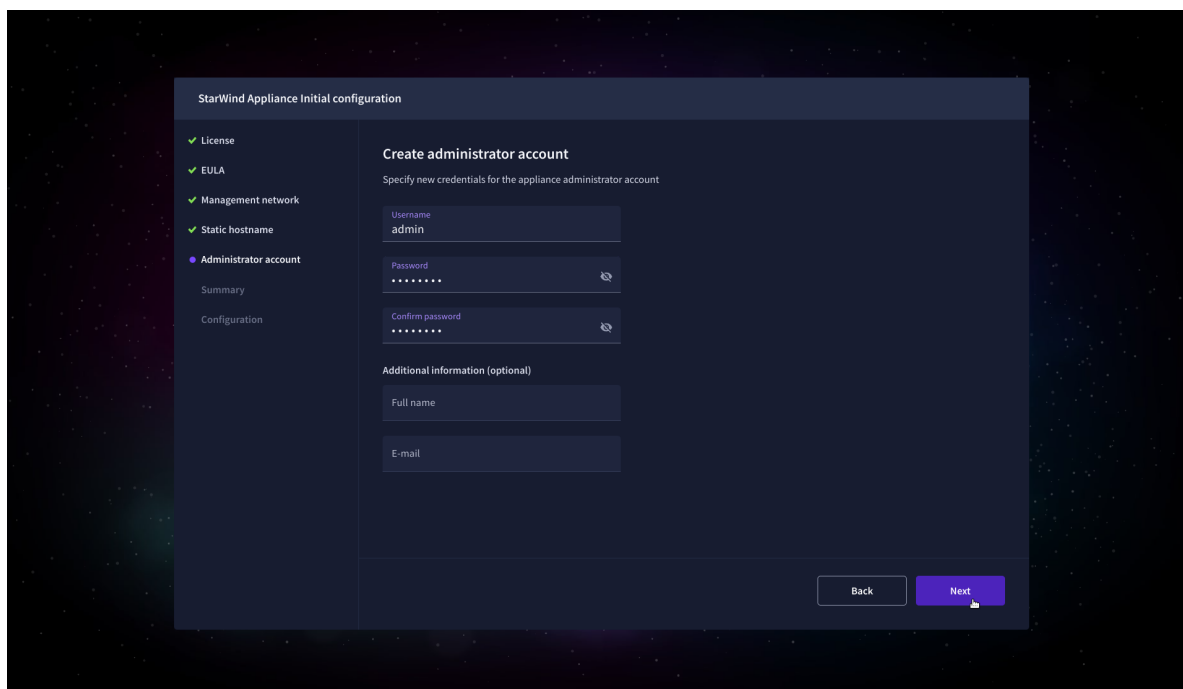
IMPORTANT: The use of Static IP mode is highly recommended.



8. On the Static hostname, specify the hostname for the virtual machine and click Next.

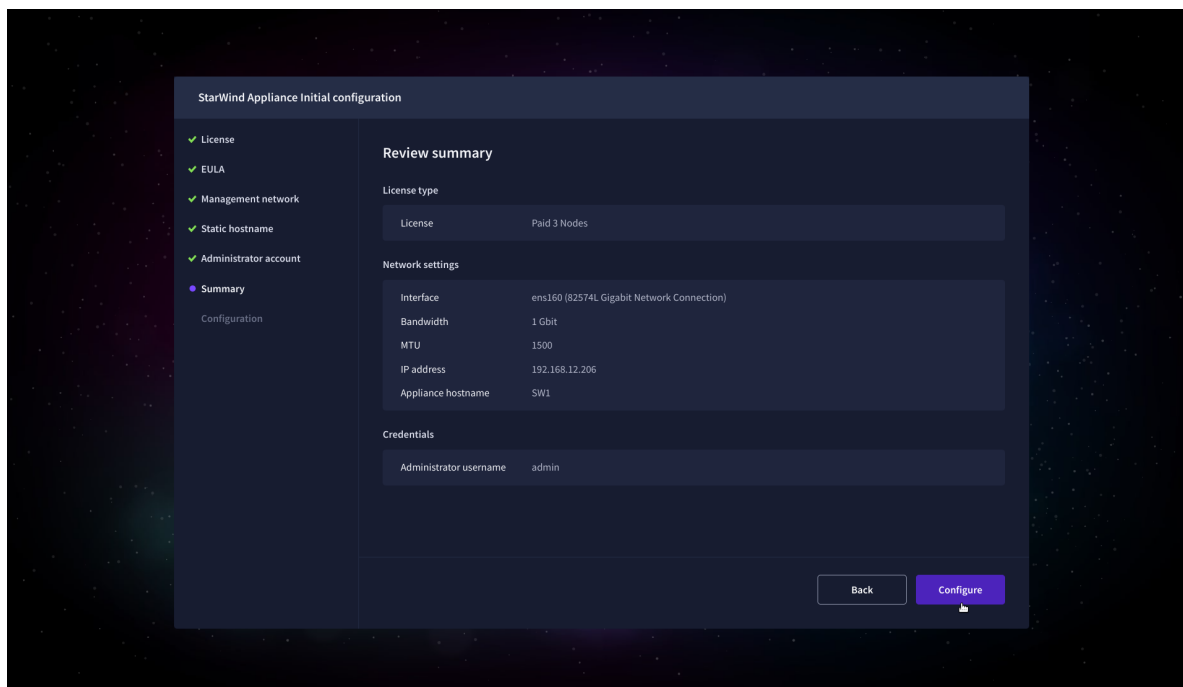


9. On the Administrator account step, specify the credentials for the new StarWind Virtual SAN administrator account and click Next.



The screenshot shows the 'StarWind Appliance Initial configuration' window. On the left sidebar, the steps are: License (checked), EULA (checked), Management network (checked), Static hostname (checked), Administrator account (selected), Summary, and Configuration. The main area is titled 'Create administrator account' with the instruction 'Specify new credentials for the appliance administrator account'. It contains three input fields: 'Username' with the value 'admin', 'Password' (masked with dots), and 'Confirm password' (masked with dots). Below these are optional fields for 'Full name' and 'E-mail'. At the bottom right are 'Back' and 'Next' buttons.

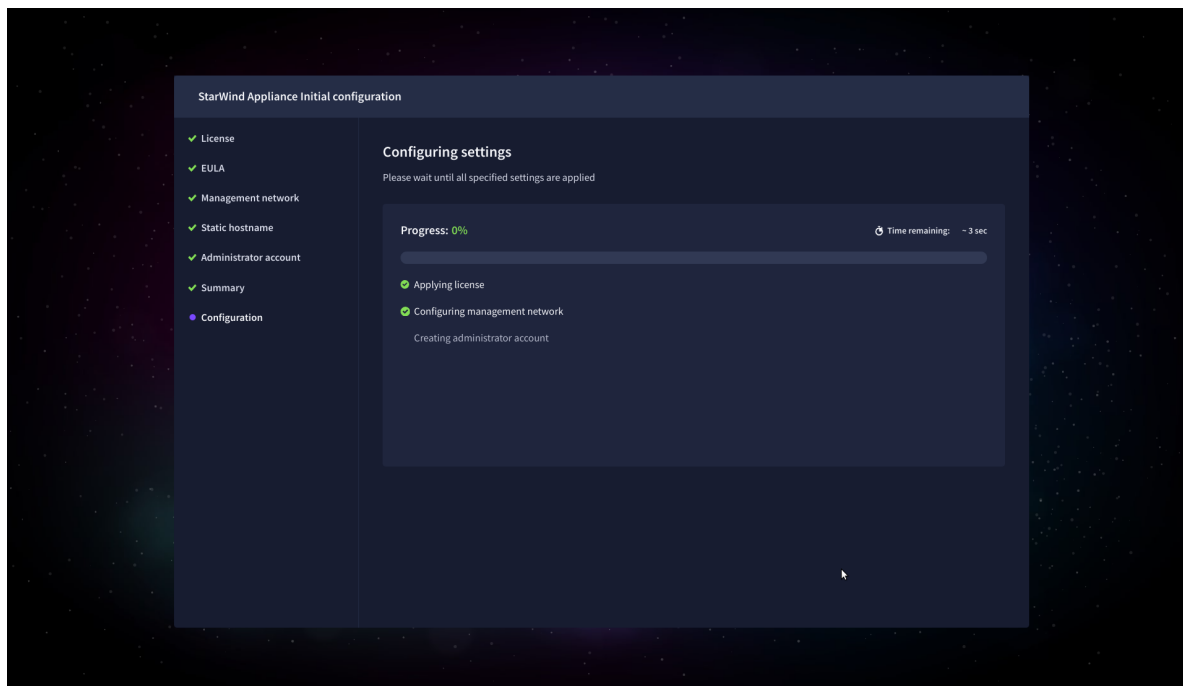
10. Wait until the Initial Configuration Wizard configures StarWind Virtual SAN for you.



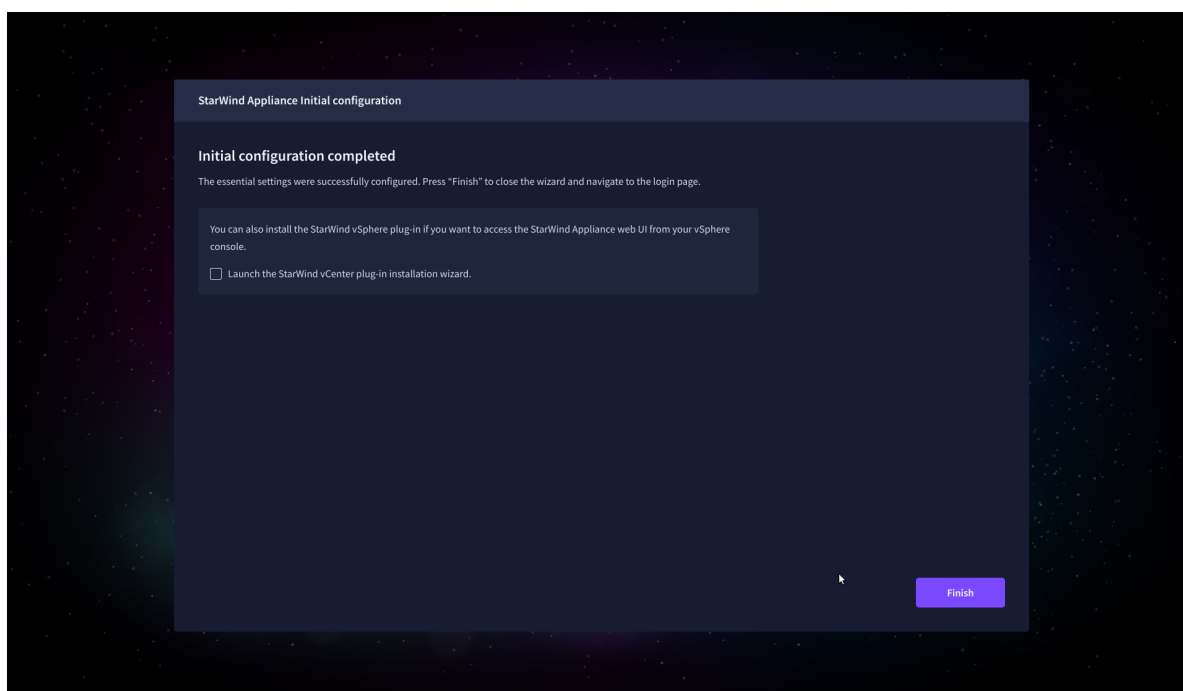
The screenshot shows the 'StarWind Appliance Initial configuration' window at the 'Review summary' step. The left sidebar shows 'Summary' as the selected step. The main area displays a summary of the configuration: 'License type' is 'Paid 3 Nodes'; 'Network settings' include Interface 'ens160 (82574L Gigabit Network Connection)', Bandwidth '1 Gbit', MTU '1500', IP address '192.168.12.206', and Appliance hostname 'SW1'; 'Credentials' show 'Administrator username' as 'admin'. At the bottom right are 'Back' and 'Configure' buttons.

11. Please standby until the Initial Configuration Wizard configures StarWind VSAN for

you.



12. After the configuration process is completed, click Finish to install the StarWind vCenter Plugin immediately, or uncheck the checkbox to skip this step and proceed to the Login page.

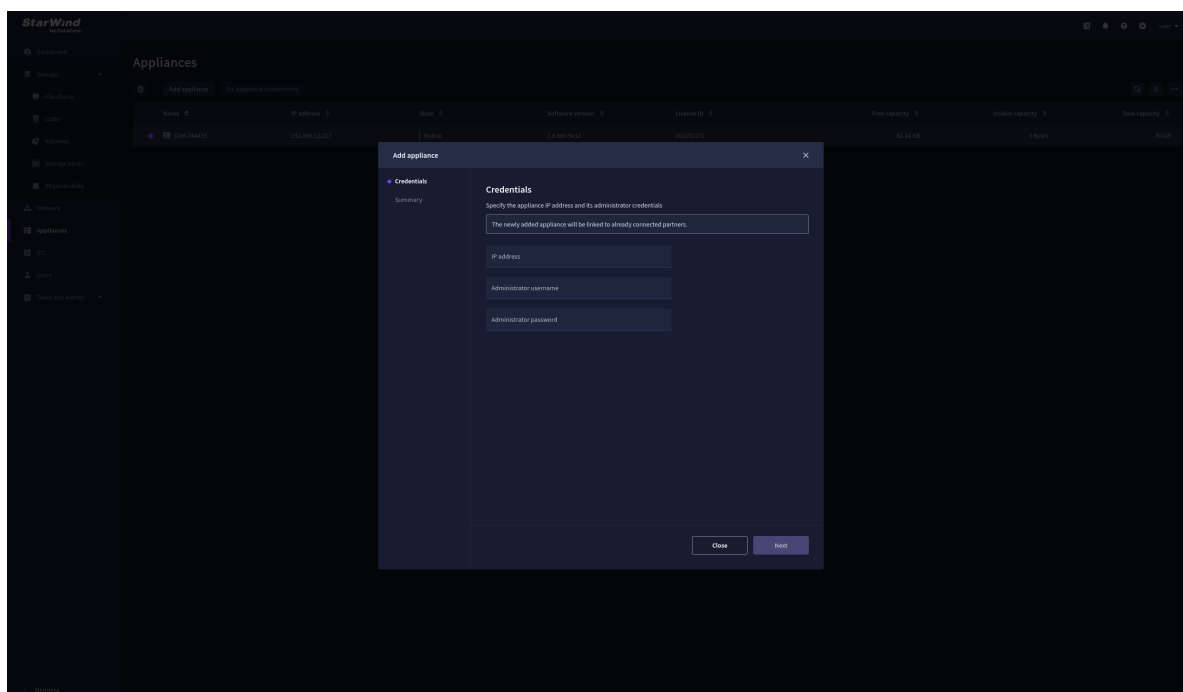


13. Repeat steps 1 through 12 on each Windows Server host.

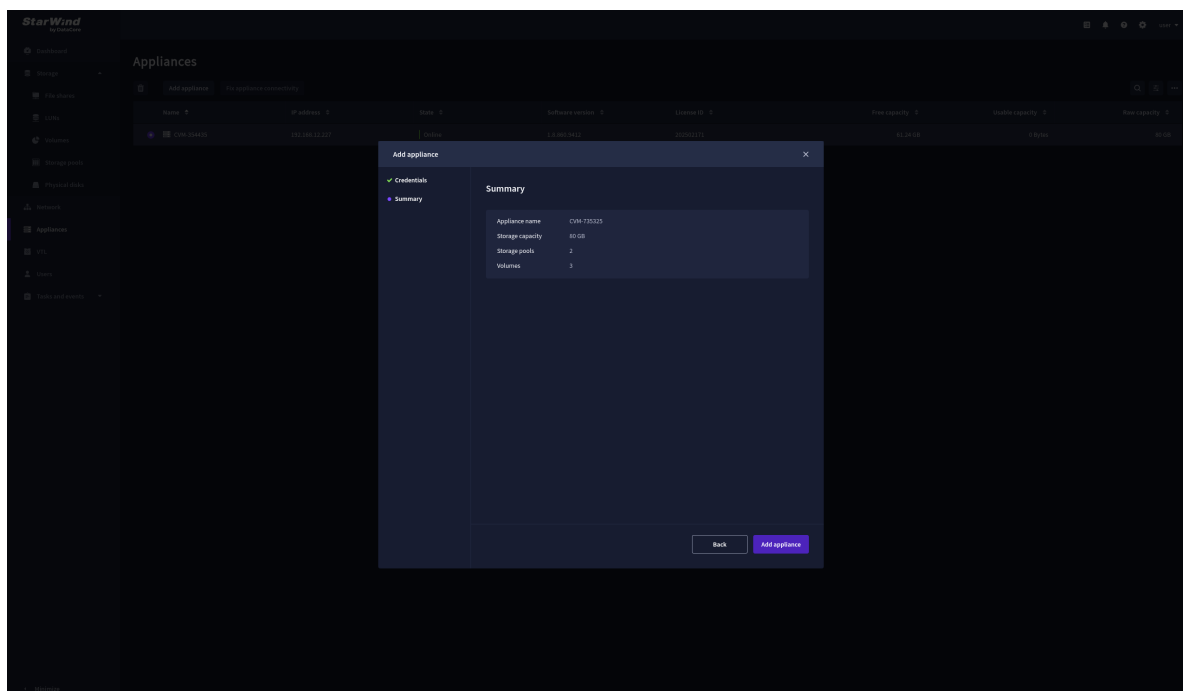
Add Appliance

To create replicated, highly available storage, add partner appliances that use the same StarWind Virtual SAN license key.

1. Navigate to the Appliances page and click Add to open the Add appliance wizard.
2. On the Credentials step, enter the IP address and credentials for the partner StarWind Virtual SAN appliance, then click Next.



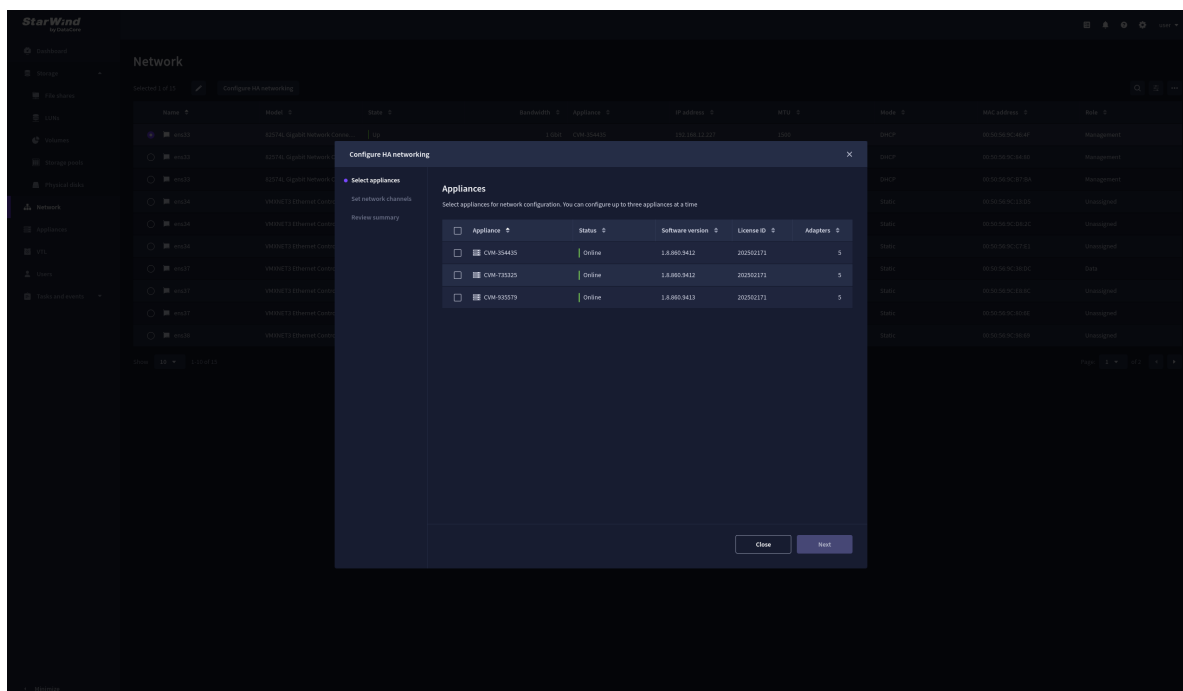
3. Wait for the connection to be established and the settings to be validated
4. On the Summary step, review the properties of the partner appliance, then click Add Appliance.



Configure Ha Networking

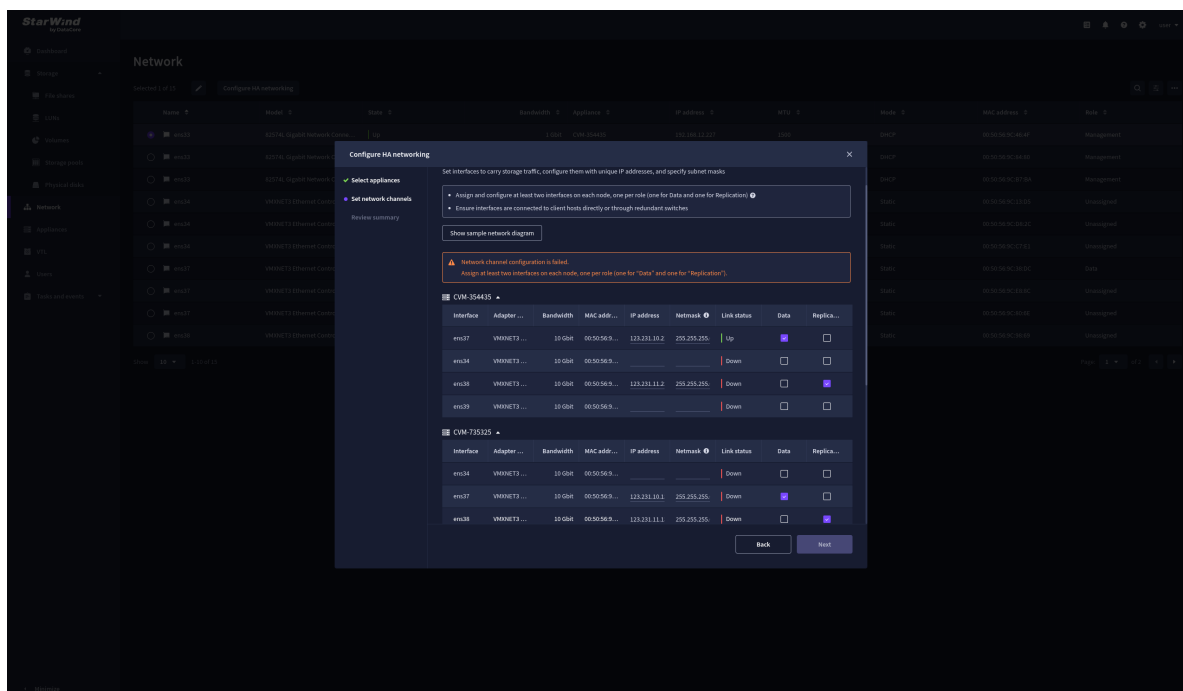
1. Navigate to the Network page and open the Configure HA networking wizard.
2. On the Appliances step, select either 2 partner appliances to configure two-way replication or 3 appliances for three-way replication, then click Next.

NOTE: The number of appliances in the cluster is limited by your StarWind Virtual SAN license.



3. Set Network Channels step combines configuration of Data and Replication Networks. Select the network interfaces designated to carry iSCSI or NVMe-oF storage traffic. Assign and configure at least one interface on each appliance with a static IP address in a unique network (subnet), specify the subnet mask and Cluster MTU size.

4. Select the network interfaces designated to carry the traffic for synchronous replication. Assign and configure at least one interface on each appliance with a static IP address in a unique network (subnet), specify the subnet mask and Cluster MTU size.

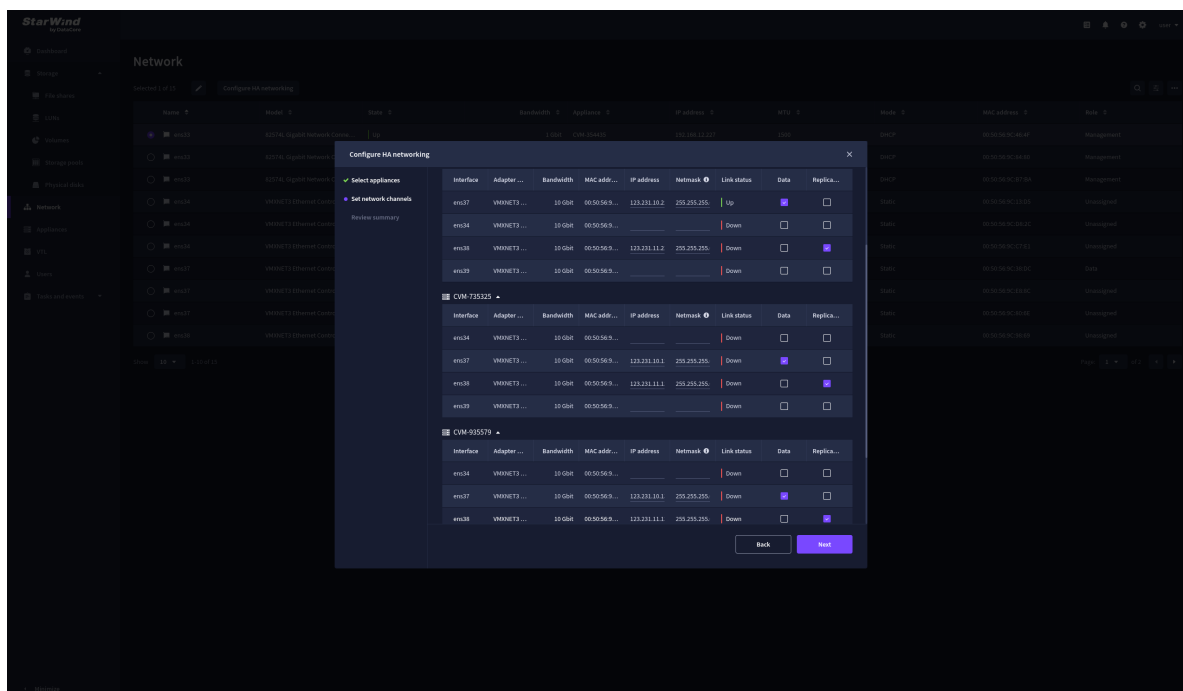


IMPORTANT: For a redundant, high-availability configuration, configure at least 2 network interfaces on each appliance. Ensure that the Data Network interfaces are interconnected between appliances through multiple direct links or via redundant switches.

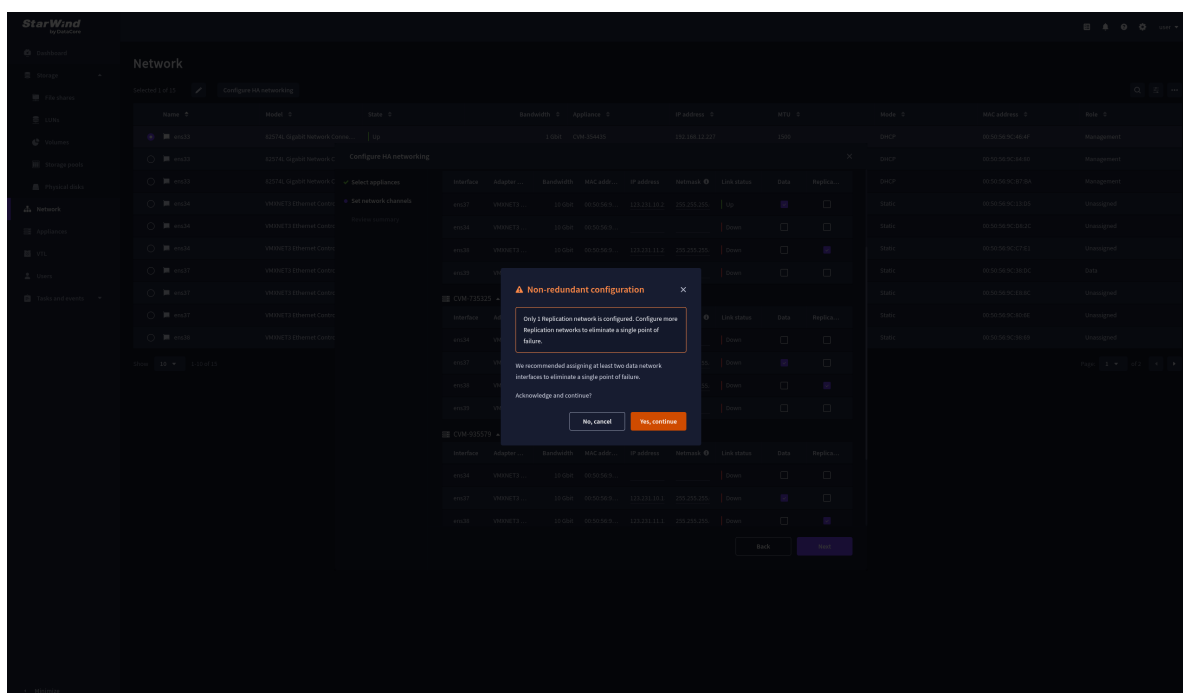
5. Assign an MTU value on all selected network adapters, e.g., 1500 or 9000 bytes. If you are using network switches with the selected Data Network adapters, ensure that they are configured with the same MTU size value. In case of an MTU settings mismatch, stability and performance issues might occur on the whole setup.

NOTE: Setting MTU to 9000 bytes on some physical adapters (like Intel Ethernet Network Adapter X710, Broadcom network adapters, etc.) might cause stability and performance issues depending on the installed network driver. To avoid them, use 1500 bytes MTU size or install the stable version of the driver.

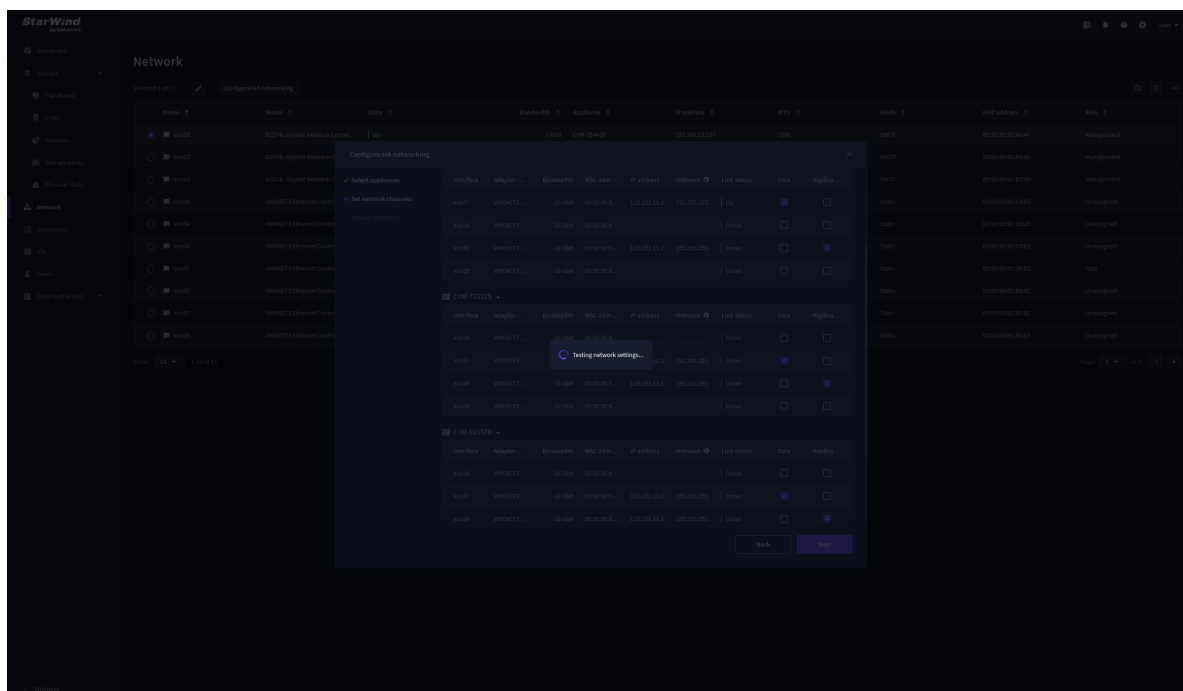
6. Once configured, click Next to validate network settings.



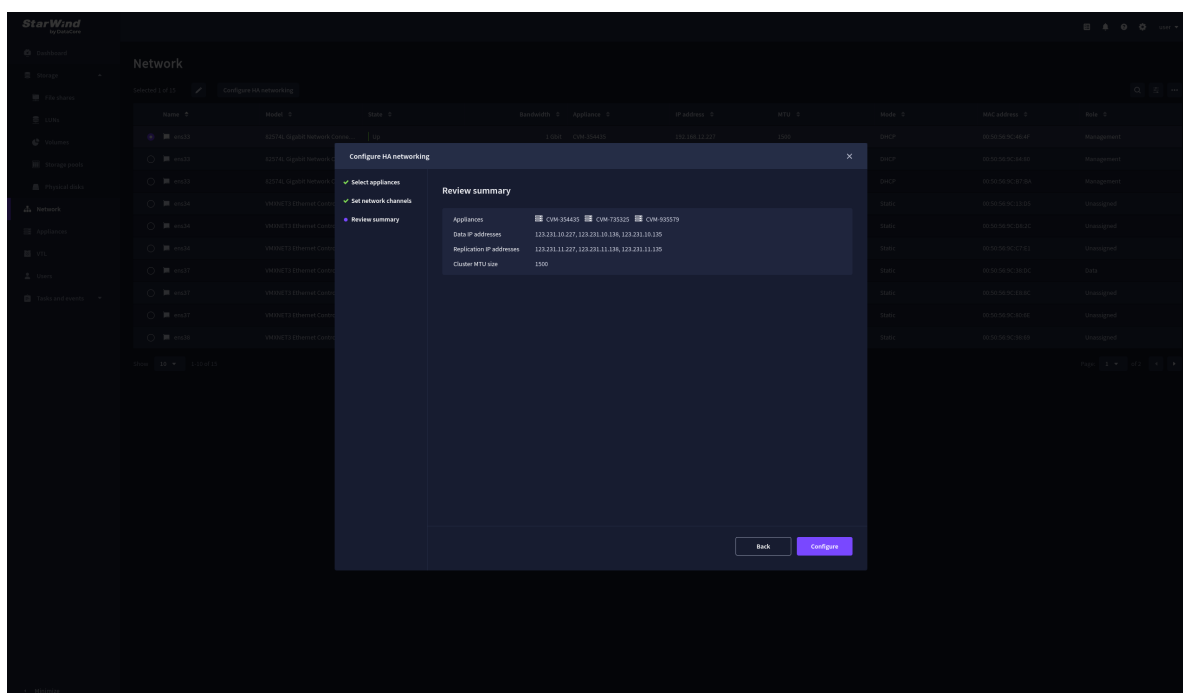
7. The warning might appear if a single data interface is configured. Click Yes, continue to proceed with the configuration.



8. Wait for the configuration to complete.



9. On the Summary step, review the specified network settings and click Configure to apply the changes.



Add Physical Disks

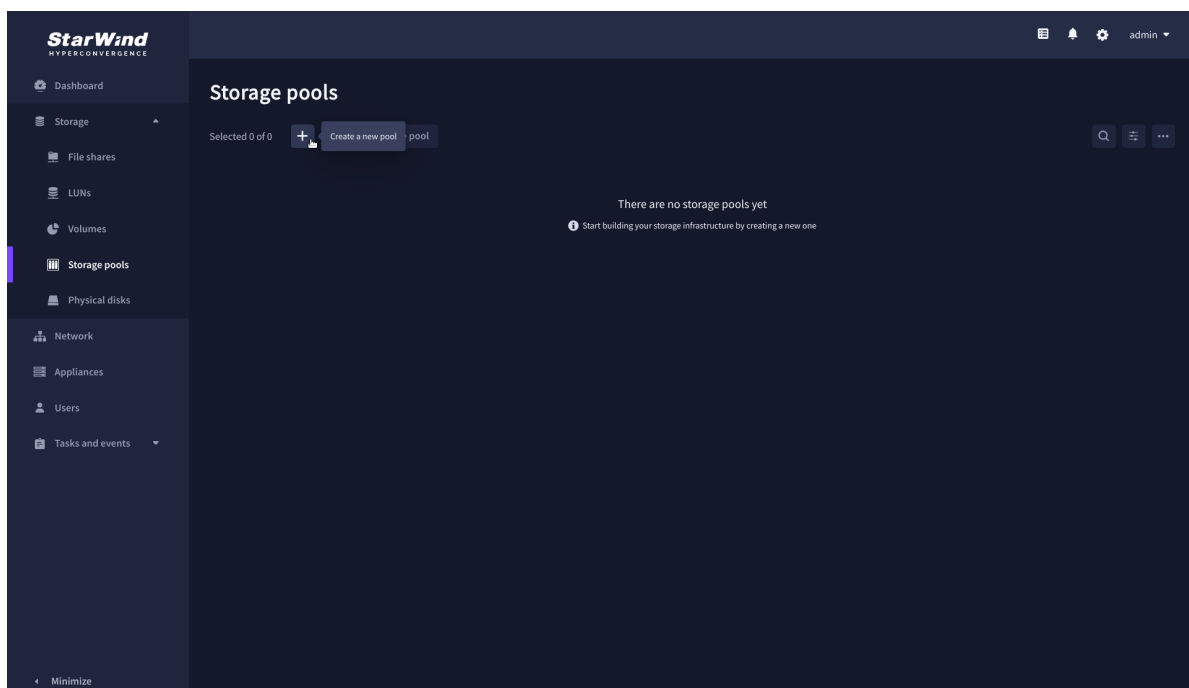
Attach physical storage to StarWind Virtual SAN Controller VM:

- Ensure that all physical drives are connected through an HBA or RAID controller.
- To get optimal storage performance, add HBA, RAID controllers, or NVMe SSD drives to StarWind CVM via a passthrough device.

For detailed instructions, refer to [Microsoft's documentation on DDA](#). Also, find the storage provisioning guidelines in the [KB article](#).

Create Storage Pool

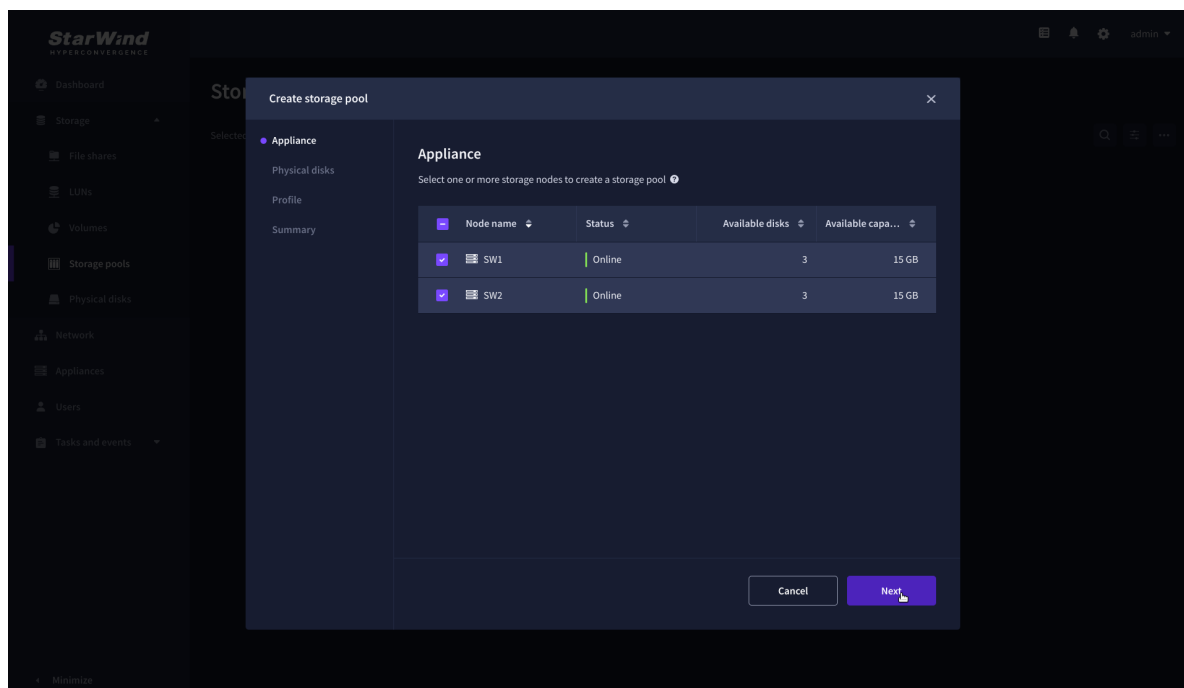
1. Navigate to the Storage pools page and click the + button to open the Create storage pool wizard .



2. On the Appliance step, select partner appliances on which to create new storage pools, then click Next.

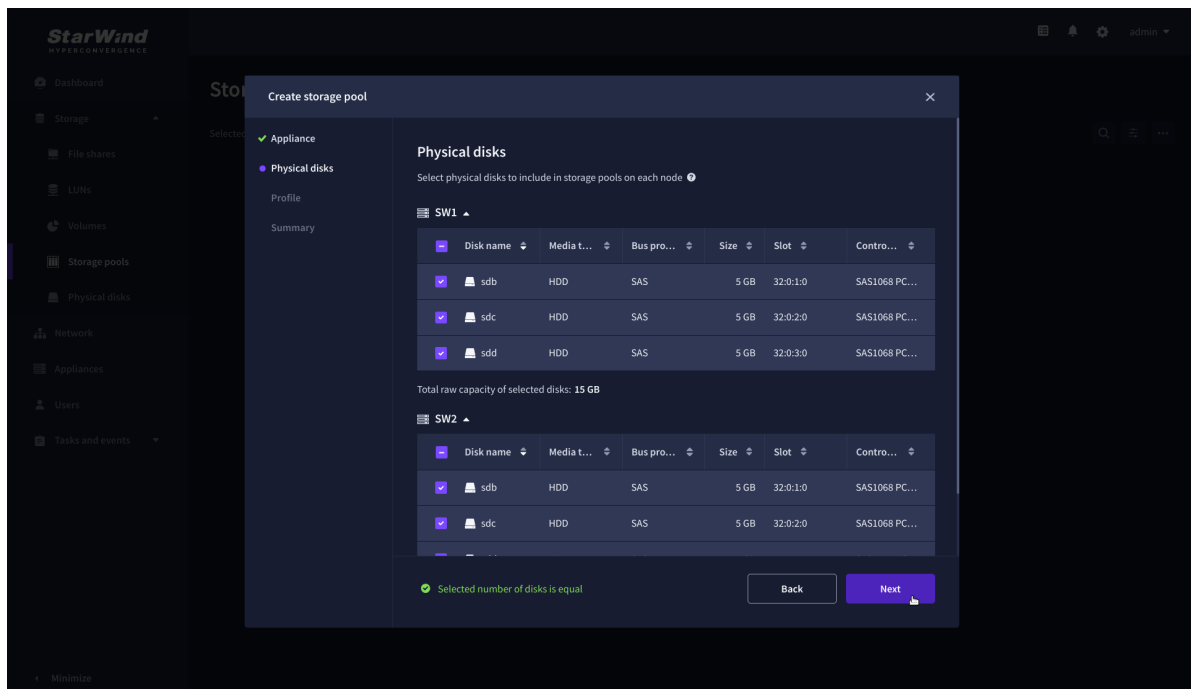
NOTE: Select 2 appliances for configuring storage pools if you are deploying a two-node cluster with two-way replication, or select 3 appliances for configuring a three-node

cluster with a three-way mirror.

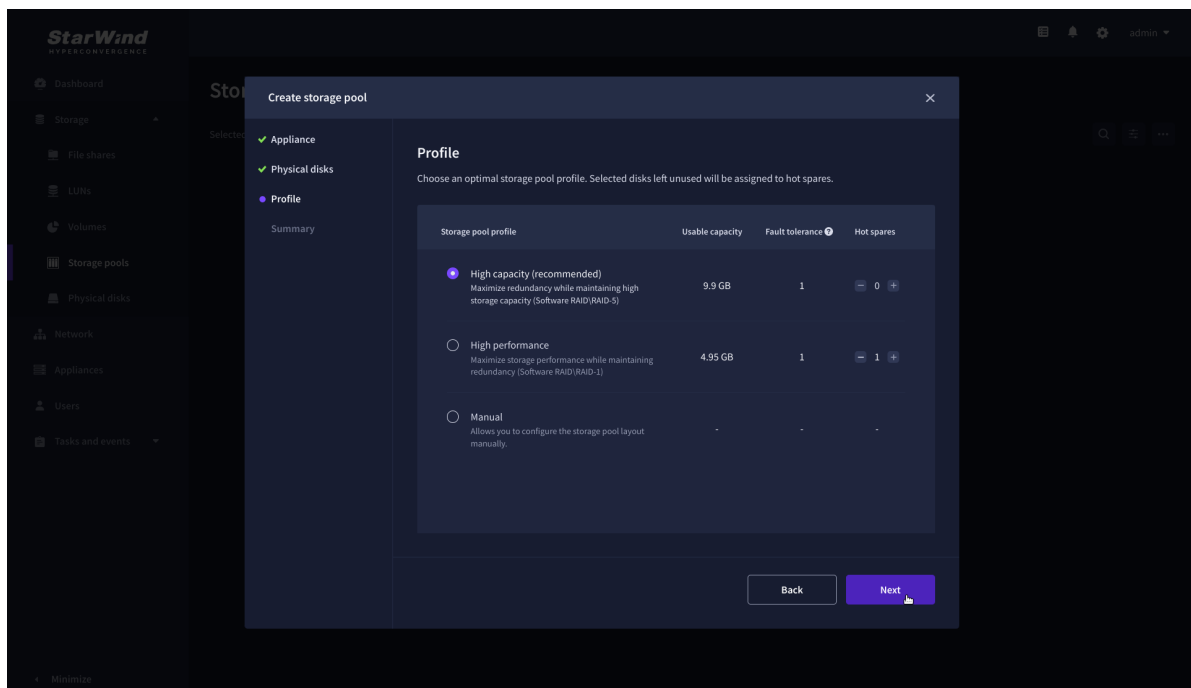


3. On the Physical disks step, select physical disks to be pooled on each node, then click Next.

IMPORTANT: Select an identical type and number of disks on each appliance to create storage pools with a uniform configuration.



4. On the Profile step, select one of the preconfigured storage profiles, or choose Manual to configure the storage pool manually based on your redundancy, capacity, and performance requirements, then click Next.

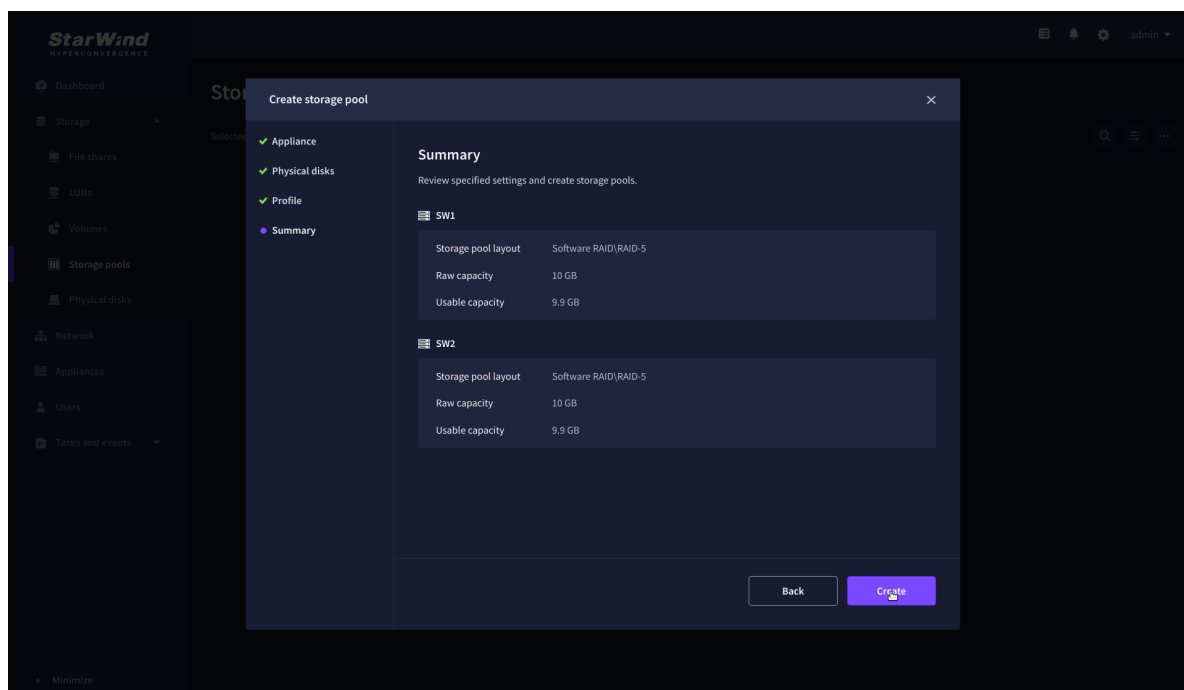


NOTE: Hardware RAID, Linux Software RAID, and ZFS storage pools are supported. To

simplify the configuration of storage pools, preconfigured storage profiles are provided. These profiles recommend a pool type and layout based on the attached storage:

- High capacity – creates Linux Software RAID-5 to maximize storage capacity while maintaining redundancy.
- High performance – creates Linux Software RAID-10 to maximize storage performance while maintaining redundancy.
- Hardware RAID – configures a hardware RAID virtual disk as a storage pool. This option is available only if a hardware RAID controller is passed through to the StarWind Virtual SAN.
- Better redundancy – creates ZFS Striped RAID-Z2 (RAID 60) to maximize redundancy while maintaining high storage capacity.
- Manual – allows users to configure any storage pool type and layout with the attached storage.

5. On the Summary step, review the storage pool settings and click Create to configure new storage pools on the selected appliances.



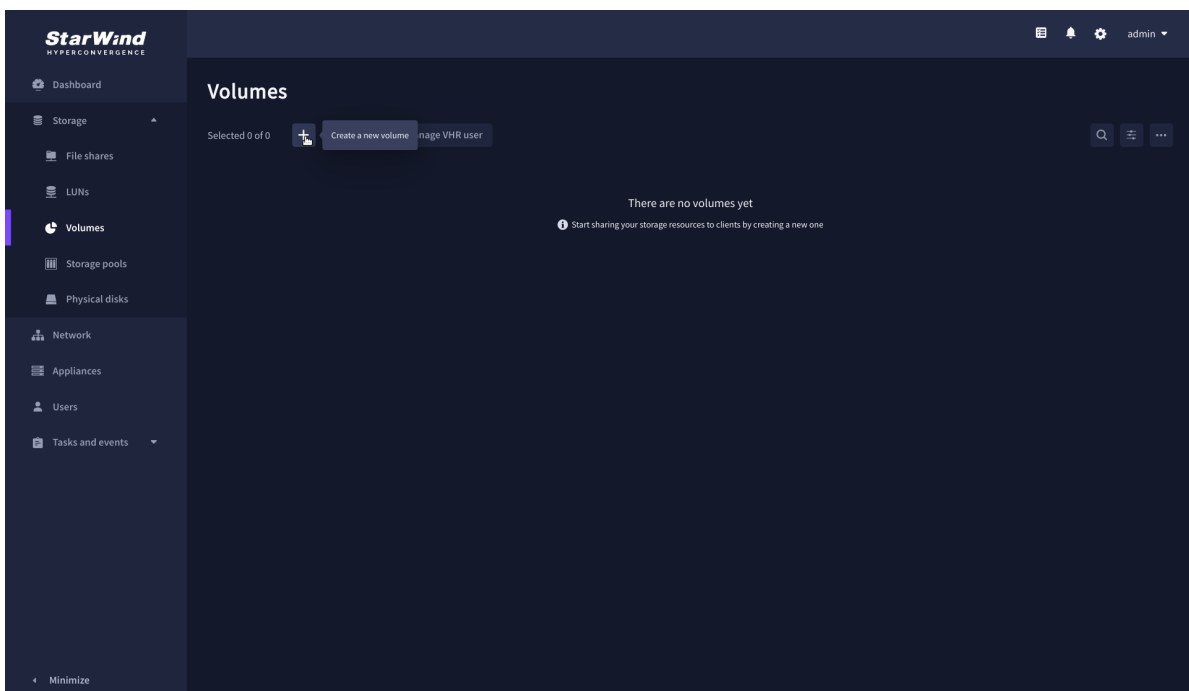
NOTE: The storage pool configuration may take some time, depending on the type of pooled storage and the total storage capacity. Once the pools are created, a notification will appear in the upper right corner of the Web UI.

IMPORTANT for CVM only: In some cases, additional tweaks are required to optimize the storage performance of the disks added to the Controller Virtual Machine. Please follow the steps in this KB to change the scheduler type depending on the disks type:
<https://knowledgebase.starwindsoftware.com/guidance/starwind-vsan-for-vsphere-changi>

[ng-linux-i-o-scheduler-to-optimize-storage-performance/](#)

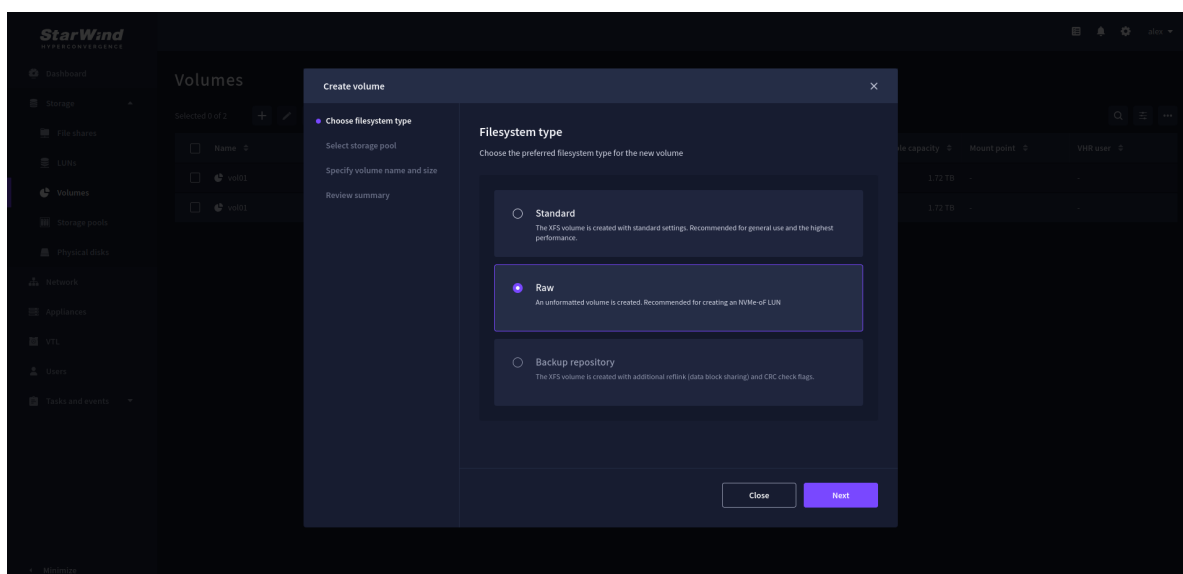
Create Volume

1. Navigate to the Volumes page and click the + button to open the Create volume wizard.

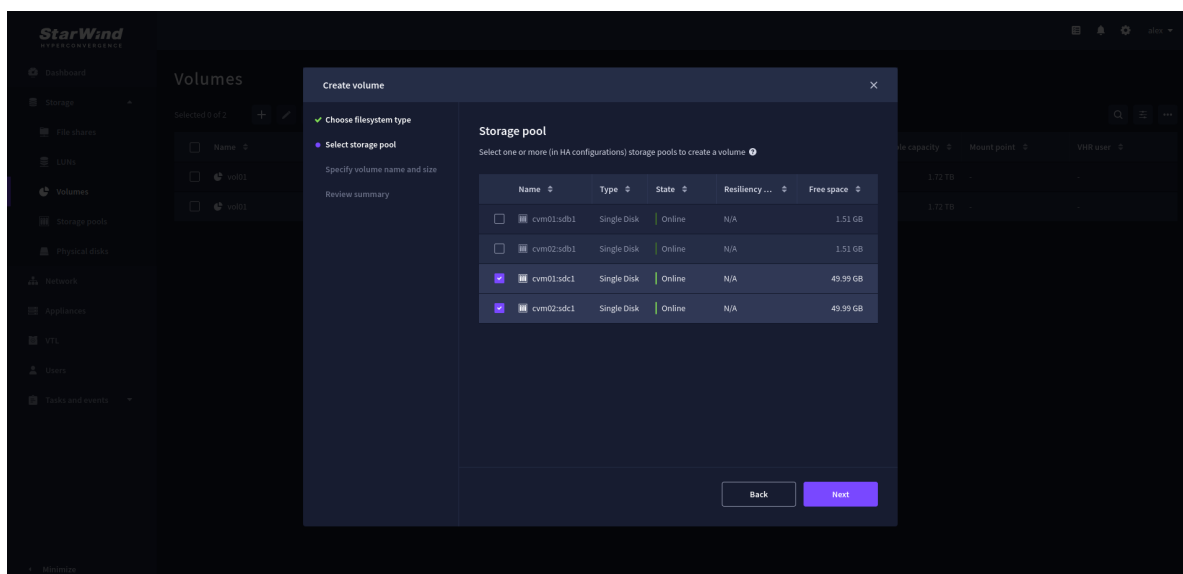


2. On the Filesystem type step, select Standard, then click Next.

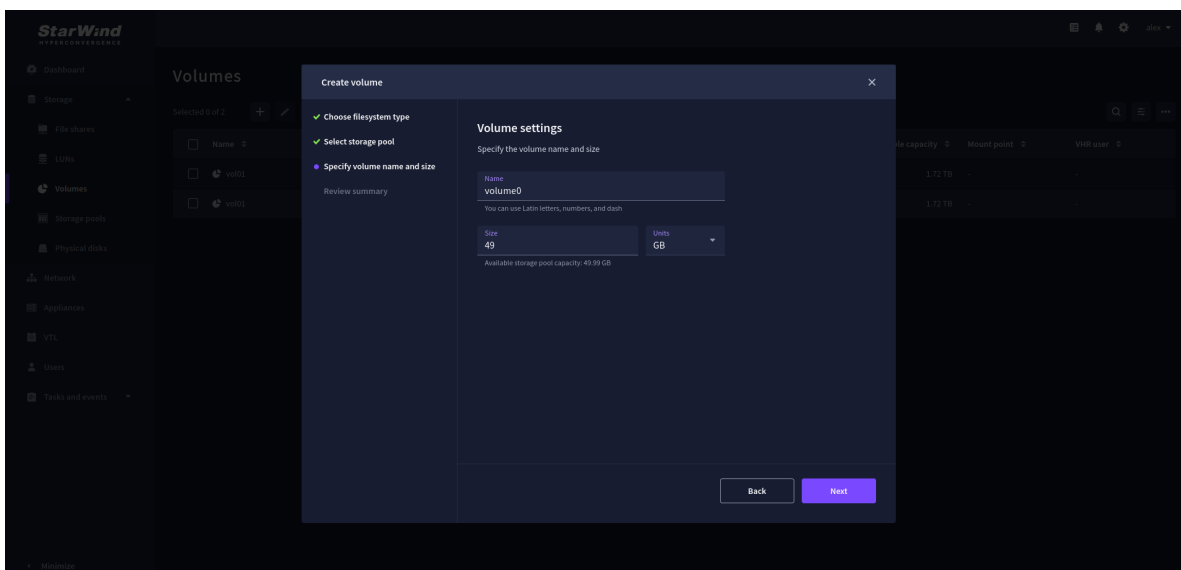
NOTE: Select 2 appliances for configuring volumes if you are deploying a two-node cluster with two-way replication, or select 3 appliances for configuring a three-node cluster with a three-way mirror.



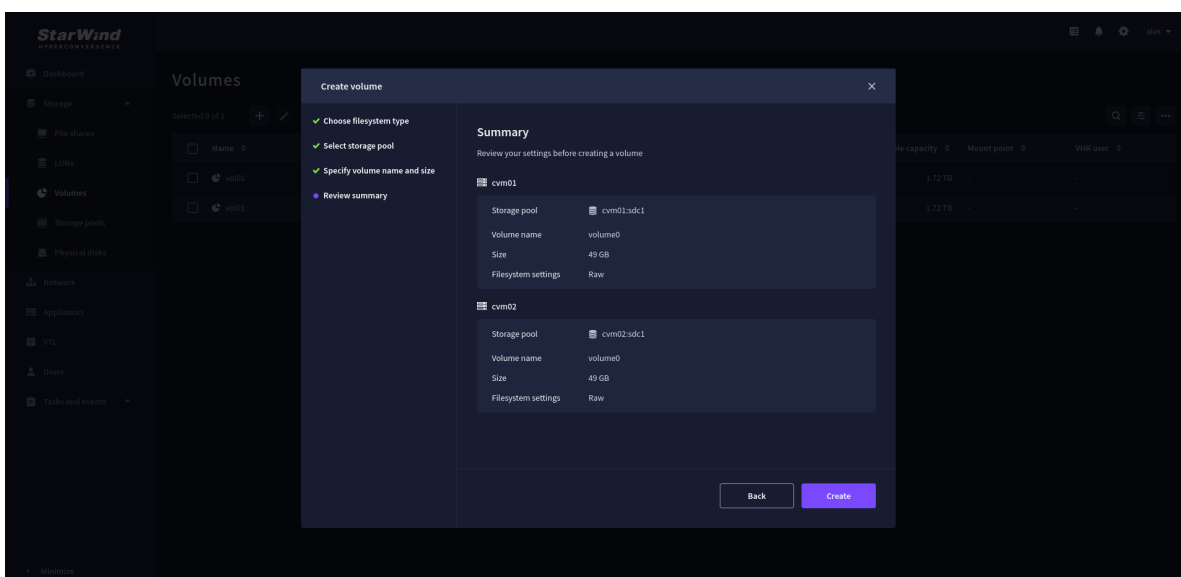
3. On the Storage pool step, select partner appliances on which to create new volumes, then click Next.



4. On the Settings step, specify the volume name and size, then click Next.

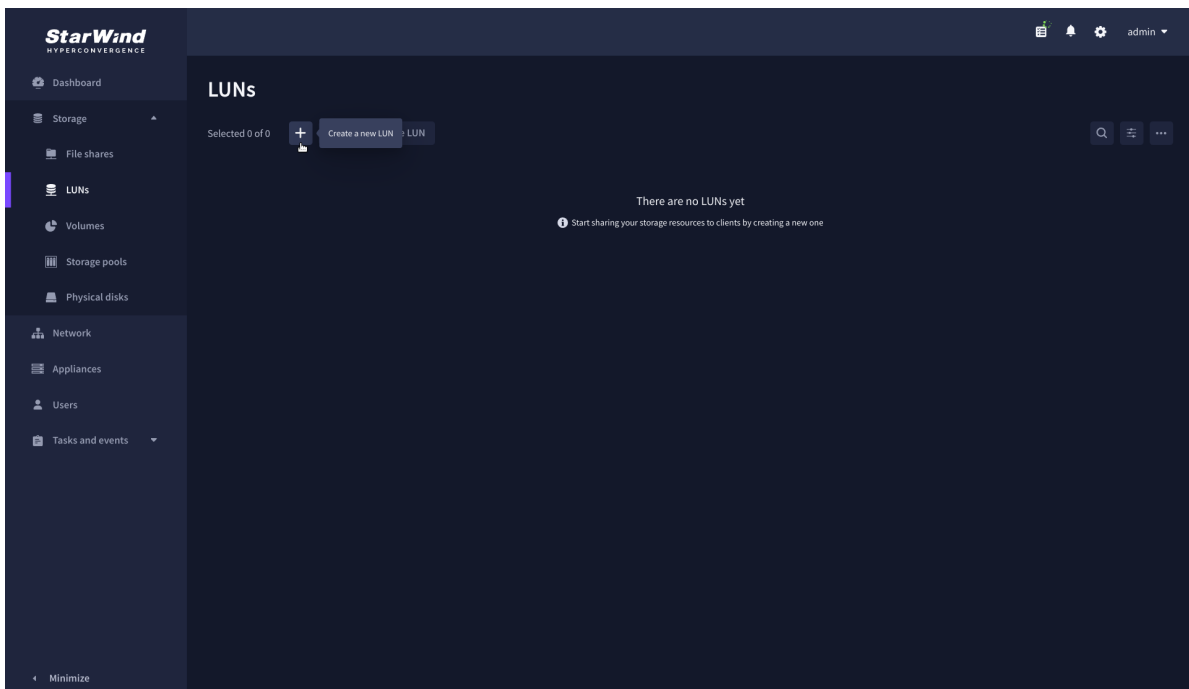


5. Review Summary and click the Create button to create the pool.

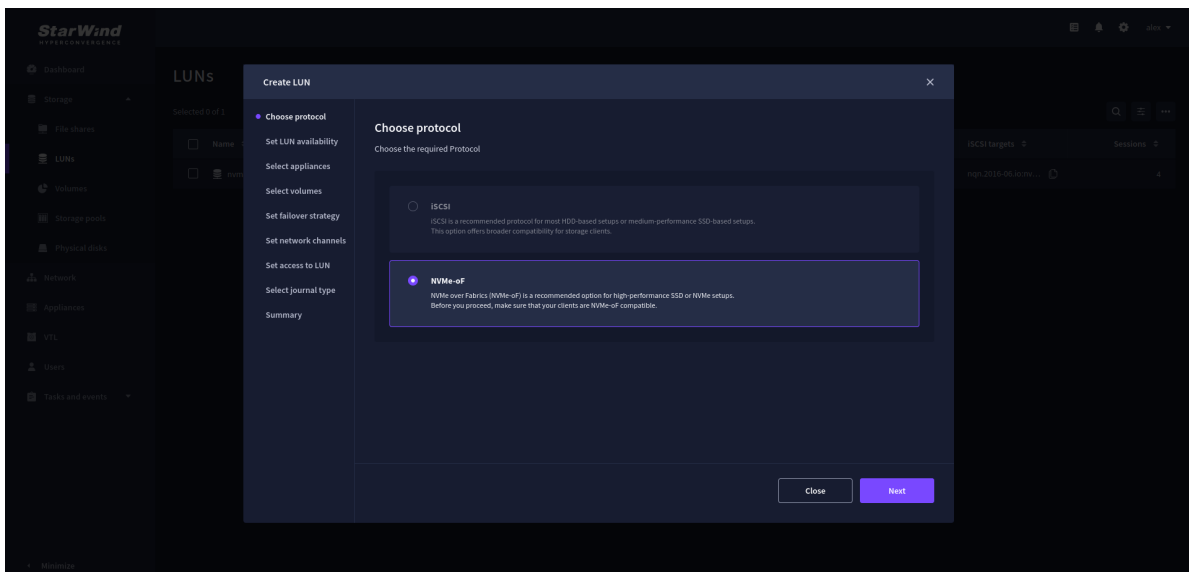


Create Ha Lun Using Webui

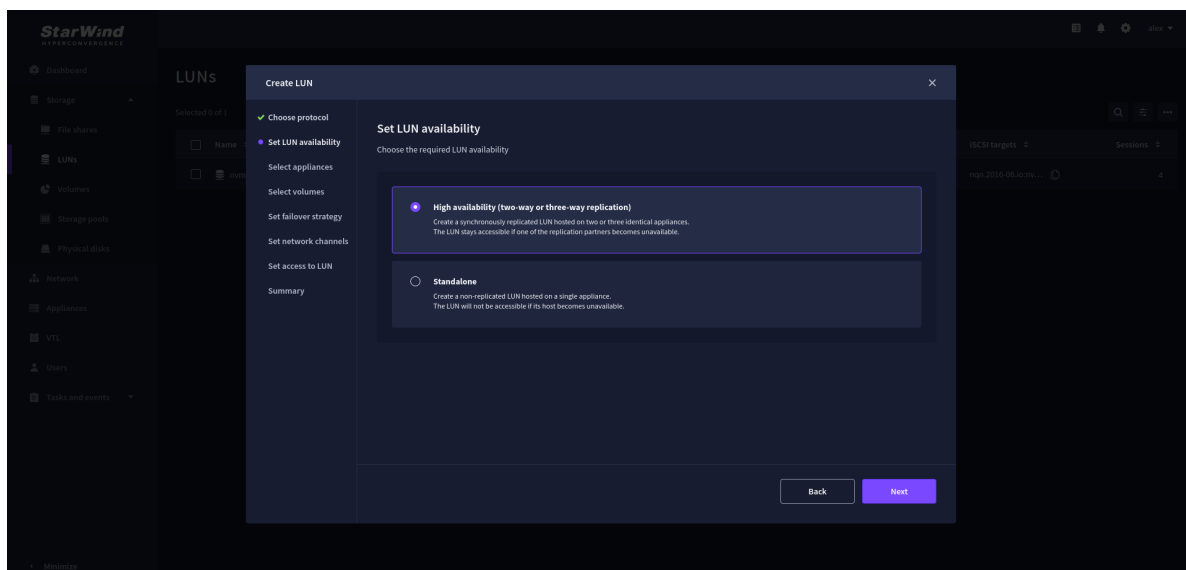
1. Navigate to the LUNs page and click the + button to open the Create LUN wizard.



2. On the Choose protocol, select the preferred storage protocol and click Next.



3. On the LUN availability step, select the High availability and click Next.

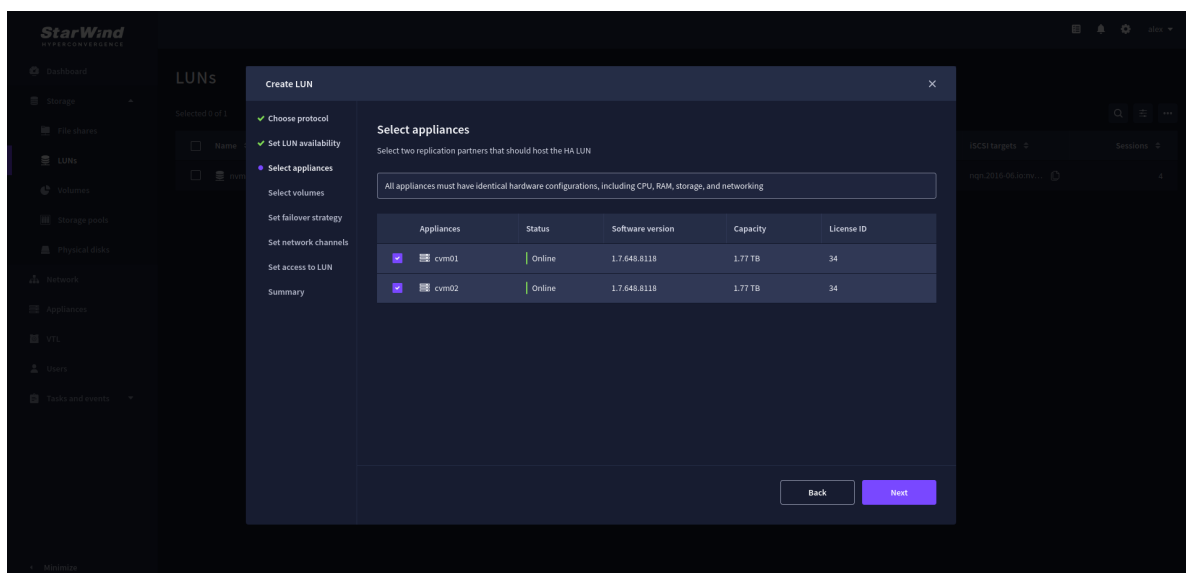


NOTE: The availability options for a LUN can be Standalone (without replication) or High Availability (with 2-way or 3-way replication), and are determined by the StarWind Virtual SAN license.

Below are the steps for creating a high-availability NVMe-oF LUN.

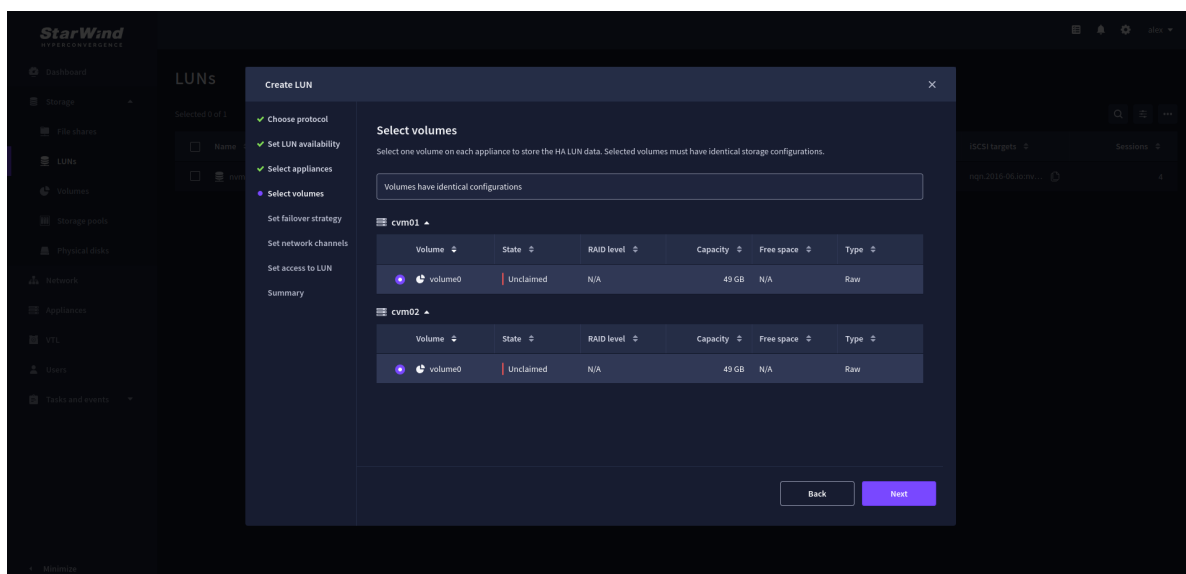
4. On the Appliances step, select partner appliances that will host new LUNs and click Next.

IMPORTANT: Selected partner appliances must have identical hardware configurations, including CPU, RAM, storage, and networking.



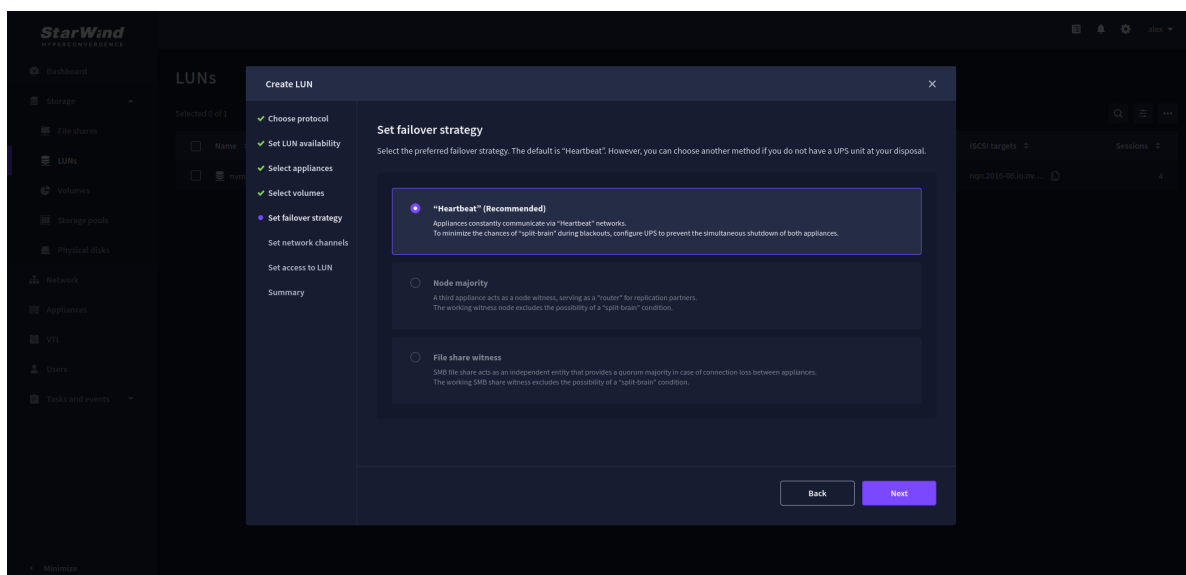
5. On the Volumes step, select the volumes for storing data on the partner appliances and click Next.

IMPORTANT: For optimal performance, the selected volumes must have identical underlying storage configurations.



6. On the Failover strategy step, select the preferred failover strategy and click Next.

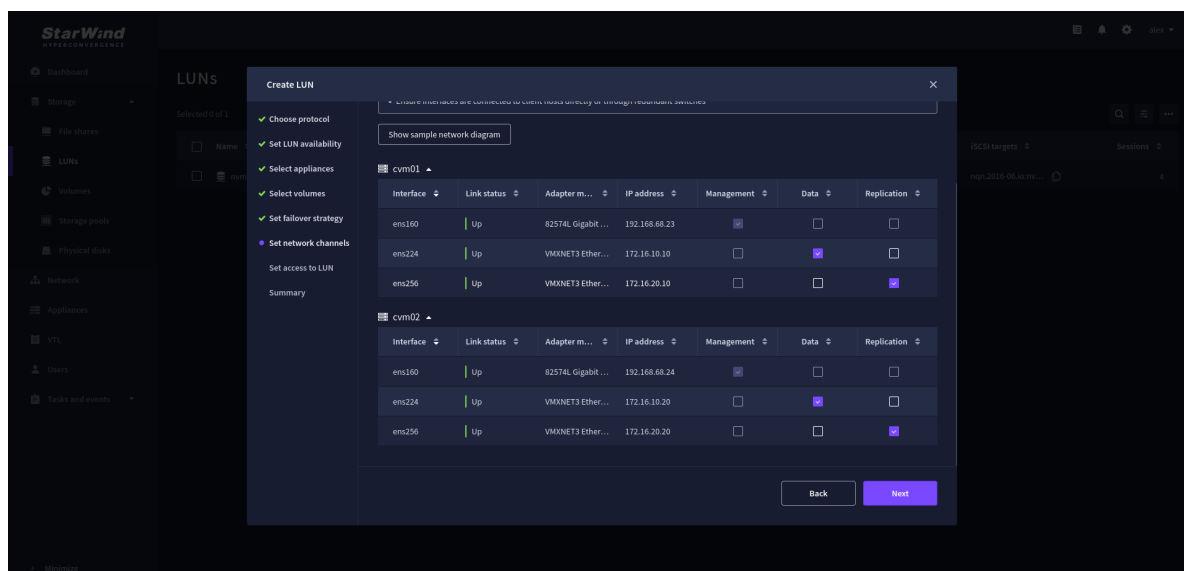
NOTE: The failover strategies for a LUN can be Heartbeat or Node Majority. In case of 2-nodes setup and None Majority failover strategy, Node witness (requires an additional third witness node), or File share witness (requires an external file share) should be configured. These options are determined by StarWind Virtual SAN license and setup configuration. Below are the steps for configuring the Heartbeat failover strategy in a two-node cluster.



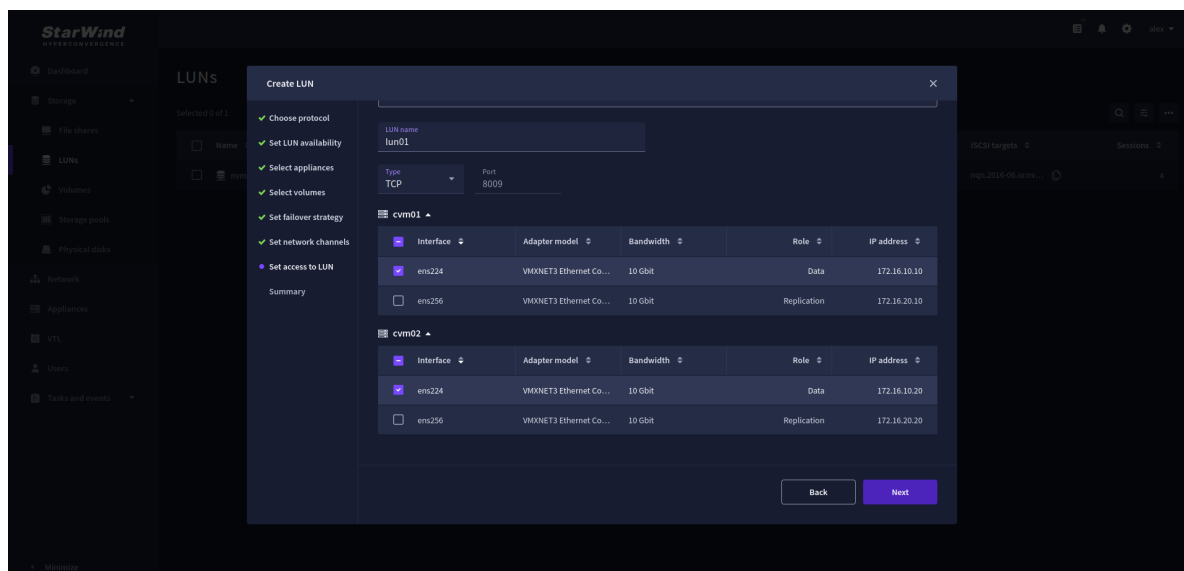
7. On the Network channels step, specify the Networks for Data and Replication, then

click Next.

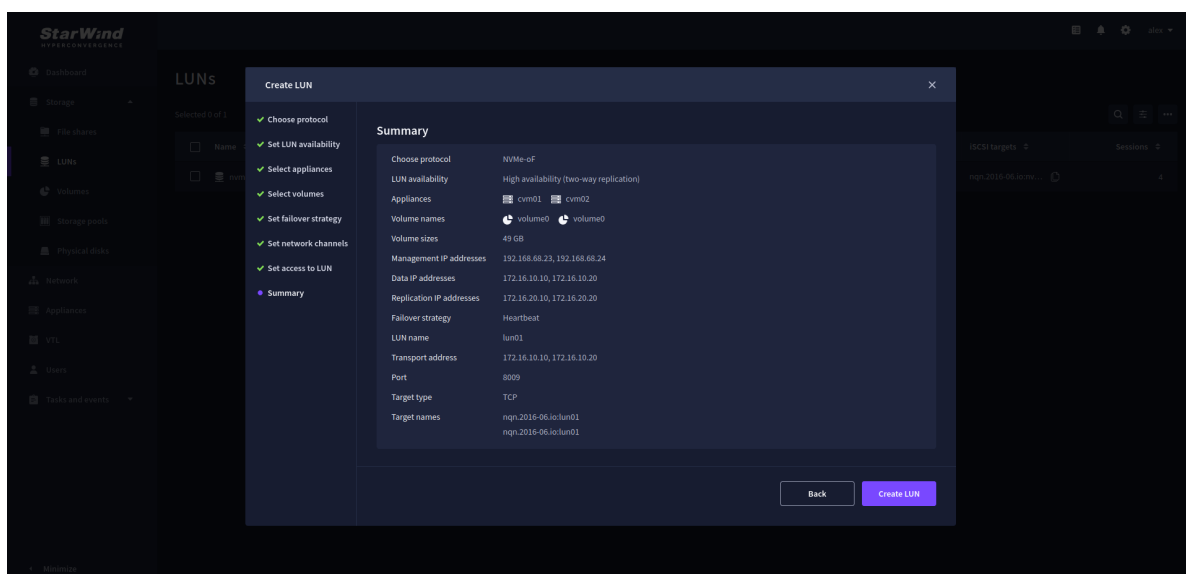
NOTE: Assign and configure at least two interface on each node, one per role (Data and Replication).



8. On the Access to LUN step, set LUN name and choose network interfaces to create NVMe-oF listeners, then click Next.

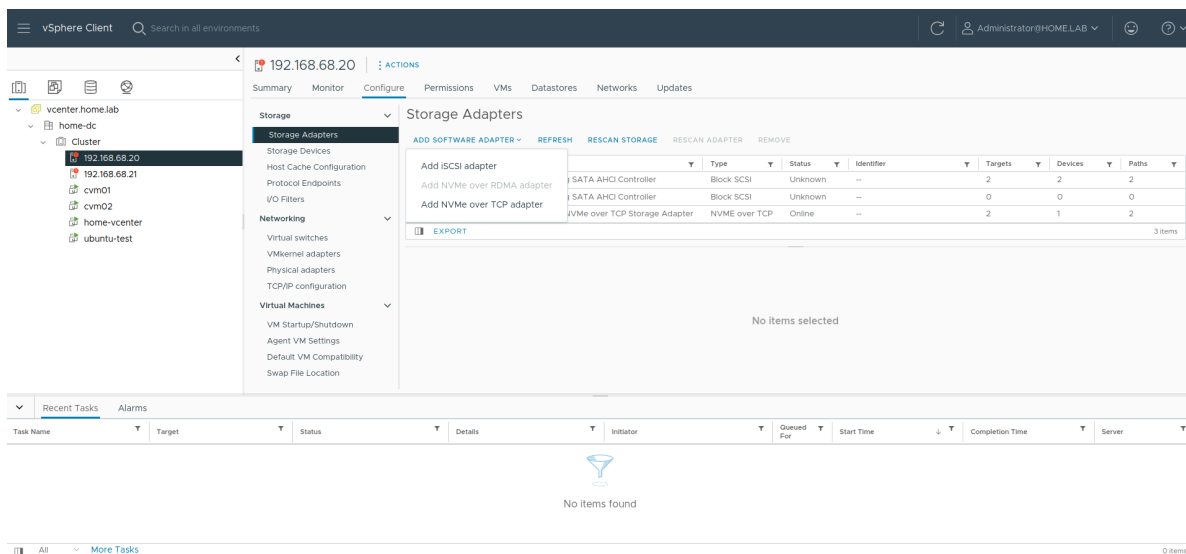


9. On the Summary step, review the LUN settings and click Create to configure new LUNs on the selected volumes.

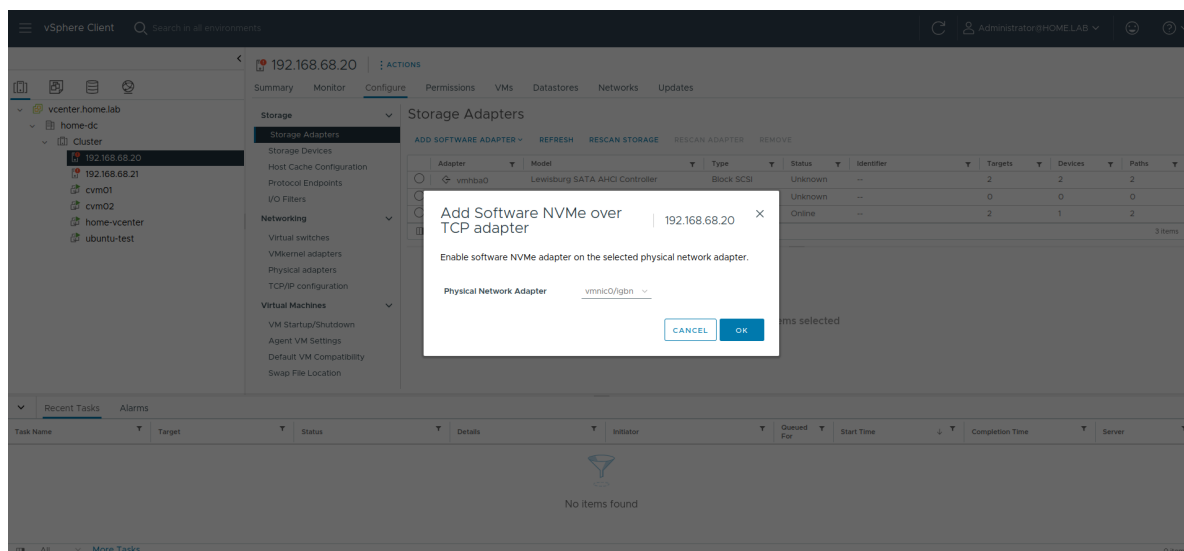


Connecting Starwind Luns To Vmware Vsphere Servers

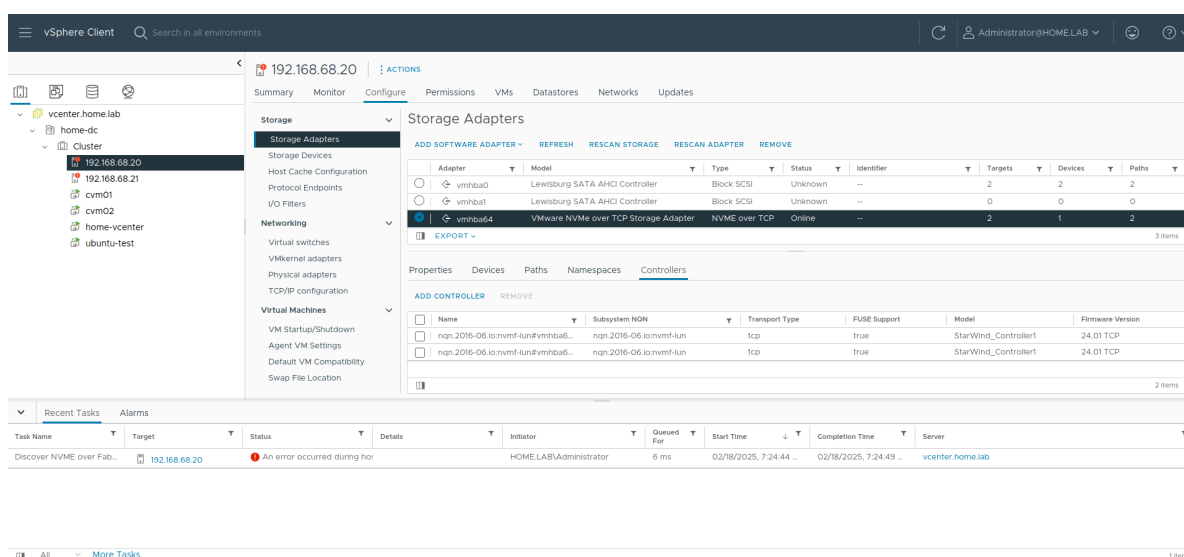
1. Log in to VMware vSphere Client.
2. Select the ESXi server in the sidebar-menu, then navigate to the “Configure” tab and open the “Storage Adapters” submenu page.
3. Click the “+Add Software Adapter” and choose “Add NVMe over TCP adapter” option to launch the corresponding wizard.



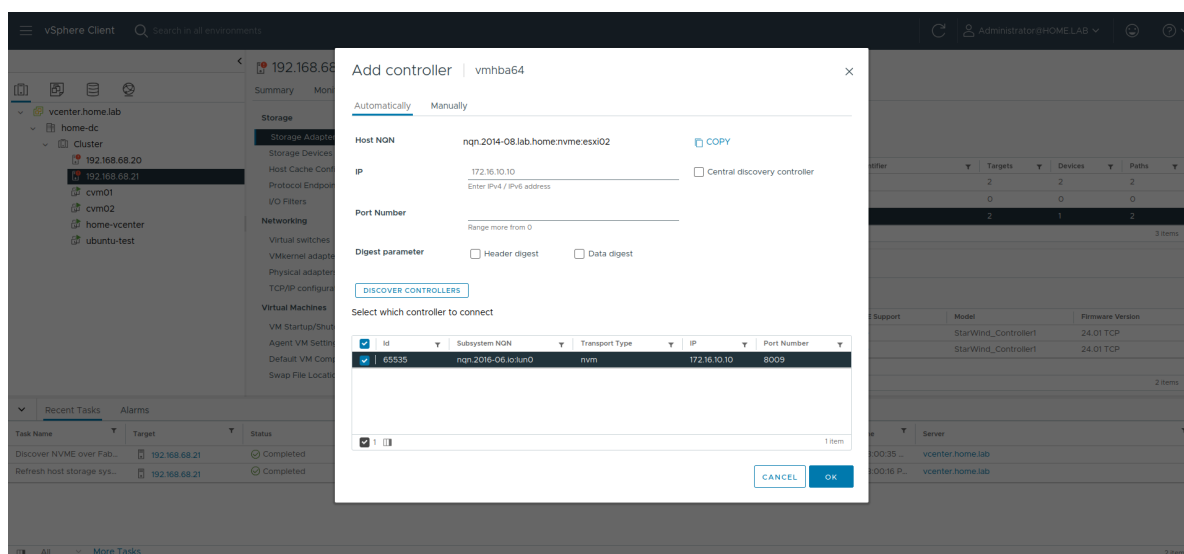
4. Choose NIC for NVMe over TCP connection to StarWind LUN.



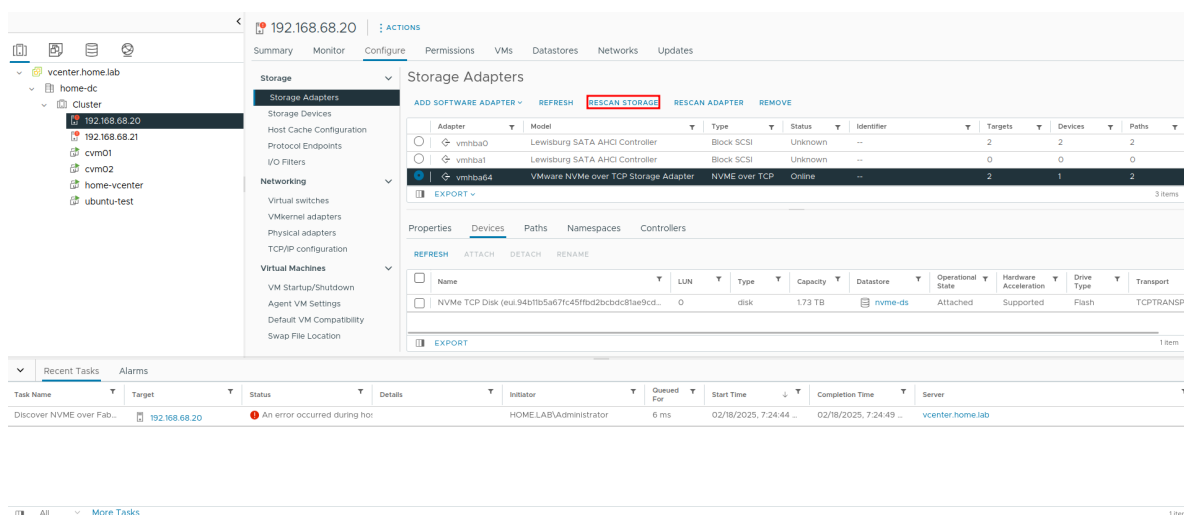
5. Click “Add Controller” on the “Controllers” tab.

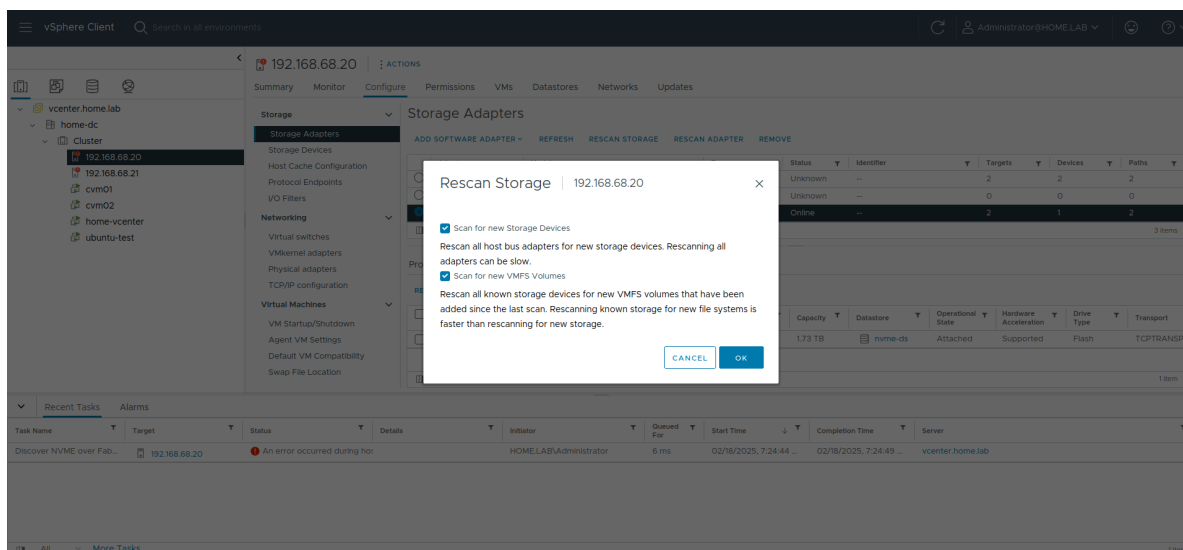


Add the IPv4 address of StarWind CVM Data\NVMe-oF network interface to the “Host NQN” and click “Discover Controllers”. Choose controllers with StarWind LUN.

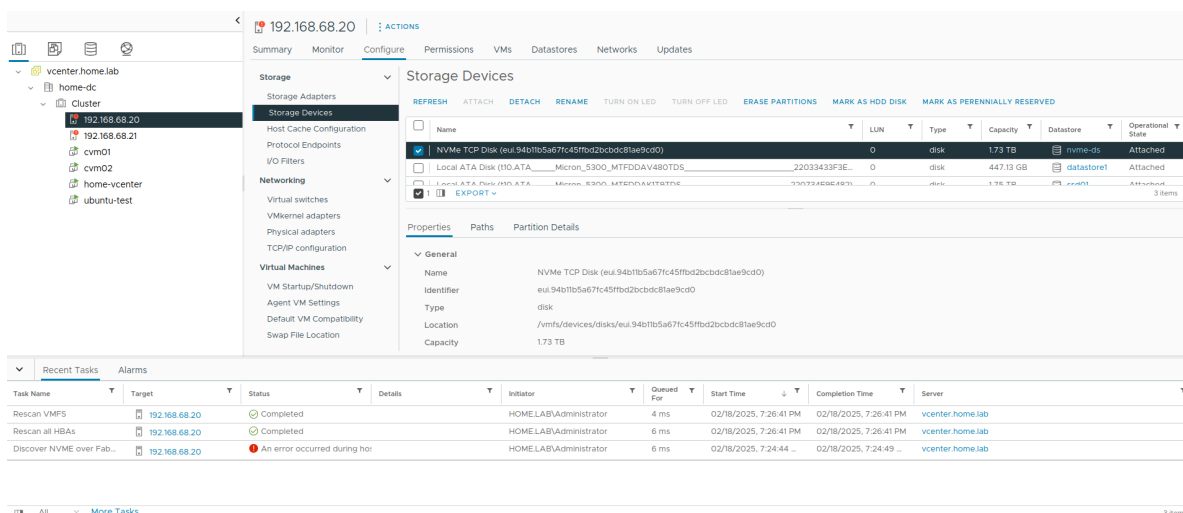


6. Click on the “Rescan” button to discover StarWind virtual disk.

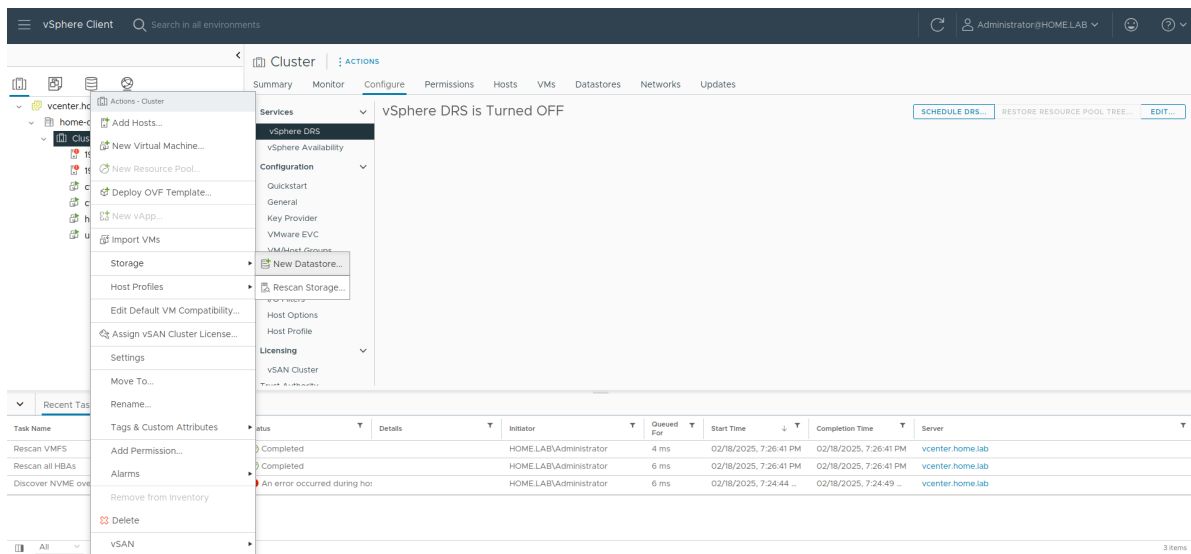




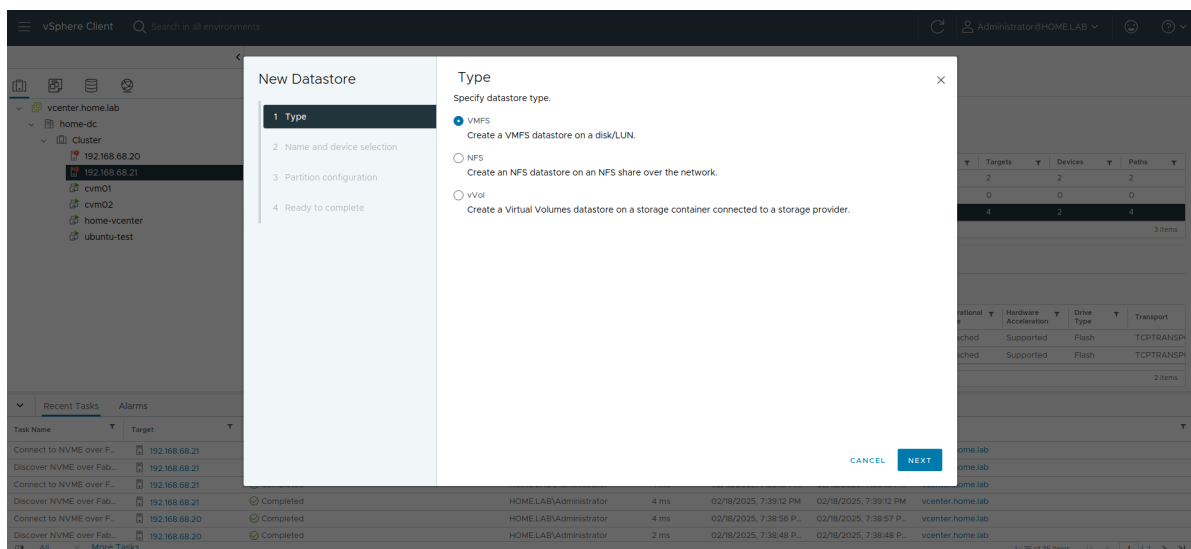
7. Once scanned, the created StarWind LUNs appear on the “Storage Devices” submenu page.



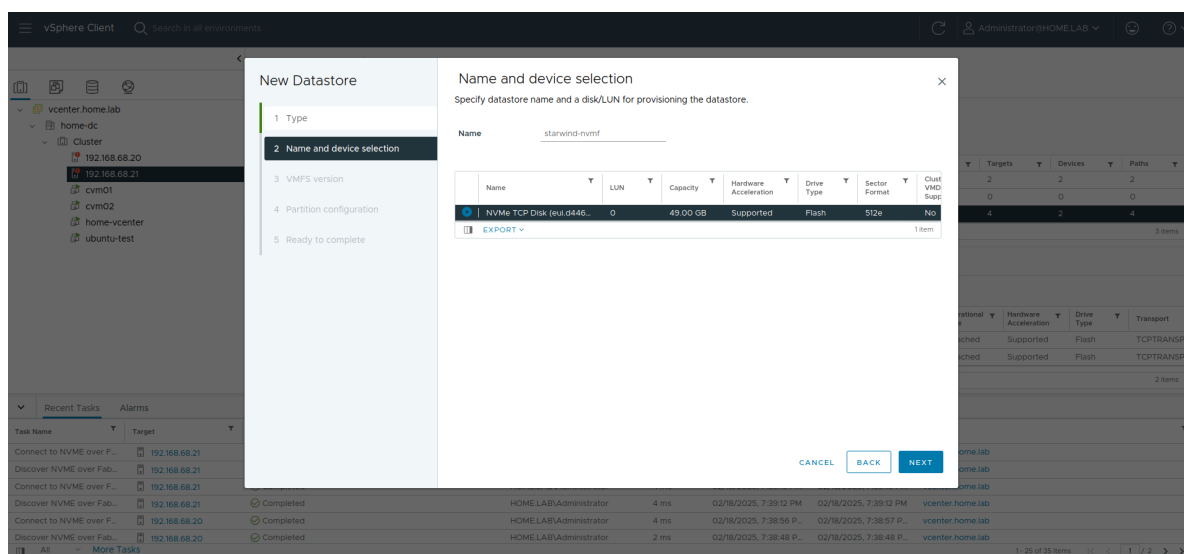
8. Right-click on the ESXi server to open the “Actions” menu, click on “Storage” and click the “New datastore” button.



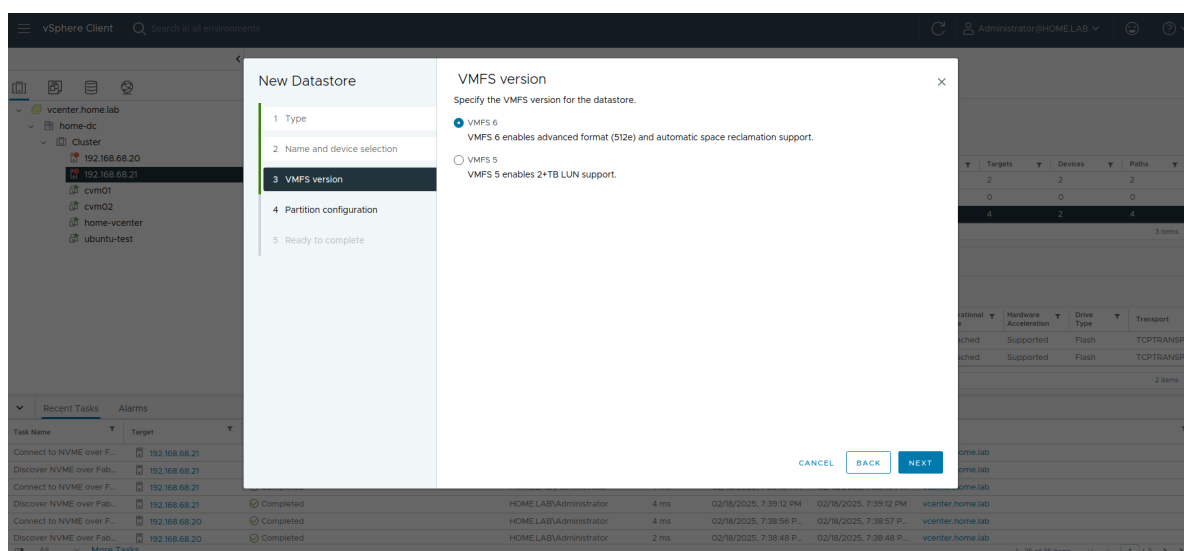
9. The Datastore creation wizard appears. Specify the Datastore type as VMFS.



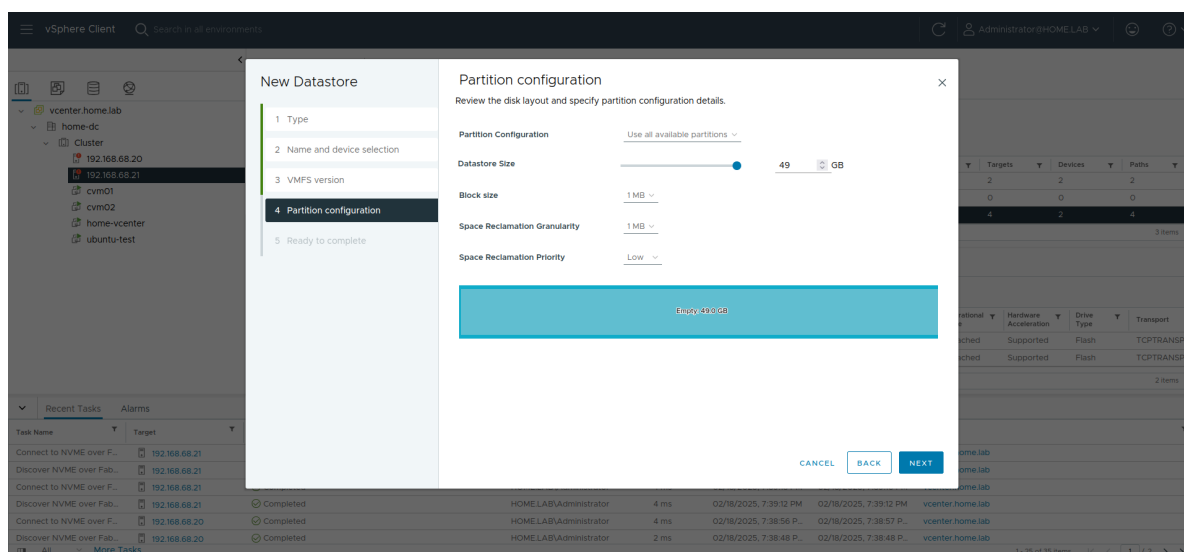
10. Specify the datastore name. Select the StarWind virtual disk.



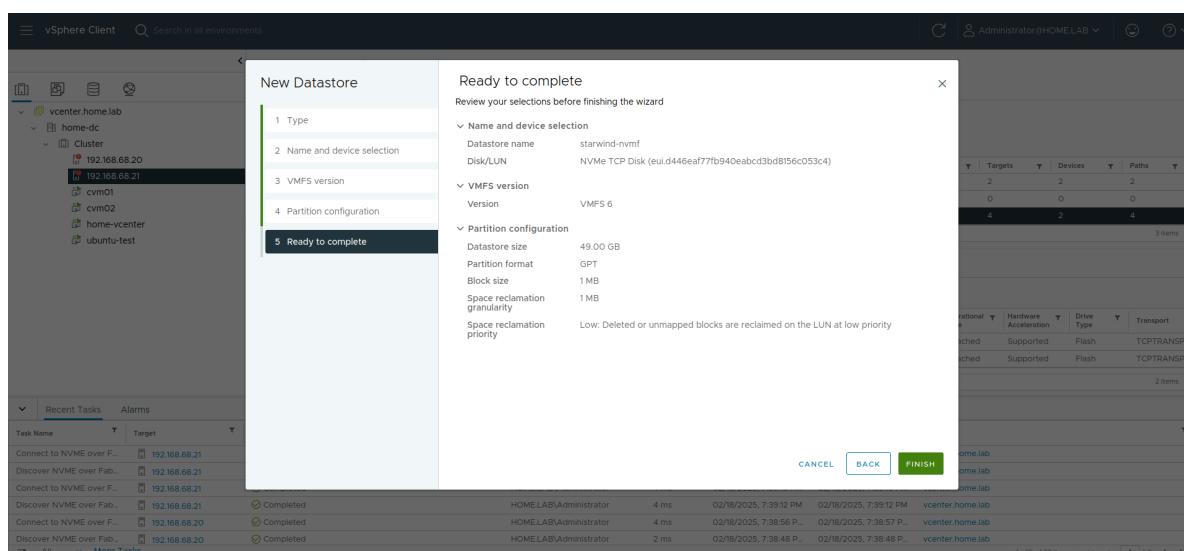
11. Specify the VMFS6 version for the datastore.



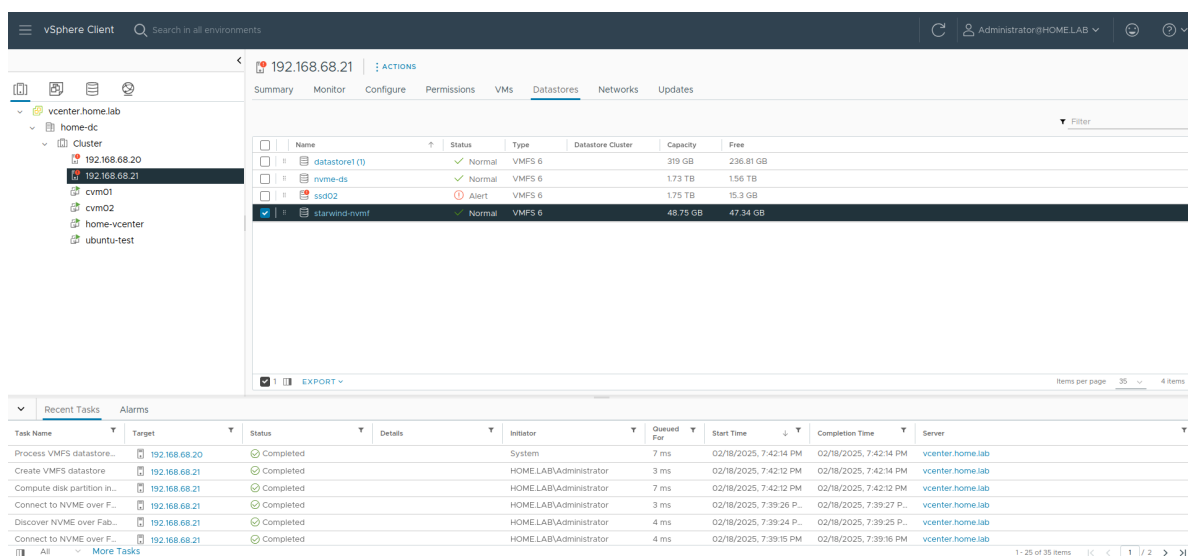
12. Specify the datastore size using the entire disk capacity.



13. Review the configuration summary and click “Finish” to create the datastore.



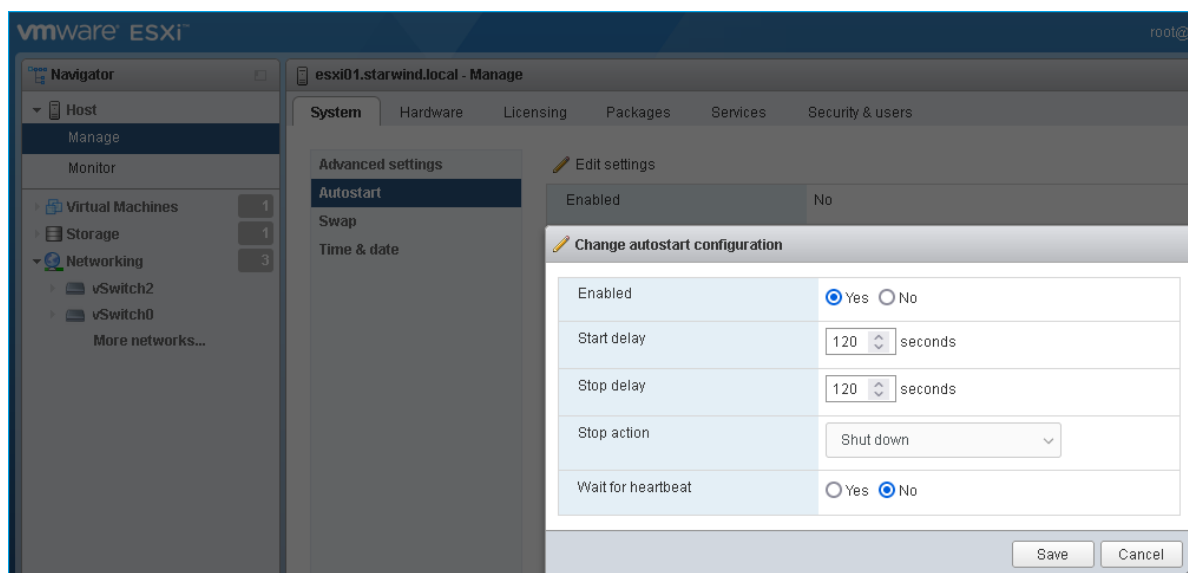
14. Check the StarWind datastore in the Datastores tab.



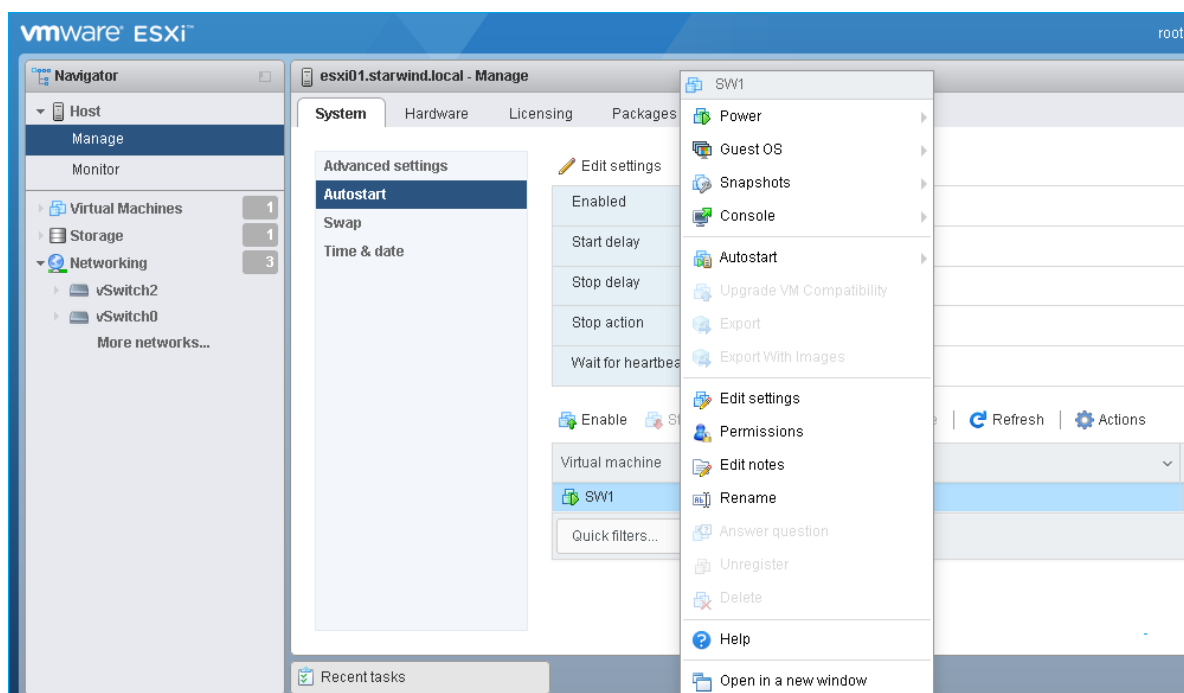
15. Repeat the configuration steps 6-13 to add newly created StarWind LUNs as datastores on your VMware vSphere cluster.

Configuring Starwind Vms Startup/shutdown

1. Setup the VMs startup policy on both ESXi hosts from Manage -> System tab in the ESXi web console. In the appeared window, check Yes to enable the option and choose the stop action as Shut down. Click Save to proceed.



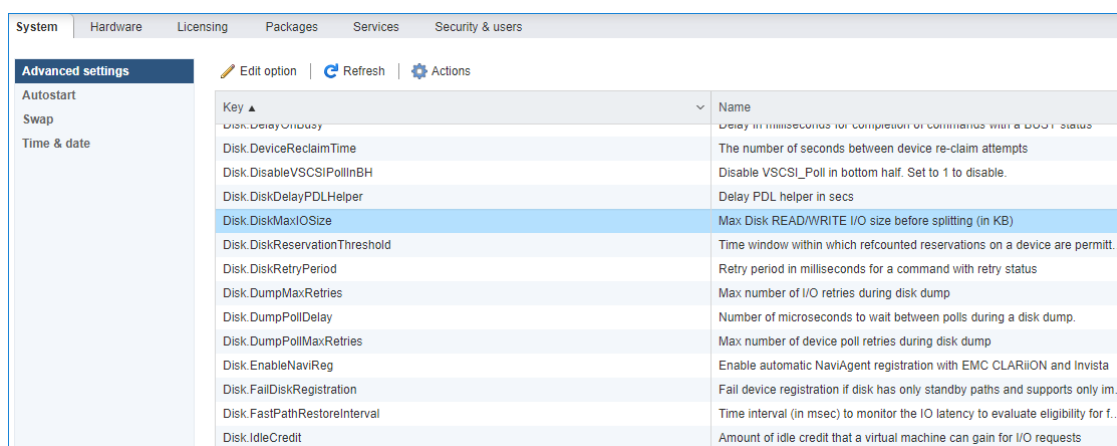
2. To configure a VM autostart, right-click on the VM, navigate to Autostart and click Enable.



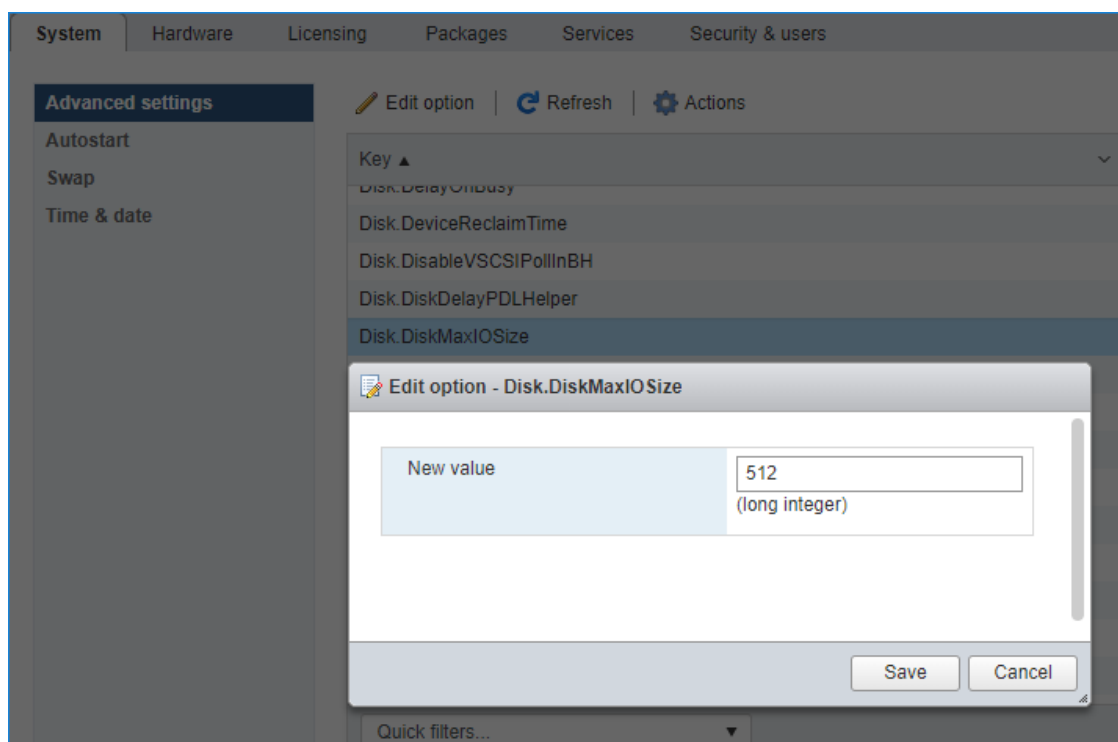
3. Complete the actions above on StarWind VM located on all ESXi hosts.
4. Start the virtual machines on all ESXi hosts.

Performance Tweaks

1. Click on the Configuration tab on all of the ESXi hosts and choose Advanced Settings.



2. Select Disk and change the Disk.DiskMaxIOSize parameter to 512.

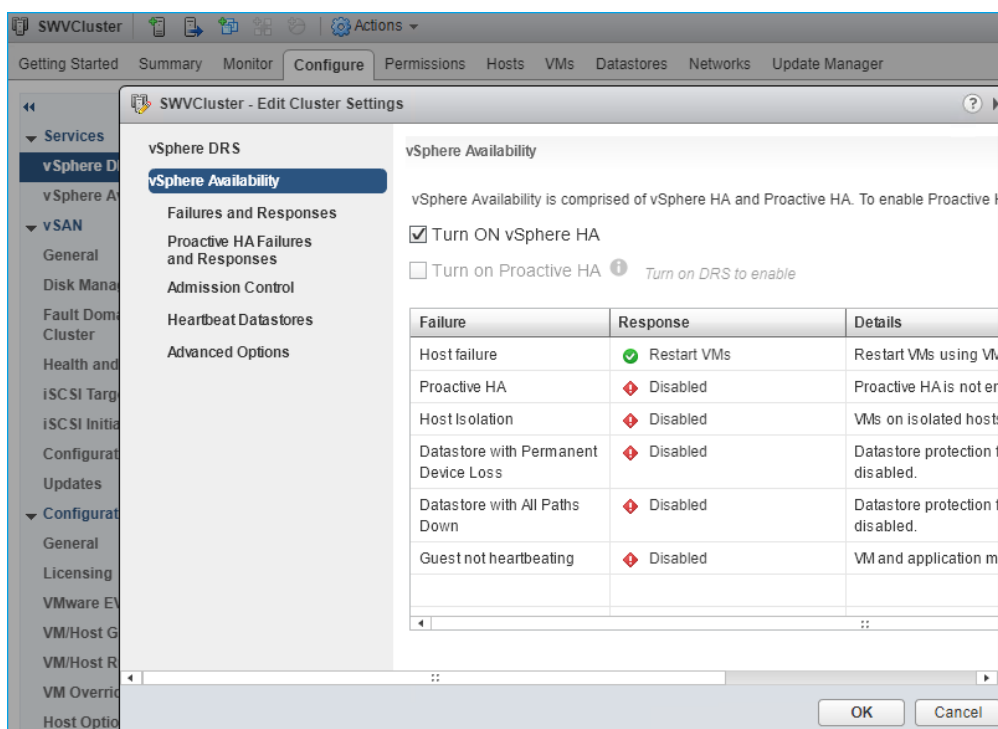


3. To optimize performance change I/O scheduler options according to the article below:
<https://knowledgebase.starwindsoftware.com/guidance/starwind-vsan-for-vsphere-changing-linux-i-o-scheduler-to-optimize-storage-performance/>

NOTE: Changing Disk.DiskMaxIOSize to 512 might cause startup issues with Windows-based VMs, located on the datastore where specific ESX builds are installed. If the issue with VMs start appears, leave this parameter as default or update the ESXi host to the next available build.

NOTE: To provide high availability for clustered VMs, deploy vCenter and add ESXi hosts to the cluster.

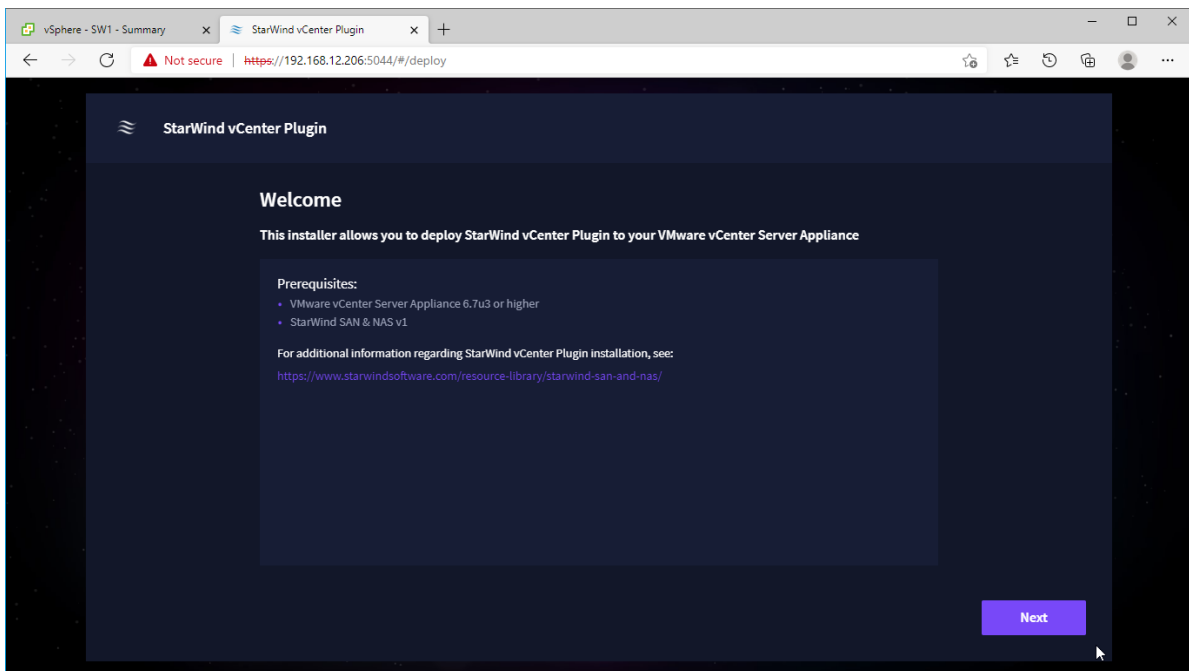
Click on Cluster -> Configure -> Edit and check the turn on vSphere HA option if it's licensed.



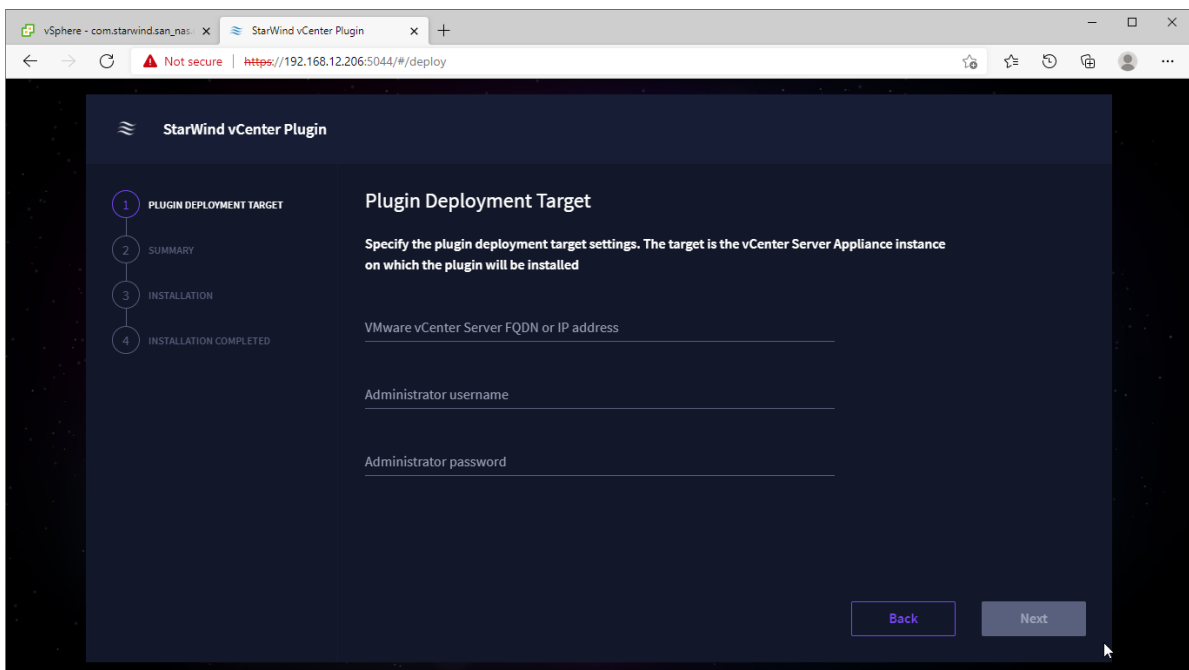
Installing Starwind Vcenter Plugin

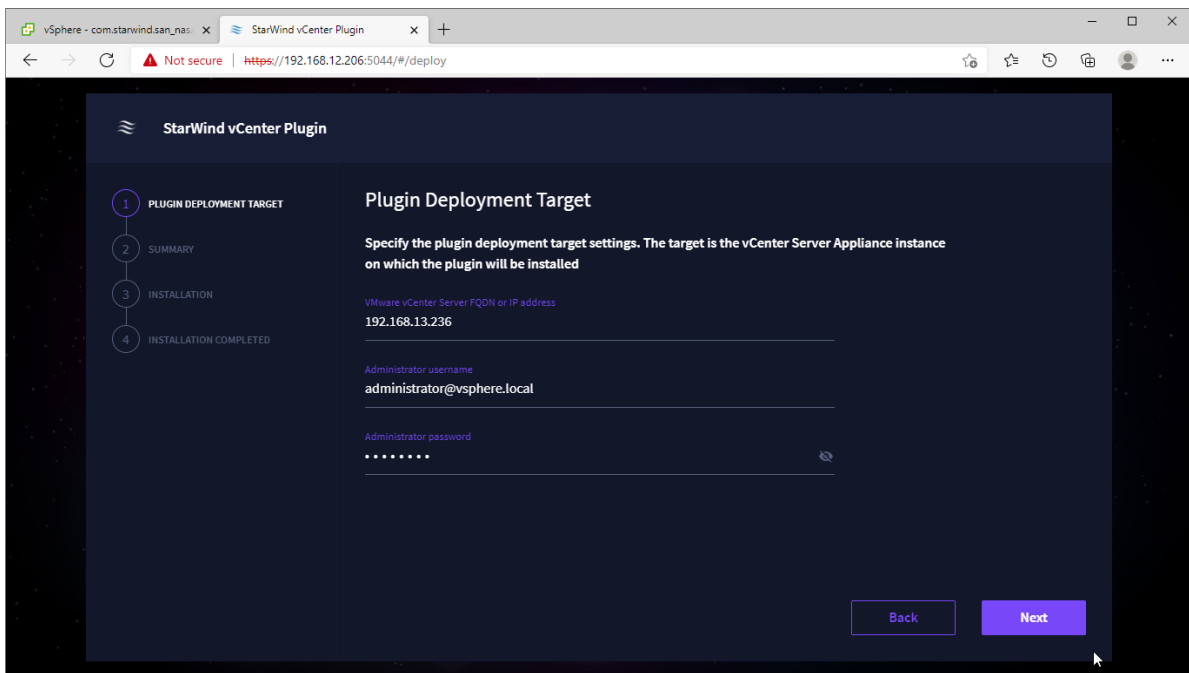
NOTE: This step is optional. StarWind vCenter plugin integrates the Controller Virtual Machines management into VMware vSphere user interface allowing managing compute and storage resources from a single web console.

1. To install the StarWind Plugin ensure that the version of your VMware vCenter Server Appliance 7.0 or newer, then click Next.

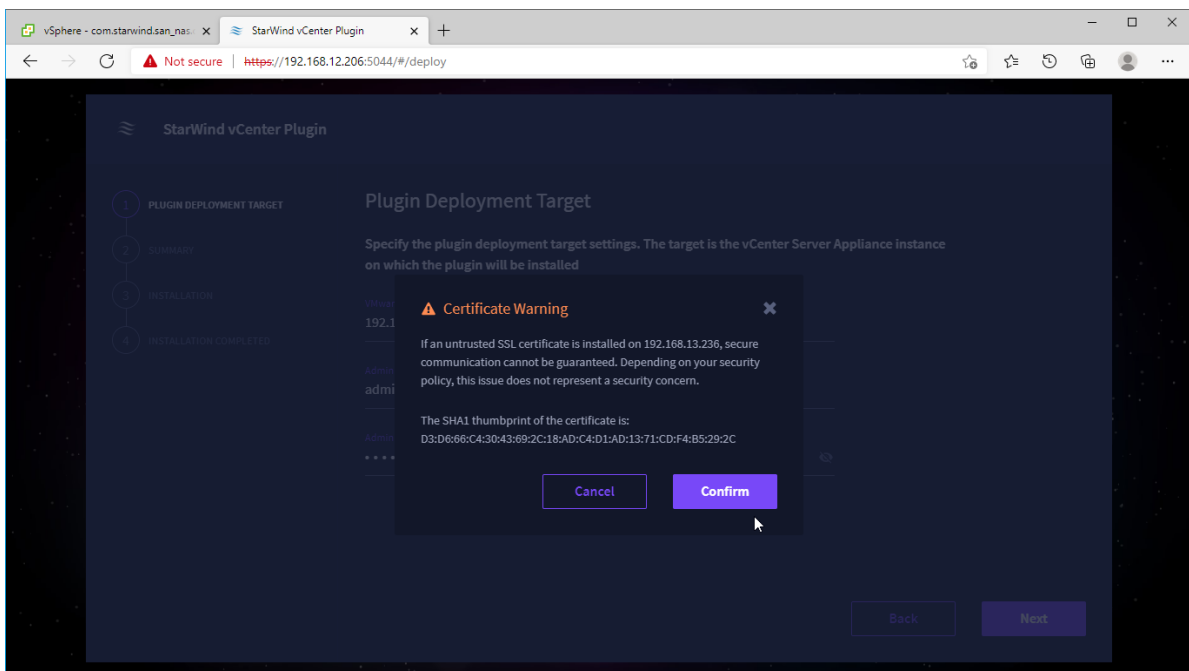


2. Specify the vCenter Server FQDN or IP Address and administrator credentials and click Next.

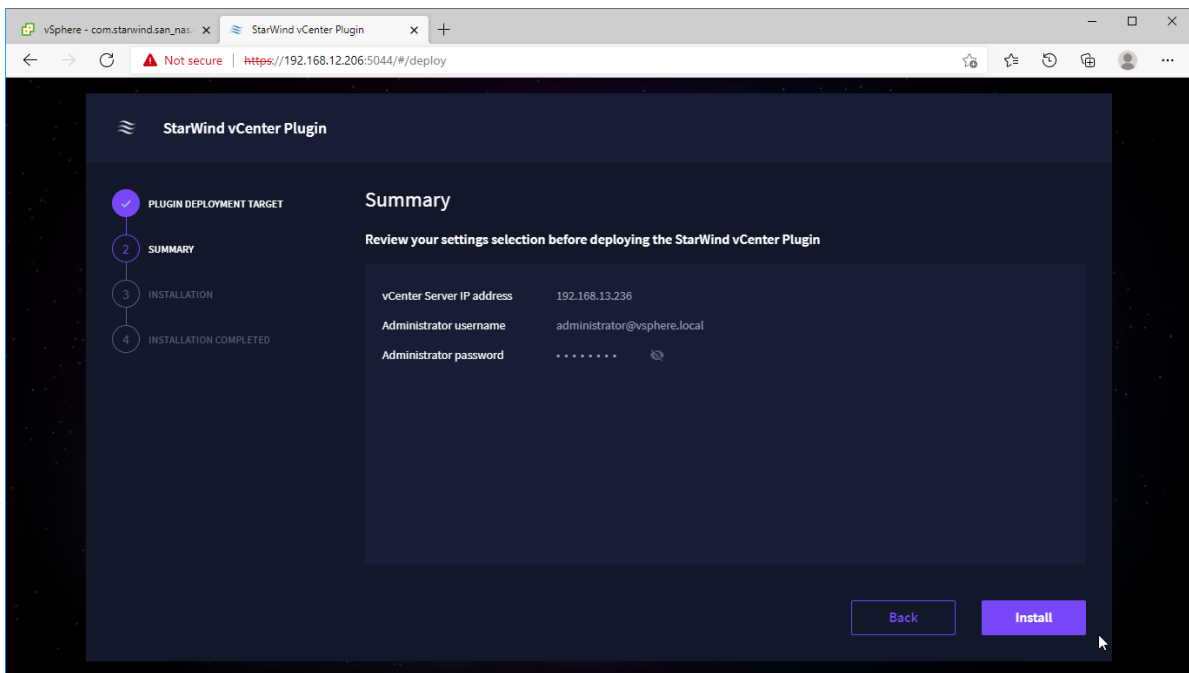




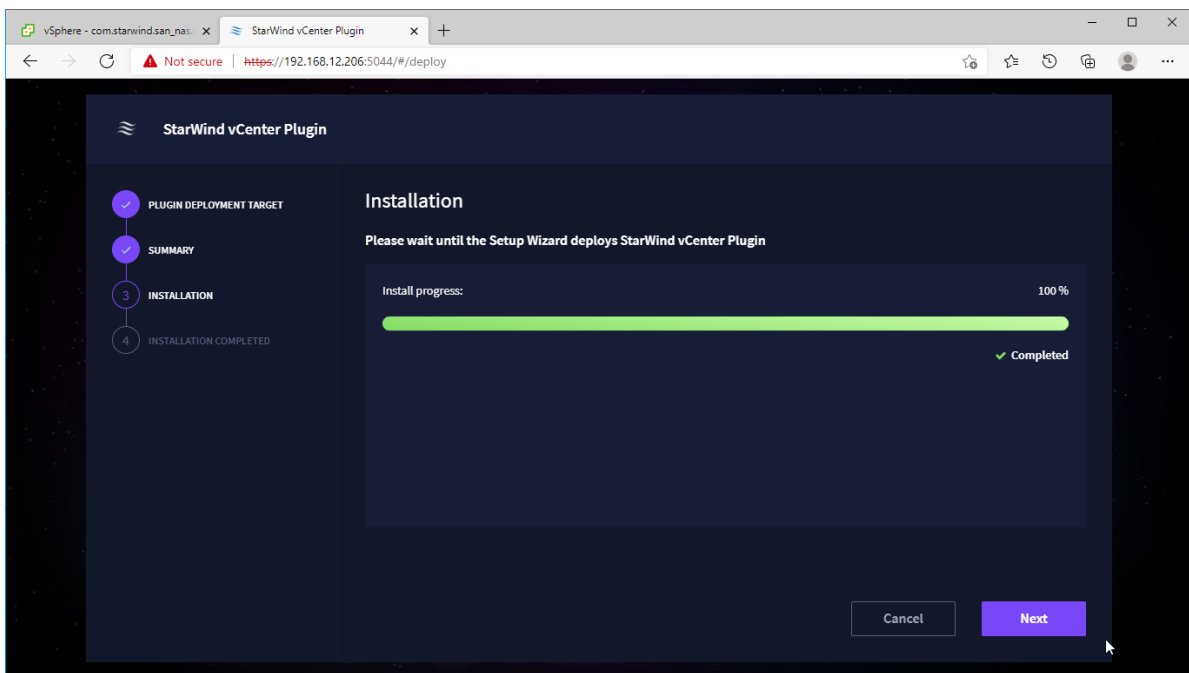
3. Confirm the connection to your vCenter Server Appliance.



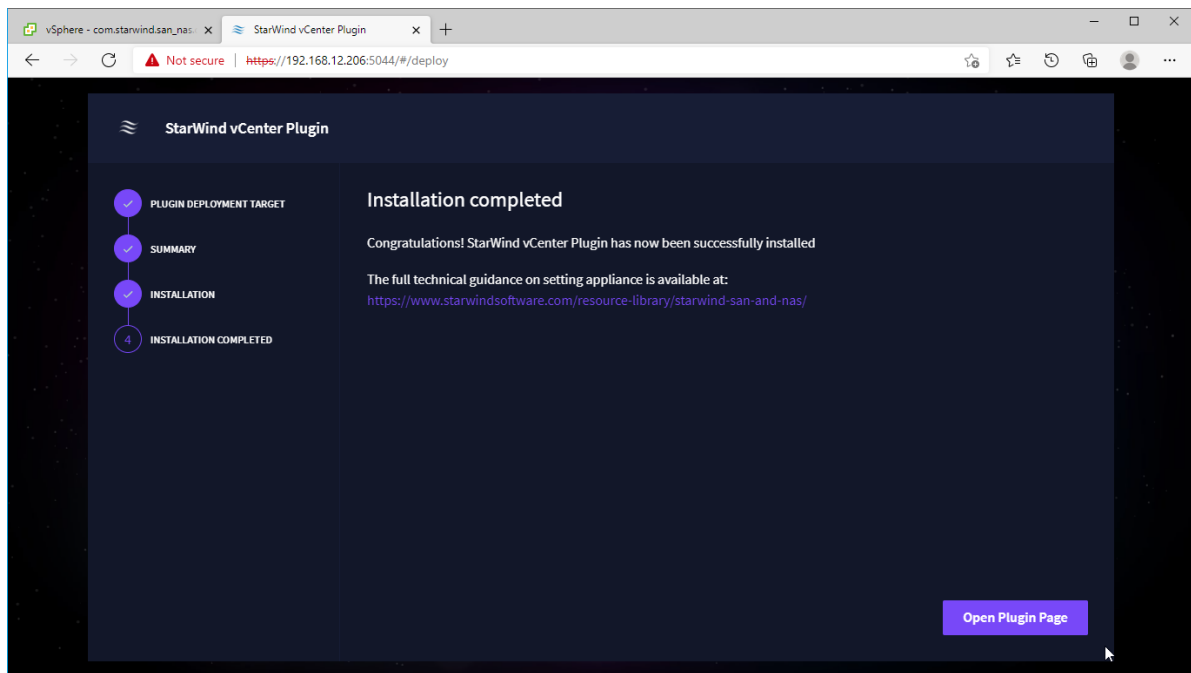
4. Review Summary and click the Install button.



5. Wait until the plugin is installed.



6. Click the Open Plugin page to start using StarWind SAN & NAS via the vCenter Plugin interface.



7. Repeat the plugin installation on each StarWind Controller Virtual Machine that will be managed using the StarWind Plugin in the VMware vSphere web interface.

Conclusion

By following this guide, StarWind Virtual SAN was deployed and configured in a VMware vSphere environment. As a result, the highly-available datastores were created for storing the virtual machines in VMware vSphere cluster. Also, VMware vSphere plugin was deployed to manage StarWind storage from vSphere Web UI.

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