

FLI

Use **Foreign LUN Import (FLI)** when migrating block data from third-party storage arrays to NetApp or Lenovo ONTAP systems. It simplifies array replacements and consolidations by migrating data directly at the LUN level, operating in either **offline** (host I/O paused) or **online** (minimal disruption) modes.

You should rely on FLI in specific scenarios:

- **Third-Party Array Upgrades:** Migrating SAN volumes from legacy hardware (such as EMC, Hitachi, or HP) to a modern ONTAP storage cluster without complex host-based reconfigurations.
- **Offline Migrations:** When you have sufficient maintenance windows and prefer to stop host I/O to perform bulk data imports as quickly as possible.
- **Online/Non-Disruptive Migrations:** When your applications cannot endure prolonged downtime. FLI allows you to resume host operations quickly while the remaining data copies in the background.
- **Avoiding Host Bottlenecks:** It shifts the migration workload to the storage controllers (acting as a SCSI initiator), saving host CPU, memory, and bandwidth that host-based copy tools would consume.

To safely execute an import, the target ONTAP LUN must be provisioned at the exact same size and block size as the source foreign LUN, and the third-party source LUN must be strictly marked as foreign within ONTAP. For step-by-step guidance on creating import relationships, refer to the official [NetApp FLI Documentation](#).