

automatic-iscsi-lif-failover

Starting with ONTAP 9.11.1, ASA platforms support automatic LIF failover for iSCSI LIFs: during storage failover or if a port goes unhealthy, the iSCSI LIF automatically moves to the HA partner or a healthy port and then reverts back when healthy.

In 9.11.1 and later, newly created iSCSI LIFs on an ASA SVM are automatically enabled for this LIF failover behavior (if all existing iSCSI LIFs on the SVM are also configured for it).

Traditional SAN LIF Behavior (Manual / Host-Managed)

- **No automatic LIF migration:** Traditionally, a SAN data Logical Interface (LIF) (like iSCSI or FC) does not automatically migrate to a different port if a link fails. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **Host MPIO handles path failover:** Instead of the storage system moving the IP/WWN address, host-side **Multipath I/O (MPIO)** and **ALUA** (Asymmetric Logical Unit Access) detect the path failure and seamlessly redirect traffic to a surviving LIF hosted on the storage HA partner node. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **Manual intervention:** If you want the actual SAN LIF moved to a different port after an issue, you must do it manually via the CLI or System Manager. [\[1, 2, 3, 4\]](#)

Modern ONTAP SAN LIF Behavior (Automatic)

- **Automatic iSCSI and NVMe/TCP failover:** Starting with ONTAP 9.11.1 on **All-Flash SAN Array (ASA)** platforms and select active-active configurations, **automatic LIF failover** is supported and enabled by default for iSCSI and NVMe/TCP protocols. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **Default policy:** These automatic configurations use the `sfo-partner-only` failover policy, allowing the LIF to migrate automatically to the HA partner node if the home port goes down. [\[1, 2\]](#)
- **Fibre Channel (FC):** FC environments rely on **persistent ports** (introduced in ONTAP 9.8) rather than traditional LIF migration policies to handle path transitions transparently. [\[1\]](#)

If you want to check or change your settings, let me know:

- Your current **ONTAP version**
- Your **platform model** (e.g., ASA vs. FAS/AFF)
- Your **SAN protocol** (iSCSI, FC, or NVMe)

I can provide the exact CLI commands to check or modify your LIF failover policies.