

Version 1.1

March 2024

Integrate Okta with Cohesity SSO

Enable Seamless Authentication and Security for Organizations

ABSTRACT

Your organization is dynamic; strengthening agility and flexibility without compromising on security is a balancing act. Single Sign-On (SSO) solutions help solve authentication and identity challenges while providing additional benefits. Cohesity provides seamless SSO support, for entire clusters as well as organizations in multi-tenant clusters.

Table of Contents

Single Sign-On (SSO) Benefits	3
Cohesity Offers Seamless SSO Support.....	4
Integrating with SSO Identity Providers	5
Configure Access Management with Okta on Cohesity	6
Prepare Required Information for Integration.....	6
Create Okta Application	7
Add Okta as SSO Provider on Cohesity	13
Add SSO Users and Groups.....	16
Manage Cohesity SSO Providers	18
<i>Edit SSO Provider</i>	18
<i>Deactivate SSO Provider</i>	19
<i>Delete SSO Provider</i>	20
Your Feedback	21
About the Authors.....	21
Document Version History.....	21

Figures

Figure 1: IdP Authenticates Cohesity User and Assigns Appropriate Cohesity Role	5
Figure 2: Access Management with Okta Lifecycle	6

Single Sign-On (SSO) Benefits

When you streamline your organization's infrastructure with SSO capabilities, the complex tasks of managing all its components become more efficient for administrators across systems. You also gain many other benefits in the process, including:

- Increased compliance and security
- Easier collaboration between vendors and partners
- Productivity gains
- Improved user auditing
- Improved application adoption
- Better user experience for employees
- Fewer support cases

Cohesity Offers Seamless SSO Support

You can configure Cohesity to use an Identity Provider (IdP) for enabling SSO access to your Cohesity cluster. For a multi-tenant cluster, you can configure SSO for each organization defined in Cohesity.

After the integration is configured, users can sign in to the Cohesity cluster by one of two paths, via the IdP or the Service Provider (SP), which is Cohesity in this case:

- **IdP-initiated login.** Click the application tile for your Cohesity cluster on the IdP sign-in page.
- **SP-initiated login.** Click the Sign in with SSO link at the bottom of the Cohesity login page.

When integrating with SSO providers, note these requirements. Cohesity currently:

- Supports SSO with solutions that support SAML (Security Assertion Markup Language) 2.0.
- Uses the **user.userType** attribute in SAML 2.0 SSO for user roles.

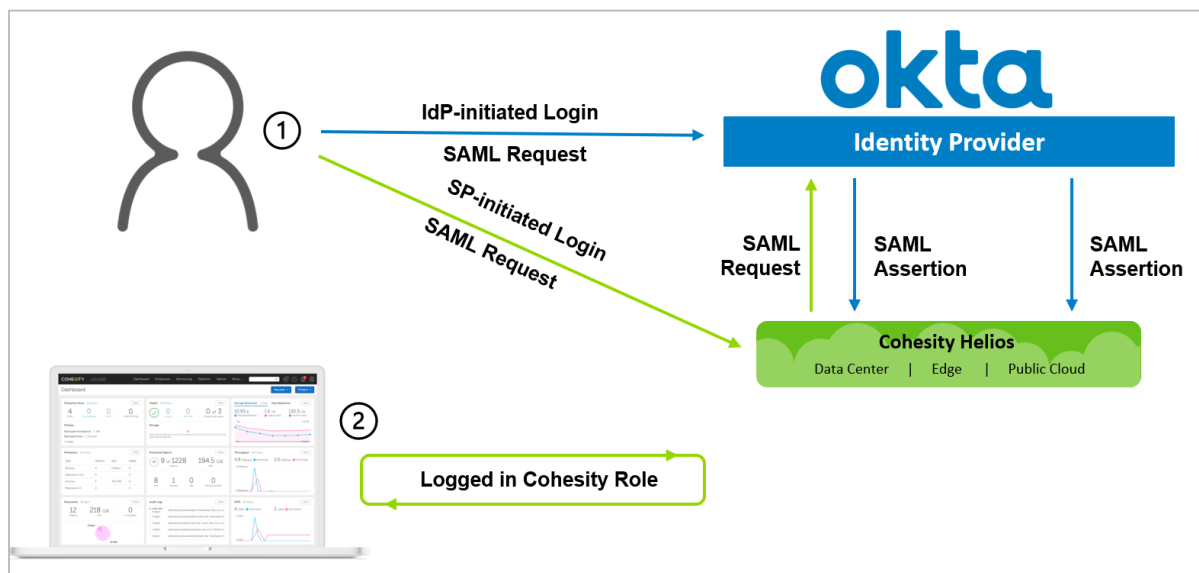
Integrating with SSO Identity Providers

To integrate with an IdP, users need to configure details on both the IdP and the SP, Cohesity. SSO support is delivered through the [Cohesity REST API](#), providing extensibility and reliability.

The authentication workflow starts with the IdP or the SP:

1. The user logs in:
 - **Via IdP:** The IdP, Okta, identifies and authenticates the user and sends a SAML 2.0 assertion to the SP, Cohesity.
 - **Via SP:** A user requests to log in to the SP, Cohesity, via SSO. The SAML 2.0 request is redirected to the IdP, Okta. Okta identifies and authenticates the user, then sends a SAML 2.0 assertion to Cohesity.
2. Cohesity authorizes this user with the SAML 2.0 assertion and maps the user to the appropriate role.

Figure 1: IdP Authenticates Cohesity User and Assigns Appropriate Cohesity Role

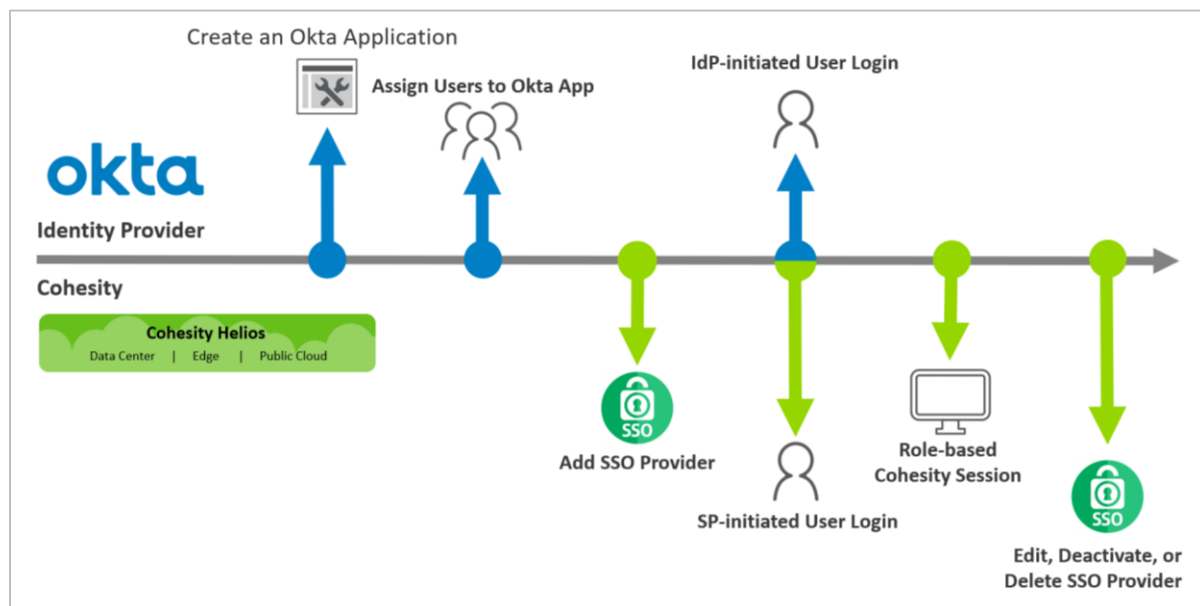


Configure Access Management with Okta on Cohesity

To configure and use Okta on Cohesity:

1. [Create Okta SSO application](#). Create Okta application for Cohesity.
2. [Assign users to your Okta application](#). Assigns users to the application in Okta.
3. [Add your SSO provider](#). Use your Okta details to configure access management on Cohesity.
4. Role-based Cohesity session. Users log in to Cohesity via Okta (*IdP-initiated*) or Cohesity SSO login (*SP-initiated*).
5. [Manage SSOs](#). Edit, deactivate, or delete your SSO provider.

Figure 2: Access Management with Okta Lifecycle



Prepare Required Information for Integration

Before you use Okta as your SSO provider for Cohesity, you will need to collect several pieces of information from each platform.

To [create the Okta application](#) that will integrate with Cohesity, you will need:

- **Single Sign-On URL.** The URL where SAML assertions are sent once a user is authenticated.
 - To [build the Single Sign-On URL in the SAML settings for your Okta app](#):
 - **For Cohesity (on-prem):** Log in to Cohesity to get the cluster's FQDN and add `\idsps/authenticate'`. Use the format: `https://<cluster_fqdn>/idsps/authenticate`.
 - **For Cohesity Helios:** Use the URL: `https://helios.cohesity.com/v2/mcm/idp/authenticate`.

- **Audience URI (SP Entity ID).** Same as the above. Use this in your [Okta SAML configuration](#) to identify Cohesity as the SP that will use Okta as the IdP.
- **Attributes Mapping.** Maps the parameters sent by the IdP (Okta) to the service provider (Cohesity).

To [configure Cohesity to use Okta SSO](#), you will need the following from Okta:

- **Single Sign-On URL.** The URL where the user is redirected for authentication. Enter the value of the 'Identity Single Sign-On URL' field that [you copy from Okta](#).
- **Provider Issuer ID.** Identifies the Cohesity cluster sending the SAML request and enter the value of the 'Identity Provider Issuer' field that [you copy from Okta](#).
- **X.509 Certificate.** Verifies the SAML assertions received by the IdP, Okta. Upload the `okta.pem` file that you will [download](#) from Okta and [rename](#).

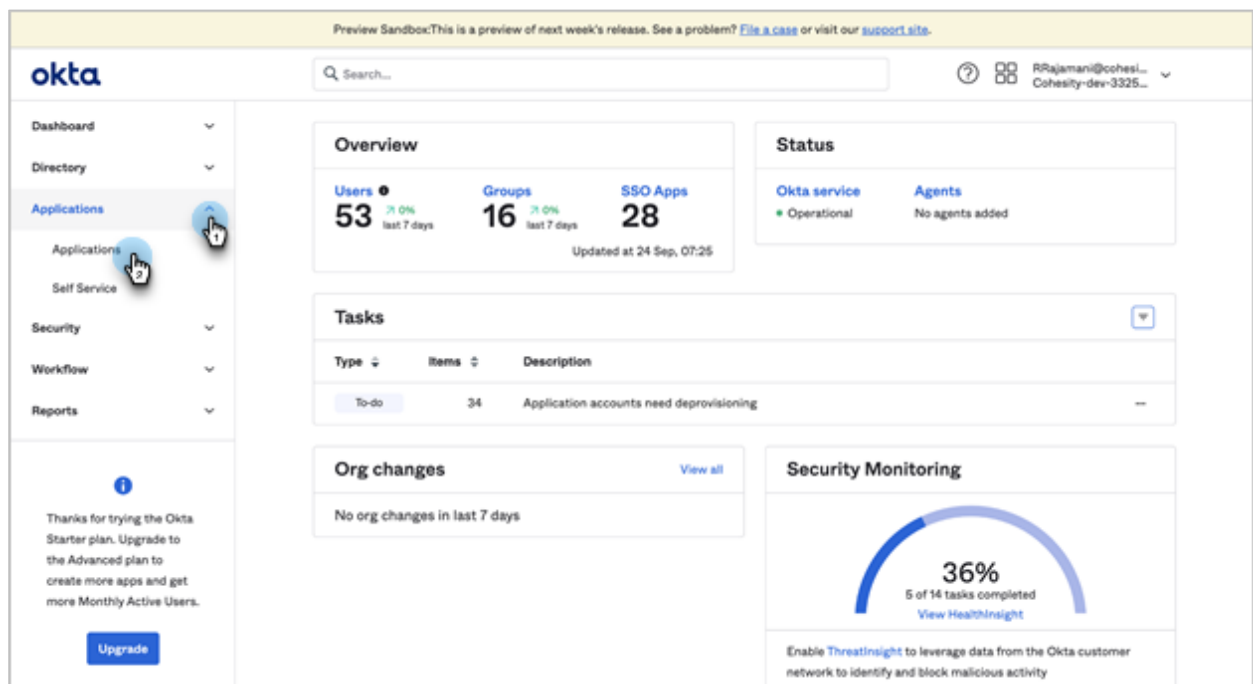
Now you're ready to start setting up Okta SSO for Cohesity, starting with creating an Okta app in the next section.

Create Okta Application

The first step is to create an application in your Okta account that connects to your Cohesity cluster.

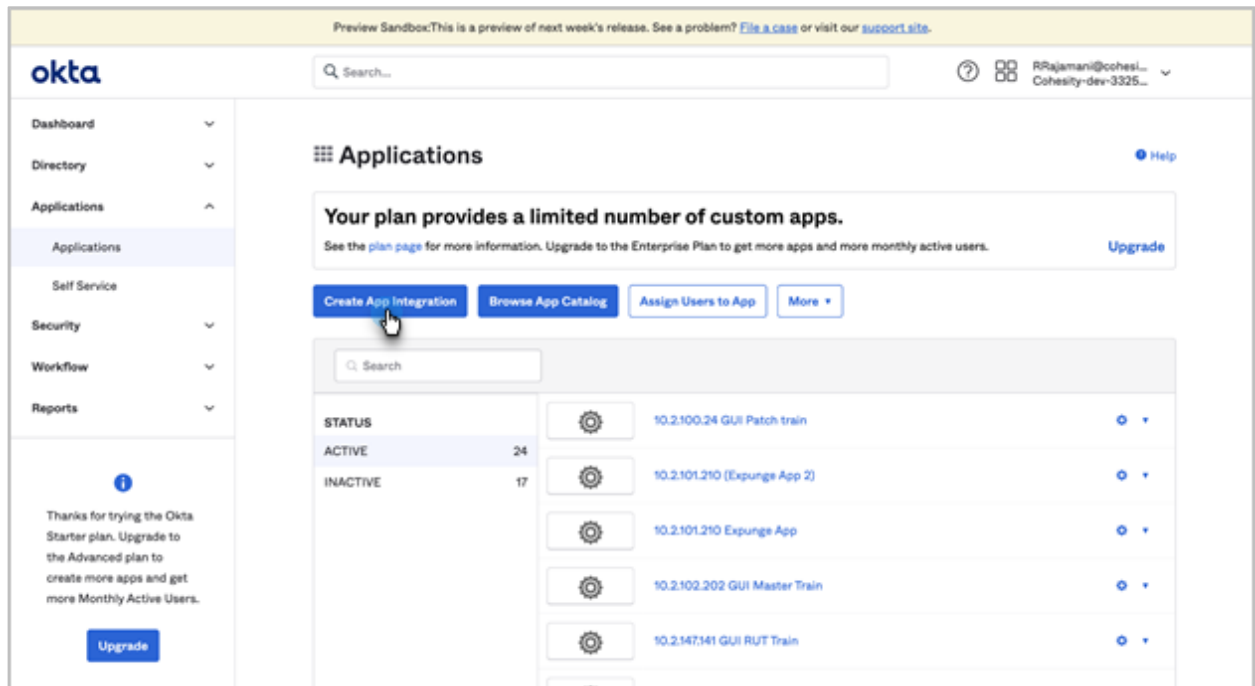
To create an Okta application for Cohesity:

1. Log in to the Okta admin panel and go to **Applications** under **Applications**.

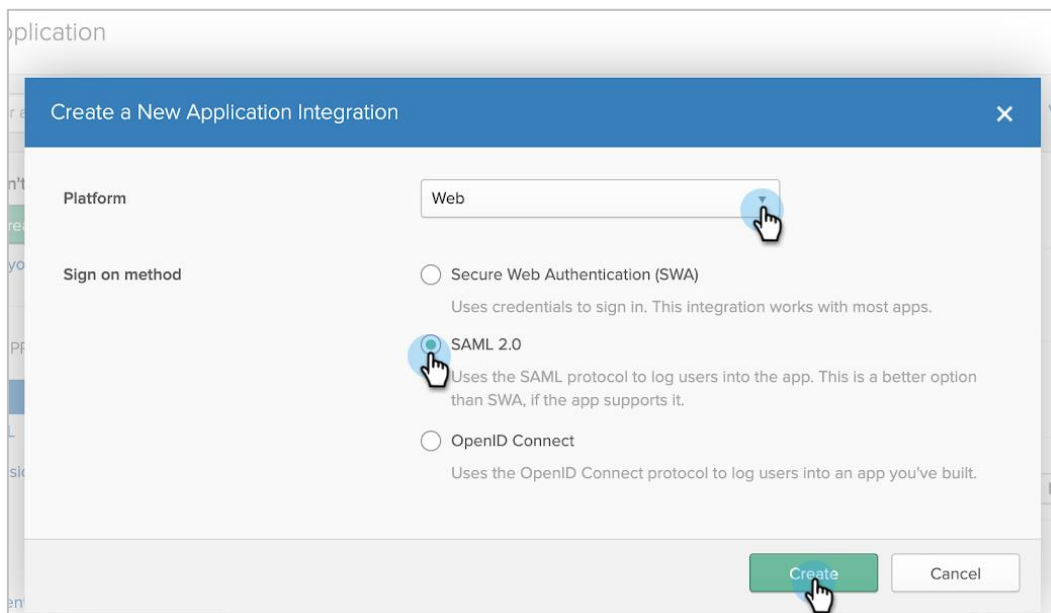


The screenshot displays the Okta admin console interface. At the top, there is a search bar and a user profile dropdown for 'RRajamani@cohesi... Cohesity-dev-3325...'. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with 'Applications' highlighted. The main content area shows an 'Overview' section with metrics: 53 Users (71.0% last 7 days), 16 Groups (71.0% last 7 days), and 28 SSO Apps (Updated at 24 Sep, 07:25). A 'Status' section indicates 'Okta service' is Operational and 'Agents' are 'No agents added'. Below this is a 'Tasks' table with one item: 'To-do' (34 items) with the description 'Application accounts need deprovisioning'. The 'Org changes' section shows 'No org changes in last 7 days'. The 'Security Monitoring' section features a progress gauge at 36% (5 of 14 tasks completed) and a link to 'View HealthNight'. A notification at the bottom of the sidebar encourages upgrading from the Starter plan to the Advanced plan.

2. Click **Create App Integration**.



3. In the dialog that opens, under **Platform**, select **Web**. Under **Sign on method**, select **SAML 2.0**. Then click **Create**.



4. Enter **App name** (to display in the Cohesity cluster tile on the SSO page), upload an **App logo** (optional), and click **Next**.

The screenshot shows the Okta 'Create SAML Integration' page, specifically the 'General Settings' step. The page has a blue header with the Okta logo and navigation links. The main content area is titled 'Create SAML Integration' and has three steps: 1. General Settings, 2. Configure SAML, and 3. (unlabeled). The 'General Settings' step is active and contains the following fields:

- App name:** A text input field containing 'CohesitySSO'.
- App logo (optional):** A section containing a preview of the 'COHESITY' logo, a text input field with 'cohesity.png', a 'Browse..' button, and an 'Upload Logo' button.
- App visibility:** Two checkboxes:
 - Do not display application icon to users
 - Do not display application icon in the Okta Mobile app

At the bottom of the form, there is a 'Cancel' button on the left and a green 'Next' button on the right.

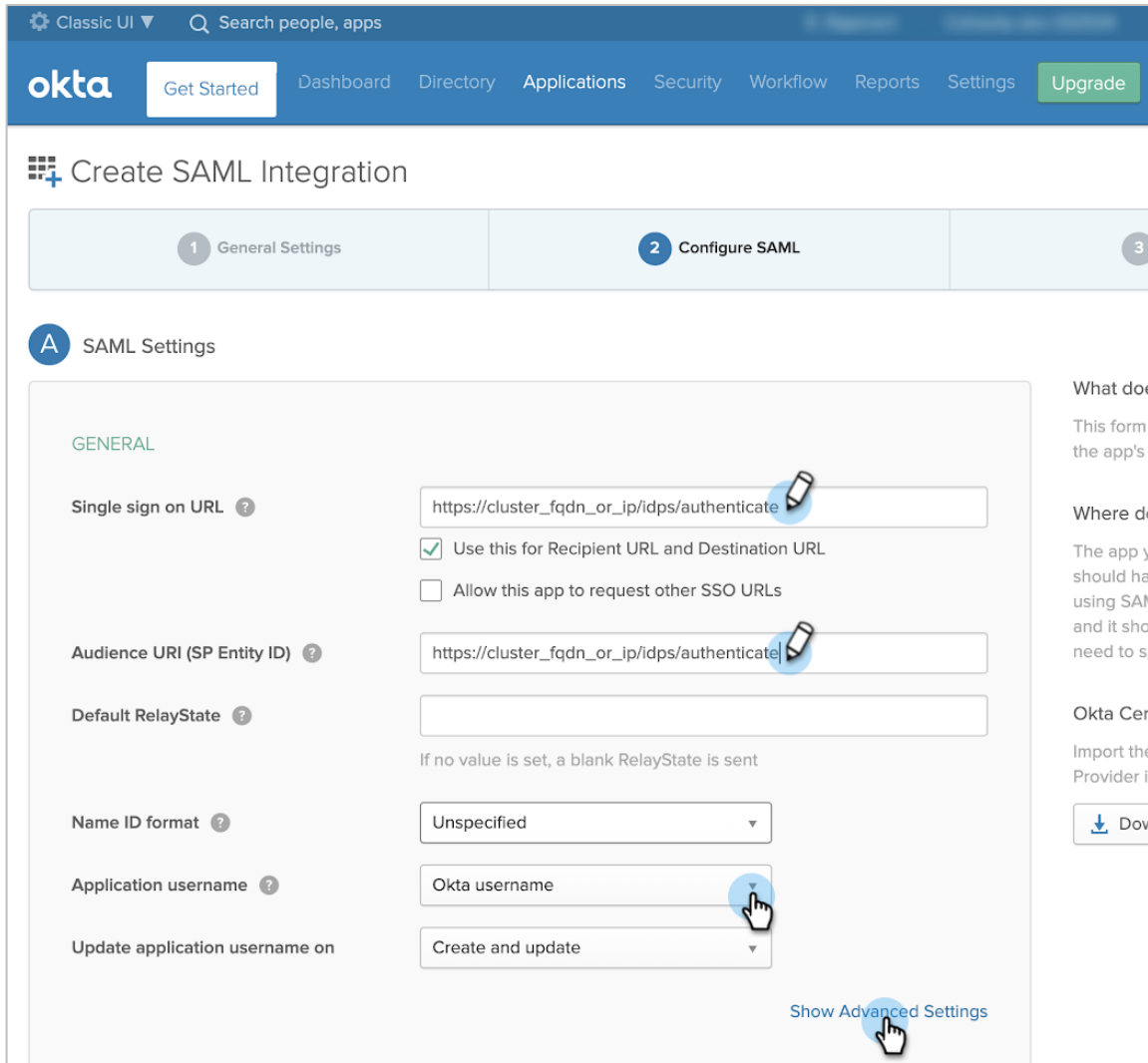
5. Configure your **SAML Settings** by entering:

- **Single sign on URL.** Add the Cohesity cluster FQDN or VIP address, followed by `/idps/authenticate`. For example: `https://<cluster_fqdn>/idps/authenticate`.

NOTE: To find the FQDN and VIP address, log in to Cohesity and select **Settings > Cluster > Networking > VIPs**.

For Cohesity Helios, use: `https://helios.cohesity.com/v2/mcm/idp/authenticate`.

- **Audience URI (SP Entity ID).** Use the same URL as above.
- **Application username.** Select your preference.



6. In the same form, under **ATTRIBUTE STATEMENTS**, map the **Email** and/or **Login** SAML attributes to the Okta user profile attributes. If the value is not available in the drop-down list, type it as shown in the table. You can map either or both attributes.

SAML ATTRIBUTE	OKTA USER PROFILE ATTRIBUTE VALUE
Email	user.email
Login	user.login

ATTRIBUTE STATEMENTS (OPTIONAL) [LEARN MORE](#)

Name	Name format (optional)	Value
<input type="text" value="Email"/>	<input type="text" value="Unspecified"/>	<input type="text" value="user.email"/>
<input type="text" value="Login"/>	<input type="text" value="Unspecified"/>	<input type="text" value="user.login"/>

- Under **GROUP ATTRIBUTE STATEMENTS**, map the **groups** attribute to the Okta **Filter** attribute. (For example, select **Starts with** and enter **cohesity_** to pass any group name that starts with 'cohesity_' to Cohesity, which enables you to add it to the Cohesity cluster as an [SSO group](#) with specific access rights.) Then click **Next**.

GROUP ATTRIBUTE STATEMENTS (OPTIONAL)

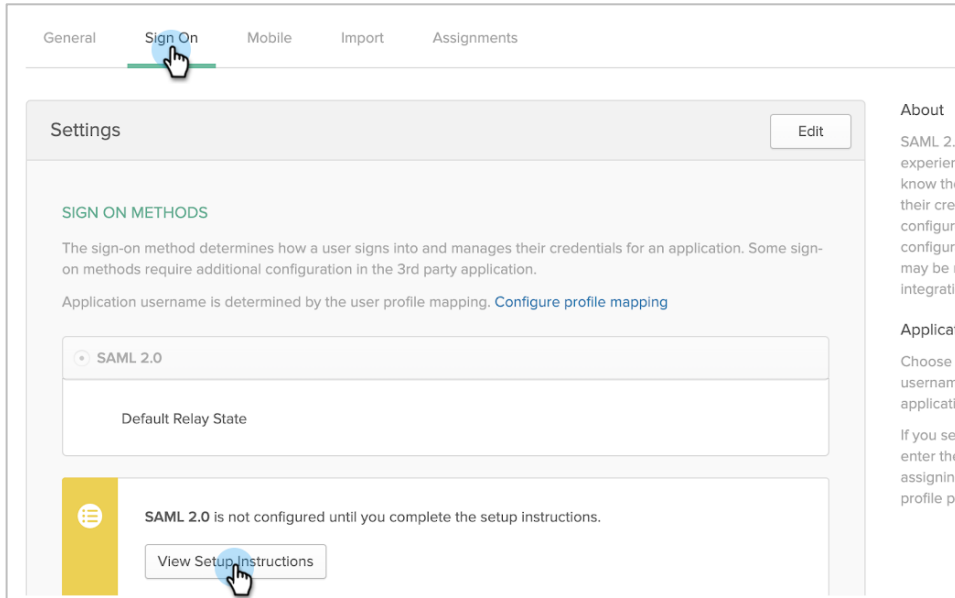
Name	Name format (optional)	Filter
<input type="text" value="groups"/>	<input type="text" value="Unspecified"/>	<input type="text" value="Starts with cohesity_"/>

B Preview the SAML assertion generated from the information above

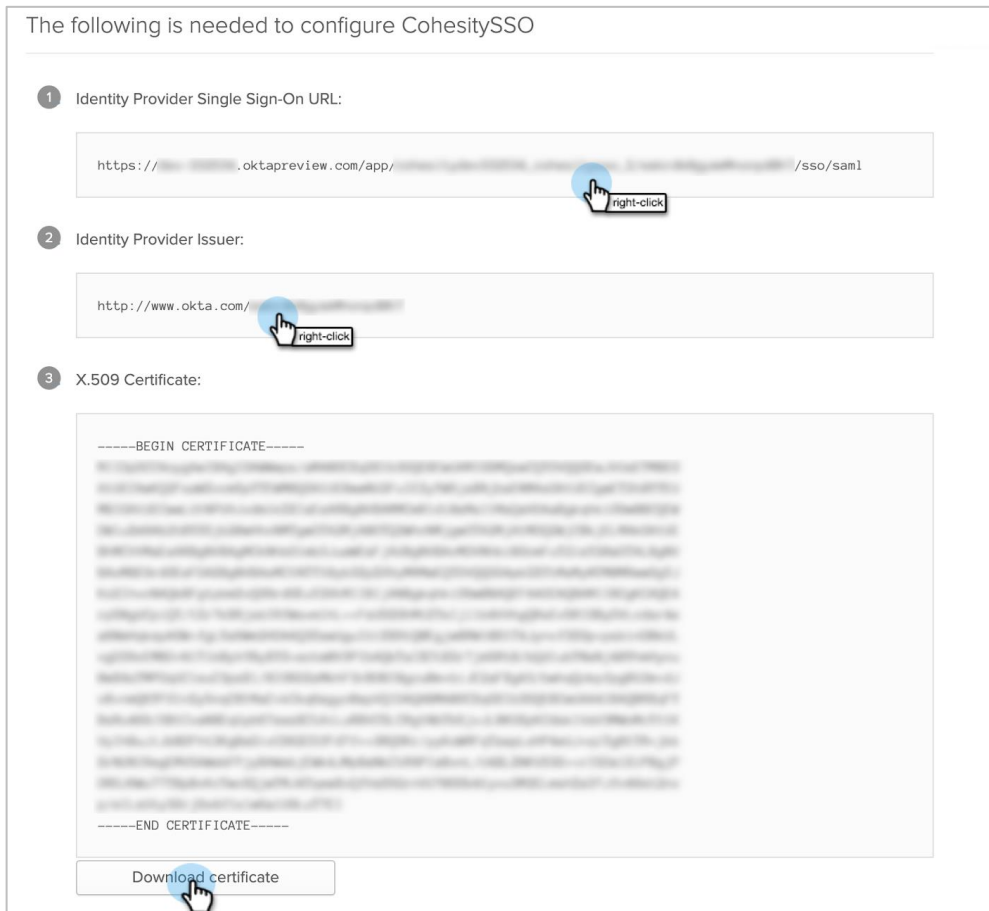
This shows you the XML that will be used in the assertion - use it to verify the info you entered above

- Click **Finish** to add the application.

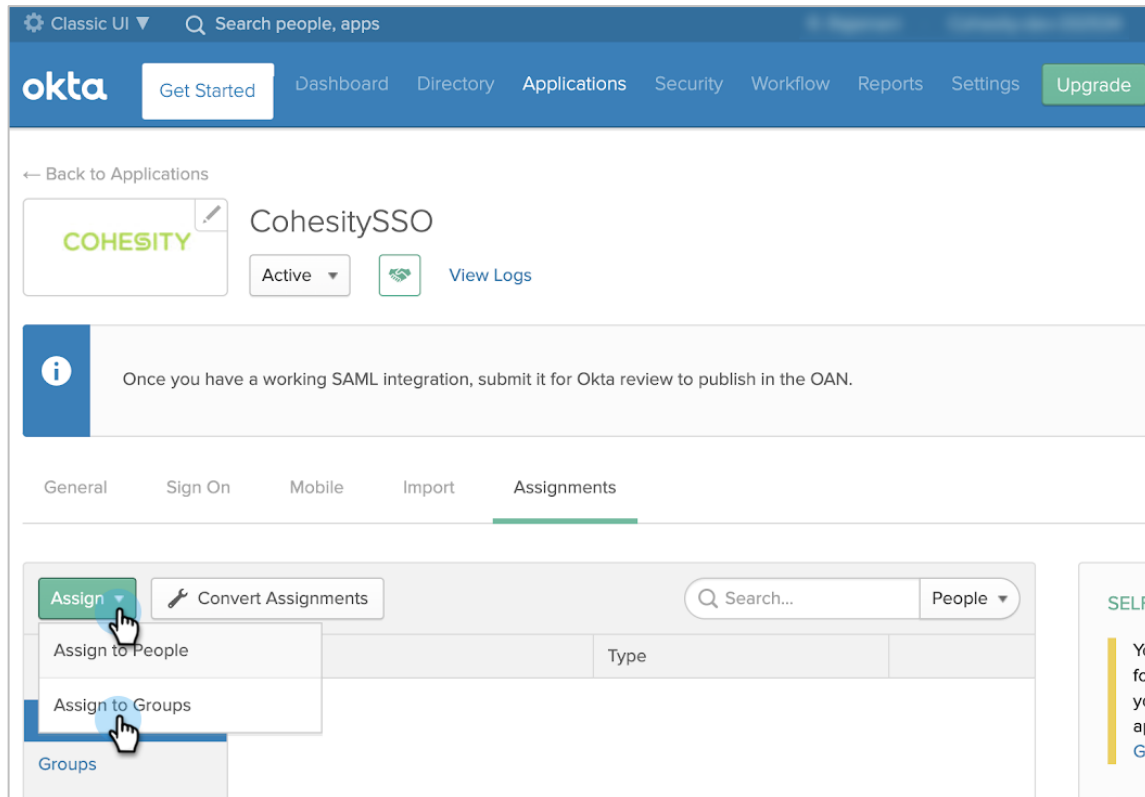
9. On your Okta application's **Sign On** tab, click **View Setup Instructions**.



10. Copy and keep the **Identity Provider Single Sign-On URL** and the **Identity Provider Issuer URL**, and click **Download certificate** to save the *okta.cert* file.



11. Rename the downloaded `okta.cert` file to `okta.pem`. You'll upload this file to the cluster later.
12. Click **Assign > Assign to People** to assign users to your Cohesity Okta application. Click **Assign > Assign to Groups** to assign groups to the app. ([You'll assign roles to those users and groups in Cohesity later.](#))



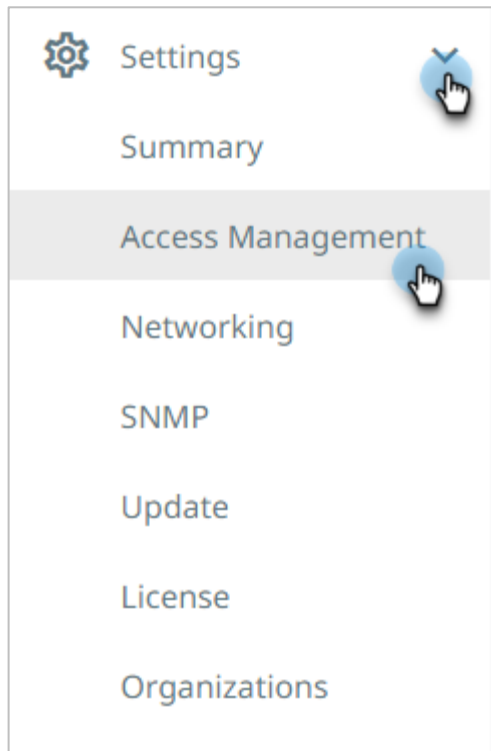
Now that you have the Okta application for Cohesity, you're ready to add it to your Cohesity cluster, as described next.

Add Okta as SSO Provider on Cohesity

Now that you have created the Cohesity Okta application, use your Okta details to configure access management on Cohesity.

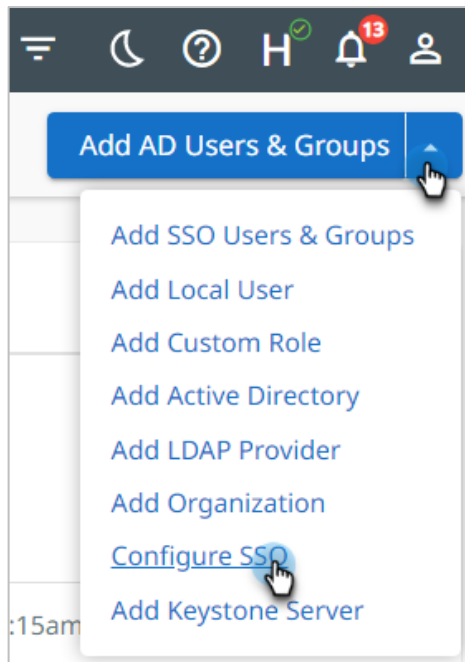
1. Log in to Cohesity as an administrator.

2. Navigate to **Settings > Access Management**.



3. In the **Access Management** page, select **Add AD Users & Groups > Configure SSO**.

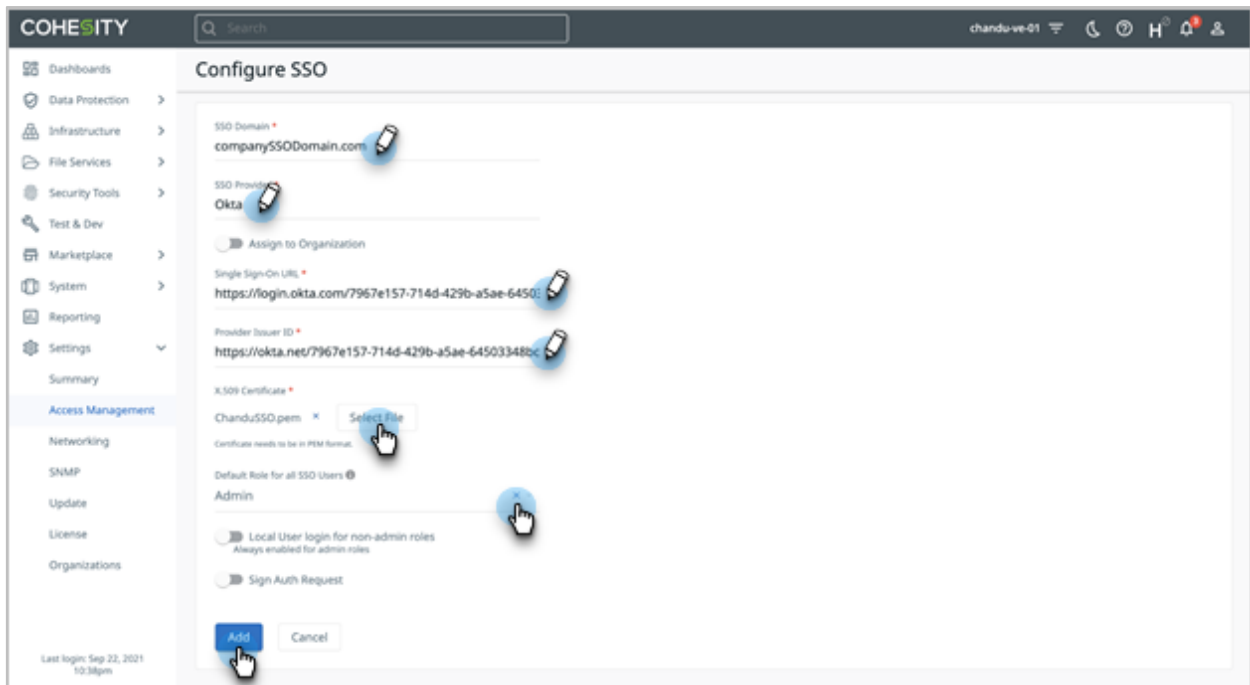
NOTE: To configure Helios, in the **Access Management** page, click the **SSO** tab and then click **Configure SSO**.



4. In the **Configure SSO** form, use the information you captured earlier to complete the following fields:
 - a) **SSO Domain.**
 - *For Cohesity (on-prem):* Enter **Okta**. (Note that this name should be unique among all SSO provider domain names.)
 - *For Helios:* Unique domain name that will differentiate this IdP from others. As Helios supports multiple IdPs, this has to be a unique string (usually company domain). For a user to be redirected to this IdP, the user will need to log in via SSO using `username@SSO_DOMAIN`.

When a user logs in to Helios using SSO and enters the email address as `foo@bar.com`, Helios looks for the IdP that has the SSO Domain configured as `bar.com` and redirects this user `foo` to the matching IdP. This is how Helios determines which IdP the user needs to be forwarded to.
 - b) **SSO Provider.** Enter **Okta**.
 - c) **Single Sign-On URL.** Enter the **Identity Single Sign-On URL** that [you copied from Okta](#) earlier.
 - d) **Provider Issuer ID.** Enter the **Identity Provider Issuer** that [you copied from Okta](#) earlier.
 - e) **X.509 Certificate.** Click **Select File** and browse to select the `okta.pem` file that you [downloaded](#) and [renamed](#) earlier.
 - f) **Default Role for all SSO Users.** Choose a default role for any user who logs in using Okta. If you want to specify individual roles for users and groups, see [Add SSO Users and Groups](#) below and assign the desired roles. You can change this option later.

NOTE: In Helios the SSO form is a dialog, but the fields are the same.



Cohesity validates the connection to Okta. If the connection succeeds, Okta is added to the SSO provider list in Cohesity. Users can start accessing Cohesity via their Okta home page or by clicking the **Sign in with SSO** link on the Cohesity sign-in page.

Add SSO Users and Groups

During the SSO setup step, you can optionally add a default role for all SSO users. This might not be desirable in all cases, and you might want to give different access rights to different users and/or groups. There are two ways of doing this. You can:

- [Add SSO users](#) and assign rights to them individually.
- [Add an SSO group](#) and assign it the desired role.

To add SSO users and groups:

1. Log in to Cohesity, select **Settings > Access Management**, and click the **SSO** tab.
2. Click **Add SSO Users & Groups** in the top right corner.
3. In the **Add SSO Users & Groups** form, click **SSO Users and Groups** and then choose which you are adding:
 - a) Add the **SSO Users** and assign them the desired role and click **Add**.

Add SSO Users & Groups

Local User Active Directory Users and Groups (Add an Active Directory) SSO Users and Groups

Assign Cluster management permissions to SSO Users and Groups.

SSO Domain *
Okta

SSO Users
user1 × user2 × user3 ×

SSO Groups

Roles *
Viewer ×

Description
Operator Role

Restrict access to specific Objects

Add Cancel

b) Add the **SSO Groups** and assign them the desired role, and then click **Add**.

Add SSO Users & Groups

Local User Active Directory Users and Groups (Add an Active Directory) SSO Users and Groups

Assign Cluster management permissions to SSO Users and Groups.

SSO Domain *

Okta

SSO Users

SSO Groups

cohesity_operators x cohesity_other_groups x

Roles *

Operator x

Description

Operator Role

Restrict access to specific Objects

Add Cancel

Manage Cohesity SSO Providers

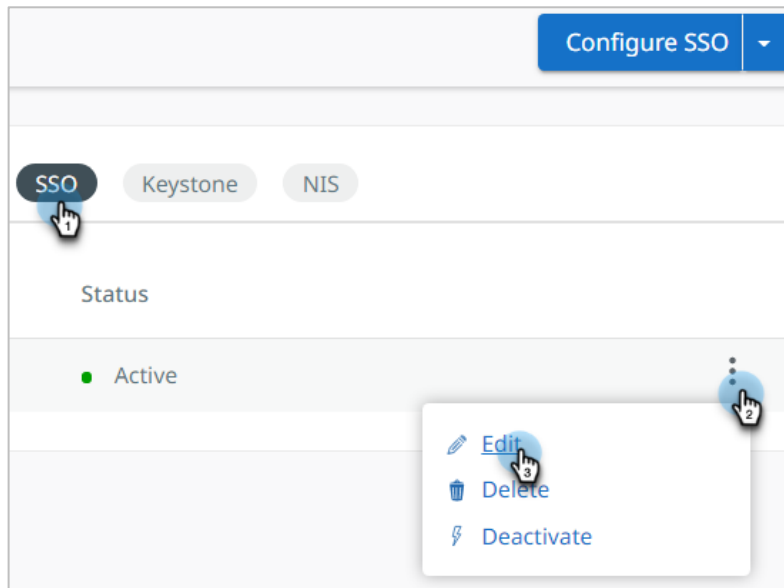
Once you've [added an SSO provider](#) to Cohesity, you can edit, delete, or deactivate it.

Edit SSO Provider

To edit SSO provider:

1. In Cohesity, select **Settings > Access Management** and click the **SSO** tab.

2. Open the **Actions Menu** on the right and click **Edit**.



3. Change the options as needed and click **Update**.

Cohesity validates the connection to Okta using the new information.

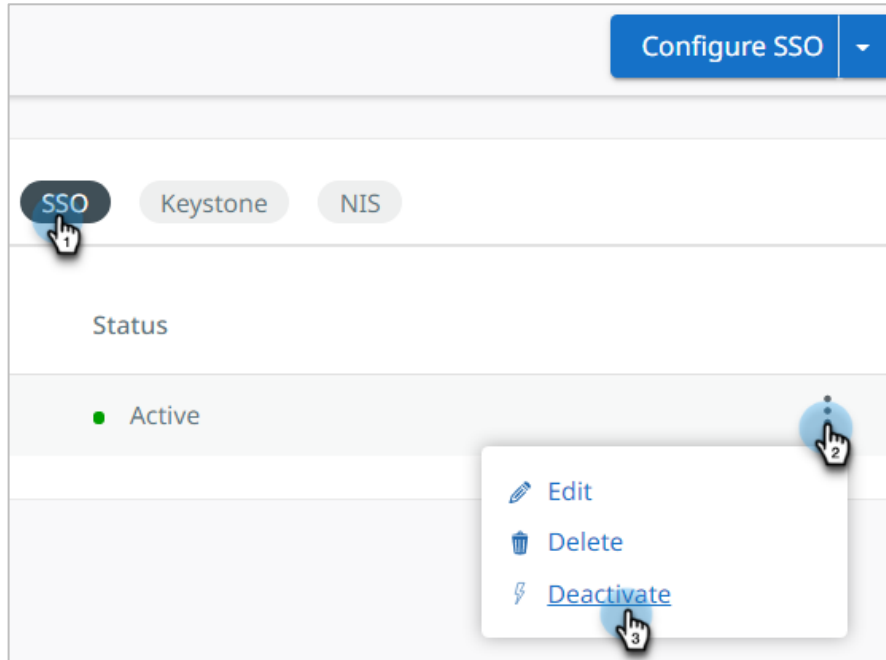
Deactivate SSO Provider

You might want to deactivate an SSO provider for testing or investigation purposes. Deactivation does not delete the provider configuration, so you can activate it again later. Once deactivated, users associated with the Okta provider will no longer bypass the Cohesity sign-in page.

To deactivate or activate an SSO provider:

1. In Cohesity, select **Settings > Access Management** and click the **SSO** tab.

2. Locate the SSO provider, open the **Actions Menu** on the right, and click **Deactivate** or **Activate**.

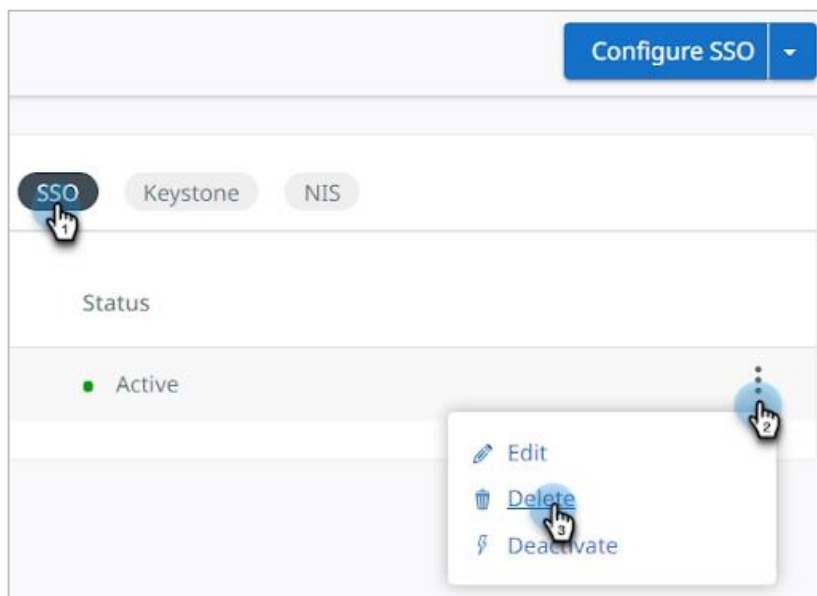


Delete SSO Provider

You can permanently delete an SSO provider if you no longer need it. Once deleted, users associated with the Okta provider will no longer bypass the Cohesity sign-in page.

To delete an SSO provider:

1. In Cohesity, select **Settings > Access Management** and click the **SSO** tab.
2. Locate the SSO provider, open the **Actions Menu** on the right, and click **Delete**.



Your Feedback

Was this document helpful? [Send us your feedback!](#)

About the Authors

Sagar Sethi is a Staff Technical Solution Engineer at Cohesity. In his role, he focuses on various aspects of Data Security to secure Cohesity product design & solutions.

Document Version History

VERSION	DATE	DOCUMENT HISTORY
1.0	July 2020	First release
1.1	Mar 2024	Rebranding updates

ABOUT COHESITY

[Cohesity](#) is a leader in AI-powered data security and management. Aided by an extensive ecosystem of partners, Cohesity makes it easier to protect, manage, and get value from data – across the data center, edge, and cloud. Cohesity helps organizations defend against cybersecurity threats with comprehensive data security and management capabilities, including immutable backup snapshots, AI-based threat detection, monitoring for malicious behavior, and rapid recovery at scale. Cohesity solutions are delivered as a service, self-managed, or provided by a Cohesity-powered partner. Cohesity is headquartered in San Jose, CA, and is trusted by the world's largest enterprises, including six of the Fortune 10 and 42 of the Fortune 100.

Visit our [website](#) and [blog](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).

© 2024. Cohesity, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Cohesity, the Cohesity logo, SnapTree, SpanFS, DataProtect, Helios, and other Cohesity marks are trademarks or registered trademarks of Cohesity, Inc. in the US and/or internationally. Other company and product names may be trademarks of the respective companies with which they are associated. This material (a) is intended to provide you information about Cohesity and our business and products; (b) was believed to be true and accurate at the time it was written but is subject to change without notice; and (c) is provided on an "AS IS" basis. Cohesity disclaims all express or implied conditions, representations, warranties of any kind.

2000032-002-EN