

## Trace3 Partners with NetApp, NVIDIA and Flexential to Launch ONTAP AI Test Drive Platform

*Together they create a solution to simplify the path to AI*

**October 25, 2019** – [Trace3](#), the premier provider of IT solutions and consultation services, today announced it has partnered with NetApp, NVIDIA and Flexential to launch the first ever [ONTAP AI](#) Test Drive Platform, a fully optimized and tested infrastructure solution for AI workloads. The platform will be offered in over 21 of Flexential’s markets and is available today in one of its Portland, Ore., (Hillsboro) data centers. The offering allows select customers to try ONTAP AI before making an investment in AI solutions.

“In the last six months we’ve seen an incredible uptick in A.I. requests. Customers want to operationalize and scale, but still need help getting projects into production. This solution will help with that,” said **Tony Olzak, chief technology officer, Trace3**. “We are seeing defined budgets on the rise for next year that are 9 figures for AI related endeavors. Businesses are seeing what AI can really do and how it is advancing, but need help understanding how to best implement and upgrade this technology.”

The collaboration for the solution was first announced in January when [Flexential announced](#) it would support NVIDIA DGX systems customers by bringing its colocation services to customers. This capability ensures Flexential data centers can support the high-density power and cooling necessary for advanced AI workloads.

“Artificial intelligence and machine learning will soon be used in almost every industry, meaning that now is the time for businesses to plan how they will manage, support and optimize the technology to run these mission-critical applications,” said **Jason Carolan, chief innovation officer, Flexential**. “Our data centers are ready to provide the power, cooling, resiliency, security, and connectivity to support these high-density AI workloads. Plus, through our professional services practice, we are able to help customers seamlessly migrate data, integrate to hyper-scale or private cloud, and provide services to secure their platforms.”

This comprehensive reference architecture is powered by the revolutionary [NVIDIA DGX-1 and DGX-2 AI systems](#) paired with [NetApp cloud-connected all flash storage](#), and delivered by Trace3 to test drive the program. Trace3 is providing hardware and system integration, along with Mellanox, which provides the high-performance network fabric.

“AI places unique, unprecedented demands on data center resources, exceeding the capabilities of traditional IT infrastructure,” said **Charlie Boyle, vice president, general manager, DGX systems, NVIDIA**. “ONTAP AI gives users a simple, faster way to deploy fully-optimized AI infrastructure and reduce time to insight. The new ONTAP AI test drive allows users to eliminate risk by testing their own workloads on this world-class AI infrastructure solution before purchasing.”

“Businesses across nearly every industry are adopting AI to stay competitive, drive growth, and decrease expenses,” said **Santosh Rao, head of AI and Data Engineering at NetApp**. “NetApp ONTAP AI enables customers to quickly embark on their AI journey with reduced cost, complexity and risk – and with NetApp’s Data Fabric, creates an integrated data pipeline across edge, core and cloud, so that data can be ingested, collected, stored, and protected—no matter where that data resides. Our collaboration with NVIDIA and Flexential allows customers to optimally apply their data to train AI, drive machine learning and empower the deep learning algorithms necessary to bring AI to life.”

ONTAP AI, available in the Flexential Portland data center, allows select customers to pilot their AI workloads starting this week shortly after a larger rollout happening at NetApp INSIGHTS in Las Vegas, October 28-30.

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