

# Create an Explore cluster

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If you are deploying more than one Explore appliance, you can join the appliances together to create a cluster. For the best performance, data redundancy, and stability, you must configure at least three Explore appliances in an Explore cluster.


## Before you begin

You must have already installed the Explore appliances in your environment before proceeding.

In the following example, the Explore appliances have the following IP addresses:

- Node 1: 10.20.227.177
- Node 2: 10.20.227.178
- Node 3: 10.20.227.179

You will join nodes 2 and 3 to node 1 to create the Explore cluster.

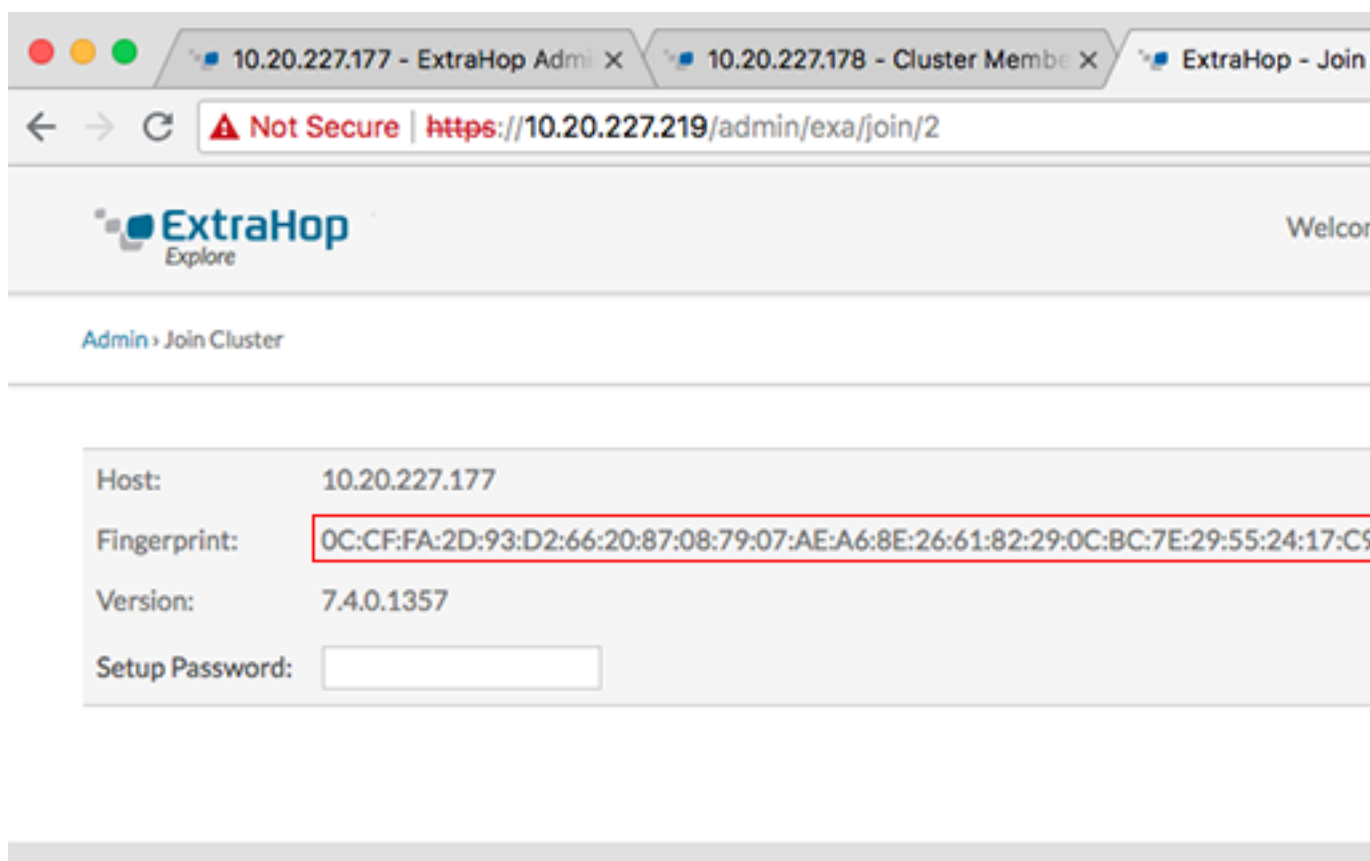
 **Important:** Each node that you join must have the same configuration (physical or virtual) and the same ExtraHop firmware version.

1. Log into the Admin UI of all three Explore appliances with the setup user account in three separate browser windows or tabs.
2. Select the browser window of node 1.
3. In the Status and Diagnostics section, click **Fingerprint** and note the fingerprint value. You will later confirm that the fingerprint for node 1 matches when you join the remaining two nodes.
4. Select the browser window of node 2.
5. In the Explore Cluster Settings section, click **Join Cluster**.
6. In the Host field, type the hostname or IP address of node 1 and then click **Continue**.

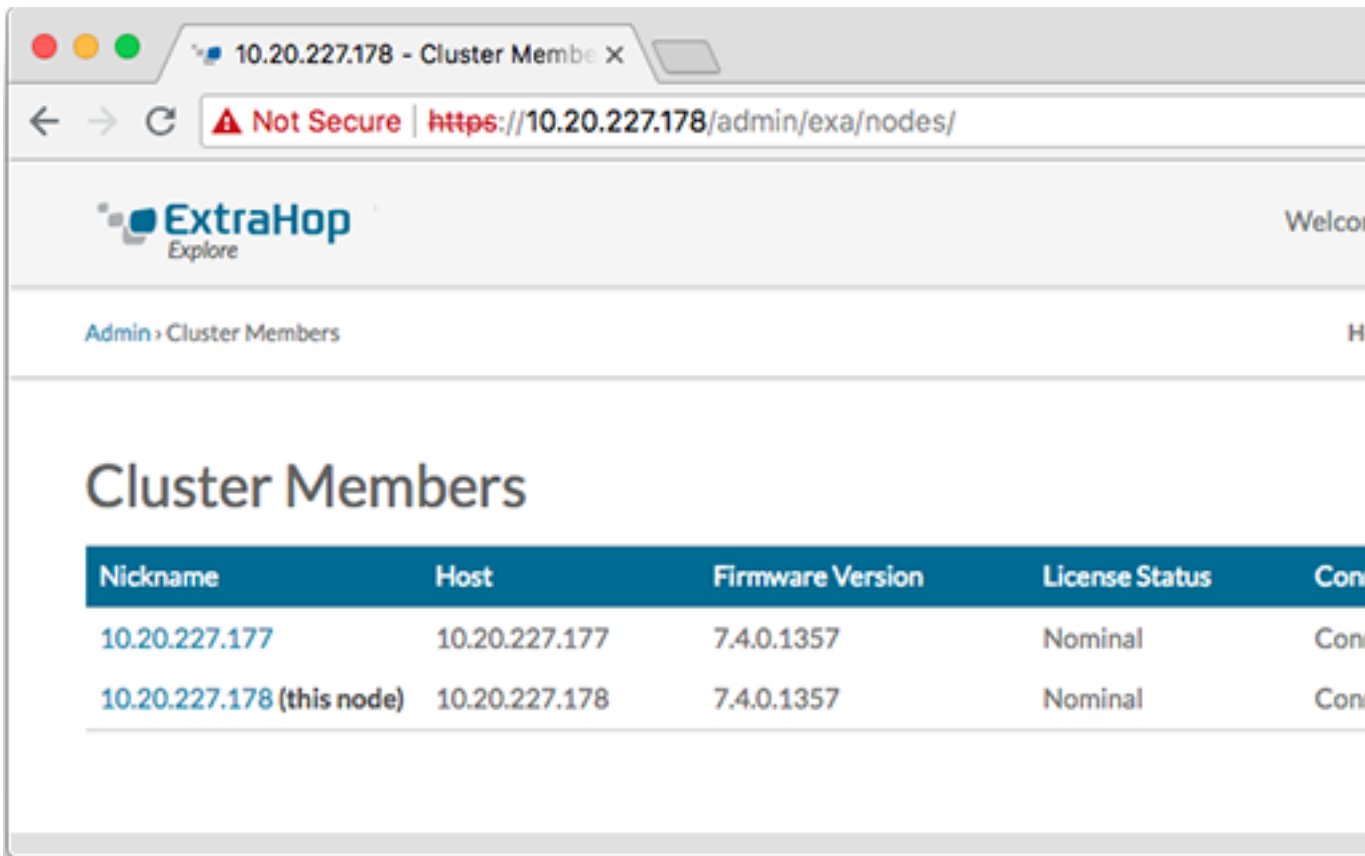


**Note:** For cloud-based deployments, be sure to type the IP address listed in the Interfaces table on the Connectivity page.

7. Confirm that the fingerprint on this page matches the fingerprint you noted in step 3.



- In the Setup Password field, type the password for the node 1 `setup` user account and then click **Join**.  
When the join is complete, the Explore Cluster Settings section has two new entries: **Cluster Members** and **Cluster Data Management**.
- Click Cluster Members. You should see node 1 and node 2 in the list.

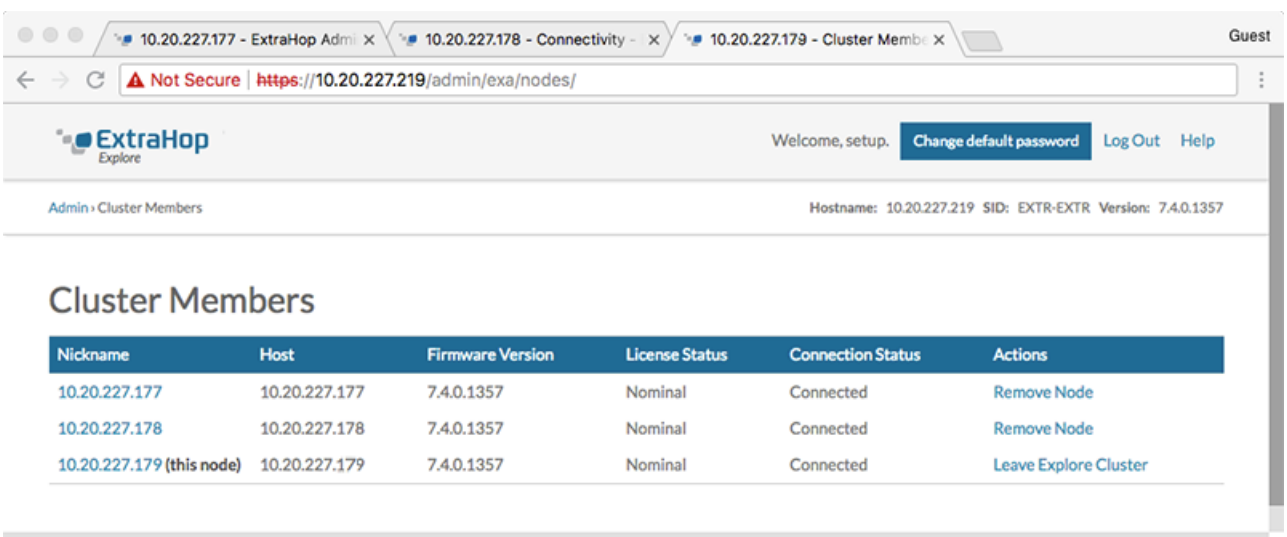


- In the Status and Diagnostics section, click **Explore Cluster Status**. Wait for the Status field to change to *Green* before adding the next node.
- Repeat steps 5 - 10 to join each additional node to the new cluster.



**Note:** To avoid creating multiple clusters, always join a new node to an existing cluster and not to another single appliance.

- When you have added all of your Explore appliances to the cluster, click **Cluster Members** in the Explore Cluster Settings section. You should see all of the joined nodes in the list, similar to the following figure.



- In the Explore Cluster Settings section, click **Cluster Data Management** and make sure that **Replication Level** is set to **1** and **Shard Reallocation** is **ON**.

### Next steps

[Connect the Discover and Command appliances to Explore appliances](#) 