

# Configure a new Explore cluster with manager-only nodes

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A manager-only node is dedicated to cluster management tasks and does not store records. This guide provides guidelines for adding three manager-only nodes to new clusters that have six to nine data-only nodes.

## Before you begin

- Review the specifications and guidelines in [Deploying manager-only nodes](#).
- Deploy three manager-only nodes and six to nine data-only nodes according to the [guide for your implementation](#), but do not join the nodes to form a cluster or connect the nodes to ExtraHop packet sensors or ExtraHop consoles.
- Depending on your implementation, reduce the data disk size to meet the [manager-only node specifications](#).
- [Register each node](#) with the correct product license. Manager-only nodes have dedicated SKUs; be sure to verify these licenses with your account team. After all nodes are registered, [join the nodes to create a cluster](#).

## Create the Explore cluster

Follow the steps in [Create a recordstore cluster](#) to join all of the nodes.

## Configure three manager-only nodes

1. Log in to the Administration settings on a node intended for cluster task management.
2. In the Appliance Settings section, click **Running Config**.
3. Click **Edit config**.
4. Add an entry to the running configuration file by completing the following steps:
  - a) Add a comma after the second to last curly brace (}).
  - b) Press ENTER to create a new line.
  - c) Paste the following code on the new line before the final curly brace:

```
"cluster": {
  "data": false,
  "min_master_nodes": 2
}
```

5. Click **Update**.
6. Click **Done**.
7. Click **Save config** and then click **Save**.
8. In the Appliance Settings section, click **Shutdown or Restart**.
9. Next to the Search service, click **Restart**.
10. Repeat these steps on each manager-only node.

## Configure the data-only nodes

1. Log in to the Administration settings on a node intended for data storage.

2. In the Appliance Settings section, click **Running Config**.
3. Click **Edit config**.
4. Add an entry to the running configuration file by completing the following steps:
  - a) Add a comma after the second to last curly brace (}).
  - b) Press ENTER to create a new line.
  - c) Paste the following code on the new line before the final curly brace:

```
"cluster": {  
    "master": false,  
    "min_master_nodes": 2  
}
```

5. Click **Update**.
6. Click **Done**.
7. Click **Save config** and click **Save**.
8. In the Appliance Settings section, click **Shutdown or Restart**.
9. Next to the Search service, click **Restart**.
10. Repeat these steps on each data-only node.

#### Next steps

After all of the nodes are configured with their designated role, [connect each data-only node to ExtraHop packet sensors and ExtraHop consoles](#). Manager nodes should not be connected to sensors or consoles.



**Tip:** [Learn how to add or remove nodes from a cluster that has manager-only nodes](#).