# Node Management

Node management plays a critical role in operating reliable and scalable infrastructure on Elestio. Whether you're deploying stateless applications or stateful services like databases, managing the underlying compute units nodes is essential for maintaining stability and performance.

## Understanding Nodes

In Elestio, a **node** is a virtual machine that contributes compute, memory, and storage resources to a cluster. Clusters can be composed of a single node or span multiple nodes, depending on workload demands and availability requirements. Each node runs essential services and containers as defined by your deployed applications or databases.

Nodes in Elestio are provider-agnostic, meaning the same concepts apply whether you're using Elestio-managed infrastructure or connecting your own cloud provider (AWS, Azure, GCP, etc.). Each node is isolated at the VM level but participates fully in the cluster's orchestration and networking. This abstraction allows you to manage infrastructure without diving into the complexity of underlying platforms.

## Node Operations

The Elestio dashboard allows you to manage the lifecycle of nodes through clearly defined operations. These include:

- **Creating a node**, which adds capacity to your cluster and helps with horizontal scaling of services. This is commonly used when load increases or when preparing a high-availability deployment.
- **Deleting a node**, which removes underutilized or problematic nodes. Safe deletion includes draining workloads to ensure service continuity.
- **Promoting a node**, which changes the role of a node within the cluster—typically used in clusters with redundancy, where certain nodes may need to take on primary or leader responsibilities.

Each of these operations is designed to be safely executed through the dashboard and is validated against the current cluster state to avoid unintended service disruption. These actions are supported by Elestio's backend orchestration, which handles tasks like container rescheduling and load balancing when topology changes.

# Monitoring and Maintenance

Monitoring is a key part of effective node management. Elestio provides per-node visibility through the dashboard, allowing you to inspect **CPU**, **memory**, and **disk utilization** in real time. Each node also exposes **logs**, **status indicators**, and **health checks** to help detect anomalies or degradation early.

In addition to passive monitoring, the dashboard supports active maintenance tasks. You can **reboot a node** when applying system-level changes or troubleshooting, or **drain a node** to safely migrate workloads away from it before performing disruptive actions. Draining ensures that running containers are rescheduled on other nodes in the cluster, minimizing service impact.

For production setups, combining resource monitoring with automation like scheduled reboots, log collection, and alerting can help catch issues before they affect users. While Elestio handles many aspects of orchestration automatically, having visibility at the node level helps teams make informed decisions about scaling, updates, and incident response.

Cluster-wide resource graphs and node-level metrics are also useful for capacity planning. Identifying trends such as memory saturation or disk pressure allows you to preemptively scale or rebalance workloads, reducing the risk of downtime.

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