



What Cloning is

SnapManager Oracle

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Table of Contents

What Cloning is 1

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You can clone a database to create an exact replica of the original database. You can create the clone from a full backup or from the current state of the database.

Some of the advantages of creating a clone by using SnapManager are as follows:

Advantages	Details
Speed	The SnapManager clone operation uses the FlexClone feature available with Data ONTAP. This enables you to quickly clone large data volumes.
Space efficiency	When you create a clone by using SnapManager, space is needed only for the changes between the backup and the clone. A SnapManager clone is a writable Snapshot copy of the original database and can grow as needed. In contrast, a physical clone of the database requires that you have enough space available to copy the entire database.
Virtual copy	You can use the cloned database as if it were the original database. For example, you can use a clone for testing, platform and update checks, multiple simulations against a large data set, and remote office testing and staging. Changes to the clone do not affect the original database. After the database is cloned, the cloned database is fully operational.
Simplicity	You can clone a database to any host by using SnapManager commands.

You can clone a backup on the primary (local) storage or a protected backup that is on the secondary (remote) storage. However, you cannot clone a backup if the backup operation is in progress or the backup has been transferred to the secondary storage.

You must ensure that the following prerequisites are met before a database can be cloned:

- Ensure that the [/etc/var/opt/oracle]/oratab directory does not contain an entry pointing to the target system identifier.
- Delete the spfile<SID>.ora file from \$ORACLE_HOME/dbs.
- Delete the init<SID>.ora file from \$ORACLE_HOME/dbs.
- Delete Oracle dump destinations that are specified in the clone specification file.
- Delete the Oracle control files that are specified in the clone specification file.
- Delete the Oracle redo log files that are specified in the clone specification file.

You must give the clone a new system identifier. You cannot simultaneously run two databases with the same system identifier on the same host. You can have a clone on a different host using the same system identifier. You can either give the clone a label or let SnapManager create a label by using the system identifier, date,

and time the clone was created.

When you enter a label, you should not include spaces or special characters.

As part of the cloning process, SnapManager creates the necessary Oracle files and parameters for the cloned database. An example of a necessary Oracle file is `init<SID>.ora`.

When you clone a database, SnapManager creates a new `init<SID>.ora` file for the database in the `$ORACLE_HOME/dbs` directory.

When SnapManager clones the storage for a database, it also creates a new file system mountpoint, but does not change the directory structure under the mountpoint from the SnapManager CLI. However, from the SnapManager GUI, you can change the directory structure and the metadata of the file system.

Oracle 11g in a Direct NFS (DNFS) environment allows additional mountpoint configuration, such as multiple paths for load balancing in the `oranfstab` file. SnapManager does not modify this file, so any additional properties that you want a clone to use must be manually added to the `oranfstab` file after cloning with SnapManager.

You can clone a Real Application Cluster (RAC) database as well as a nonclustered database. A RAC clone starts as a single database.

You can clone a database backup to the host in which the database resides or to an alternate host.

You can also clone an ASM database to a remote host. When doing so, you must ensure that the ASM instance is running on the remote host.

If the database you cloned was using a `sfile`, SnapManager creates an `sfile` for the clone. It places this file in the `$ORACLE_HOME/dbs` directory and creates the directory structure for the diagnostic files. The file name is `sfile <SID>.ora`.

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