

Symantec™ ApplicationHA Agent for Oracle Installation and Configuration Guide

Linux

5.1

Symantec™ ApplicationHA Agent for Oracle Installation and Configuration Guide

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Introducing the Symantec ApplicationHA agent for Oracle

This chapter includes the following topics:

- [About the Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle](#)
- [Supported software for Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle](#)
- [How the agent makes Oracle highly available](#)
- [About Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle functions](#)
- [Typical Oracle configuration in a ApplicationHA virtual machine](#)
- [About setting up Oracle in a ApplicationHA virtual machine](#)

About the Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle

The Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle provides controlling and monitoring for Oracle database instances.

Symantec agents do the following:

- Monitor specific resources within an enterprise application.
- Determine the status of these resources.
- Start or stop the resources according to external events.

The agents include resource type declarations and agent executables. The agent for Oracle monitors the Oracle and listener processes, brings them online, and takes them offline.

The ApplicationHA package contains the following agents that work together to make Oracle highly available:

- The Oracle agent monitors the Oracle database processes.
- The Netlsnr agent monitors the listener process.

Supported software for Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle

The Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle supports the following operating system versions in an ApplicationHA environment:

Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 (update 4 and later)

The Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle supports the following Oracle Database versions in an ApplicationHA environment:

Oracle Database 10g, 11gR1, and 11gR2.

How the agent makes Oracle highly available

The Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle continuously monitors the Oracle database and listener processes to verify they function properly.

See [“About Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle functions”](#) on page 11.

The agent provides the following levels of application monitoring:

- Primary or Basic monitoring

This mode has Process check and Health check monitoring options. With the default Process check option, the agent verifies that the Oracle and listener processes are present in the process table. Process check cannot detect whether processes are in a hung state or a stopped state.

The Oracle agent provides functionality to detect whether the Oracle resource was intentionally taken offline. The agent detects graceful shutdown for Oracle 10g and later. When an administrator brings down Oracle gracefully, the agent does not trigger a resource fault even though Oracle is down. The value of the type-level attribute IntentionalOffline attribute and the value of the MonitorOption attribute must be set to 1 to enable Oracle agent's intentional offline functionality.

For example, with the intentional offline functionality, the agent faults the Oracle resource if there is an abnormal termination of the instance. The agent reports the Oracle resource as offline if you gracefully bring down Oracle using

commands like `shutdown`, `shutdown immediate`, `shutdown abort`, **or** `shutdown transactional`.

- Secondary or Detail monitoring

In this mode, the agent runs a perl script that executes commands against the database and listener to verify their status.

The agent detects application failure if the monitoring routine reports an improper function of the Oracle or listener processes. When this application failure occurs, the agents attempt to start the application services. After a configurable number of attempts, if the application services do not start, the agents consider this as an application failure and report the status to the VMware HA solution. Depending on the configuration, the VMware HA solution can then restart the virtual machine. After the machine restarts, the agents starts the application services and brings the configured resources online. The agent thus ensures high availability for the Oracle services and the database.

Note: You can use the ApplicationHA wizards to configure only primary or basic monitoring. To configure secondary or detailed monitoring, use CLI/Veritas Operations Manager (VOM).

About Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle functions

The functions an agent performs are called entry points. Review the functions for the following agents that are part of the Symantec ApplicationHA agent suite for Oracle:

- Oracle agent functions
See “[Oracle agent functions](#)” on page 11.
- Netlsnr agent functions
See “[Netlsnr agent functions](#)” on page 16.

Oracle agent functions

The Oracle agent monitors the database processes.

[Table 1-1](#) lists the Oracle agent functions.

Table 1-1 Oracle agent functions

Agent operation	Description
Online	<p>Starts the Oracle database by using the following <code>svrmgrl</code> or <code>sqlplus</code> command:</p> <pre>startup force pfile=\$PFile</pre> <p>The default Startup option is <code>STARTUP_FORCE</code>. You can also configure the agent to start the database using different Startup options for Oracle.</p> <p>See “Startup and shutdown options for the Oracle agent” on page 12.</p>
Offline	<p>Stops the Oracle database with the specified options by using the following <code>svrmgrl</code> or <code>sqlplus</code> command:</p> <pre>shutdown immediate</pre> <p>The default Shutdown option is <code>IMMEDIATE</code>. You can also configure the agent to stop the database using different Shutdown options for Oracle.</p> <p>See “Startup and shutdown options for the Oracle agent” on page 12.</p>
Monitor	<p>Verifies the status of the Oracle processes. The Oracle agent provides two levels of monitoring: basic and detail.</p> <p>See “Monitor options for the Oracle agent” on page 14.</p>
Clean	<p>Forcibly stops the Oracle database by using the following <code>svrmgrl</code> or <code>sqlplus</code> command:</p> <pre>shutdown abort</pre> <p>If the process does not respond to the <code>shutdown</code> command, then the agent does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Scans the process table for the processes that are associated with the configured instance ■ Kills the processes that are associated with the configured instance

Startup and shutdown options for the Oracle agent

You can specify Startup and Shutdown options for the Oracle instances that are configured.

[Table 1-2](#) lists the startup options that the agent supports.

Table 1-2 Startup options

Option	Description
STARTUP_FORCE (Default)	<p>Runs the command <code>startup force pfile='location_of_pfile'</code> if the pfile is configured.</p> <p>If the pfile is not configured, the agent runs <code>startup force</code>. It picks up the default parameter files from their default locations.</p>
STARTUP	<p>Runs the command <code>startup pfile='location_of_pfile'</code> if the pfile is configured.</p> <p>If the pfile is not configured, the agent picks up the default parameter files from their default locations and runs <code>startup</code>.</p>
RESTRICTED	Starts the database in the RESTRICTED mode.
RECOVERDB	Performs a database recovery on instance startup.
CUSTOM	<p>Uses a predefined SQL script (<code>start_custom_\$\$SID.sql</code>) and runs custom startup options. The script must be in the <code>/opt/VRTSagents/ha/bin/Oracle</code> directory and must have access to the Oracle Owner OS user. If the file is not present, the agent logs an error message.</p> <p>With a custom script, the agent takes the following action:</p> <pre> sqlplus /nolog <<! connect / as sysdba; @start_custom_\$\$SID.sql exit; !</pre>

[Table 1-3](#) lists the shutdown options that the agent supports.

Table 1-3 Shutdown options

Option	Description
IMMEDIATE (Default)	Shuts down the Oracle instance by running <code>shutdown immediate</code> .
TRANSACTIONAL	Runs the <code>shutdown transactional</code> command. This option is valid only for the database versions that support this option.

Table 1-3 Shutdown options (*continued*)

Option	Description
CUSTOM	Uses a predefined SQL script (<code>shut_custom_\$\$SID.sql</code>) and runs custom shutdown options. The script must be in the <code>/opt/VRTSagents/ha/bin/Oracle</code> directory and must have access to the Oracle Owner OS user. If the file is not present, the agent shuts the agent down with the default option.

Monitor options for the Oracle agent

The Oracle agent provides two levels of monitoring: basic and detail. By default, the agent does a basic monitoring.

The basic monitoring mode has the following options:

- Process check
- Health check

The MonitorOption attribute of the Oracle resource determines whether the agent must perform basic monitoring in Process check or Health check mode.

[Table 1-4](#) describes the basic monitoring options.

Table 1-4 Basic monitoring options

Option	Description
0 (Default)	Process check The agent scans the process table for the <code>ora_dbw</code> , <code>ora_smon</code> , <code>ora_pmon</code> , and <code>ora_lgwr</code> processes to verify that Oracle is running.
1	Health check (supported on Oracle 10g and later) The agent uses the Health Check APIs from Oracle to monitor the SGA and retrieve the information about the instance.

Review the following considerations if you want to configure basic monitoring:

- When the administrator brings online an Oracle database on the ApplicationHA virtual machine, an Oracle instance begins but the database is not mounted. In such circumstances, this failure is detected only by the health check monitoring option of basic monitoring or detail monitoring. Detail monitoring updates the database table after detecting a failure whereas health check monitoring does not.

If process check monitoring of basic monitoring is set, then such a conflict would go undetected. To set health check monitoring option, use the command line interface or Veritas Operations Manager.]

In the detail monitoring mode, the agent performs a transaction on a test table in the database to ensure that Oracle functions properly. The agent uses this test table for internal purposes. Symantec recommends that you do not perform any other transaction on the test table. The DetailMonitor attribute of the Oracle resource determines whether the agent must perform detail monitoring.

Note: ApplicationHA wizards configure Oracle for Basic monitoring. To enable detailed monitoring, use CLI/Veritas Operation Manager (VOM).

How the agent handles Oracle error codes during detail monitoring

The Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle handles Oracle errors during detail monitoring. The agent classifies Oracle errors according to their severity and associates predefined actions with each error code.

The agent includes a reference file oraerror.dat, which lists Oracle errors and the action to be taken when the error is encountered.

The file stores information in the following format:

```
Oracle_error_string:action_to_be_taken
```

For example:

```
01035:WARN  
01034:FAILOVER
```

Note: When the oraerror.dat file contains two or more errors, then the errors take an ascending precedence and the Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle handles only the first error.

When the oraerror.dat file contains two or more errors, the order in which the Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle handles the errors is: FAILOVER/NOFAILOVER, UNKNOWN, and IGNORE/WARN.

[Table 1-5](#) lists the predefined actions that the agent takes when an Oracle error is encountered.

Table 1-5 Predefined agent actions for Oracle errors

Action	Description
IGNORE	<p> Ignores the error.</p> <p> When the Symantec agent for Oracle encounters an error, the agent matches the error code in the oraerror.dat file. If the error does not have a matching error code in the file, then the agent ignores the error.</p>
UNKNOWN	<p> Marks the resource state as UNKNOWN and sends a notification if the Notifier resource is configured.</p> <p> This action is typically associated with configuration errors or program interface errors.</p>
WARN	<p> Marks the resource state as ONLINE and sends a notification if the Notifier resource is configured.</p> <p> This action is typically associated with errors due to exceeded quota limits, session limits/restricted sessions so on.</p>

Netlsnr agent functions

The listener is a server process that listens to incoming client connection requests and manages traffic to the database. The Netlsnr agent brings the listener services online, monitors their status, and takes them offline.

[Table 1-6](#) lists the Netlsnr agent functions.

Table 1-6 Netlsnr agent functions

Agent operation	Description
Online	<p> Starts the listener process by using the following command:</p> <pre>lsnrctl start \$LISTENER</pre>
Offline	<p> Stops the listener process by using the following command:</p> <pre>lsnrctl stop \$LISTENER</pre> <p> If the listener is configured with a password, the agent uses the password to stop the listener.</p>

Table 1-6 Netlsnr agent functions (*continued*)

Agent operation	Description
Monitor	<p>Verifies the status of the listener process.</p> <p>The Netlsnr agent provides two levels of monitoring, basic and detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In the basic monitoring mode, the agent scans the process table for the <code>tnslsnr</code> process to verify that the listener process is running. ■ In the detail monitoring mode, the agent uses the <code>lsnrctl status \$LISTENER</code> command to verify the status of the Listener process. (Default)
Clean	Scans the process table for <code>tnslsnr \$Listener</code> and kills it.

Typical Oracle configuration in a ApplicationHA virtual machine

A typical Oracle configuration in an ApplicationHA environment has the following characteristics:

- Oracle binaries can be installed locally or on shared disks. Data can reside on data disks. Ensure that the data disks and oracle installation binary disks are automatically mounted after the virtual machine starts/reboots. To automatically mount the required disks, add appropriate entries in `/etc/fstab`

About setting up Oracle in a ApplicationHA virtual machine

Tasks involved in setting up Oracle in a ApplicationHA environment include:

- Setting up a ApplicationHA virtual machine
Refer to *Symantec ApplicationHA Installation Guide* for more information on installing and configuring ApplicationHA.
- Installing and configuring Oracle
See “[About installing Oracle in an ApplicationHA environment](#)” on page 19.

Installing and configuring Oracle

This chapter includes the following topics:

- [About installing Oracle in an ApplicationHA environment](#)
- [Before you install Oracle in an ApplicationHA environment](#)
- [About ApplicationHA requirements for installing Oracle](#)

About installing Oracle in an ApplicationHA environment

The strategy for installing Oracle into an ApplicationHA virtual machine is aimed at ensuring that installations on all virtual machines are uniform.

See the Oracle documentation on Linux.

You can install Oracle in the following ways in a ApplicationHA environment:

<code>\$ORACLE_HOME</code> on the shared disk	Oracle binaries and Oracle data are installed on shared disks.
<code>\$ORACLE_HOME</code> on the local disk	Oracle binaries are installed locally on each node and Oracle data is installed on shared disks.

Note that Oracle data includes the datafiles, control files, redo log files, and archive log files.

The user oracle and the group dba must be local and not Network Information Service (NIS and NIS+) users.

Before you install Oracle in an ApplicationHA environment

Make sure you meet the following prerequisites:

- Verify that all virtual machines have adequate resources to run Oracle and ApplicationHA.
- Verify that the network supports the TCP/IP protocol.
- Make sure that you meet the ApplicationHA requirements to install Oracle. See [“About ApplicationHA requirements for installing Oracle”](#) on page 20.

About ApplicationHA requirements for installing Oracle

Make sure you meet the following requirements to install Oracle in a ApplicationHA virtual machine.

Kernel parameter configuration	<p>Each node on which you want to install Oracle must meet the following Oracle configuration requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Disk partitions■ Shared memory■ Swap size■ Semaphores■ File handles <p>See Oracle documentation for the corresponding operating system for specific requirement details.</p>
Linux package group	<p>Symantec recommends you to select the Software Development package option when you install Linux. This option is required for relinking Oracle at install time and to take advantage of some Advanced Server features.</p>
JDK requirements for Linux	<p>Make sure that Sun's JDK 1.3.1_02 or Blackdown's JDK 1.1.8 is installed on the system.</p>
Location of the \$ORACLE_HOME	<p>Depending on your environment, you can place the Oracle home directory (\$ORACLE_HOME) in one of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Locally on each server's disk■ On the shared storage. <p>Review the advantages of each approach to make a decision.</p>

Configurations with multiple Oracle instances (SIDs) You can have multiple Oracle instances on a virtual machine. In such cases, the parameter file for each instance must be accessible on all virtual machines.

Note: If you installed multiple versions of Oracle on the same system, make sure that the SIDs are unique.

Location of Oracle database tablespaces If you plan to create the tablespaces using regular (EXT2/EXT3 or VxFS) files, the file systems that contain these files must be located on shared disks. Create the same file system mount points on each node.

If you use raw devices on shared disks for Oracle tablespaces, you must meet the following requirements:

- The ownership must be Oracle dba user.
- The permissions or access mode must be 660 on the raw devices that store the Oracle data.

For example, if you use Veritas Volume Manager, type:

```
# vxedit -g diskgroup_name set group=dba \
user=oracle mode=660 volume_name
```

Note: The user `oracle` and the group `dba` must be local and not Network Information Service (NIS and NIS+) users

Listener authentication in ApplicationHA environment The Netlsnr agent supports OS authentication as well as password authentication for the listener process. If you use Oracle 10g or later, Symantec recommends you to configure OS authentication. If you want to configure a listener password, make sure that you configure the password correctly. A misconfigured password can cause the listener to fault.

Refer to the Oracle documentation for details on configuring the listener authentication.

Hot backup of Oracle database in ApplicationHA environment The hot backup of Oracle database is enabled by default in ApplicationHA environment.

A virtual machine can fail during a hot backup of an Oracle database.

Note: If you set the `AutoEndBkup` attribute value to 0, then to avoid unexpected ApplicationHA behavior you must set the `DetailMonitor` attribute value to 1.

Note: If you want to modify or tune a particular attribute, use Command Line Interface or Veritas Operations Manager.

Installing and removing the agent for Oracle

This chapter includes the following topics:

- [Installing and removing the Symantec ApplicationHA agent for Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle](#)

Installing and removing the Symantec ApplicationHA agent for Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle

The Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle agent is installed and removed as part of the Symantec ApplicationHA installation and uninstallation.

For more information, see the *Symantec ApplicationHA Installation Guide*.

Configuring application monitoring with Symantec ApplicationHA

This chapter includes the following topics:

- [About configuring application monitoring with ApplicationHA](#)
- [Before configuring application monitoring for Oracle](#)
- [Configuring application monitoring for Oracle](#)

About configuring application monitoring with ApplicationHA

This chapter describes the steps to configure application monitoring with ApplicationHA in a VMware virtualization environment.

Consider the following points before you proceed:

- You configure an application for monitoring on a virtual machine using the Application Monitoring Configuration Wizard.
- The Application Monitoring Configuration Wizard is launched when you click the **Configure Application Monitoring** link on the ApplicationHA tab in the VMware vSphere Client.
- In this release, the wizard allows you to configure monitoring for only one application per virtual machine.
To configure another application using the wizard, you must first unconfigure the existing application monitoring.

- After you have configured monitoring for an application using the wizard, you can configure monitoring for other applications residing in the same virtual machine, from the command line.
Use the VCS commands to configure application service groups. You must ensure that the resource names are unique. Refer to the *Veritas Cluster Server Administrator's Guide* for information on commands. You can find it here: https://sort.symantec.com/documents/doc_details/sfha/5.1/Linux/ProductGuides/
- After configuring Oracle for monitoring, if you create another Oracle instance, these new components are not monitored as part of the existing configuration. In such a case, you must first unconfigure the existing monitoring configuration and then reconfigure the application using the wizard. You can then select all the instances and databases for monitoring.

Before configuring application monitoring for Oracle

Ensure that you complete the following tasks before configuring application monitoring for Oracle on a virtual machine:

- Install ApplicationHA Console.
- Install ApplicationHA guest components on the virtual machine that you need to monitor.
- Install VMware Tools on the virtual machine. Install a version that is compatible with VMware ESX 4.1
- Install the VMware vSphere Client.
- Assign ApplicationHA - Configure Application Monitoring (Admin) privileges to the logged-on user on the virtual machine where you want to configure application monitoring.
- Install Oracle and associated components that you wish to monitor on the virtual machine.
- If you have configured a firewall, ensure that your firewall settings allow access to ports used by ApplicationHA installer, wizards, and services.
Refer to the *Symantec ApplicationHA Installation and Configuration Guide* for a list of ports and services used.

Configuring application monitoring for Oracle

Perform the following steps to configure monitoring for Oracle on a virtual machine hosted on a VMware vCenter Server managed ESX 4.1 Server.

To configure application monitoring for Oracle

- 1 Launch the VMware vSphere Client and connect to the VMware vCenter Server that hosts the virtual machine.

The vSphere Client is used to configure and control application monitoring.

- 2 From the vSphere Client's Inventory view in the left pane, select the virtual machine where you want to configure application monitoring for Oracle.

- 3 From the vSphere Client's Management view in the right pane, click the **ApplicationHA** tab.

The ApplicationHA view displays the status of all the supported applications that are installed on the selected virtual machine.

- 4 In the ApplicationHA view, click **Configure Application Monitoring**.

This launches the Application Monitoring Configuration Wizard.

- 5 Review the information on the Welcome screen and then click **Next**.

The wizard lists all the supported applications for the system.

- 6 On the Application Selection page, click **Oracle** in the Supported Applications list.

- 7 Ensure that the Oracle database instances and associated Listener processes are running and then click **Next**.

An application discovery page appears.

Note: If the Oracle database instances are not running, ensure that they are added in the `oratab` file.

8 On Listener Selection panel, review the listed Oracle Listeners.

Listener	Name of the Listener.
Home	The \$ORACLE_HOME path to Oracle binaries and configuration files.
Owner	The Oracle user, as the defined owner of executables and database files in /etc/passwd.
EnvFile	Specify the full path name of the file that is sourced by any operation.
TnsAdmin	The \$TNS_ADMIN path to directory in which the Listener configuration file resides (listener.ora).
Password	This password is set for the selected Listener.

9 On the Oracle Instance Selection screen, select the Oracle instances and the associated listeners that you want to monitor and then click **Configure**.

Instances	Click to select the Oracle instances to monitor.
Database SID	The Oracle System ID (SID) is used to uniquely identify a particular database on a system. For this reason, one cannot have more than one database with the same SID on a computer system.
Oracle Home	ORACLE_HOME refers to a directory where the Oracle is installed
Database Owner	The Database Owner refers to an user who can perform operations on the Oracle database .
PFILE Path	PFILE is a text file that contains parameters and their values which are consumed by the Oracle system .
Listeners	Oracle Listener receives incoming client connection requests and manages the traffic of these requests to the database server.

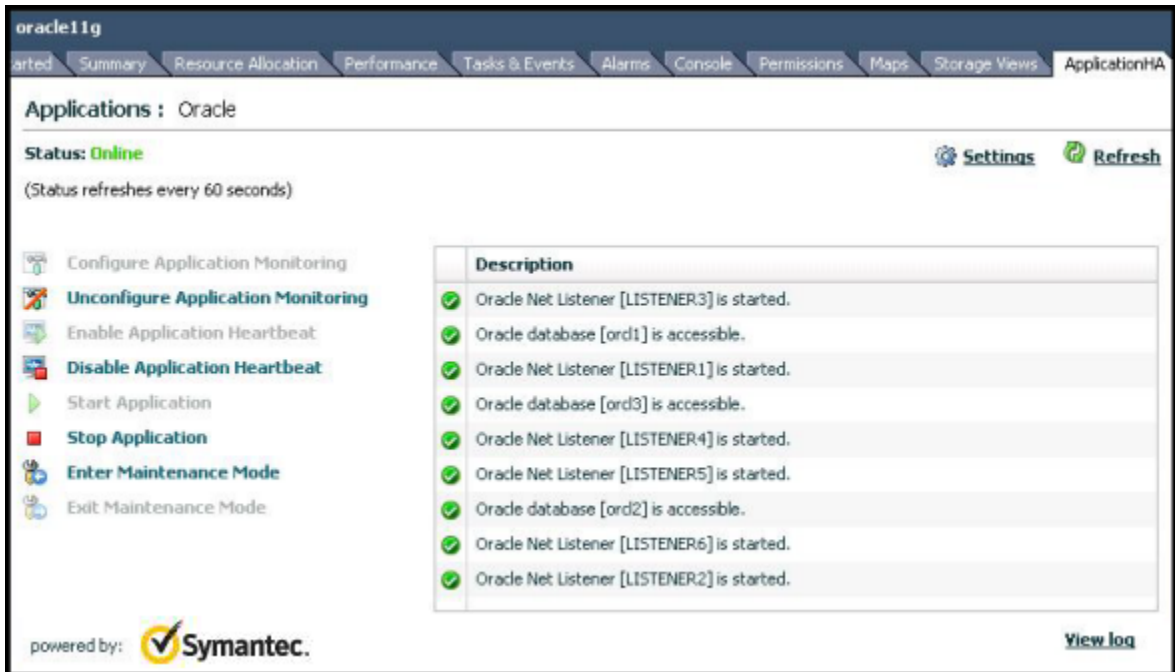
Note: For each selected SID, all discovered Listeners are listed, and associated listeners are selected. If discovery phase is not displayed the correct SID - Listener association, you can appropriately select listeners for a selected SID.

- 10 The wizard performs the application monitoring configuration tasks. The ApplicationHA Configuration screen displays the status of each task. After all the tasks are complete, click **Next**.

Note: If the configuration tasks fail, click **View Logs** to check the details of the failure.

You then have to run the wizard again to configure the application monitoring.

- 11 Click **Finish** to complete the wizard. This completes the application monitoring configuration.
- 12 To view the application status, click **Refresh**, and then open the ApplicationHA view in vSphere Client. The view displays the application as configured and running on the virtual machine.



Troubleshooting Symantec ApplicationHA agent for Oracle

This chapter includes the following topics:

- [About troubleshooting Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle](#)
- [Error messages common to the Oracle and Netlsnr agents](#)
- [Error messages specific to the Oracle agent](#)
- [Error messages specific to the Netlsnr agent](#)

About troubleshooting Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle

Review the information on the error logs that you must access:

- To check the Oracle installation error log, you must access:

```
$ORACLE_BASE/oraInventory/logs/installActionsdate_time.log
```

This file contains the errors that occurred during installation. It clarifies the nature of the error and at exactly which point it occurred during the installation. If there are any installation problems, you must send this file to Tech Support for debugging the issue.

- To check the ApplicationHA log file, you must access:

```

/var/VRTSvcs/log/engine_A.log
/var/VRTSvcs/log/Oracle_A.log
/var/VRTSvcs/log/Netlsnr_A.log

```

These files contain all the actions that the ApplicationHA engine and other agents for Oracle perform.

Error messages common to the Oracle and Netlsnr agents

[Table 5-1](#) lists the Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle error messages with the description and a recommended solution, if available.

Table 5-1 Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle error messages

Message	Description and solution
No ORACLE_HOME specified	The Home attribute in the Oracle or Netlsnr type has not been set. Solution: Set the Home attribute value to the correct full path name of the Oracle home.
Oracle home directory %s does not exist	The string that is specified for the Home attribute in the Oracle or Netlsnr type is incorrect. Solution: Set the Home attribute value to the correct full path name of the Oracle home.
File %s is not a valid text file	The file that the EnvFile attribute specifies for sourcing the environment variables is not present, not readable, or is not a text file. Solution: Set the EnvFile attribute value to the correct full path name. Ensure that the file format is valid.
VCSAgExec returned failure when trying to execute in-depth test	Internal error. Solution: Contact Technical Support for further assistance.
Unable to open pipe from %s	Internal error. Solution: Contact Technical Support for further assistance.

Table 5-1 Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle error messages
(continued)

Message	Description and solution
Process %s restarted	Warning message to indicate that the PID for the Oracle process that is specified is different than the one registered by the previous monitor cycle.
Monitor procedure %s returned %s	MonScript failed to execute correctly. Solution: Debug MonScript to assess the exact cause of failure.
Monitor procedure %s did not exit, return value is %s	Internal error while executing MonScript. Solution: Contact Technical Support for further assistance.
No owner for Oracle executables was specified	The Owner attribute in the Oracle type has not been set. Solution: Set the Owner attribute value to the correct owner of the database binaries.
Invalid owner %s for Oracle executables was specified	The Operating System user that the Owner attribute specifies is invalid. Solution: Set the Owner attribute value to the correct owner of the database binaries.
Access to Monscript %s denied. Detail Monitoring will not be enabled!! Please specify a valid file.	The file that the MonScript attribute specifies is not accessible or not found. Solution: Make sure that the file name indicates a valid and accessible file.
Encountered errors while decrypting password!	The agent cannot decrypt the password you specified. Solution: Use vcsencrypt utility to create a new encrypted password and supply the password.

Error messages specific to the Oracle agent

Table 5-2 lists the error messages for the ApplicationHA agent for Oracle with the description and a recommended solution, if available.

Note: %s in the following table must be replaced by the actual Oracle database instance name configured in ApplicationHA.

Table 5-2 Oracle agent error messages

Message	Description and solution
No SID specified	<p>The Sid attribute in the Oracle type has not been set.</p> <p>Solution: Set the Sid attribute value to the correct database instance.</p>
sqlplus/svrmgrl not found in %s/bin	<p>The client utilities svrmgrl or sqlplus are not found in the \$ORACLE_HOME/bin directory.</p> <p>Solution: Verify that the Oracle home has been correctly specified and that these executables are present.</p>
srvctl not found in %s/bin	<p>The client utility srvctl is not found in the \$ORACLE_HOME/bin directory.</p> <p>Solution: Verify that the Oracle home has been correctly specified and that this executable is present.</p>
Oracle %s failed to stop	<p>Warning message to indicate that the following commands were not successful in closing the Oracle instance in the clean or offline entry point:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Shutdown immediate ■ Shutdown abort
Oracle database %s not running	<p>Warning message to indicate that the database instance was not running even before the clean or offline entry points were executed.</p> <p>Solution: No action required.</p>
Oracle (%s) kill TERM %s	<p>Warning message to indicate that the Oracle processes would be signaled with SIGTERM.</p> <p>Solution: No action required.</p>
Oracle (%s) kill KILL %s	<p>Warning message to indicate that the Oracle processes would be signaled with SIGKILL.</p> <p>Solution: No action required.</p>

Table 5-2 Oracle agent error messages (*continued*)

Message	Description and solution
Database in QUIESCING/QUIESCED mode	Warning message to indicate that database is in QUIESCING or QUIESCED mode.
Database in RESTRICTED mode	Warning message to indicate that database is in RESTRICTED mode.
Database in SUSPENDED state	Warning message to indicate that database is in SUSPENDED state.
Resource %s - monitor procedure did not complete within the expected time.	<p>Refer to Oracle's alert log for more information.</p> <p>When a monitor times out as many times as the value specified, the corresponding resource is brought down by calling the clean entry point. The resource is then marked FAULTED, or it is restarted, depending on the RestartLimit attribute value.</p> <p>Solution: Set the FaultOnMonitorTimeouts attribute value to 0 so that the monitor failures are not considered indicative of a resource fault.</p> <p>Another possible reason could be that automatic archiving was not enabled while setting up the database.</p> <p>Solution: Archive the database manually. If automatic archival is enabled, set the LOG_ARCHIVE_START parameter value in the file init.ora to TRUE.</p>
Custom script /opt/VRTSagents/ha/bin/Oracle/start_custom.sql does not exist. Will not be able to start the database.	<p>The agent could not find the custom script at the specified location to start the database.</p> <p>Solution: Make sure the custom file exists at the specified location and has valid permissions.</p>

Table 5-2 Oracle agent error messages (*continued*)

Message	Description and solution
<p>Custom script /opt/VRTSagents/ha/bin/Oracle/shut_custom.sql does not exist. Using default shutdown option.</p>	<p>The agent could not find the custom script at the specified location to stop the database.</p> <p>Solution: Make sure the custom file exists and the specified location and has valid permissions.</p>
<p>oraerror.dat did not have records that could be parsed</p>	<p>The file oraerror.dat is not present or has records in an unsupported format.</p> <p>Solution: Make sure the file exists and has data in the supported format.</p>
<p>Incorrect Monitor Option</p>	<p>The MonitorOption value is less than 0 or greater than 1.</p> <p>Solution: Set the MonitorOption attribute value to 0 or 1.</p>
<p>MonitorOption value not applicable for this Oracle Version</p>	<p>The health check monitoring option is selected when Oracle version is not Oracle 10g or later.</p> <p>Solution: Set the MonitorOption value to 0 to select the process check monitoring option.</p>
<p>VCSAgExec returned failure when trying to execute health check monitor test</p>	<p>Internal error.</p> <p>Solution: Contact Technical Support for further assistance.</p>
<p>VCSAgExec returned failure while trying to find Oracle version</p>	<p>Internal error.</p> <p>Solution: Contact Technical Support for further assistance.</p>

Table 5-2 Oracle agent error messages (*continued*)

Message	Description and solution
One or more of the attributes User:Pword:Table:MonScript are not set correctly. Detail monitoring will not be enabled!! Unset the DetailMonitor attribute if you want to disable DetailMonitoring.	Detail Monitoring has been enabled but the necessary attributes for detail monitoring have not been set correctly. Solution: Set the values of the required attributes for detail monitoring correctly or set DetailMonitor attribute value to 0 to disable detail monitoring.

Error messages specific to the Netlsnr agent

[Table 5-3](#) lists the Netlsnr agent error messages with the description and a recommended solution, if available.

Table 5-3 Netlsnr agent error messages

Message	Description and solution
Cannot open process directory.	The agent could not process the /proc entries in the particular monitor cycle. Solution: No action required.
Listener process %s not running	Warning message to indicate that the Listener process was not running even before the clean or offline entry points were executed. Solution: No action required.
Listener %s kill TERM %s	Warning message to indicate that the Listener process would be signaled with SIGTERM. Solution: No action required.
Listener %s kill KILL %s	Warning message to indicate that the Listener process would be signaled with SIGKILL. Solution: No action required.

Table 5-3 Netlsnr agent error messages (*continued*)

Message	Description and solution
lsnrctl not found in %s/bin	The client utility lsnrctl is not found in the \$ORACLE_HOME/bin directory. Solution: Verify that the Oracle home has been correctly specified and that this executable is present.
lsnrctl operation timed out	The tnslnr process does not respond. Solution: Verify the underlying network protocol.

Resource type definitions

This appendix includes the following topics:

- [About the resource type and attribute definitions](#)
- [Resource type definition for the Oracle agent](#)
- [Resource type definition for the Netlsnr agent](#)

About the resource type and attribute definitions

The resource type represents the configuration definition of the agent and specifies how the agent is defined in the configuration file. The Attribute Definitions explain the attributes associated with the agent. The Required attributes explain the attributes that must be configured for the agent to function properly.

Resource type definition for the Oracle agent

The Oracle agent of the Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle is represented by the Oracle resource type in ApplicationHA.

```
type Oracle (
    static str AgentDirectory = "/opt/VRTSagents/ha/bin/Oracle"

    static keylist SupportedActions = { VRTS_GetInstanceName,
        VRTS_GetRunningServices, DBRestrict, DBUndoRestrict,
        DBResume, DBSuspend, DBTbspBackup,
        "home.vfd", "owner.vfd", "getid", "pfile.vfd" }
    static str ArgList[] = { Sid, Owner, Home, Pfile, StartUpOpt,
        ShutDownOpt, EnvFile, AutoEndBkup, DetailMonitor,
        User, Pword, Table, MonScript, AgentDebug, Encoding,
        MonitorOption }
```

```

    str Sid
    str Owner
    str Home
    str Pfile
    str StartUpOpt = STARTUP_FORCE
    str ShutDownOpt = IMMEDIATE
    str EnvFile
    boolean AutoEndBkup = 1
    int DetailMonitor = 0
    str MonScript = "./bin/Oracle/SqlTest.pl"
    str User
    str Pword
    str Table
    boolean AgentDebug = 0
    str Encoding
    int MonitorOption = 0

    static boolean IntentionalOffline = 0

)

```

Attribute definition for the Oracle agent

Review the description of the Oracle agent attributes. The agent attributes are classified as required, optional, and internal.

[Attribute definition for the Oracle agent](#) lists the required attributes. You must assign values to the required attributes.

Table A-1 Required attributes for Oracle agent

Required attributes	Type and dimension	Definition
Sid	string-scalar	The variable \$ORACLE_SID that represents the Oracle instance. The Sid is considered case-sensitive by the Oracle agent and by the Oracle database server.
Owner	string-scalar	The Oracle user, as the defined owner of executables and database files in /etc/passwd. The agent also supports LDAP users as Oracle user.

Table A-1 Required attributes for Oracle agent (*continued*)

Required attributes	Type and dimension	Definition
Home	string-scalar	The \$ORACLE_HOME path to Oracle binaries and configuration files. For example, you could specify the path as /opt/ora_home. Note: Do not append a slash (/) at the end of the path.

Table A-2 lists the optional attributes for Oracle agent. You can configure the optional attributes if necessary.

Table A-2 Optional attributes for Oracle agent

Optional Attributes	Type and Dimension	Definition
StartUpOpt	string-scalar	Startup options for the Oracle instance. This attribute can take the following values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ STARTUP ■ STARTUP_FORCE ■ RESTRICTED ■ RECOVERDB ■ SRVCTLSTART ■ CUSTOM Default is STARTUP_FORCE. See “Startup and shutdown options for the Oracle agent” on page 12.
ShutDownOpt	string-scalar	Shut down options for the Oracle instance. This attribute can take the following values: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ IMMEDIATE ■ TRANSACTIONAL ■ SRVCTLSTOP ■ CUSTOM Default is IMMEDIATE. See “Startup and shutdown options for the Oracle agent” on page 12.

Table A-2 Optional attributes for Oracle agent (*continued*)

Optional Attributes	Type and Dimension	Definition
EnvFile	string-scalar	<p>The full path name of the file that is sourced by the entry point scripts. This file contains the environment variables set by the user for the Oracle database server environment such as LD_LIBRARY_PATH, NLS_DATE_FORMAT, and so on.</p> <p>The syntax for the contents of the file depends on the login shell of Owner. File must be readable by Owner. The file must not contain any prompts for user input.</p>
Pfile	string-scalar	<p>The name of the initialization parameter file with the complete path of the startup profile.</p> <p>You can also use the server parameter file. Create a one-line text initialization parameter file that contains only the SPFILE parameter. See the Oracle documentation for more information.</p> <p>See “Using the SPFILE in a ApplicationHA virtual machine” on page 55.</p>
AutoEndBkup	integer-scalar	<p>Setting the AutoEndBkup attribute to a non-zero value takes the datafiles in the database out of the backup mode, during Online.</p> <p>Default = 1</p>
MonitorOption	integer-scalar	<p>Monitor options for the Oracle instance. This attribute can take values 0 or 1.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 0—Process check monitoring (recommended) ■ 1—Health check monitoring <p>You must set the value of this attribute as 1 to use the intentional offline functionality of the agent.</p> <p>Default = 0</p> <p>See “Monitor options for the Oracle agent” on page 14.</p>

Table A-2 Optional attributes for Oracle agent (*continued*)

Optional Attributes	Type and Dimension	Definition
DetailMonitor	integer-scalar	<p>Setting this flag to a non-zero enables detail monitoring for Oracle. The value indicates the number of monitor cycles after which the agent will monitor Oracle in detail. For example, the value 5 indicates that the agent will monitor Oracle in detail every five monitor intervals.</p> <p>Note: If you set the AutoEndBkup attribute value to 0, then you must set the DetailMonitor attribute value to 1.</p> <p>Default = 0</p>
MonScript	string-scalar	<p>Pathname to the script provided for detail monitoring. The default (basic monitoring) is to monitor the database PIDs only.</p> <p>Note: Detail monitoring is disabled if the value of the attribute MonScript is invalid or is set to an empty string.</p> <p>The pathname to the supplied detail monitor script is /opt/VRTSagents/ha/?bin/Oracle/SqlTest.pl.</p> <p>MonScript also accepts a pathname relative to /opt/VRTSagents/ha. A relative pathname should start with "./", as in the path ./bin/Oracle/SqlTest.pl.</p>
User	string-scalar	Internal database user. Connects to the database for detail monitoring.
Pword	string-scalar	<p>Encrypted password for internal database-user authentication.</p> <p>Encrypt passwords only when entering them using the command-line. Passwords must be encrypted using the ApplicationHA Encrypt utility.</p>
Table	string-scalar	Table for update by User/Pword.

Table A-2 Optional attributes for Oracle agent (*continued*)

Optional Attributes	Type and Dimension	Definition
IntentionalOffline		<p>This resource-type level attribute defines how VCS reacts when Oracle is intentionally stopped outside of VCS control.</p> <p>If you stop Oracle out of VCS control, the agent behavior is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 0—The Oracle agent registers a fault and initiates the failover of the service group. ■ 1—The Oracle agent takes the Oracle resource offline when Health check monitoring is enabled. <p>If Health check monitoring is not enabled, the agent registers a fault and initiates the failover of the service group.</p> <p>Note: If you want to use the intentional offline functionality of the agent, you must set the value of the MonitorOption attribute as 1 to enable Health check monitoring.</p> <p>See <i>Symantec ApplicationHA Administrator's Guide</i>.</p>
AgentDebug	boolean-scalar	<p>Additional debug messages are logged when this flag is set.</p> <p>Default = 0</p>

[Attribute definition for the Oracle agent](#) lists the internal attribute for Oracle agent. This attribute is for internal use only. Symantec recommends not to modify the value of this attribute.

Table A-3 Internal attributes for Oracle agent

Optional Attributes	Type and Dimension	Definition
AgentDirectory	static-string	<p>Specifies the location of binaries, scripts, and other files related to the Oracle agent.</p> <p>Default is /opt/VRTSagents/ha/bin/Oracle.</p>

Resource type definition for the Netlsnr agent

The Netlsnr agent of the Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle is represented by the Netlsnr resource type in ApplicationHA.

```
type Netlsnr (
    static str AgentDirectory = "/opt/VRTSagents/ha/bin/Netlsnr"

    static keylist SupportedActions = { VRTS_GetInstanceName,
        VRTS_GetRunningServices, "tnsadmin.vfd" }
    static str ArgList[] = { Owner, Home, TnsAdmin, Listener,
        EnvFile, MonScript, LsnrPwd, AgentDebug, Encoding }
    str Owner
    str Home
    str TnsAdmin
    str Listener
    str EnvFile
    str MonScript = "./bin/Netlsnr/LsnrTest.pl"
    str LsnrPwd
    boolean AgentDebug = 0
    str Encoding
    static boolean IntentionalOffline = 0
)
```

Attribute definition for the Netlsnr agent

Review the description of the Netlsnr agent attributes. The agent attributes are classified as required, optional, and internal.

[Table A-4](#) lists the required attributes for Netlsnr agent. You must assign values to the required attributes.

Table A-4 Required attributes for Netlsnr agent

Required attributes	Type and dimension	Definition
Owner	string-scalar	The Oracle user, as the defined owner of executables and database files in /etc/passwd. The agent also supports LDAP users as Oracle user.

Table A-4 Required attributes for Netlsnr agent (*continued*)

Required attributes	Type and dimension	Definition
Home	string-scalar	The \$ORACLE_HOME path to Oracle binaries and configuration files. For example, you could specify the path as /opt/ora_home. Do not append a slash (/) at the end of the path.

Table A-5 lists the optional attributes for Netlsnr agent. You can configure the optional attributes if necessary.

Table A-5 Optional attributes for Netlsnr agent

Optional attributes	Type and dimension	Definition
TnsAdmin	string-scalar	The \$TNS_ADMIN path to directory in which the Listener configuration file resides (listener.ora). Default is /var/opt/oracle.
Listener	string-scalar	Name of Listener. The name for Listener is considered case-insensitive by the Netlsnr agent and the Oracle database server. Default is LISTENER.
LsnrPwd	string-scalar	The ApplicationHA encrypted password used to stop and monitor the listener. This password is set in the Listener configuration file. Encrypt passwords only when entering them using the command-line. Passwords must be encrypted using the ApplicationHA Encrypt utility.
EnvFile	string-scalar	Specifies the full path name of the file that is sourced by the entry point scripts. This file contains the environment variables set by the user for the Oracle listener environment such as LD_LIBRARY_PATH and so on. The syntax for the contents of the file depends on the login shell of Owner. This file must be readable by Owner. The file must not contain any prompts for user input.

Table A-5 Optional attributes for Netlsnr agent (*continued*)

Optional attributes	Type and dimension	Definition
MonScript	string-scalar	<p>Pathname to the script provided for detail monitoring. By default, the detail monitoring is enabled to monitor the listener process.</p> <p>Note: If the value of the attribute MonScript is set to an empty string, the agent disables detail monitoring.</p> <p>The pathname to the supplied detail monitoring script is /opt/VRTSagents/ha/?bin/Netlsnr/LsnrTest.pl.</p> <p>MonScript also accepts a pathname relative to /opt/VRTSagents/ha. A relative pathname should start with "./", as in the path ./bin/Netlsnr/LsnrTest.pl.</p>
Encoding	string-scalar	<p>Specifies operating system encoding that corresponds to Oracle encoding for the displayed Oracle output.</p> <p>Default is "".</p>
IntentionalOffline		<p>For future use.</p> <p>Do not change the value of this attribute.</p> <p>Default = 0</p>
AgentDebug	boolean	<p>Additional debug messages are logged when this flag is set.</p> <p>Default = 0</p>

[Table A-6](#) lists the internal attribute for Netlsnr agent. This attribute is for internal use only. Symantec recommends not to modify the value of this attribute.

Note: To change the value of any attribute, use CLI /Veritas Operations Manager

Table A-6 Internal attributes for Netlsnr agent

Optional Attributes	Type and Dimension	Definition
AgentDirectory	static-string	Specifies the location of binaries, scripts, and other files related to the Netlsnr agent. Default is /opt/VRTSagents/ha/bin/Netlsnr.

Detail monitoring

This appendix includes the following topics:

- [Setting the PATH variable](#)
- [Setting up detail monitoring for ApplicationHA agent for Oracle](#)
- [Setting up detail monitoring for ApplicationHA agent for Netlsnr](#)

Setting the PATH variable

ApplicationHA commands reside in the `/opt/VRTS/bin` directory. Add this directory to your PATH environment variable.

To set the PATH variable

- ◆ Perform one of the following steps:

For the Bourne Shell (sh or ksh), type:

```
$ PATH=/opt/VRTS/bin:$PATH; export PATH
```

For the C Shell (csh or tcsh), type:

```
$ setenv PATH :/opt/VRTS/bin:$PATH
```

Setting up detail monitoring for ApplicationHA agent for Oracle

The Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle provides two levels of application monitoring: primary (basic monitoring) and secondary (detail monitoring).

- In the basic monitoring mode, the agent monitors the Oracle processes to verify that they are continuously active.

- In the detail monitoring mode, the agent executes the script defined in the attribute `MonScript` of the Oracle and the `Netlsnr` resources. If the script successfully executes, the agent considers the resource available. You can customize the default script according to your configuration.

See “[Monitor options for the Oracle agent](#)” on page 14.

You can use the agent’s detail monitoring capability to monitor the status of a database and listener and increase the confidence in their availability. Before setting up detail monitoring, you must have the agent running satisfactorily at the basic level of monitoring.

Note: Disable detail monitoring before undertaking any database maintenance that involves disabling database access to external users.

Setting up detail monitoring for Oracle

Detail monitoring for an Oracle resource verifies whether a database is ready for transactions by performing an update transaction against a table within the database. The update action is taken by the two scripts, `SqlTest.pl` and `SimpleTest.pl`, provided with the Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle. The scripts are available under the directory `/opt/VRTSagents/ha/bin/Oracle/`. Both scripts update the timestamp to monitor the database.

The `SqlTest.pl` script checks whether the database is open before updating the timestamp. If the database is found to be in restricted mode, quiesced mode, or suspended mode, the monitor returns success. In such a case, only basic monitoring occurs. The `SimpleTest.pl` script does not perform database checks but only issues update statements against the table.

Before enabling detail monitoring for Oracle, you must create a test table (with a timestamp) in the Oracle database. The agent uses this test table for internal purposes. Symantec recommends that you do not perform any other transaction on the test table. The detail monitor script, `MonScript`, must exist and have execute permission for root. You can use a custom monitor script, or the scripts provided with the agent. In the monitor script, the return code 100 indicates failure. Return codes from 101 to 110 indicate success.

The example to set up detail monitoring, based on the use of the supplied script, shows how to create and test a table for use by detail monitoring, and how to enable detail monitoring.

To set up detail monitoring for Oracle

- 1** Make the ApplicationHA configuration writable:

```
haconf -makerw
```

- 2** Freeze the service group to avoid automated actions by ApplicationHA caused by an incomplete reconfiguration:

```
hagrp -freeze DiscoveredOracleSG
```

- 3** Log on as an Oracle user.

```
su - <Owner>
```

- 4** Set the environment variables for ORACLE_HOME and ORACLE_SID.

```
export ORACLE_HOME=<Home>
```

```
export ORACLE_SID=<Sid>
```

- 5** Start the `svrmgr1` or `sqlplus` utility to set up a database table:

```
$ORACLE_HOME/bin/svrmgr1
```

or

```
$ORACLE_HOME/bin/sqlplus /nolog
```

- 6 As the database administrator, issue the following statements at the `svrmgr1` or `sqlplus` prompt to create the test table:

```
connect / as sysdba

create user <User>
identified by <Pword>
default tablespace USERS

temporary tablespace TEMP
quota 100K on USERS;

grant create session to <User>;

create table <User>.<Table> ( tstamp date );
insert into <User>.<Table> (tstamp) values (SYSDATE);
```

- 7 To test the database table for use, do the following:

```
disconnect
connect <User>/<Pword>
update <User>.<Table> set ( tstamp ) = SYSDATE;

select TO_CHAR(tstamp, 'MON DD, YYYY HH:MI:SS AM')
from <User>.<Table>;
exit
```

- 8 Enable the detail monitoring for the Oracle resource using the following ApplicationHA commands:

```
hares -modify Oracle_<SID>_res User User
hares -modify Oracle_<SID>_res Pword Pword
hares -modify Oracle_<SID>_res Table Table
hares -modify Oracle_<SID>_res MonScript "./bin/Oracle/SqlTest.pl"
hares -modify Oracle_<SID>_res DetailMonitor 1

haconf -dump -makero

hagrp -unfreeze DiscoveredOracleSG
```

Enabling and disabling detail monitoring for Oracle resource

Review the instructions to enable or disable detail monitoring.

To enable detail monitoring

- ◆ Set the DetailMonitor attribute to 1.

```
hares -modify Oracle_<SID>_res DetailMonitor 1
```

To disable detail monitoring

- ◆ Set the DetailMonitor attribute to 0.

```
hares -modify Oracle_<SID>_res DetailMonitor 0
```

Setting up detail monitoring for ApplicationHA agent for Netlsnr

For Netlsnr agent, the detail monitoring is enabled by default to monitor the listener process.

You can disable detail monitoring by setting the value of the attribute MonScript to an empty string.

You can enable detail monitoring for Netlsnr by specifying a value for the MonScript attribute. The example to set up detail monitoring uses the supplied monitor script for Netlsnr, /opt/VRTSagents/ha/bin/Netlsnr/LsnrTest.pl. The detail monitoring script for the Netlsnr resource uses the Listener command `lsnrctl status $Listener` to test the Listener process.

To disable detail monitoring for Netlsnr

- ◆ Disable detail monitoring by setting the MonScript attribute to an empty string:

```
haconf -makerw  
hagrp -freeze DiscoveredOracleSG  
hares -modify LSNR_$Listener_res MonScript ""  
haconf -dump -makero  
hagrp -unfreeze DiscoveredOracleSG
```

To set up detail monitoring for Netlsnr

- 1** Make the ApplicationHA configuration writable:

```
haconf -makerw
```

- 2** Freeze the service group to avoid automated actions by ApplicationHA caused by an incomplete reconfiguration:

```
hagrp -freeze DiscoveredOracleSG
```

- 3** Enable detail monitoring by entering the following commands:

```
hares -modify LSNR_Listener_res MonScript "./bin/Netlsnr/LsnrTest.pl"  
haconf -dump -makero  
hagrp -unfreeze DiscoveredOracleSG
```

Using the SPFILE in an ApplicationHA system for Oracle

This appendix includes the following topics:

- [Using the SPFILE in a ApplicationHA virtual machine](#)

Using the SPFILE in a ApplicationHA virtual machine

When using the Symantec™ ApplicationHA agent for Oracle, you can start a database instance by specifying a PFILE. If you do not specify the PFILE, the database instance starts up using the default SPFILE.

The agent attribute Pfile must specify the location of the PFILE. If your configuration uses the SPFILE, the contents of the PFILE must specify the location of the SPFILE, which must be created from the PFILE.

Note: To specify PFILE for Oracle instance, use CLI / Veritas Operation Manager (VOM).

To create the SPFILE from a PFILE

- ◆ The SPFILE must be created from the PFILE. You must have the sysdba or the sysoper system privileges to create an SPFILE.

You can run the following command to create the SPFILE:

```
CREATE SPFILE [= spfile_name] FROM PFILE [= pfile_name ];
```

If you do not specify the complete path for the SPFILE, this command creates an SPFILE at the default location (\$ORACLE_HOME/dbs on Linux).

To specify the SPFILE location in the PFILE

- ◆ To specify the location of the SPFILE in a PFILE, create a PFILE and specify the following entry in the PFILE:

```
SPFILE = spfile_location
```

The variable *spfile_location* represents the complete path of the SPFILE. For example:

```
SPFILE = /database/startup/spfileora1.ora
```

In this case, to start the database use the following command:

```
startup pfile=location_of_pfile
```


Best practices

This appendix includes the following topics:

- [Best practices for multiple Oracle instance configurations in a ApplicationHA environment](#)

Best practices for multiple Oracle instance configurations in a ApplicationHA environment

Review some of the best practices for using multiple Oracle instances in a ApplicationHA environment:

- Define the system parameters such that the allocation of semaphore and shared memory is appropriate on the virtual machine.
- Use a dedicated set of binaries for each Oracle instance, even if each instance uses the same Oracle version.
- If your configuration uses the same Oracle version for all instances, install a version on the root disk or preferably on a secondary disk. Locate the pfiles in the default location and define several listener processes.
- If your configuration has different versions of Oracle, create a separate \$ORACLE_HOME for each Oracle version.
- Listeners accompanying different versions of Oracle may not be backward-compatible. So, if you want to create a single listener.ora file, you must verify that the listener supports the other versions of Oracle in the virtual machine. You must also create a separate Envfile for each version of Oracle.
- Make sure that each listener listens to a different virtual address. Also, assign different names to listeners and make sure that they do not listen to the same port.

