

RMAN switch to copy

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Today I successfully used RMAN switch to copy to swap out my 500GB drives for a 1.5TB drives with minimal downtime. I have a simple setup where data resides on an E: drive and backups on the F: drive. The process was relatively simple.

- 1) Within RMAN execute *backup as copy database*
- 2) Shutdown the database
- 3) startup mount
- 4) Within RMAN execute *switch...* Today I successfully used RMAN switch to copy to swap out my 500GB drives for a 1.5TB drives with minimal downtime. I have a simple setup where data resides on an E: drive and backups on the F: drive. The process was relatively simple.
- 1) Within RMAN execute *backup as copy database*
- 2) Shutdown the database
- 3) startup mount
- 4) Within RMAN execute *switch database to copy*
- 5) Within RMAN execute *recover database*
- 6) *alter database open*

At this point I had the database running from the F: drive with the exception of the redo and control files. In my case these reside on C: which was unaffected by this exercise, but something you should be aware of. Also, the Temp tablespace files was not moved from this. There may be an option to include the TEMP tablespace, however it was easy enough for me to just create a new default temporary TEMP tablespace (named FTEMP) and drop the old one.

Now the move back. This really was just the same exercise in the other direction. In order to make it work I needed to first change the `db_recovery_file_dest` to point back to the E: drive

- 1) *alter system set db_recovery_file_dest=E:oradata*
- 2) Within RMAN execute *backup as copy database*
- 3) Shutdown the database
- 4) startup mount
- 5) Within RMAN execute *switch database to copy*
- 6) Within RMAN execute *recover database*
- 7) *alter database open*
- 8) Create a new default TEMP tablespace on E:
- 9) *alter system set db_recovery_file_dest=F:flash_recovery_area scope=both*

At this point the database is back on the E: drive. However, we are vulnerable at this point so I immediately kicked off a database backup to get things back to a suitable state.

One side effect of this exercise was that my datafiles were renamed. Before the move I had a naming convention for datafiles using the `tablespace_name_.DBF`. For example, for the QUANT tablespace QUANT_01.DBF, QUANT_02.DBF, etc... I don't know of a way to name datafiles according to this format using backup as copy database. You can use a custom format at the individual copy datafile level, but that seemed error prone since I would need to type in the file names by hand and run a lot more switch commands.

Read more <http://billennis-ssts.blogspot.com/2009/08/rman-switch-to-copy.html>

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