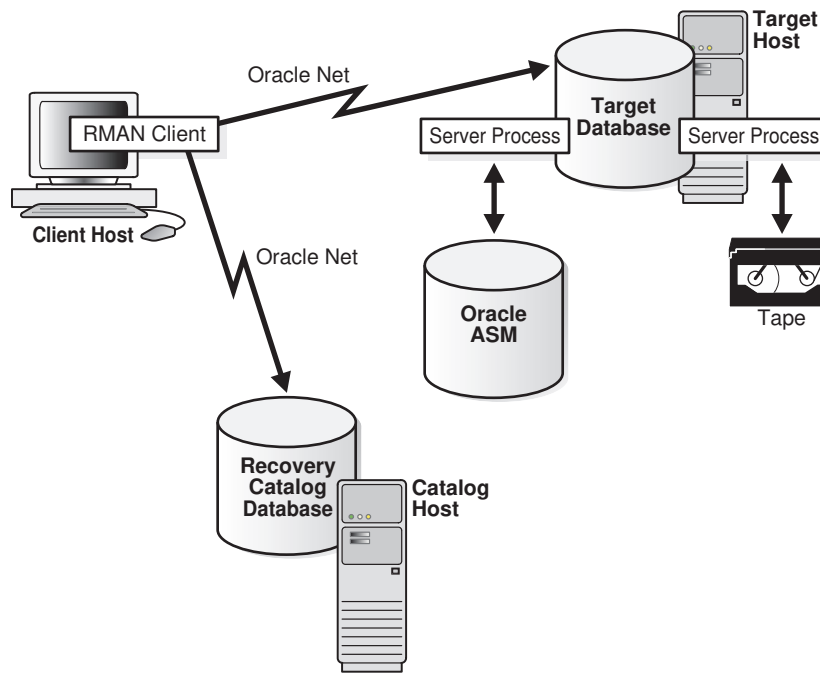


Figure 18-3 RMAN Architecture



Whichever backup and recovery technique you use, Oracle recommends that you configure a [fast recovery area](#). This database-managed directory, file system, or [Oracle ASM disk group](#) centralizes backup and recovery files, including active control files, online and archived redo log files, and backups. Oracle Database recovery components interact with the fast recovery area to ensure database recoverability.

See Also:

- *Oracle Database 2 Day DBA* to learn how to perform backup and recovery with Recovery Manager
- *Oracle Database Administrator's Guide* for information about how to set up and administer the fast recovery area

Database backups can be either physical or logical.

Physical backups, which are the primary concern in a backup and recovery strategy, are copies of physical database files. You can make physical backups with RMAN or operating system utilities.

In contrast, logical backups contain tables, stored procedures, and other logical data. You can extract logical data with an Oracle Database utility such as Data Pump Export and store it in a binary file. Logical backups can supplement physical backups.