



- See Also:
- [Administering Oracle ASM Disk Groups](#) for information about administering disk groups
 - [Managing Oracle ASM With ASMCA](#) for information about Oracle ASM Configuration Assistant
 - [Managing Oracle ASM with ASMCMD](#) for information about the ASMCMD command-line interface
 - [Oracle Database Administrator's Guide](#) for information about Oracle Database structure and storage

About Oracle Automatic Storage Management Cluster File System

Oracle Automatic Storage Management Cluster File System (Oracle ACFS) and Oracle ASM Dynamic Volume Manager (Oracle ADVM) extend Oracle ASM functionality.

Oracle Automatic Storage Management Cluster File System (Oracle ACFS) is a multi-platform, scalable file system storage management technology that extends Oracle Automatic Storage Management (Oracle ASM) functionality to support all customer files. The Oracle ASM Dynamic Volume Manager (Oracle ADVM) provides volume management services and a standard disk device driver interface to clients.



- See Also:
- [Oracle Automatic Storage Management Cluster File System](#) for more information about Oracle ACFS and Oracle ADVM.

Understanding Oracle ASM Concepts

The concepts for the key Oracle ASM components are introduced in this topic.

The following topics are discussed:

- [About Oracle ASM Instances](#)
- [About Oracle ASM Disk Groups](#)
- [About Mirroring and Failure Groups](#)
- [About Oracle ASM Disks](#)
- [About Oracle ASM Allocation Units](#)
- [About Oracle ASM Files](#)



- See Also:
- [Exploring Considerations for Oracle ASM Storage](#) for information about preparing your storage environment.

About Oracle ASM Instances

An Oracle ASM instance is built on the same technology as an Oracle Database instance.

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An Oracle ASM instance has a System Global Area (SGA) and background processes that are similar to those of a Database. However, because Oracle ASM performs fewer tasks than a database, an Oracle ASM SGA is much smaller than a database SGA. In addition, Oracle ASM has a minimal performance effect on a server. Oracle ASM instances mount disk groups to make Oracle ASM files available to database instances; Oracle ASM instances do not mount databases.

Oracle ASM is installed in the Oracle Grid Infrastructure home before Oracle Database is installed in a separate Oracle home. Oracle ASM and database instances require shared access to the disks in a disk group. Oracle ASM instances manage the metadata of the disk group and provide file layout information to the database instances.

Oracle ASM metadata is the information that Oracle ASM uses to control a disk group and the metadata resides in the disk group. Oracle ASM metadata includes the following information:

- The disks that belong to a disk group
- The amount of space that is available in a disk group
- The file names of the files in a disk group

