Inverting Master and Slave

If you have a *master* (A) and a *slave* (B) and you would like to reverse their roles, follow this procedure. The procedure assumes A is healthy, up-to-date and available.

If A is not healthy but the hardware is okay (power outage, server crash, etc.), skip steps 1 and 2 and in step 8 replace all of A's files with B's files in step 8.

If A is not healthy and the hardware is not okay, replace A with a new machine. Also follow the instructions in the previous paragraph.

To invert the master and slave in a deployment:

1. Halt writes on A using the *fsync* command.
2. Make sure B is up to date with the state of A.
3. Shut down B.
4. Back up and move all data files that begin with `local` on B from the `dbPath` to remove the existing `local.sources` data.

   Warning: Removing `local.*` is irrevocable and cannot be undone. Perform this step with extreme caution.

5. Start B with the *--master* option.
6. Do a write on B, which primes the *oplog* to provide a new sync start point.
7. Shut down B. B will now have a new set of data files that start with `local`.
8. Shut down A and replace all files in the `dbPath` of A that start with `local` with a copy of the files in the `dbPath` of B that begin with `local`.

   Considering compressing the `local` files from B while you copy them, as they may be quite large.
9. Start B with the *--master* option.
10. Start A with all the usual slave options, but include *fastsync*.

Creating a Slave from an Existing Master's Disk Image

If you can stop write operations to the *master* for an indefinite period, you can copy the data files from the master to the new *slave* and then start the slave with *--fastsync*.

Warning: Be careful with *--fastsync*. If the data on both instances is **not** identical, a discrepancy will exist forever.

fastsync is a way to start a slave by starting with an existing master disk image/backup. This option declares that the administrator guarantees the image is correct and completely up-to-date with that of the master. If you have a full and complete copy of data from a master you can use this option to avoid a full synchronization upon starting the slave.

Creating a Slave from an Existing Slave's Disk Image

You can just copy the other *slave's* data file snapshot without any special options. Only take data snapshots when a `mongod` process is down or locked using `db.fsyncLock()`.