

# Lose your data without ever noticing it

- mag. **Sergej Rožman**; Abakus plus d.o.o.
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# Rubber Duck Debugging

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubber\\_duck\\_debugging](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubber_duck_debugging)

»The name Rubber Duck Debugging is a reference to a story in the book *The Pragmatic Programmer* in which a programmer would carry around a rubber duck and debug their code by forcing themselves to explain it, line-by-line, to the duck.«



## Lose your data without ever noticing it

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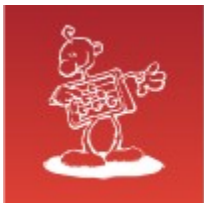
REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA  
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# Abakus plus d.o.o.

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## History

- from 1992, ~20 employees

## Applications:

- **DejaVu** – virtual DBs in real-time
- **APPM** - Abakus Plus Performance Monitoring tool
- **ARBITER** – the ultimate tool in audit trailing

## Services:

- DBA, OS administration , programming
- networks (services, VPN, QoS, security)

## Hardware:

- servers, **CEPH clusters**, firewalls, **backup servers**

## Experience:

- from 1995 GNU/Linux (**~25 years of experience !**)
- Oracle on GNU/Linux: since RDBMS 7.1.5 & Forms 3.0 (**before Oracle !**)
- **~30 years of experience with High-Availability !**





# Losing Data - Reloaded

Some old stuff

- SIOUG 2014: Right Way for Losing Data





# How to move OMF in ASM

## DB part – Oracle ≥10.2:

```
SQL> alter database rename file  
'+DATA/test/datafile/users.271.858525959' to  
'+DATA/ttt/datafile/users.271.858525959';
```

```
ERROR at line 1:  
ORA-01511: error in renaming log/data files  
ORA-01141: error renaming data file 4 - new file  
      '+DATA/ttt/datafile/users.271.858525959' not found  
ORA-01110: data file 4: '+DATA/test/datafile/users.271.858525959'  
ORA-17503: ksfdopn:2 Failed to open file  
      +DATA/ttt/datafile/users.271.858525959  
ORA-15173: entry 'users.271.858525959' does not exist in directory  
      'datafile'
```





# How to move OMF in ASM

## Oracle 10.1:

```
SQL> alter database rename file  
'+ARCH/test/datafile/users.7515.858523367' to  
'+ARCH/ttt/datafile/users.7515.858523367';  
  
Database altered.
```

```
SQL> alter database open;  
  
ERROR at line 1:  
ORA-01157: cannot identify/lock data file 4 - see DBWR trace file  
ORA-01110: data file 4: '+ARCH/ttt/datafile/users.7515.858523367'
```

**Oracle! Where is my datafile???**





# ASM – what if ...

## Mixed versions (supported configuration)

- Oracle ASM ver. 19.4
- Oracle DB ver. 10.1
- **Caution:** ASM supports block devices but DB does not !
- Remember that ASM does not perform database IO as the database still performs its own IO just as always







# ASM – what if ...

```
SQL> alter diskgroup DATA add  
      failgroup SAN1 disk /dev/sdd;
```

Diskgroup altered.

## ASM alertlog:

```
WARNING: RDBMS client (XX) with version (10.1.0.5.0) is not compatible  
with a pending operation
```

## DB alertlog:

```
ORA-00376: file 5 cannot be read at this time  
ORA-01110: data file 5: '+DATA/test/datafile/undotbs2.269.696087027'
```

- Oracle should probably force using raw devices when  
DATABASE\_COMPATIBILITY <= 10.2.0.2





# ASM – what if ... (again)

## Mixed versions (supported configuration)

- Oracle ASM ver. 19.4
- Oracle DB ver. 11.2
- **Caution:**  
ASM supports large disk drive (>2TB) devices but DB does not !
- Remember that ASM does not perform database IO as the database still performs its own IO just as always





# ASM – what if ... (again)

## Mixed versions (legal & supported condition)

- works fine until data reaches 2 TB limit on the individual disk drive
- even for quite a long time (weeks, months)





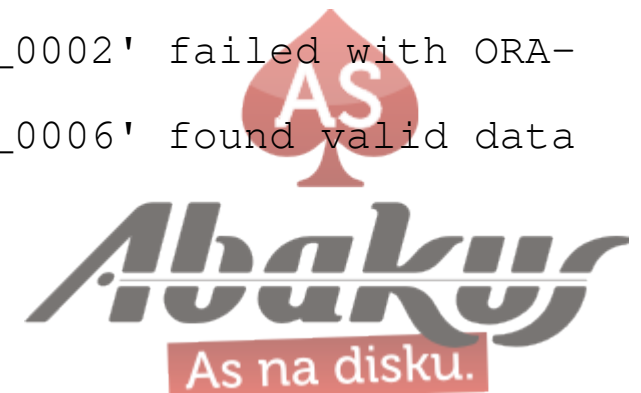
# ASM – what if ...

## ASM alertlog:

```
Errors in file /oradmin/diag/asm/+asm/+ASM2/trace/+ASM2_arb0_9392.trc:  
ORA-15196: invalid ASM block header [kfc.c:28346] [endian_kfbh] [2147483655]  
[243] [83 != 1]  
ORA-15196: invalid ASM block header [kfc.c:28346] [endian_kfbh] [2147483655]  
[243] [83 != 1]  
NOTE: cache repaired a corrupt block: group=3(DATA) dsk=7 blk=243 on disk 7  
from disk=7 (DATA_0007) incarn=3491241260 au=11 blk=243 count=1
```

## DB alertlog:

```
Reading datafile '+DATA/arb/datafile/users.265.841516141' for corruption at  
rdba: 0x3481c1bf (file 210, block 115135)  
Read datafile mirror 'DATA_0001' (file 210, block 115135) found same corrupt  
data (no logical check)  
Read datafile mirror 'DATA_0006' (file 210, block 115135) found valid data  
  
Read of datafile '+DATA/arb/datafile/ts_prod.268.841517003' (fno 288) header  
failed with ORA-01208  
Rereading datafile 288 header from mirror side 'DATA_0002' failed with ORA-  
01208  
Rereading datafile 288 header from mirror side 'DATA_0006' found valid data  
Repaired corruption in datafile 288 header
```





# ASM – what if ...

## Recovery:

### Output:

```
ORA-00600: internal error code, arguments: [3020], [210], [692130],  
[881495970], [], [], [], [], [], [], []  
ORA-10567: Redo is inconsistent with data block (file# 210, block# 692130,  
file offset is 1374961664 bytes)  
ORA-10564: tablespace USERS  
ORA-01110: data file 210: '/oradata/ARB/datafile/users.11936.803735271'  
ORA-10561: block type 'TRANSACTION MANAGED DATA BLOCK', data object# 3744293
```

### DB alertlog:

WARNING! Recovering data file 395 from a fuzzy backup. It might be an online backup taken without entering the begin backup command.

- Oracle should probably force limiting disk drives to 2TB when DATABASE\_COMPATIBILITY <= 11.2





# Database Lost Write Corruption

## A data block lost write:

- I/O subsystem acknowledges the completion of the block write.
- While in fact the write did not occur in the persistent storage.





# Lost Write Causes

- Faulty disk & controller  
(Sergej Rožman, SSD & Oracle @ SIOUG 2017)
- Faulty memory
- Faulty network components
- Volume manager
- NFS
- Other reasons  
(bug in some code, **system crash, power outage**)





# Lost Write Detection

Common tools usually do not detect lost writes

- DBVerify finds no corruptions
- RMAN> BACKUP VALIDATE DATABASE shows no errors
- ANALYZE command finds nothing
- DB\_BLOCK\_CHECKING parameter is at no use
- No errors in logs.

An old version of the block remains and is perfectly correct for DBV, RMAN, and checksum.







# Special Case: Fractured Block

## »Partially« lost write

one part of the block was stored and the other part is missing

- Leads to a block corruption – detectable corruption with errors in logs (ORA-600, ...)
- Database restored from wrongly invoked hot backup.
- Database activated from a snapshot.

Not a subject of this presentation.

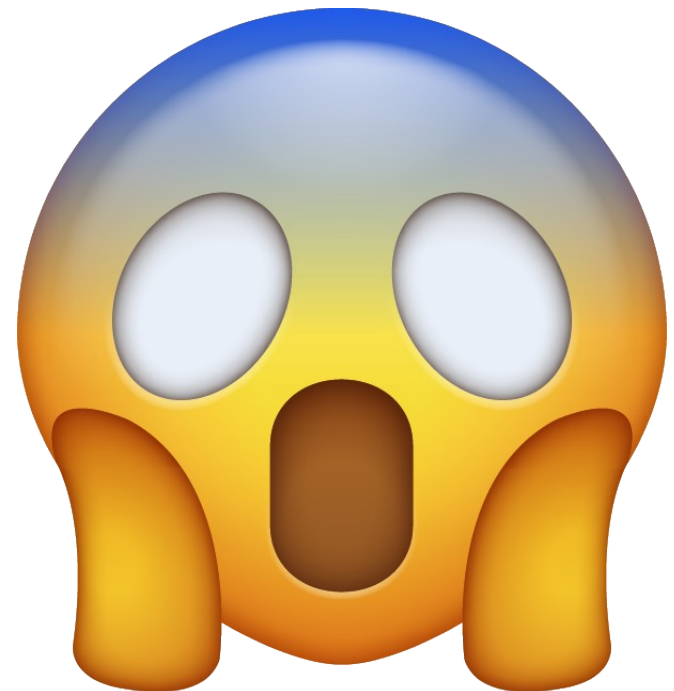




# Backup is Useless

- Lost write is usually not detected on time.
- All backup copies contain corrupted data as well.
- An error can show up months after lost write event or not at all.

Backup is useless (AGAIN?)





# Lost Write Detection

- The database is logically corrupted – errors in logs (index entry for nonexistent table row or vice versa, broken foreign key relation, ...)
- The data is evidently incorrect (a million on your bank account is missing)
- **We have something to compare with!**
- ... or not at all?!





# Lost Write Protection?

- Database lost write detection functionality introduced in Oracle 11.1 – parameter `DB_LOST_WRITE_PROTECT`
- Version 12.2 – `DBCOMP` is PL/SQL package. EE only! Deprecates the parameter `DB_LOST_WRITE_PROTECT`.

Syntax:

```
DBMS_DBCOMP.DBCOMP (  
    datafile IN varchar2,  
    outputfile IN varchar2,  
    block_dump IN boolean);
```

reference: <https://community.oracle.com/docs/DOC-1023009>





# We have something to compare with

- Lost write detection is based on comparing the database with physical stand-by database (DataGuard)
- Lost write detection **on write operations** are performed even without `DB_LOST_WRITE_PROTECT`

```
ORA-00600: internal error code, arguments: [3020], [2], [129], [8388737], [], [], [], [], [], [], [], []  
ORA-10567: Redo is inconsistent with data block (file# 2, block# 129, file offset is 1056768 bytes)
```

- With `DB_LOST_WRITE_PROTECT` detections are performed **on read operations** as well

```
ORA-00752: recovery detected a lost write of a data block  
ORA-10567: Redo is inconsistent with data block (file# 2, block# 129, file offset is 1056768 bytes)
```



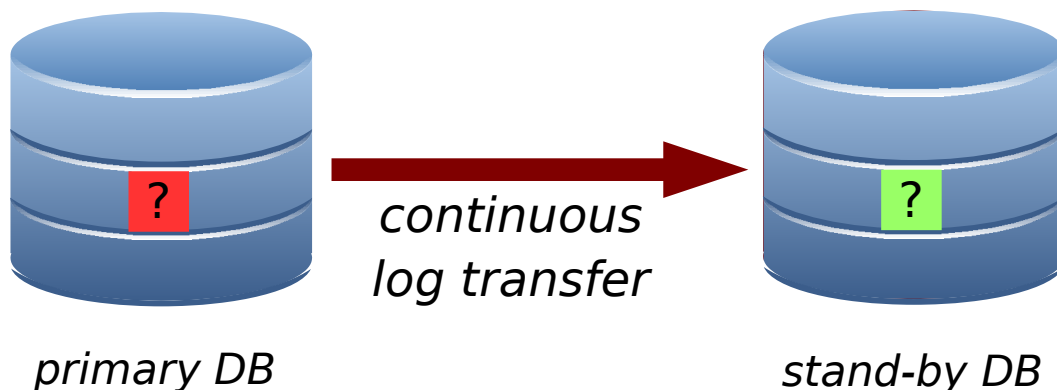


# Which block is correct?

## Options

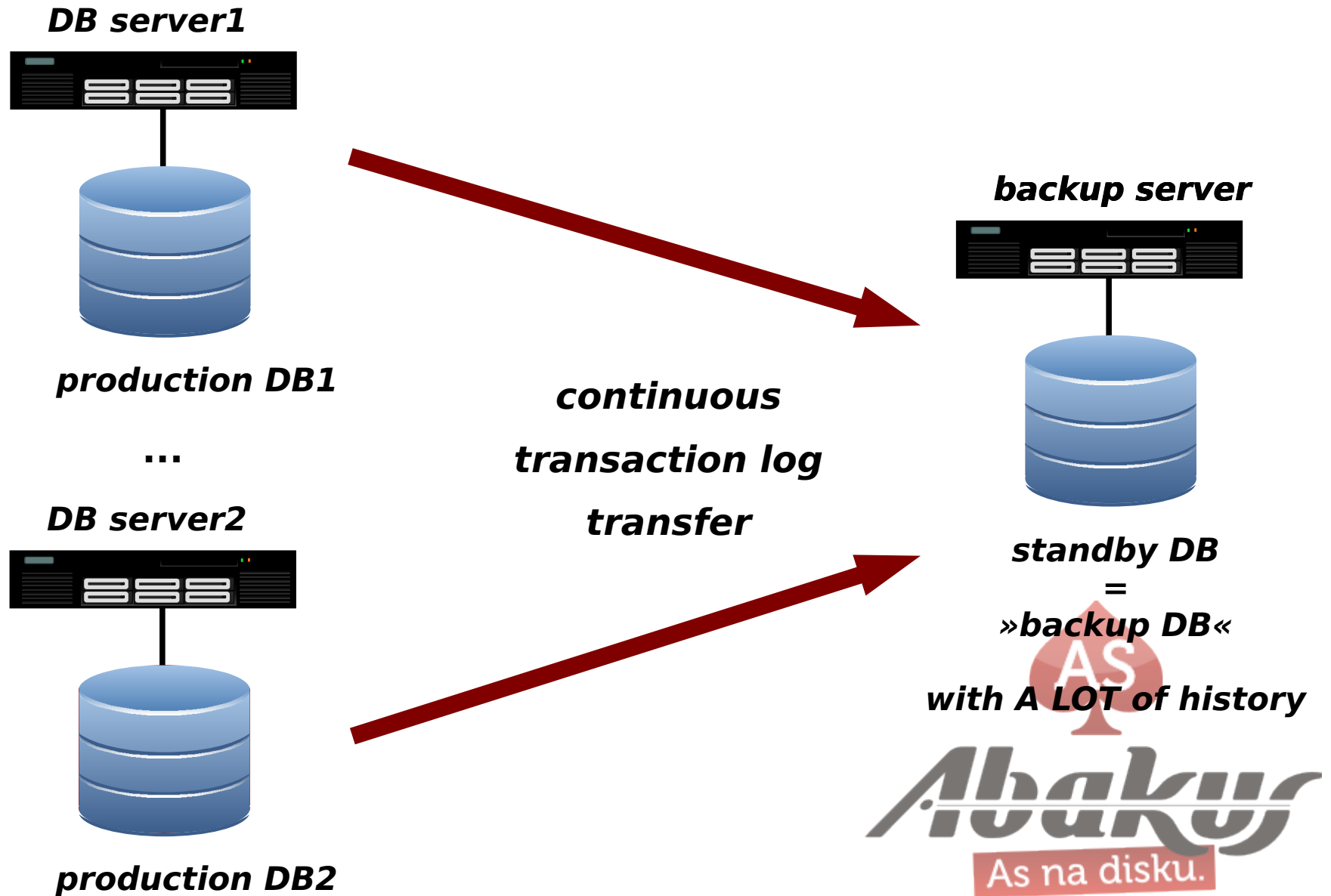
- Primary data block is correct, stand-by block is lost.
- Stand-by data block is correct, primary block is lost.
- Data block with highest SCN is correct.
- Both blocks are wrong

Recovery of a lost block is a challenge.  
Solution may vary from case to case.





# Abakus Backup Server





# Historical copies

... by using data deduplication

- snapshot
- save snapshot **to deduplicated area**

Example:

- DB size 1 TB
- 1% changed/added data per day (~10 GB)
- ~200 days backup fits on 3 TB disk drive







# 18c New Lost Write Protection?

- New feature: comparing inside the database

```
SQL> create bigfile tablespace TS_LOST_WRITE_SHADOW datafile  
      size 10M lost write protection;  
SQL> alter tablespace users enable lost write protection;
```

- Detection

```
SQL> SELECT * FROM test_table;
```

ERROR at line 1:

```
ORA-65478: shadow lost write protection - found lost write
```

- Enterprise Edition feature!





# Conclusion

- Lost writes do happen.
- For lost writes detection use physical stand-by database. Other types of replication (SAN, mirror) do not comply.
- Common tools do not detect lost writes.
- Recovery of a lost block is a challenge.





# Lose your data without ever noticing it

## Thank You

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