



Archive Server for MDaemon

Archive Server for MDaemon disaster recovery & database migration

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Abstract

Archiving email messages may speed up your business, but you have to be aware that while working with servers, files and databases, system crashes may occur.

So you have to prepare a disaster recovery strategy for your *ASM* installation.

This document is intended to explain how to migrate/recovery an *Archive Server for MDAemon* installation.

Scenarios

There are several scenarios in which you need to setup or migrate an *Archive Server for MDaemon* installation.

1 - Reinstalling ASM after a crash

a) ASM/Database/repository on the **same machine**

Provided you have the database backup and the <asm repository folder> backup, you should:

1. install from scratch *ASM* (same release there was installed before the crash). Please use the same installation folder and the same database settings;
2. stop *ASMd.exe*;
3. restore your *ASM* database backup over the newly installed one;
4. restore your repository backup on the new installation; if you change the repository path, please change also the configuration of it in the ASM admin page.
5. restart *ASMd.exe*;
6. test the installation.

b) Database is on a **different machine**

If database is not on the same machine, and was not involved in the system crash:

1. detach it from the database server (see the chapter "ASM database migration");
2. install from scratch *ASM* (same release there was installed before the crash). Please use the same installation folder and the same database settings;
3. stop *ASMd.exe*;
4. restore your *ASM* database backup over the newly installed one;
5. restore your repository backup on the new installation;
6. restart *ASMd.exe*;
7. test the installation.

Note: if the repository is not on the same machine, forget step 4, both for a) and b) scenarios

2 - Moving database from one server to another one

This is fully described in the chapter "ASM database migration".

3 - Upgrade from MSDE to SQL

Both same machine or different ones.

1. install SQL Server;
2. see Scenario 2 (above) - involving detach of the database from MSDE and attach to SQL Server;
3. test installation;
4. uninstall MSDE (if not more used).

ASM database migration

Step 1 - Stop ASM

In order to move ASM database you need to stop ASM engine.

While ASM engine is not running, incoming email messages will be saved in the queue folder and **none of them will be lost**.

Use *Start->Program->Archive Server for MDAemon->Stop Engine* to halt ASM or do it from the *Control panel->Services*.

Prevent users from accessing the web interface is a good choice too.

If it is possible stop the web server, or simply replace the `<install folder>/html/index.htm` file with an "out of service" page.

Step 2 - Detach the database

SQL server 2000 (and MSDE 2000) provide the database detach-attach functionality to ease the db migration from one machine to another (or simply from one location to another one on the same server).

Database can be detached using the **SQL Server Enterprise Manager utility** (see at the end of this document if you miss this utility):

- select the database to be detached in the left pane, then right click and choose all *activities->detach database*;
- select the "Update statistic prior..." to detach option, check there are no active connection and that the database is ready to be detached, then click "OK".

Step 3 - Move database files

Provided the database name chosen during installation was ASM_DB (this is the default in ASM installation using MSDE express setup too), in SQL Server (or MSDE) Data folder there are 2 files:

- ASM_DB.mdf (ASM data)
- ASM_DB_log.ldf (transaction log)

Note: if one installed ASM+MSDE and choose express setup, data folder is: c:\program files\MSDE\MSSQL\$ASM\Data

Move these files on the machine hosting the destination database, in the folder you prefer (this could be the SQL server default DATA folder, but it is not needed).

Step 4 - Attach the ASM database to the new database server

- Log in, using the *Enterprise Manager*, to the destination SQL server.
- Select the "Databases" folder in the left panel and right click.
- Choose *All Activities->Attach Database*.
- In the dialog "Attach Database", specify the path to the .mdf file (see step 3).
- Verify that both .mdf and .ldf files are shown in the middle pane grid.
- Leave the proposed value for "Attach as" and select the appropriate database owner (if it does not exist in the list, please leave the attach procedure, create the user in SQL server and restart from step 4).

Step 5 - Modify the ODBC DSN

ASM engine use an ODBC Data Source Name to access the database.

ODBC connection parameters are specified in the `<ASM installation folder>/engine/asmd.ini` file, in the ODBC section:

```
[odbc]
source=<ODBC datasource name>
user=<user used to connect to the database, same as step 4>
pass=<password for the user used to connect to the database>
```

Password in the asmd.ini file can be crypted using the command line utility ASMCustSupport.exe
Example:

```
c:\> ASMCustomerSupport CRYPT achab
decoded string (len=28): DEABF60B0C48D10C8F60AFDE
```

After modifying asmd.ini, you must modify the ODBC datasource definition using the ODBC management tool that can be found in Control Panel (Administrative Tool).

Step 6 - Modify asm.cfg

ASM web application uses a different "config" file to access the database.

This file, `<ASM folder>/database/asm.cfg`, could be recreated using the utility configTool.exe

Please:

- rename the current "asm.cfg" in "asm.cfg.old";
- open a dos shell;
- run configTool.exe `<ASM folder>/database/asm.cfg`.

An application pop-up will appear.

- Select "Microsoft OLE DB Provider for SQL Server" in the "Provider" Tab, then click "Next".
- Select (or type) the name of your SQL Server (the destination one).
- Specify username and password (the same as step 5) and be sure to check on "save password".
- Select your database in the drop down list and, finally, test your connection.
- If you successfully connect to the database press "OK", else verify the data you inserted.

Step 7 - Update registry

ASM saves in the registry some informations about the installation we must modify in order to keep the installation clean (and to let the upgrade run smoothly).

The registry entries that must be updated are in: *HKLM\Software\Achab\Archive Server for MDaemon\Database*.

Note: *dbtype = SQL Server even for MSDE
(this parameter is for future use)*

"Hostname" is the name of the instance (e.g. machine\asm).

"Password" is the encrypted form like in the ODBC DSN (see step 5).

Step 8 - restart ASM

Start *ASM* engine (using *Start->Program->Archive Server for MDaemon->Start engine* or *Control panel->Services*) and restart the web server.

Test the new installation.

Moving ASM from one server to the other

Moving of *ASM* and repository only. Database stays where it is already installed.

Provided you have the *ASM* folder backup and the <asm repository folder> backup, you should:

- install *ASM* on the new server (no new database installation required; same *ASM* release). Please use the same installation folder and the same database access settings;
- stop *ASMD.exe*;
- restore your repository backup on the new installation; if you change the repository path, please change also the configuration of it in the *ASM* admin page;
- restart *ASMD.exe*;
- test the installation.

Notes

Note for MSDE users

If *SQL Server Enterprise Manager* is not available (for example if the user has MSDE only), attach and detach could be done using one of the free MSDE management tools, like:

<http://www.asql.biz/Dbamgr/DownLoad2k.shtm>

or directly from the osql, command line utility, see also:

<http://databasejournal.com/features/mssql/article.php/2224361>

Note for utility tools

You can find *ASMCustomerSupport.exe* and *configTool.exe* on the *Archive Server for MDaemon* download page:

<http://www.achab.com/prod/intern.cfm/13/181/45>

The utility are provided as a zipped files.

Warning

After restoring the database on the machine, it may be necessary to run query analyzer and run the store procedure "*sp_change_users_login 'update_one', '<login>', '<login>'*" in order to get security IDs mathed.



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For further informations about *Archive Server for MDaemon*, visit the Web pages:

<http://www.achab.com/asm>

For further informations about Achab, its products and services, visit the Web site:

<http://www.achab.com>

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