

Oracle Secure Backup 10.2 Frequently Asked Questions

Answers to commonly asked questions follow. For more in-depth technical information, please refer to Oracle Secure Backup 10.2 documentation.

What is Oracle Secure Backup (OSB)?

Oracle Secure Backup is a centralized tape backup management software providing secure data protection for heterogeneous file systems and the Oracle Database.

Why switch to Oracle Secure Backup?

Oracle Secure Backup delivers reliable, high performance tape backup for your entire IT environment including UNIX/Linux/Windows/NAS file systems and the Oracle database at the lowest-cost. The single component, per tape drive, pricing model is lower-cost and significantly reduces license management as compared to other media management products, which generally charge a premium for advanced functionality.

Oracle Secure Backup provides key benefits:

- Fastest Oracle database backup to tape
- Single technical resource for entire backup environment
- Dynamic tape drive sharing between NAS / UNIX / Linux / Windows servers
- Policy-based backup management:
 - Backup encryption
 - Vaulting (rotation of tapes between multiple locations)
 - Tape duplication
 - Migration from virtual tapes to physical tapes

Is Oracle Secure Backup a separate product from the Oracle database?

Yes. Oracle Secure Backup is a separate product with independent release schedule and versioning from that of the database.

What Oracle database versions does Oracle Secure Backup 10.2 support?

Oracle Secure Backup 10.2 is tightly integrated with Recovery Manager (RMAN) supporting Oracle9i to Oracle Database 11g.

What is Oracle Secure Backup Express (OSB-XE)?

Bundled with the Oracle database, Oracle Secure Backup Express is free and provides single-server tape backup management for one database server directly attached to one tape drive. Oracle Secure Backup documentation is applicable for OSB-XE with the exception of advanced functionality only available with the OSB edition. You can leverage advanced media management features by upgrading OSB-XE licensing to OSB edition. Please refer to the OSB 10.2 Licensing Documentation for feature restrictions in OSB-XE.

How difficult is upgrading from OSB 10.1 to OSB 10.2?

Upgrading from OSB 10.1 to 10.2 is relatively easy. The backup catalog is retained (unless explicitly deleted by user) during the upgrade maintaining all backup metadata and backwards compatibility of tapes (tapes written using OSB 10.1 are fully compatible with OSB 10.2 environments).

Where can I find compatibility matrixes for Oracle Secure Backup?

- Platform, Web browser and NAS support is listed on Certify at metaling.oracle.com
- Tape device matrix is available at otn.oracle.com/technology/products/secure-backup/tape_devices.pdf

If a tape device is not listed on the compatibility matrix, does OSB support it?

No. A tape device must be listed on the compatibility matrix to be supported. To request support for a tape device, log a Service Request (SR) through Oracle support requesting an enhancement request be filed on your behalf.

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Which network protocols does Oracle Secure Backup support?

Oracle Secure Backup leverages NDMP for data transport over TCP/IP supporting backup, restore and other file access through NFS and CIFS; host name resolution through NIS and DNS.

How does backup encryption differ between Oracle Secure Backup 10.1 and 10.2?

Oracle Secure Backup 10.2 provides backup encryption for file systems and Oracle9i forward. In OSB 10.2, policy based encryption is available at the global, server or backup job level. Encryption keys may be generated transparently (randomly) or with a user-defined passphrase. In OSB 10.1, backup encryption to tape leveraged RMAN backup encryption only.

What is the difference between RMAN backup encryption and OSB 10.2 database backup encryption?

While both RMAN and Oracle Secure Backup 10.2 backup encryption leverage the same underlying Oracle encryption library, RMAN backup encryption is performed within the database and Oracle Secure Backup encryption occurs on the database server (outside of database). OSB 10.2 backup encryption supports Oracle9i forward while RMAN backup encryption supports Oracle Database 10gR2 forward. Encryption key management differs as following:

- Oracle Secure Backup encryption keys are managed by OSB and stored on the OSB Administrative Server
- RMAN backup encryption keys are managed by the Oracle database

Does Oracle Secure Backup support disk-based backups?

No. However, Oracle Secure Backup supports virtual tape libraries (VTL). VTLs are disk appliances, which emulated tape drives and libraries. Oracle databases have always supported disk-based backups via RMAN. With Oracle Database 10g, the Flash Recovery Area was introduced to manage Oracle recovery related files. The Flash Recovery may be backed up to tape using Oracle Secure Backup. More information on the Flash Recovery Area is [here](#).

Does OSB vaulting support Iron Mountain FTP format?

Yes. Oracle Secure Backup vaulting reports may be generated in Iron Mountain FTP format.

Is Oracle Secure Backup integrated with 3rd-party backup tools such as Veritas NetBackup or Tivoli Storage Manager?

No, Oracle Secure Backup is not integrated with any 3rd-party backup tools. Oracle Secure Backup is an alternative to these products offering centralized backup management for both database data, in conjunction with Recovery Manager (RMAN), and non-database data stored in file systems.

Does Oracle Secure Backup support online backups of 3rd-party databases?

No, Oracle Secure Backup does not provide native plug-ins of non-Oracle databases. Non-Oracle databases may be backed up offline (closed/consistent) as part of a file system backup. Consult with your vendor on best practices of backing up and recovering applications.

Can Oracle Secure Backup share a server and/or tape resources with other backup applications?

It is not recommended to install two backup applications on the same server or share tape hardware due to potential contention of resources. Overlapping background processes may be problematic causing unusual behavior for one or both backup applications. However, a partitioned library may be successfully shared between two applications.

Oracle Secure Backup website:

otn.oracle.com/technology/products/secure-backup/index.html