

Oracle MAA Reference Architectures



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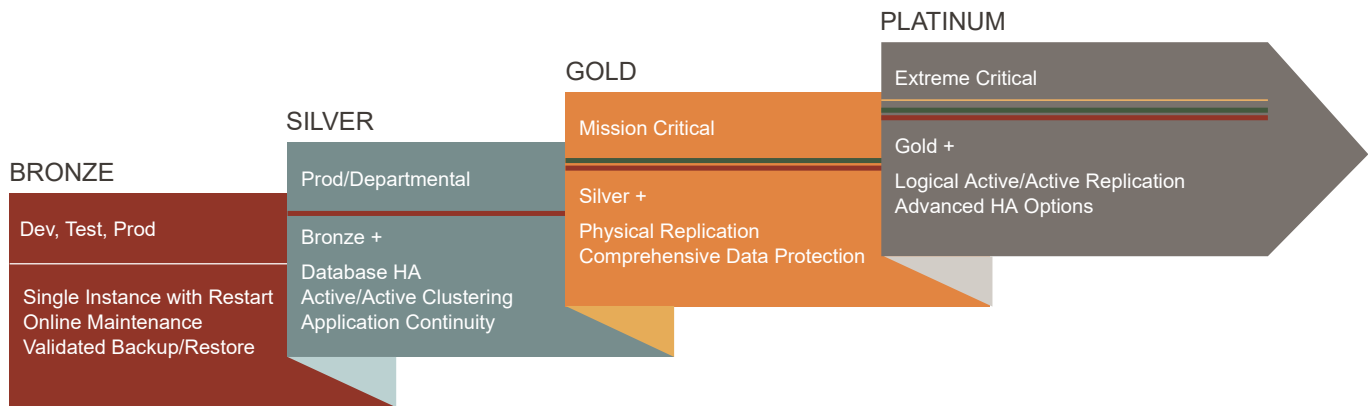
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MAA Reference Architectures



Oracle Maximum Availability Architecture (MAA) provides architecture, configuration, and life cycle best practices for your Oracle database to meet your high availability service levels for Oracle databases residing in on-premises, Oracle Public Cloud, Cloud@Customer, or hybrid database architecture consisting of both on-premise and cloud databases.

Oracle MAA offers a choice of standard MAA reference architectures--Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum--for high availability, data protection, and disaster recovery. Each MAA reference architecture, or high availability tier, uses an optimal set of Oracle capabilities that, when deployed together, reliably achieve target service levels for unplanned outages and planned maintenance events.

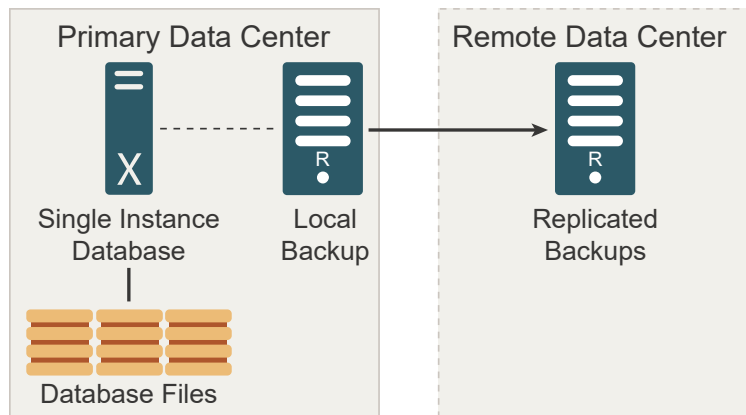
For more information about the MAA reference architectures, click on the objects in the graphic above, or see [Oracle Maximum Availability Architecture](#).

Not explicitly listed, every database needs to run on a reliable system platform. [Oracle Exadata Database Machine](#) is engineered to be the highest performing and most available platform for running Oracle Databases.

Monitoring databases and systems is critical to proactively detect, prevent, and recover from issues before they have an availability impact. [Oracle Enterprise Manager](#) is Oracle's MAA strategic monitoring platform.

Lastly, [Oracle Cloud](#) works collaboratively and continuously with MAA to incorporate all of the MAA reference architectures, configuration best practices, and life cycle operations. Oracle Cloud and MAA evolution go hand-in-hand, delivering a fully Oracle-managed MAA solution with [Autonomous Database](#).

Bronze MAA Reference Architecture



Bronze Summary: Data Protection, RTO, and RPO

The Bronze MAA reference architecture provides basic database service at the lowest possible cost. A reduced level of high availability and data protection is accepted in exchange for reduced cost and implementation complexity. This architecture may be suitable for databases used for test, development, and less critical production applications and databases.

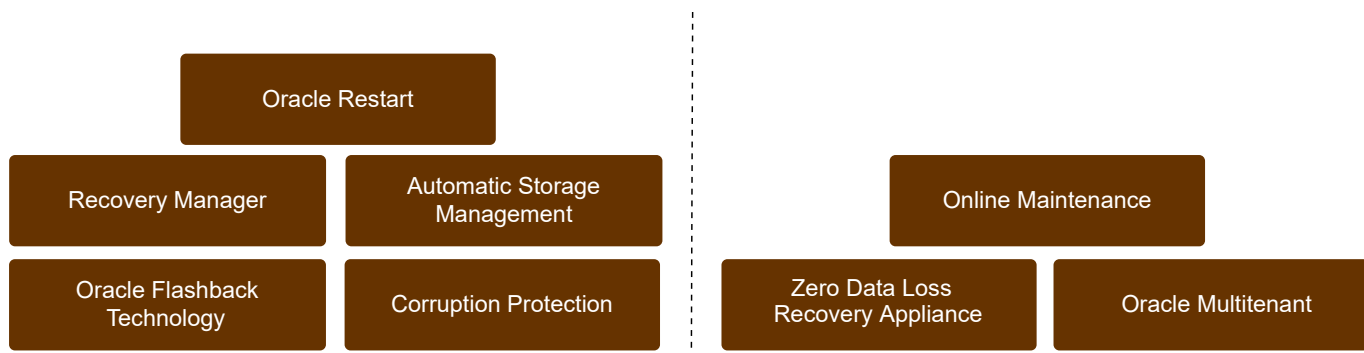
The Bronze architecture uses the high availability capabilities included in Oracle Enterprise Edition. Bronze defaults to the Oracle Database single-instance or multitenant architecture. Oracle Restart or Oracle Clusterware high availability capabilities are used to restart a failed instance, database server, or any relevant managed service. For logical corruptions such as human error, you can use Flashback operations to “rewind” the database to a specific point in time. In the worst-case scenario of a complete site outage, there is additional time required to restore and recover the system and database from backups which may result in hours or days of downtime.

In the Bronze reference architecture, a local backup within the same data center is always recommended for the fastest recovery. Oracle also recommends maintaining a second copy of backups in a remote data center to protect against site outages and disasters. You can use [Oracle Cloud Database Backup Service](#) to maintain a cloud-based backup of on-premises databases.

For more information about Oracle capabilities used in this MAA reference architectures, or to see the expected downtime for planned and unplanned outages, click on the objects in the graphic above.

Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database **on-premises**, on **Exadata Database Machine**, and on **Oracle Cloud**.

Bronze Features



Built on **Oracle Enterprise Edition**, some of the required features to achieve a Bronze level of service are:

- **Oracle Recovery Manager (RMAN)** is used to perform regular backups of Oracle Database. RMAN provides data validation during backup and restore operations and provides advanced capabilities such as block recovery, table level recovery, schema level recovery, and multitenant PDB and CDB backup and recovery, that is not found in third-party utilities. The RPO, if there is an unrecoverable outage, is equal to the data generated since the last database and archive backup was taken. Copies of database backups are also retained at a remote location or on the Cloud for the dual purpose of archival and disaster recovery should a disaster strike the primary data center.
- **Automatic Storage Management (ASM)** is an Oracle-integrated file system and volume manager that includes intelligent data-aware software mirroring to protect against disk failure and some corruptions.
- **Oracle Flashback Technologies** provide fast error correction at a level of granularity that is appropriate to repair an individual transaction, table, pluggable database (PDB), or the full database. Flashback provides the most comprehensive toolset for logical repair, and allows an administrator to view previous transaction data versions for advanced analysis and repair.
- **Oracle Restart** automatically restarts the database, the listener, and other Oracle components after a hardware or software failure, or whenever a database host computer restarts. **Oracle Clusterware**, when available, has the same benefits.
- **Oracle Corruption Protection** checks for physical corruption and logical intra-block corruptions. In-memory corruptions are detected and prevented from being written to disk, and in many cases can be repaired automatically. For more details on data protection recommendations for Bronze or other tiered solutions, see [Best Practices for Corruption Detection, Prevention, and Automatic Repair - in a Data Guard Configuration \(Doc ID 1302539.1\)](#).

Optionally, you can enhance your high availability architecture by using these recommended features and capabilities:

- **Zero Data Loss Recovery Appliance (ZDLRA)** provides a sophisticated data center-wide backup and recovery solution for all Oracle databases. Key benefits include: incremental backup forever after first full backup, which minimizes overall impact on the source or protected databases and significantly reduces backup windows; real-time redo transport, reducing RPO for all databases to near zero; continuous data protection and validation, to ensure recovery readiness; and enhanced recovery and migration benefits.
- **Online Maintenance** includes online redefinition and reorganization for database maintenance, online file movement, and online patching.

- **Oracle Multitenant** and **Resource Manager** are the MAA best practice solutions for database consolidation and virtualization from Oracle Database 12c onward. Pluggable database (PDB) operations enable higher availability for pluggable database relocation, migration, failover, and upgrade cases. Resource Manager prevents applications and databases from consuming excessive resources, which can result in availability issues and potential downtime. Resource Manager controls can govern use of CPU, memory, OS processes, I/O (Exadata only), and network (Exadata only).

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Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database **on-premises**, on **Exadata Database Machine**, and on **Oracle Cloud**.

Bronze Downtime Summary

Unplanned Outage	RTO / RPO Service Level Objectives (f1)
Recoverable node or instance failure	Minutes (f2)
Disasters: corruptions and site failures	Hours to days. RPO since last backup or near zero with ZDLRA
Planned Maintenance	
Software/hardware updates	Minutes to hour (f2)
Major database upgrade	Minutes to hour

f1: RPO is zero unless explicitly specified

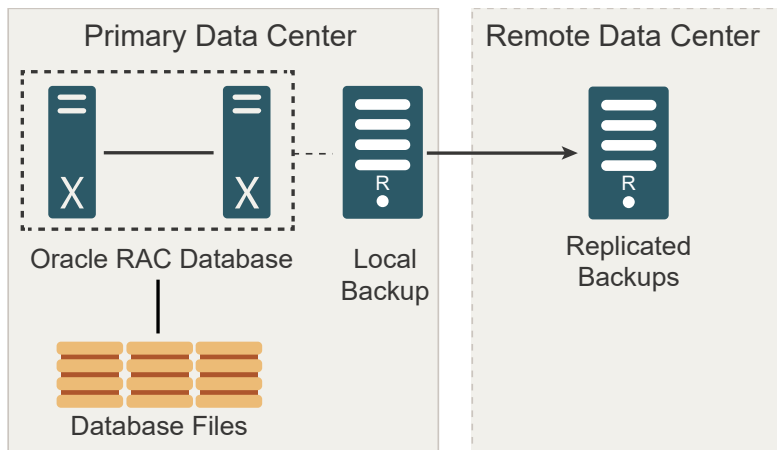
f2: Exadata systems have Oracle RAC, but Bronze Exadata configurations with single instance databases running with Oracle Clusterware have the [highest consolidation density](#) to reduce costs. For Exadata systems and software updates, RTO can be just minutes, while non-Exadata can be up to an hour.

The Bronze MAA reference architecture level of service illustrates the tradeoff between reduced implementation and maintenance costs, and expected downtime during planned and unplanned outages.

Click the graphic to return to the Bronze reference architecture diagram.

Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database **on-premises**, on **Exadata Database Machine**, and on **Oracle Cloud**.

Silver MAA Reference Architecture



Silver Summary: Data Protection, RTO, and RPO

The Silver MAA reference architecture is designed for databases that can't afford to wait for a cold restart or a restore from backup, should there be an unrecoverable database instance or server failure. This architecture may be suitable for production applications that are business critical and need to reduce downtime for local failures and most common planned maintenance activities.

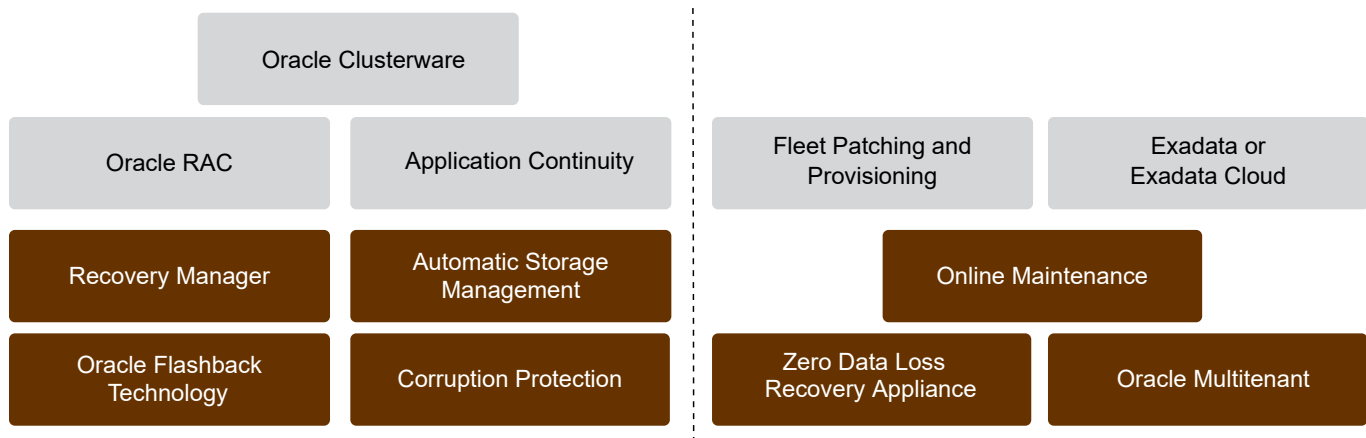
The Silver architecture is built on the foundation of the Bronze architecture, and adds **Oracle Real Application Clusters (Oracle RAC)** active-active clustering for minimal or zero downtime in the event of database instance or server failure, as well as zero database downtime for most common planned maintenance events.

Just like in the Bronze architecture, Recovery Manager (RMAN) provides database-optimized backups to restore availability should there be a complete cluster outage or disaster.

For more information about Oracle capabilities used in this MAA reference architectures, or to see the expected downtime for planned and unplanned outages, click on the objects in the graphic above.

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Silver Features



The active-active architecture of **Oracle RAC** provides a number of advantages for the Silver MAA reference architecture:

- **Improved high availability** If a server or database instance fails, connections to surviving instances are not affected; connections to the failed instance are quickly failed over to surviving instances that are already running and open on other servers in the Oracle RAC cluster.
- **Scalability** Oracle RAC is ideal for high volume applications or consolidated environments where scalability and the ability to dynamically add or re-prioritize capacity across more than a single server are required. An individual database may have instances running on one or more nodes of a cluster. Similarly, a database service may be available on one or more database instances. Additional nodes, database instances, and database services can be provisioned online. The ability to easily distribute workload across the cluster makes Oracle RAC the ideal complement for **Oracle Multitenant** when consolidating many databases.
- **Reliable performance** Oracle Quality of Service (QoS) can be used to allocate capacity for high priority database services to deliver consistent high performance in database consolidated environments. Capacity can be dynamically shifted between workloads to quickly respond to changing requirements.
- **HA during planned maintenance** High availability is maintained by implementing changes in a rolling manner across Oracle RAC nodes. This includes database, hardware, OS, or network maintenance that requires a server or database instance to be taken offline or restarted; software maintenance to update or patch the database or Oracle Grid Infrastructure; or if a database instance needs to be moved to another server to increase capacity or balance the workload.
- **Application Continuity** and application failover best practices mask recoverable outages and Oracle RAC rolling planned maintenance activities in the application tier by optionally draining and relocating connections and replaying application requests at another available Oracle RAC instance. With application continuity or transparent application continuity (TAC), applications can achieve zero application downtime. To achieve these benefits, see [Continuous Availability - Application Checklist for Continuous Service for MAA Solutions](#)
- **Oracle Clusterware**, grouped with Oracle Automatic Storage Management (ASM) as Oracle Grid Infrastructure, is the integrated foundation for Oracle Real Application Clusters and the high availability and resource management framework for all applications on any major platform supported for Oracle RAC.

The Silver MAA reference architecture requires **Oracle Enterprise Edition**, **Oracle RAC**, and **Oracle Enterprise Manager** life-cycle, management, diagnostic, and tuning packs for on-premises databases. **Oracle RAC One-**

Node is an option for active-passive high availability if scalability is not required, and your environment can tolerate slightly higher recovery time for database and Oracle RAC instance failures.

Optionally, you can enhance your high availability architecture by using these recommended features and capabilities:

- **Fleet Patching and Provisioning**
- **Oracle Exadata Database Machine** or **Exadata Cloud Service**

There are no additional licensed products or cloud services beyond those used for the Bronze MAA reference architecture in order to attain Silver service level requirements.

For more information about Oracle capabilities used in this MAA reference architectures click on the objects in the graphic above.

Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database **on-premises**, on **Exadata Database Machine**, and on **Oracle Cloud**.

Silver Downtime Summary

Unplanned Outage	RTO/RPO Service Level Objectives^(f1)
Recoverable node or instance failure	Single digit seconds ^(f2)
Disasters: corruptions and site failures	Hours to days. RPO since last backup or near zero with ZDLRA
Planned Maintenance	
Software/Hardware updates	Zero ^(f2)
Major database upgrade	Minutes to hour

f1: RPO=0 unless explicitly specified

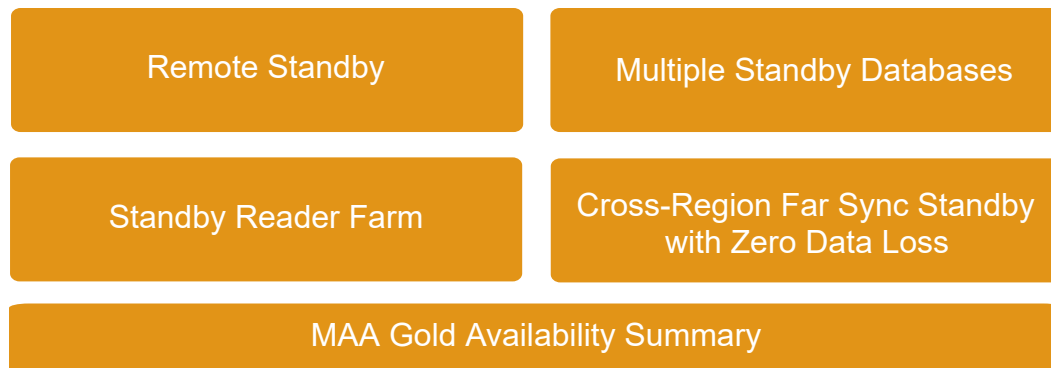
f2: To achieve zero downtime or lowest impact, apply application checklist best practices

The Silver MAA reference architecture level of service lets you dramatically decrease expected downtime for hardware failures, and brings most planned downtime due to software and hardware upgrades down to zero, when compared to the Bronze architecture level of service.

Click the graphic to return to the Silver reference architecture diagram.

Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database **on-premises**, on **Exadata Database Machine**, and on **Oracle Cloud**.

Gold MAA Reference Architecture

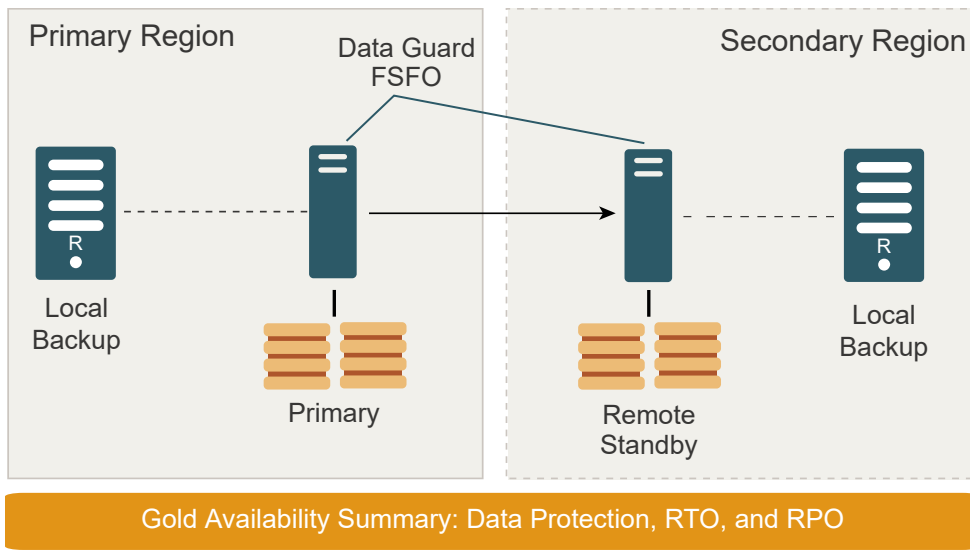


The Gold MAA reference architecture is well suited for service level requirements that cannot tolerate long periods of downtime and data loss. This set of architecture patterns provides high availability and comprehensive data protection for all types of unplanned outages, including data corruptions, database failures, and site outages. Mission critical production applications that require quick recovery time and zero or minimal data loss for all database and system outages and planned maintenance activities will benefit from the capabilities included in the Gold reference architecture.

The Gold MAA reference architecture, building on the Silver reference architecture, provides you with four architecture patterns using **Oracle Active Data Guard**. The patterns vary from a single remote active standby with Fast Start Failover and HA Observer, to multiple standby database configurations including standby reader farms, and finally a far sync (across regions) zero data loss standby configuration.

Click on the graphic above for details about each architecture pattern, and the overall availability summary for the Gold reference architecture.

Gold: Remote Standby

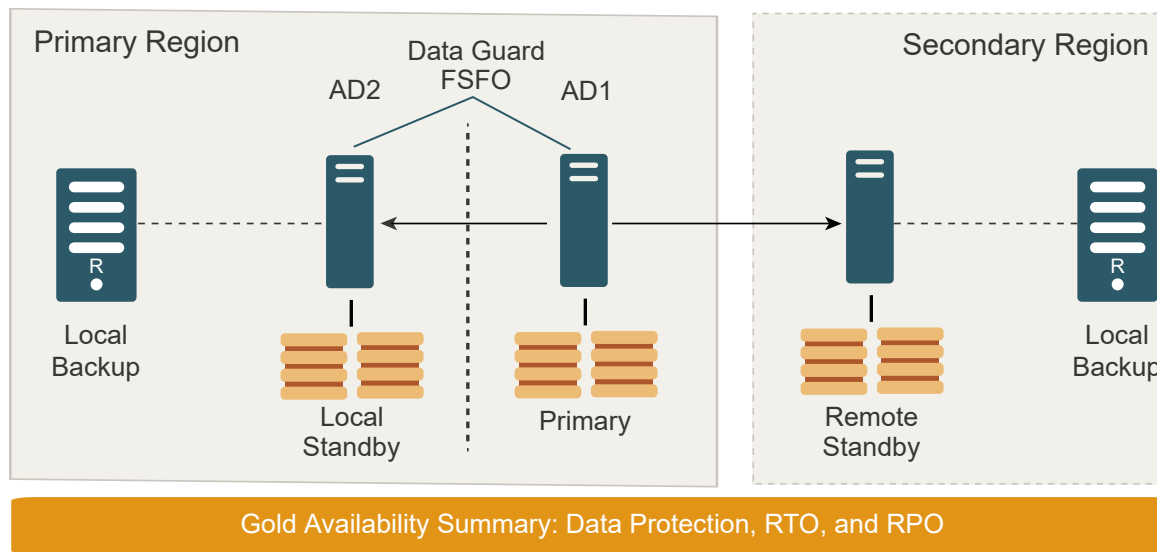


The Gold MAA reference architecture Remote Standby pattern includes a remote synchronized copy of the production database (Standby Database) using **Oracle Active Data Guard** to eliminate single point of failure. The active standby database provides a high level of protection from unplanned outages and reduces downtime for planned maintenance activities, such as database upgrades.

For more information about Oracle capabilities used in this MAA reference architecture, or to see the expected downtime for planned and unplanned outages, click on the objects in the graphic above.

Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database **on-premises**, on **Exadata Database Machine**, and on **Oracle Cloud**.

Gold: Multiple Standby Databases



The Gold MAA reference architecture Multiple Standby Databases pattern gives you the benefits of both local and remote standby databases.

Automatic failover to a local standby in the same region provides you with significant local disaster isolation and application failover simplicity. The local standby can be located in a separate fault domain or availability domain from the primary database. Application failover in this architecture pattern follows the recommendations described in [Continuous Availability - Application Checklist for Continuous Service for MAA Solutions](#).

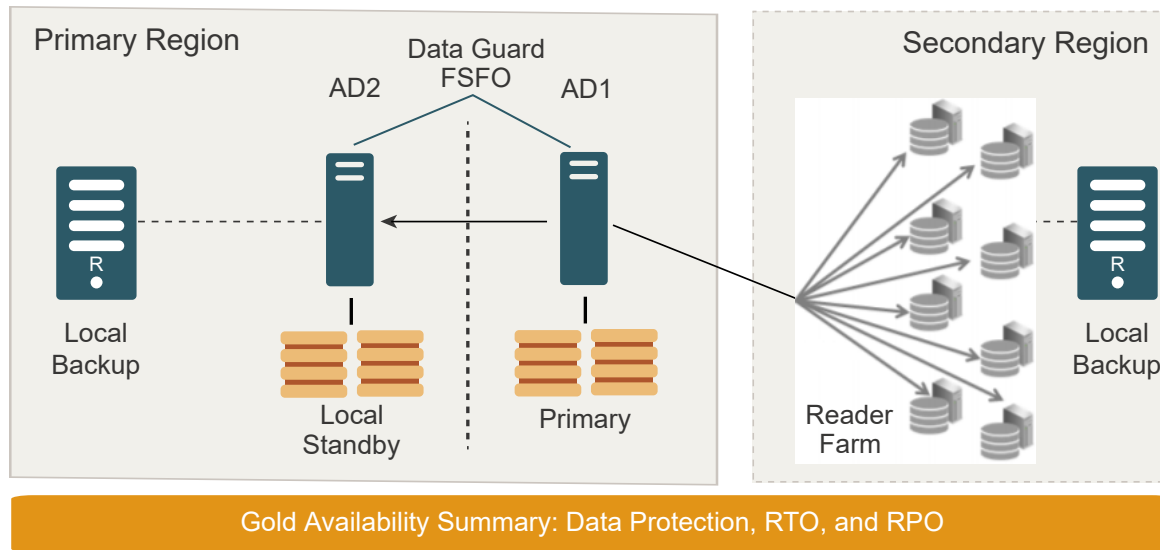
The business value of a local standby database is seen in zero data loss failover and application downtime reduced to seconds. By enabling synchronous redo transport, a zero data loss Data Guard configuration becomes more viable due to the lower latency between primary and standby database systems. Applications automatically and transparently fail over to the local standby, maintaining the same latency between application servers and the database, which is particularly important for OLTP applications and package applications, because higher latency can significantly impact throughput and possibly overall application response time.

If a regional disaster occurs, making the primary and local standby systems inaccessible, the application and database can fail over to the remote standby. Even though database downtime is still very low when regional disaster occurs, the application downtime can be higher due to additional orchestration required for DNS, application, and database failover operations.

For more information about Oracle capabilities used in this MAA reference architecture, or to see the expected downtime for planned and unplanned outages, click on the objects in the graphic above.

Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database **on-premises**, on **Exadata Database Machine**, and on **Oracle Cloud**.

Gold: Standby Reader Farm

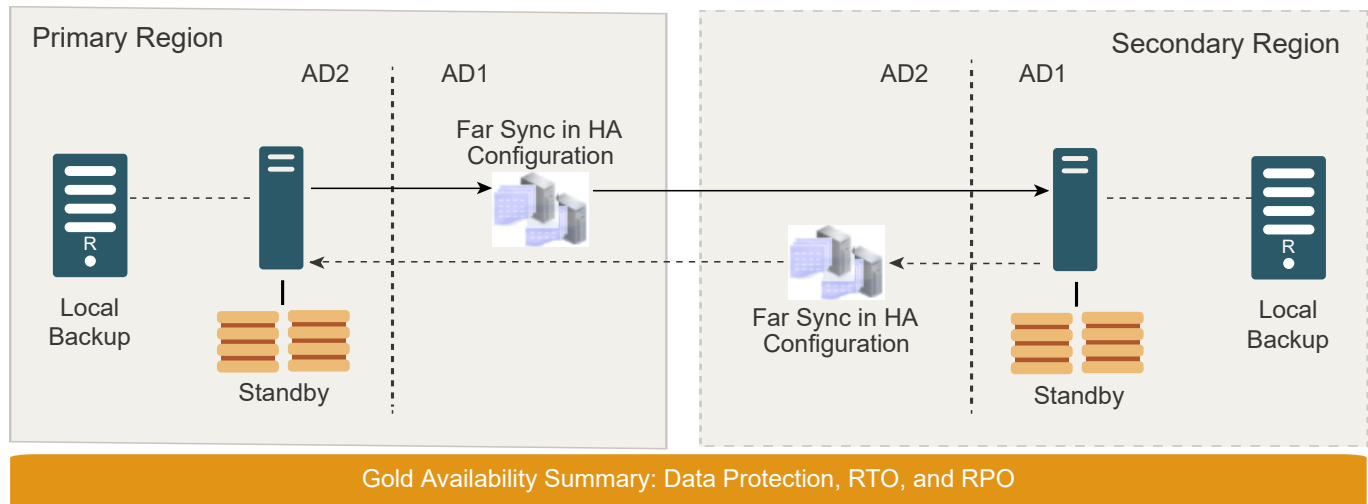


The Gold MAA reference architecture Standby Reader Farm pattern provides all of the benefits of the Gold multiple standby databases pattern, plus it allows read-only operations to scale across many standby databases for local and regional reader farm scalability.

For more information about Oracle capabilities used in this MAA reference architecture, or to see the expected downtime for planned and unplanned outages, click on the objects in the graphic above.

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Gold: Cross-Region Far Sync Standby

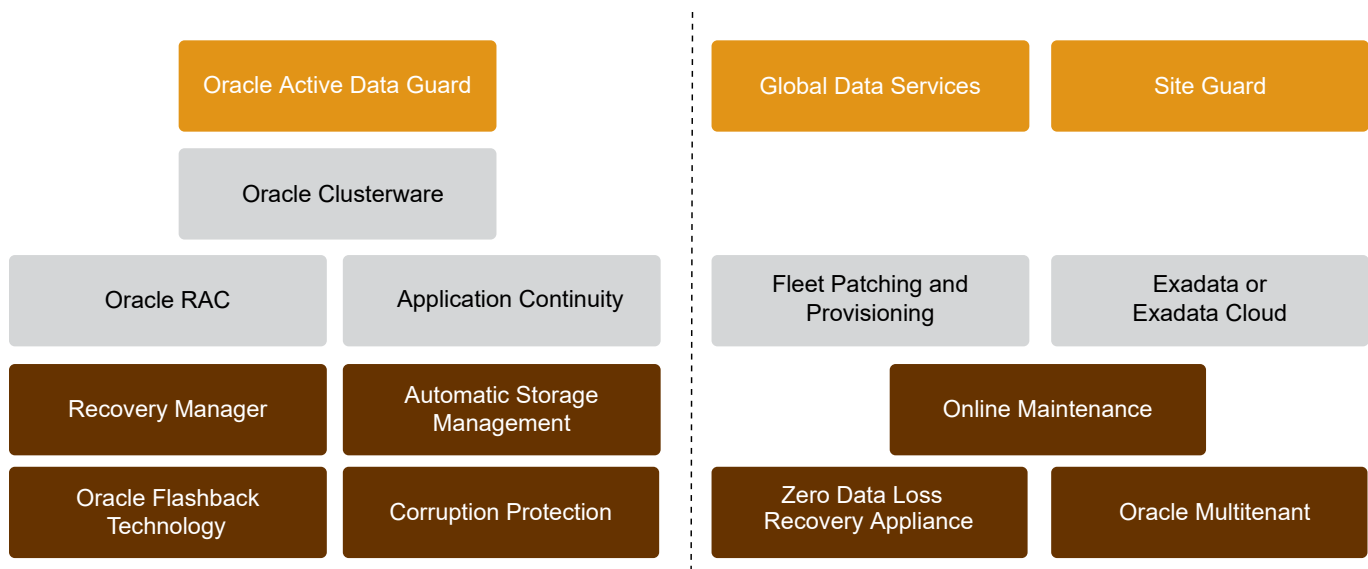


The Gold MAA reference architecture Cross-Region Far Sync Standby pattern gives you a zero data loss solution when network latency or distance between primary and standby are too great. When a transaction commits, the redo is acknowledged by a fault independent far sync server that validates and resubmits the changes to remote standby. If a primary database failure or possibly site failure occurs, the surviving far sync server sends the last committed changes to remote standby ensuring zero data loss.

For more information about Oracle capabilities used in this MAA reference architecture, or to see the expected downtime for planned and unplanned outages, click on the objects in the graphic above.

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Gold Features



The Gold reference architecture, based on an **Oracle Active Data Guard** solution with a primary and standby database, provides a number of advantages for the Gold MAA reference architecture.

- **Improved data protection.** If a primary or standby database detects a physical data corruption, Oracle can initiate auto block repair on the data corruption with zero application and database downtime. This is a major benefit to maintain data integrity and availability for all databases in an Active Data Guard environment. Furthermore, the standby database can detect lost writes and logical block corruptions, prevent logical corruptions, and provide a mechanism to fail over automatically, reducing the impact of these corruptions and downtime.
- **Disaster recovery protection** with reduced downtime and zero or near zero data loss from database, cluster, or site failures, application protection, and a reduced downtime and data loss solution using the standby database. With Data Guard Fast-Start Failover, the standby database can fail over automatically with minimal downtime. You can configure Data Guard SYNC or FAR SYNC solutions in your Data Guard environment to provide zero data loss.
- **Offload workload and operation from primary databases** to the standby database.
 - Expensive backup operations, and those respective backups can be used to restore the primary or standby databases
 - Read-intensive queries and report jobs
 - Testing software or hardware updates on the standby to ensure overall availability and integrity prior to applying the same changes on the primary provides additional validation besides using just test environments
 - Testing with snapshot standby without sacrificing potential data loss
 - Validation and early detection, prevention and auto repair of data corruptions are built-in with Active Data Guard and redo apply
- **Reduce downtime for planned maintenance** by implementing changes in an Oracle RAC and Data Guard rolling manner across Oracle RAC nodes or primary and standby databases. Using **DBMS_ROLLING** and transient logical solution, the standby can be upgraded and switched to with seconds of downtime while maintaining disaster recovery protection.

- **Application Continuity** works well with Oracle Active Data Guard, masking primary database outages by automatically replaying in-flight transactions on the standby database (or new primary database) after a switchover or zero data loss failover.
- **Simplify migration** to new platforms and technologies by using standby database to switch to new platform like Exadata or Exadata cloud or to enable new database options and capabilities like Transparent Data Encryption (TDE).

Optionally, you can enhance your high availability architecture by using these recommended features and capabilities:

- **Global Data Services** is an Oracle Database workload management solution that provides dynamic load balancing of client connections and workload requests across the replicas.
- **Oracle Site Guard** helps orchestrates regional failover with applications, third party components and Data Guard to provide a seamless one button full stack switchover or failover solution.
- Select **Oracle Enterprise Manager** packs

To achieve a Gold reference architecture level of service use **Oracle Active Data Guard** and **Oracle RAC**.

For more information about Oracle capabilities used in this MAA reference architectures click on the objects in the graphic above.

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Oracle Active Data Guard provides more Oracle database protection and advantages than third party replication, as shown in the following table.

Benefits	Oracle Active Data Guard	Third Party Replication
Data corruption protection	Yes	No
Auto block repair of physical block corruptions	Yes	No
RTO	Seconds to 2 minutes	Up to 30 minutes
RPO	Zero or near zero	Zero (within region only) to near zero
Active standby reporting	Yes	None (additional copies required to create reporting database)
Network bandwidth required	Small (redo changes only)	Typical 7X bandwidth because all database, redo, temp, undo, and controlfile changes are replicated
Application integration	Yes (with Application Continuity)	None (needs to be customized)
Automatic failover	Yes	None (needs to be customized)
Database rolling upgrade	Yes	No
Scalable reader farm while maintaining protection and disaster recovery	Yes	No

Gold Downtime Summary

Unplanned Outage	RTO/RPO Service Level Objectives (f1)
Recoverable node or instance failure	Single digit seconds (f2)
Disasters: corruptions and site failures	Seconds to 2 minutes. RPO zero or seconds
Planned Maintenance	
Software/Hardware updates	Zero (f2)
Major database upgrade	Less than 30 seconds

f1: RPO=0 unless explicitly specified

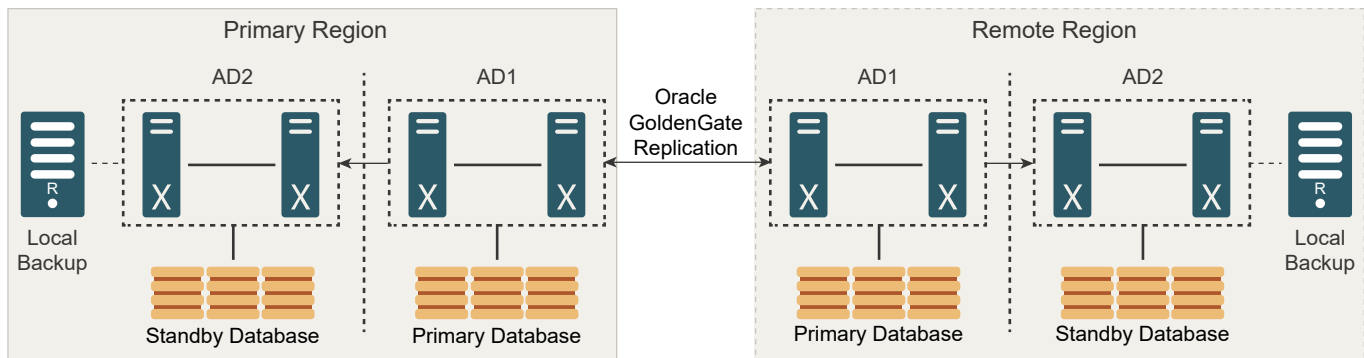
f2: To achieve zero downtime or lowest impact, apply application checklist best practices

The Gold MAA reference architecture level of service reduces failover and switchover times from hours to seconds, and lets you do major database upgrades with minimal interruptions.

Click the graphic to return to the Gold reference architecture patterns overview.

Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database **on-premises**, on **Exadata Database Machine**, and on **Oracle Cloud**.

Platinum MAA Reference Architecture



Platinum Summary: Data Protection, RTO, and RPO

The Platinum MAA reference architecture has the potential to provide zero downtime for outages and planned maintenance activities that are not achievable with the Gold architecture. The Platinum architecture builds on the Gold architecture by adding **Oracle GoldenGate replication to eliminate downtime for migrations, application upgrades, and database upgrades. Each Oracle GoldenGate database is protected by a standby database to enable zero data loss in case of database, cluster, or site failure.**

Oracle GoldenGate provides the following benefits:

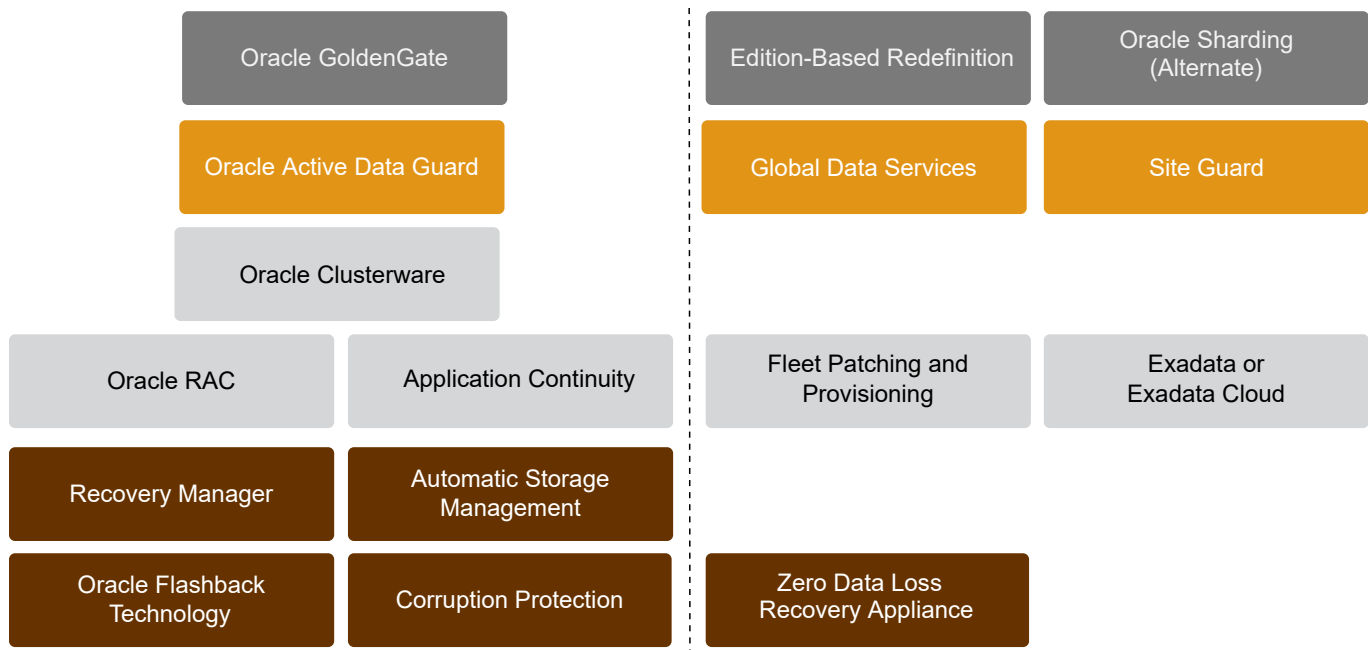
- **Uni-directional or bi-directional, replication allowing reads and updates in any replica if desired**
- **Replicas can run on different platforms, database versions, or database or application configurations, allowing for online migration and database and application upgrades**
- **Replicas are online, so applications can switch over with zero downtime during outages and planned maintenance activities (note that the application switchover must be customized, rather than built in as it is with application continuity)**

Unlike the other MAA architectures, application considerations are required to integrate Oracle GoldenGate into the architecture, to ensure that conflict detection and resolution are performed properly. As an alternative to Oracle GoldenGate replication, you can leverage Edition-Based Redefinition to achieve zero downtime application schema updates. Global Data Services, or custom application service management, may also be required to achieve zero application downtime for activities such as migration and database upgrades.

For more information about Oracle capabilities used in this MAA reference architectures, or to see the expected downtime for planned and unplanned outages, click on the objects in the graphic above.

Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database [on-premises](#), on [Exadata Database Machine](#), and on [Oracle Cloud](#).

Platinum Features



The Platinum reference architecture requires the same services as the Gold reference architecture, plus **Oracle GoldenGate** for on-premises deployments, or **Oracle GoldenGate Cloud Service** for cloud deployments.

Optionally, you can enhance your Platinum architecture by using these features and capabilities:

- **Edition-Based Redefinition** lets you upgrade the database component of an application while it is in use, minimizing or eliminating downtime.
- **Oracle Sharding** used as an alternative Platinum architecture allows applications that are shard aware, or designed to access the database via sharding keys, to scale their applications with individual database shards and protect each shard with Oracle RAC, Oracle Active Data Guard, or Oracle GoldenGate. MAA recommends using Oracle RAC and either Oracle Active Data Guard or Oracle GoldenGate. Any one shard failure is switched over with minimal downtime and only impacts applications accessing that particular shard. A database with hundreds of shards provides the highest application and database availability. Refer to Oracle Sharding documentation and Oracle Sharding MAA Best Practices white paper for more information.

For more information about Oracle capabilities used in this MAA reference architectures click on the objects in the graphic above.

Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database **on-premises**, on **Exadata Database Machine**, and on **Oracle Cloud**.

Platinum Downtime Summary

Unplanned Outage	RTO/RPO Service Level Objectives (f1)
Recoverable node or instance failure	Zero or single digit seconds (f2/f3)
Disasters including corruptions and site failures	Zero (f3)
Planned Maintenance	
Most common software/hardware updates	Zero (f2)
Major database upgrade, application upgrade	Zero (f3)

f1: RPO=0 unless explicitly specified

f2: To achieve zero downtime or lowest impact, apply application checklist best practices

f3: Application failover is custom or with Global Data Services

The Platinum MAA reference architecture level of service addresses the most mission critical Oracle requirements, and delivers zero data loss and highest uptime potential.

Click the graphic to return to the Platinum reference architecture diagram.

Learn more about Oracle MAA blueprints for reduced planned and unplanned downtime for Oracle Database [on-premises](#), on [Exadata Database Machine](#), and on [Oracle Cloud](#).