

Tru64 UNIX Best Practice

Placing the Cluster Root File Systems Under LSM Control

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This Best Practice describes how to place the clusterwide root (/), /usr, and /var file systems under LSM control.

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Placing the Cluster File Systems Under LSM Control

This Best Practice describes how you can place the clusterwide root (/), /usr, and /var file systems under Logical Storage Manager (LSM) control by migrating them to LSM volumes with the `volmigrate` command.

Prior to Tru64™ UNIX Version 5.1A, you could not use LSM volumes to mirror the root file system; you had to use hardware RAID.

Using LSM volumes for these file systems lets you:

- Provide redundancy through LSM volume mirroring
- Improve performance through striping
- Configure one or more spare disks to automatically replace a failing disk in a mirrored volume

See the Tru64 UNIX Best Practices Web page for more information about Best Practices documentation:

http://www.tru64unix.compaq.com/docs/best_practices/

Is This Best Practice Right for You?

Not all Best Practices apply to all configurations, so you must be sure that this Best Practice is appropriate for your system and circumstances. To use this Best Practice, you must meet the requirements described in the following table:

Requirement	Description
Operating System	Tru64 UNIX Version 5.1A, and TruCluster™ Server Version 5.1A
Logical Storage Manager	LSM must be installed and initialized on the cluster. (See <i>Background and Reference Information</i> .)

Requirement	Description
Licenses	The Advanced File System (AdvFS) Utilities license. The LSM <code>volmigrate</code> command uses the AdvFS <code>addvol</code> and <code>rmvol</code> commands, which are available only with the AdvFS Utilities license. Logical Storage Manager license. To use mirroring and striping, the LSM license must be installed.
Disks and Accessibility	Within the <code>rootdg</code> disk group, there must be one or more suitable LSM simple or sliced disks as targets for the migration, because the volumes must belong to <code>rootdg</code> . You cannot migrate domains to <code>nopriv</code> disks. (See <i>Background and Reference Information</i> .) If you configure spare disks, there should be one spare disk for each disk used by a mirrored volume. The spare disks should be the same size as the disks they could replace. Ideally the disks should be on a shared bus, so that all cluster members have access to the disks whether an individual cluster member is up or down.
Impact on Availability	None. No shutdown or unmounting is required.
Additional Requirements	You must be logged in as superuser and have some knowledge of LSM and its commands.

If you do not meet the previous requirements, see *Alternative Practices*.

Before You Begin

Before you migrate a cluster file system to an LSM volume, you must understand some background information and develop a strategy for migration and disk usage.

Background and Reference Information

See the *Logical Storage Manager* manual for information on installing the LSM license, installing and initializing LSM on a cluster, and descriptions of LSM disk types (sliced, simple, and `nopriv`) and the `rootdg` disk group.

See the *Cluster Administration* and *Cluster Hardware Configuration* manuals for information on cluster configurations, including recommendations for shared storage and avoiding a single point of failure.

Note

The `volmigrate` command operates on AdvFS domain names. Within this Best Practice, the cluster file systems are referred to by the default AdvFS domain names `cluster_root`, `cluster_usr`, and `cluster_var`.

The `volmigrate` command is a shell script that calls several other commands to:

- Create an LSM volume for the domain on the LSM disk or disks that you specify.
- Add the LSM volume to the domain being migrated, with the AdvFS `addvol` command.
- Migrate the data from the original disk partition to the LSM volume.
- Remove the original disk partition from the domain with the AdvFS `rmvol` command, and set the disk label partition table entry for that partition to `unused`.

For detailed information on the `volmigrate` command, including the options for striping and mirroring, recommendations, and restrictions, see the `volmigrate(8)` reference page.

Disk Space Considerations

If you have limited available disks but want the benefits of mirroring, you can place the original disk or disks under LSM control after migrating the domains and then mirror the volumes to the disk or disks.

Note

When you place a disk under LSM control, its usable space is reduced by 4096 blocks (2 MB) for the LSM private metadata.

If a domain uses the `c` partition of a disk (the entire disk), you must migrate it to a volume 2 MB smaller than the domain if you want to mirror the volume to the same disk. If several domains are on the same disk, and if the disk is not at least 2 MB larger than the total size of the domains, you must migrate one domain to a volume 2 MB smaller than the domain. Decide which domain to reduce based on disk usage and expected growth.

By default, the volume created by the `volmigrate` command is the same size as the AdvFS domain. The `volmigrate -l length` command lets you create a volume smaller than the domain, within the restrictions described in the `volmigrate(8)` reference page. In effect, this shrinks the domain. The volume size you specify must be at least 10 percent larger than the in-use portion of the domain. We recommend reducing the volume by only the 2 MB necessary.

If necessary, both LSM and AdvFS allow you to add space to an LSM volume or AdvFS domain later.

Availability Considerations

To provide higher availability for mirrored volumes, you can configure one or more spare disks that LSM can use to automatically relocate data from a failing disk. Ideally, configure one spare disk for every disk used in a mirrored volume in the disk group. Each spare disk should be as large as the largest disk in use by a mirrored volume in the disk group.

The LSM `volwatch` daemon notifies you of a disk failure (and automatic replacement). At that time, you can add another disk to the disk group and configure it as a new spare.

You can check the number of spare disks in each disk group by entering the `voldisk list` command. In the `STATUS` column of the output, all available spare disks show a status of `online spare`.

Preparing to Use This Best Practice

To prepare for applying this Best Practice, decide whether you want to reuse the original disk or disk partition to mirror the volumes.

- If you plan to reuse the original disk, migrate each domain to an unmirrored volume (optionally specifying the volume size, as discussed in *Disk Space Considerations*), place the original disk under LSM control, and then mirror the volumes to that disk.

Normally, you should not use the same disk to support multiple volumes, because this increases the number of volumes at risk if the disk fails. Mirroring the volumes and configuring hot-spare disks reduces this risk. However if you have available disks, consider migrating each domain to its own disk, using the original disk to mirror just one volume and using other disks to mirror the other volumes.

- If you do not plan to reuse the original disk, migrate each domain to a mirrored volume (optional) and use the original disk for other purposes (perhaps as a hot-spare disk).

If you want the volume to be striped, sufficient disks must be available at the time of migration. (Because striping requires multiple disks, you cannot create a striped volume on one disk.)

Each mirror or stripe column in a volume must be on different disks. To create a striped and mirrored volume, you need multiple disks ($nstrips * nmirrors$). For example, to create a volume with two mirrors, each of which is striped across four disks, requires eight disks.

Applying the Best Practice

Before you migrate a domain to an LSM volume, be sure to read *Before You Begin*.

There are three steps for placing the cluster file systems under LSM control:

1. Migrate the domains.
2. Mirror the domain volumes to the original disk (optional).
3. Configure hot-spare disks for the rootdg disk group (optional).

Step 1: Migrate the Domains

The general syntax for the `volmigrate` command is:

```
/usr/sbin/volmigrate [-g diskgroup] [-m num_mirrors] [-s num_columns] \  
[-N volume_name] [-l sectors] domain_name disk_media_name ...
```

For this Best Practice, you do not need to specify a disk group. The default disk group is `rootdg`, which is a requirement for these volumes.

You can run the `volmigrate` command from any cluster member. Depending on the size of the domain, the command might take several minutes to complete. Unless the command displays an error message, the migration is progressing.

If you plan to reuse the original disk or disk partition for the mirror, migrate the domain to an unmirrored volume and then mirror the volume in a separate step.

You can choose names for the volumes. By default, the volume name is the domain name with the `vol` suffix, as in `cluster_rootvol`. No two LSM volumes within the same disk group can have the same name.

To migrate the domains:

1. Display the attributes (specifically, sizes and names) of the file system domains:

```
# cd /etc/fdmns
# showfdmn *
```

```

      Id                Date Created  LogPgs  Version  Domain Name
3bcc9383.000bd63b  Tue Oct 16 16:07:31 2001     512      4  cluster_root

  Vol  512-Blks      Free  % Used  Cmode  Rblks  Wblks  Vol Name
  1L   557936      329360   41%   on    256    256  /dev/disk/dsk6a

      Id                Date Created  LogPgs  Version  Domain Name
3bcc9384.000abbf1  Tue Oct 16 16:07:32 2001     512      4  cluster_usr

  Vol  512-Blks      Free  % Used  Cmode  Rblks  Wblks  Vol Name
  1L   1684224      116672   93%   on    256    256  /dev/disk/dsk6g

      Id                Date Created  LogPgs  Version  Domain Name
3bcc9385.00076d14  Tue Oct 16 16:07:33 2001     512      4  cluster_var

  Vol  512-Blks      Free  % Used  Cmode  Rblks  Wblks  Vol Name
  1L   1667024      1056912  37%   on    256    256  /dev/disk/dsk6h
:
:
```

The cluster root domain is 557936 blocks in size, and each block on the Tru64 UNIX system is 512 bytes. This means the cluster root domain is approximately 272 MB. The total for all three domains is 3909184 blocks. If you plan to migrate all three domains to the same LSM disk, make sure the disk has that much free space (step 3).

2. Display the disks in the rootdg disk group to find simple or sliced disks in the TYPE column:

```
# voldisk -g rootdg list
```

```
DEVICE      TYPE      DISK      GROUP      STATUS
dsk0        sliced   dsk0      rootdg     online
dsk1        sliced   dsk1      rootdg     online
dsk2        sliced   dsk2      rootdg     online
dsk3        sliced   dsk3      rootdg     online
dsk4        sliced   dsk4      rootdg     online
dsk5        sliced   dsk5      rootdg     online
dsk6        sliced   dsk6      rootdg     online
dsk7        sliced   dsk7      rootdg     online
dsk8        sliced   dsk8      rootdg     online
dsk9        sliced   dsk9      rootdg     online
dsk10       sliced   dsk10     rootdg     online
dsk11       sliced   dsk11     rootdg     online
dsk12       sliced   dsk12     rootdg     online
dsk13       sliced   dsk13     rootdg     online
dsk14       sliced   dsk14     rootdg     online
dsk15       sliced   dsk15     rootdg     online
dsk16       sliced   dsk16     rootdg     online
dsk17       sliced   dsk17     rootdg     online
```

```

dsk18      sliced    dsk18      rootdg      online
dsk19      sliced    dsk19      rootdg      online
dsk20      sliced    dsk20      rootdg      online
dsk21      sliced    dsk21      rootdg      online
dsk22      sliced    dsk22      rootdg      online
dsk23      sliced    dsk23      rootdg      online
dsk24      sliced    dsk24      rootdg      online

```

3. Display the free space available in the rootdg disk group:

```
# voldg -g rootdg free
```

DISK	DEVICE	TAG	OFFSET	LENGTH	FLAGS
dsk0	dsk0	dsk0	1048576	7327392	-
dsk1	dsk1	dsk1	1048576	3057792	-
dsk2	dsk2	dsk2	0	8375968	-
dsk3	dsk3	dsk3	0	8375968	-
dsk4	dsk4	dsk4	0	4106368	-
dsk5	dsk5	dsk5	0	8375968	-
dsk6	dsk6	dsk6	0	8375968	-
dsk7	dsk7	dsk7	0	8375968	-
dsk8	dsk8	dsk8	0	4106368	-
dsk9	dsk9	dsk9	0	8375968	-
dsk10	dsk10	dsk10	0	8375968	-
dsk11	dsk11	dsk11	0	4106368	-
dsk12	dsk12	dsk12	0	4106368	-
dsk13	dsk13	dsk13	0	4106368	-
dsk14	dsk14	dsk14	0	4106368	-
dsk15	dsk15	dsk15	0	8375968	-
dsk16	dsk16	dsk16	6912	17762500	-
dsk17	dsk17	dsk17	6912	17762500	-
dsk18	dsk18	dsk18	6977	4099391	-
dsk19	dsk19	dsk19	6912	8369056	-
dsk20	dsk20	dsk20	6912	8369056	-
dsk21	dsk21	dsk21	6912	8369056	-
dsk22	dsk22	dsk22	0	8375968	-
dsk23	dsk23	dsk23	0	8375968	-
dsk24	dsk24	dsk24	0	17769412	-

4. Choose sliced or simple disks with enough free space to create a volume with the characteristics you want (such as mirrored or striped).

If possible, choose disks with an offset of 0. Avoid using disks with an offset, because these are in use by another volume. (To confirm this, enter the `volprint` command and examine the output for the disks in question.)

5. Confirm that each disk you want to use is accessible by all cluster members:

```
# hwmgr -view devices -cluster
```

HWID:	Device Name	Mfg	Model	Hostname	Location
3:	/dev/dmapi/dmapi			ernest	
3:	/dev/dmapi/dmapi			joey	
4:	scp			ernest	

```

5: kevm
62: /dev/disk/floppy0c          3.5in floppy      ernest      fdi0-unit-0
77: /dev/disk/dsk0c            COMPAQ            BB018122B7      ernest      bus-0-targ-0-lun-0
78: /dev/disk/dsk1c            COMPAQ            BB018122B7      ernest      bus-0-targ-1-lun-0
79: /dev/disk/dsk2c            DEC               RZ28M           (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-1-lun-0
79: /dev/disk/dsk2c            DEC               RZ28M           (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-1-lun-0
80: /dev/disk/dsk3c            DEC               RZ28L-AS        (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-2-lun-0
80: /dev/disk/dsk3c            DEC               RZ28L-AS        (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-2-lun-0
81: /dev/disk/dsk4c            DEC               RZ29B           (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-3-lun-0
81: /dev/disk/dsk4c            DEC               RZ29B           (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-3-lun-0
82: /dev/disk/dsk5c            DEC               RZ28D           (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-4-lun-0
82: /dev/disk/dsk5c            DEC               RZ28D           (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-4-lun-0
83: /dev/disk/dsk6c            DEC               RZ28L-AS        (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-5-lun-0
83: /dev/disk/dsk6c            DEC               RZ28L-AS        (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-5-lun-0
84: /dev/disk/dsk7c            DEC               RZ1CF-CF        (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-8-lun-0
84: /dev/disk/dsk7c            DEC               RZ1CF-CF        (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-8-lun-0
85: /dev/disk/dsk8c            DEC               RZ1CB-CS        (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-9-lun-0
85: /dev/disk/dsk8c            DEC               RZ1CB-CS        (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-9-lun-0
86: /dev/disk/dsk9c            DEC               RZ1CF-CF        (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-10-lun-0
86: /dev/disk/dsk9c            DEC               RZ1CF-CF        (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-10-lun-0
87: /dev/disk/dsk10c           DEC               RZ1CF-CF        (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-11-lun-0
87: /dev/disk/dsk10c           DEC               RZ1CF-CF        (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-11-lun-0
88: /dev/disk/dsk11c           DEC               RZ1CF-CF        (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-12-lun-0
88: /dev/disk/dsk11c           DEC               RZ1CF-CF        (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-12-lun-0
89: /dev/disk/dsk12c           DEC               RZ1CF-CF        (C) DEC      ernest      bus-2-targ-13-lun-0
89: /dev/disk/dsk12c           DEC               RZ1CF-CF        (C) DEC      joey        bus-2-targ-13-lun-0
90: /dev/disk/cdrom0c          COMPAQ            CRD-8402B       ernest      bus-3-targ-0-lun-0
91: random                    ernest
92: urandom                    ernest
95: /dev/scp_scsi              joey
96: /dev/kevm                  joey
147: /dev/disk/floppy1c        3.5in floppy      joey        fdi0-unit-0
162: /dev/disk/dsk13c          COMPAQ            BB018122B7      joey        bus-0-targ-0-lun-0
163: /dev/disk/dsk14c          COMPAQ            BB018122B7      joey        bus-0-targ-1-lun-0
164: /dev/disk/cdrom1c        COMPAQ            CRD-8402B       joey        bus-3-targ-0-lun-0
165: /dev/random                joey
166: /dev/urandom              joey

```

6. Migrate the domains.

The options you specify for the migration depend on whether you want to mirror the volume in this step or wait and mirror the volume to the original disk.

- To migrate a domain to an LSM volume with the default properties (concatenated, no mirror), whether or not you plan to use the original disk for the mirror later:

```
# volmigrate domain disk ...
```

For example:

```
# volmigrate cluster_root dsk4
```

- To migrate a domain to an LSM volume of a specific size (for example, smaller than the domain by 2 MB):

```
# volmigrate -l sectors domain disk ...
```

For example, to migrate the `cluster_var` domain, which is 1667024 sectors (approximately 814 MB), to a volume of 1662928 sectors (812 MB):

```
# volmigrate -l 1662928 cluster_var dsk4
```

- To migrate a domain to a mirrored volume on two disks:

```
# volmigrate -m 2 domain disk disk
```

For example:

```
# volmigrate -m 2 cluster_usr dsk4 dsk8
```

- To migrate a domain to a striped, unmirrored volume on four disks:

```
# volmigrate -s 4 cluster_root disk1 disk2 disk3 disk4
```

Remember that you will need four disks to mirror the volume later (for example, the original disk plus three others).

- To migrate the domain to a striped, mirrored volume on six disks (each mirror will be striped over three disks):

```
# volmigrate -m 2 -s 3 cluster_root \  
dsk4 dsk8 dsk11 dsk12 dsk13 dsk14
```

Step 2: Mirroring the Volumes to the Original Disk (Optional)

The attributes you specify for a volume with the `volmigrate` command (such as the length and whether the volume is striped) are applied to the mirror when you mirror that volume.

If you create a striped volume on multiple disks, you need to specify the same number of additional disks to mirror the volume. For example, if the volume is striped over four disks, you need four additional disks to create the mirror; one of which can be the original disk.

To mirror a volume to the original disk:

1. Confirm that all partitions on the original disk are unused (in this example, `dsk6`):

```
# disklabel -r dsk6
```

2. Add the disk to LSM:

```
# voldisksetup -i dsk6
```

3. Add the disk to the `rootdg` disk group. You do not need to specify a disk group because the `rootdg` disk group is assumed:

```
# voldg adddisk dsk6
```

4. Verify that there is enough space in the public region of the LSM disk to mirror the volume:

```
# voldisk list dsk6 | grep public
public:    slice=6 offset=16 len=8375968
```

5. Verify the cluster volume names:

```
# volprint -vt | grep cluster
v cluster_rootvol fsgen    ENABLED ACTIVE 557936 SELECT -
v cluster_usrvol  fsgen    ENABLED ACTIVE 1684224 SELECT -
v cluster_varvol  fsgen    ENABLED ACTIVE 1667024 SELECT -
```

You use these names to mirror the volumes.

6. Mirror the volumes. You must mirror each volume separately.

- If the volume is currently on only one disk, enter:

```
# volassist mirror volume disk
```

For example:

```
# volassist mirror cluster_rootvol dsk6
# volassist mirror cluster_usrvol  dsk6
# volassist mirror cluster_varvol  dsk6
```

- If the volume is striped over several disks, you must specify the same number of disks the volume is striped over.

For example, to mirror a volume that is striped over four disks:

```
# volassist mirror cluster_rootvol dsk6 dsk11 dsk12 dsk13
```

Step 3: Configure Hot-Spare Disks (Optional)

You can configure spare disks to automatically replace a failing disk in mirrored volumes.

Configure enough spare disks to replace more than one failed disk at any given time. Each spare disk should be as large as the largest disk in use by a volume in the disk group.

To configure one or more spare disks for the rootdg disk group:

```
# voleit set spare=on disk ...
```

For example, in the output from step 3 in Step 1: Migrate the Domains, disks dsk2, dsk3, and dsk5 (among others) have at least twice the amount of free space as the disks used in this Best Practice for creating the domain volumes. So, disks dsk2, dsk3, and dsk5 are suitable to configure as hot spares, as follows:

```
# voledit set spare=on dsk2 dsk3 dsk5
```

Verifying Success

Because the `volmigrate` command runs in verbose mode by default, it alerts you to problems as it executes.

- If errors occur, the command that experienced the error displays its own error messages or codes, and `volmigrate` reverses any changes made, if possible.
- If no error messages appear, the migration process completed successfully.

You can additionally verify the results of the migration process by doing the following:

- Display the properties of the LSM volumes by entering:

```
# volprint
```

In the output, verify that there are volumes named `cluster_rootvol`, `cluster_usrvol`, and `cluster_varvol` (the default names) or the names you assigned to the volumes, with the attributes you specified.

- Verify the spare disks you configured by entering:

```
# voldisk list
```

Information similar to the following is displayed. Available spare disks have a status of `online spare`:

DEVICE	TYPE	DISK	GROUP	STATUS
:	:	:	:	:
dsk2	sliced	dsk2	rootdg	online spare
dsk3	sliced	dsk3	rootdg	online spare
dsk5	sliced	dsk5	rootdg	online spare
:	:	:	:	:

- Verify that the spare disks have enough free space to replace any disk in the mirrored volumes:

```
# voldg -g rootdg spare
```

Information similar to the following is displayed, showing the size of the spare disks:

DISK	DEVICE	TAG	OFFSET	LENGTH	FLAGS
dsk2	dsk2	dsk2	0	8375968	s
dsk3	dsk3	dsk3	0	8375968	s
dsk5	dsk5	dsk5	0	8375968	s

If this Best Practice was not successful, see *Troubleshooting* for information about identifying and solving problems.

Troubleshooting

If the `volmigrate` command or one of the commands that it calls returns an error, refer to the indicated command's reference page for more information about corrective steps.

The following list presents some of the error messages you might encounter and the action needed to solve each problem.

`volmigrate: must specify an AdvFS domain name.`

Problem: The domain name is not valid.

Solution: Verify that you entered the domain name correctly. Also, make sure you specify the domain name before the disk or disks on the command line.

`volmigrate: the cluster root volume must be in rootdg.`

Problem: The specified disk is not in the `rootdg` disk group or is not an LSM disk.

Solution: Enter the `volprint` or `voldisk list` command. Confirm that the disk is under LSM control and belongs to the `rootdg` disk group.

`volmigrate: must specify LSM disk media names to use for volume.`

Problem: The specified disk media name is incorrect.

Solution: Verify the disk media name with the `voldisk list` command. You must use the LSM disk's media name, which might differ from the name assigned to the disk by the operating system (the disk access name, or device name). In the output of the `voldisk list` command, the disk media name is in the `DISK` column.

`lsm:volassist: ERROR: Cannot allocate space for length block volume`

Problem: The specified disk or disks do not have enough free space to create a volume for the domain.

Solution: Use a larger LSM disk, specify additional LSM disks, or use the `volmigrate -l length` option to specify a smaller volume

size. See the `volmigrate(8)` reference page for size limitations and restrictions.

If you tried to use the original disk to mirror one or more volumes but there was not enough free space, you can still mirror the volume to any other LSM simple or sliced disk that has enough space and use the original disk for other purposes, such as a spare disk.

`volmigrate:` length specified must be at least `xxxxxx`, or use the `-f` option to override 10% spare requirement. Specified size must be at least `yyyyyy`.

Problem: The specified volume size does not meet the minimum requirement of the in-use area of the domain (`yyyyyy`) plus 10 percent extra space for file system overhead.

Solution: If the volume size you specified is at least the size of the in-use area of the domain but provides less than 10 percent extra room, use the `-f` (force) option. You cannot specify a volume size smaller than the in-use area of the domain.

Alternative Practices

This Best Practice is the recommended method for placing the cluster root domains under LSM control.

- If LSM is not installed on your system, see the *Installation Guide* for information on installing software subsets and rebuilding the kernel.
- If LSM is installed but not initialized on your system, see the *Logical Storage Manager* and *Cluster Installation* manuals for information on installing LSM.

The only alternative to using LSM to create a mirror of the clusterwide file systems is to use hardware RAID. See your hardware RAID documentation or Customer Support representative for more information.

Comments and Questions

We value your comments and questions on the information in this document. Please mail your comments to us at this address:

`best_practices@zk3.dec.com`

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