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Operational Considerations and Troubleshooting

Oracle Enterprise Manager 12c



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Executive Overview

Oracle Enterprise Manager (EM) 12c has become a valuable component in monitoring and administrating an enterprise environment. The more critical the application, servers and services that are monitored and maintained via EM, the more critical the EM environment becomes. Therefore, EM must be as available as the most critical target it manages. This whitepaper will assist in defining the proper configuration, monitoring and maintenance activities to ensure that EM stays highly available.

Introduction

There are many areas that need to be discussed when talking about managing Enterprise Manager in a data center. Some of these are as follows:

- Recommendations for staffing roles and responsibilities for EM administration
- Understanding the components that make up an EM environment
- · Backing up and monitoring EM itself
- Maintaining a healthy EM system
- Patching the EM components
- Troubleshooting and diagnosing guidelines

This whitepaper will help define administrator requirements and responsibilities, and guide you in setting up the proper monitoring and maintenance activities to keep Oracle Enterprise Manager 12c healthy.

1

Infrastructure Components

Oracle Management Service (OMS)

The Oracle Management Service performs several important tasks in an EM environment. It is the web-based application that communicates with the Oracle Management Agents and Oracle Management Plug-ins to discover, monitor and manage targets as well as store the information in the Oracle Management Repository. It is also responsible for running the user interface for the Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Console.

Systems and Services

In EM, an application can be modeled as a service that runs on a group of targets called a system. A system is created to define the infrastructure required to host a specific application. Then, the application can be defined as a service allowing monitoring and management of the application. Out of the box, the EM components are combined into a system called "Management Services and Repository". Services have been created on this system for specific functions within EM itself as described below.

EM Jobs Service

The EM Jobs Service is a service using the Management Services and Repository system and consists of all components required for the EM jobs to function properly. The availability of the EM Jobs System as a whole depends on the availability of each of the underlying components defined in this service.

EM Console Service

The EM Console Service is a service using the Management Services and Repository system and consists of all components required for the EM Console to function properly. The availability of the EM Console System as a whole depends on the availability of each of the underlying components defined in this service as well as a defined "EM Console Service Test" and the "EM Management Beacon".

Oracle Management Agent

The Oracle Management Agent is deployed on each host to be managed by an EM environment. It is responsible for managing and monitoring all of the targets on that host (including the host itself) and communicating all information to the Oracle Management Service.

Oracle Management Repository

The Oracle Management Repository is used for storing all of the data received from the Oracle Management Agents. It organizes the data so that the Oracle Management Service can retrieve it and display it in the Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Console.

Oracle Management Plug-ins

The core Enterprise Manager Cloud Control features for managing and monitoring the different Oracle components are now provided via separate components called plug-ins. This allows the flexibility of updating EM with the latest product releases for one or more component releases without having to upgrade to a later Cloud Control release. These provide a more "pluggable" framework.

Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Console

The Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Console is the user interface that provides one central location for monitoring and administrating an entire environment.

Below is a picture of a typical environment showing how each of the above components interact.

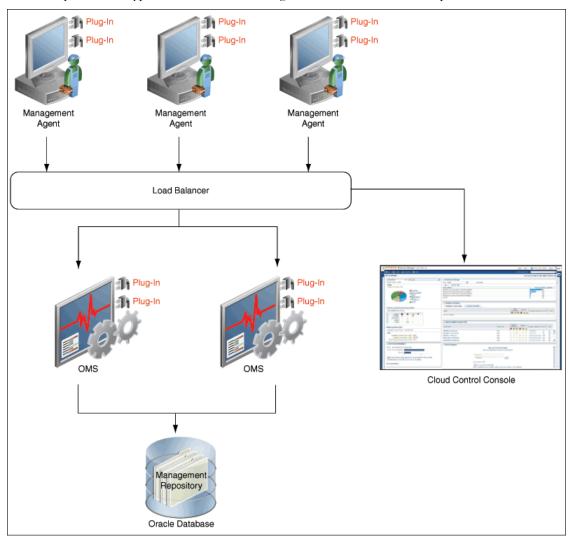


Figure 1: EM Components

EM CLI

EM CLI is the Enterprise Manager Command Line Interface. Not only can this interface be executed from an operating system console, it also allows administrators to run many EM commands via scripts and thereby allows the customers to create workflow based on their business needs. Using this interface, you can do many things such as manage credentials, define service targets, templates and setup incidents. For more information about using EM CLI refer to the Oracle Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Documentation.

Diagnostic Tools

EMDIAG

The EMDIAG Toolkit is a set of utilities that collect data from Cloud Control OMS, Repository and Agents to assist in troubleshooting and maintenance. EMDIAG consists of REPVFY, OMSVFY and AGTVFY Tools. Many of the recommendations in this whitepaper will utilize the EMDIAG tools. See EMDIAG Troubleshooting Kits Master Index [421053.1] for more information.

REPVFY

The EMDIAG REPVFY 12c kit is designed to collect data from a Cloud Control Management Repository 12c to assist in the diagnosis and correction of Cloud Control issues. For detailed installation instructions see Install and Upgrade [ID 1426973.1]. For details on utilizing REPVFY see EMDIAG Repvfy 12c Kit [ID 1427365.1].

OMSVFY

OMSVFY is installed on each OMS server and collects data on the OMS configuration and patches. There are also several utilities available to help in searching log files, zipping the files for transfer to support, and identifying trouble areas on the OMS. See note EMDIAG Omsvfy 12c Kit - Download and Install [ID 1374450.1] for detailed installation instructions.

AGTVFY

AGTVFY gets installed on the each Agent server. This is a good component to become familiar with and use when troubleshooting agent issues. For detailed install instructions see EMDIAG Agtvfy 12c Kit - Download and Install [ID 1374441.1].

Best Practices Configuration

Enterprise Manager 12c Cloud Control is an enterprise application that manages and monitors the infrastructure in your environment as well as the applications running on top of that infrastructure. The system itself requires some care and feeding to ensure that it is performing properly and that the data available is timely and accurate. One of the most common questions is who should manage EM and how much effort will it require. This all depends on what functions you plan to leverage, how critical the targets are, and the size of the environment.

Staffing Recommendations

As EM is very broad application on its own therefore, the recommendation is to have at least 2 people trained and responsible for managing EM who know the system very well and maintain its health. Depending on the size and scope of your environment, this may be 2-4 people who spend 25-50% of their time on EM. This ensures backup coverage during vacation or extended illnesses. Someone with knowledge of Oracle Database and WebLogic Server is extremely helpful as these are the main backbones of EM; however they also need to understand your entire enterprise. Integration into authentication and ticketing systems, placement in network/firewall rules, configuration of the Software Load Balancer, segregation between support groups and organizations are all areas where the EM Administrator will be required to interface during initial setup and continued operations. For further details on EM best practices, refer to the note Oracle Enterprise Manager 12c Configuration Best Practices [1553342.1].

Administrator Responsibilities

Implementing EM and managing an enterprise will require involvement from various teams. Companies divide the roles and responsibilities differently based on the size of the implementations and the different data center responsibilities. There needs to be a well defined, agreed upon list of tasks that identifies the individual or team responsible for particular tasks. This is often referred to as a RACI diagram (Responsible, Accountable, Consulted and Informed). The EM Administrator should own architecture and installation, overall agent deployment procedures, agent patching procedures, OMS patching and user administration. It is also important for the EM Administrator to know the baseline functionality and performance of their EM environment to more easily identify existing or pending problems. Knowing the baseline environment consists of two items. The first item is to understand and document the architecture of the environment (i.e. topology, key components). This will help in understanding the impact of any architecture change. The second item is for the EM Administrator to understand the normal baseline operations of the environment. This consists of understanding the environment and the expected load (i.e. how much data to expect in a day). Things like deploying agents, discovering targets, solving agent issues and solving target availability can all be delegated to target owners. The RACI diagram below is an example of defining this responsibility and is a starting point for your organization to define the roles and responsibilities in your environment even if multiple roles are performed by the same person.

TABLE 1: ENTERPRISE MANAGER 12C RACI

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	ACCOUNTABLE	CONSULTED	INFORMED
Define Monitoring Requirements	Target	EM Admin		
	Owners,			
	Infrastructure			
	Teams, EM			
	Admin			
Installation planning and architecture	EM Admin	EM Admin	Target	
			Owners,	
			Infrastructure	

			Teams	
Installation and configuration of EM	EM Admin	EM Admin		
Defining Agent deployment and patching procedures and processes	EM Admin	EM Admin		Target Owners
Security and User Administration	EM Admin/Security Admin	EM Admin		
Admin Group Creation	EM Admin	EM Admin	Target Owners	
Agent Deployment (can be performed by target owners)	Target Owners	Target Owners	EM Admin	
Agent Patching (can be performed by target owners)	Target Owners	Target Owners	EM Admin	
Target Configuration and Availability	Target Owners	Target Owners		
Agent Troubleshooting	Target Owners, EM Admin	EM Admin		
Target Troubleshooting	Target Owners	Target Owners	EM Admin	
Weekly/Monthly/Quarterly Maintenance	EM Admin	EM Admin		Target Owners
OMS Patching	EM Admin	EM Admin		Target Owners

Maximum Availability

Since EM plays an important role in managing and monitoring the enterprise environment, it is important to ensure that the environment is configured for maximum availability. This includes regular backups as well as architecting the environment for disaster recovery. The <u>Oracle Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Administrator's Guide</u> provides details on backing up the Enterprise Manager environment. As part of an overall backup strategy, it is important to take regular backups as well as backups before any patching or plugin update is applied for the following:

Oracle Management Service Backups

Backups for the OMS should consist of the following:

- Software Homes: filesystem level backup of the software homes and the Oracle inventory files whenever patches or patchsets are applied
- Instance Homes/Administration Server/OMS Configuration: all of this information can be backed up by issuing the *emctl exportconfig oms* command on each of the oms servers.

Refer to the <u>Oracle Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Administrator's Guide</u> for further details on backing up the OMS server(s).

Management Repository Backups

The backup strategies for the repository are the same as for the Oracle Database. This includes having the database in archivelog mode and performing regular hot backups with RMAN which consists of a full backup and then incremental backups. EM provides a simple way to setup database backups via the option for Oracle suggested backups. This backup strategy will create a full database backup followed by an incremental backup on each subsequent run. The database backup will be recovered using these incremental backups thus creating a new full backup baseline. For further detail on the setup of Oracle Recommended Backups, refer to the Oracle Database 2 Day DBA 11g Release 2 (11.2) document. The steps for configuring the backup in EM are documented below.

1. Click on Targets / Databases. Select the EM Repository database.

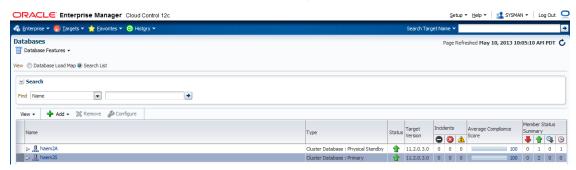


Figure 2: Databases

- 2. From the database home page, click on Availability / Backup & Recovery / Schedule Backups...
- **3.** On the Schedule Backup page, select the proper login credentials for the database owner under the Host Credentials section and then click on the push button **Schedule Oracle-Suggested Backup**

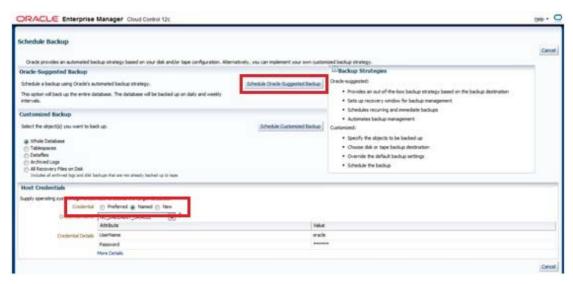


Figure 3: Schedule Backup

4. Select the destination media for the backup and click Next



Figure 4: Backup Location

5. Set the backup settings for the backup based on the destination chosen above (a disk backup was selected for this example). Click **Next**



Figure 5: Oracle Suggested Backup

6. Select the day and time to start the backups. Click **Next**.



Figure 6: Backup Schedule

7. Review the backup details and if the information is correct, click **Submit Job**

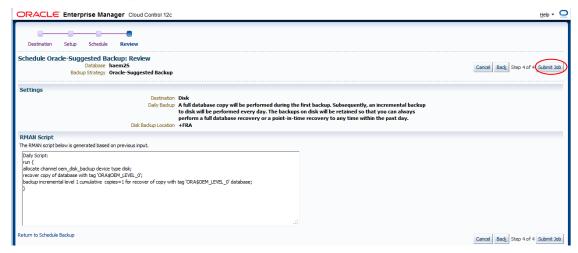


Figure 7: Backup Review

Management Agent Backups

For the management agent, a reference agent should be maintained and kept current with patches so that if a management agent is lost, it can be reinstalled via cloning of this reference agent. Starting with the EM 12cR3 release, there is a new option available which will allow for the creation of a custom 'package' for an Agent-side plugin that includes any required patches and updates. With this feature, each deployment of that plugin to an Agent will deploy the updated version of that plugin. To create an updated/revised Agent-side plugin, follow these steps (for more details on this process, refer to the Oracle Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Administrator's Guide):

- 1. Update and patch one agent with all of the required changes
- 2. Run this EMCLI command to create the custom plugin version based on this modified agent:

```
$ emcli create_custom_plugin_update \
    -agent_name="<patched agent name>" \
    -plugin_id="<internal ID of the plugin>"
```

3. To get the list of plugins and their ID's for an Agent, use this EMCLI command:

```
$ emcli list_plugins_on_agent - agent_names="<patched agent name>"
```

Once this custom plugin is created, any push of that plugin (with that version) to the Agent will mean the custom updated plugin will be pushed.

Increased High Availability and Disaster Recovery Options

As the importance of Enterprise Manager grows, so do the availability requirements. For some customers, it is just not enough to have a single OMS monitoring their entire database or WebLogic infrastructure. There are additional HA configurations available to meet specific business requirements. The table below details the different degrees of high availability that can be implemented for Oracle Enterprise Manager. Additional information on High Availability configurations can be found in the Enterprise Manager Cloud Control 12c Administrator's Guide.

TABLE 2: HIGH AVAILABILTY CONFIGURATIONS

LEVEL	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM NODES	RECOMMENDED NODES	LOAD BALANCER REQUIREMENTS
Level 1	OMS and Repository database each reside on their own host, no failover.	1	2	None
Level 2	OMS installed on shared storage with VIP based failover. Database replicated with Data Guard.	2	4	None
Level 3	OMS in Active/Active configuration. Database is using RAC + Data Guard.	3	5	Local load balancer
Level 4	OMS in Active/Active configuration with RAC database on primary site. Standby site with multiple standby OMSes and RAC Data Guard standby.	4	8	Local load balancer for each site, and optionally a global load balancer.

Notifications

To properly monitor your EM environment, you need to receive notifications on events, incidents and problems that occur on the infrastructure components. In addition to your standard notifications for Database, FMW and Host targets Oracle recommends you set up notifications for the EM infrastructure. To receive notifications on the OMS and Repository components that consist of your EM infrastructure create an Incident Rule Set specifically for these targets. The steps to do this are detailed in the section Setting Up Your Incident Management Environment of the Administrator's Guide. The best practice is to create a rule set for incoming Events on the OMS and Repository target that creates an incident and sends a notification (via e-mail or ticket) to the EM Administrators for the categories listed below. The OMS and Repository target is an internal target type that will

contain all of the EM components such as the infrastructure hosts, repository database, listeners, management services, etc. For the steps on how to create this rule set, refer to the My Oracle Support (MOS) note Oracle Enterprise Manager 12c Configuration Best Practices [1553342.1].

TABLE 3: INCIDENT RULE RECOMMENDATIONS

CATEGORY	FILTERS	ACTION
Metric Alert	Severity in Critical, Warning	E-mail/Ticket EM Administrators
Metric Alert	All	If event open > 7 days, clear the event
Target Unreachable	Target Availability (Agent, Host)	E-mail/Ticket EM Administrators
Target Down	Target Availability	E-mail/Ticket EM Administrators
High Availability	Severity in Critical	E-mail/Ticket EM Administrators
Target Error	Target Availability	E-mail/Ticket EM Administrators

Out-of-Band Notifications

Out-of-Band Notifications for Enterprise Manager 12c can be configured to send an email or trigger a script when certain fatal conditions occur. This then allows the EM administrator to receive notifications when there is a failure in an EM component. The notification is triggered in the following scenarios:

- single OMS environment, if the OMS is down, but the Agent is up
- multi-OMS environment, if all OMSes are down, but the Agent is up
- if Repository database is unavailable (down, archive hung, listener down, etc)

Configure Out-of-Band Notifications by following the steps in note <u>How To Setup Out Of Bound Email Notification In 12c [1472854.1]</u>.

Patching

As with any application regular patch maintenance is key. The recommended patches for Enterprise Manager Base OMS, Agent and various Plugins can be found and downloaded from My Oracle Support. Oracle recommends setting up a planned maintenance window for the EM environment. This window would provide time for regular patching and activities that may require downtime (i.e. plugin updates). A good recommendation is to schedule this planned maintenance on a quarterly basis and to check for the latest recommended patches at this same time (may vary according to the requirements of the individual companies). Note that the patching for the different components (i.e. agent) may be performed by different people or groups within your organization based on the roles and responsibilities as mentioned in Table 1: Enterprise Manager 12c RACI above.

Agent Patching

Keeping the Enterprise Manager Agent patched is a critical component to efficient and accurate monitoring as the collection scripts reside in the agent. Using the automated patching feature in Enterprise Manager it is possible to create a patch plan from tested and approved agent patches, and deploy to many agents at one time or in batches. Recommended patches can be found by clicking Enterprise / Provisioning & Patching / Patches & Updates by selecting the Recommended Patch Advisor. Select Enterprise Manager Base Platform – Agent for the product, and the correct Release and Platform. Full step by step instructions can be found in the Oracle Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Administrator's Guide.

Repository Patching

The recommended Database patches can be found on **My Oracle Support / Patches & Updates** by selecting the **Recommended Patch Advisor** and select Oracle Database for the product and the appropriate Release and Platform.

OMS Patching

For the OMS, patches must be manually applied with OPatch. Some patches require all OMS servers to be down during the application of any post-patch scripts. In multi-OMS environments, it is possible to shorten the patching cycle by following the procedure below:

- 1. shut down the 1st OMS
- 2. apply the patch
- shutdown the remaining OMSes
- 4. run the post patch scripts
- 5. restart the 1st OMS to reduce downtime
- 6. patch the remaining OMS servers and then restart them

For further details on OMS patching see the <u>Oracle Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Administrator's Guide</u>. Oracle is now creating rolling OMS patches which provide even higher availability since all OMSes do not have to be shutdown to apply the patch but it can be applied in a rolling fashion. Not all patches are able to be rolling patches so it is important to check the individual patch README.txt file.

Plug-ins

To make the Enterprise Manager 12c framework extensible, the plug-ins contain all the binaries needed for specific components; therefore each plug-in has its own ORACLE_HOME on the OMS and sometimes the Agent. For example, a database plug-in is deployed on the OMS and Agent. The scripts that collect metrics from the database reside in the plug-in home. There will be plug-in specific patches for these components. They can be found in My Oracle Support by looking for Enterprise Manager for Oracle Database or Enterprise Manager for Fusion Apps, etc.. For more details on plugins and how to maintain them, see the *Oracle Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Administrator's Guide*.

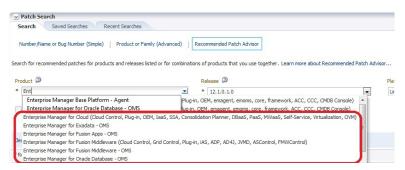


Figure 8: Patch Advisor

Maintaining Enterprise Manager

To ensure Enterprise Manager is configured and optimized properly, implementation planning should take into account the <u>sizing recommendations</u> provided in the *Oracle Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Advanced Installation and Configuration Guide.* Sizing is based on a combination of number of agents, targets and concurrent users. After implementation, review the system sizing and usage on a regular basis to account for system growth. Frequently review updates in Information Center: Enterprise Manager Base Platform Release Cloud Control 12c [ID 1379818.2] to look for updates, patches or known bugs that should be addressed.

The OMS servers process incoming and outgoing tasks. The incoming tasks are telemetry data and alert information coming in from the agents. A problem occurs if there is more data coming in than the network can handle. This is seen via the following:

- Network statistics (bandwidth/IO throughput/collisions)
- Loader backlog
- Job backlog (only if there is a backlog and a low number of available threads)

The outgoing tasks are created when the OMS sends requests out to the agents (config updates and job/tasks to perform on the managed targets) and when the OMS processes and sends out the notifications. To detect if an OMS server is having a bottleneck with outgoing tasks, look for the following:

- A job backlog even though a significant number of jobs are processed (sufficient throughput)
- Notification backlog even though there is a significant 'churn' on getting stuff out.

An additional OMS may need to be added into an environment based on the following situations. Note that the more incoming/outgoing stress on the system, the more likely the need for an additional OMS.

- load (number of agents and number of Admins) and whether or not that load is increasing
- backlog for incoming or outgoing tasks (as discussed above)

In addition to proper sizing and configuration, there are a few areas that should be checked on a regular basis using the EM Cloud Control Console itself as well as EMDIAG. Both of these tools

provide a good way to make sure any issues that occur in the EM components can be identified and resolved. Below are the recommended tasks and frequency to maintain a healthy Enterprise Manager environment. The need to review the daily tasks should lessen as proper notifications and incidents are setup and the EM Admin has established a good baseline and understanding of the data components.

TABLE 4: RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE TASKS

TASK	DAILY	BIWEEKLY	MONTHLY	QUARTERLY
Review critical EM component availability	Х			
Review events, incidents and problems for EM related infrastructure	х			
Review overall health of the system including the job system, backlog, load, notifications and task performance	х			
Review Agent issues for obvious problems (i.e. large percentage of agents with an unreachable status)	Х			
Review Agent issues (deeper /more detailed review of agents with consistent or continual problems)		Х		
Review metric trending for anything out of bounds		Х		
Evaluate database (performance, sizing, fragmentation)			Х	
Check for updates in <u>Self Update</u> (plug-ins, connectors, agents, etc.) Note that there is an out-of-box ruleset that will provide notification for the availability of new updates.				X
Check for recommended patches				Х

Availability

When confirming the health of the EM 12c environment the first place to start is to verify the status of the key components that make up this environment. Enterprise Manager is dependent upon many components for a complete working system. The Repository database, OMS, Console and PBS services, WebLogic servers all have to be available for EM to function properly. A key component that is down could impact performance as well as availability. The goal is to keep the infrastructure components in an available status and to resolve any critical errors occurring in each one

Oracle Management Service

The **Management Services** page provides a more detailed status of the OMS services. In Cloud Control, click on **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Management Services**.



Figure 9: Manage Cloud Control Management Services page

This page shows the information about the Management Services running in Normal mode and in Stand-by mode (if applicable). Again, those in stand-by mode will correctly show a down status. Verify that the Management Services in Normal mode show an Up status, including the status of the Console and Platform Background Service (PBS) for each Management Service.

Repository Database

Verify the status of the Repository database and underlying instances in the case of a RAC database. Click on **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Repository**. Under the **Repository Details** section, click on the name of the Database or Cluster Database.



Figure 10: Manage Cloud Control Repository page

In the case of a standalone database, the Status section will show the Up Time for the database. On the target menu bar, click on **Availability / High Availability Console**. On this page, the status of the database should show Up.

In the case of a RAC cluster database, the Status section will show the number of Instances for this database and the status summary. Further down on this page under the Instances section, verify that each instance is in a "good" status. also It is also possible to view the status of the cluster database by

clicking on **Availability / High Availability Console**. If implemented with Level 3 or Level 4 High Availability, also validate the standby status in the High Availability Console.

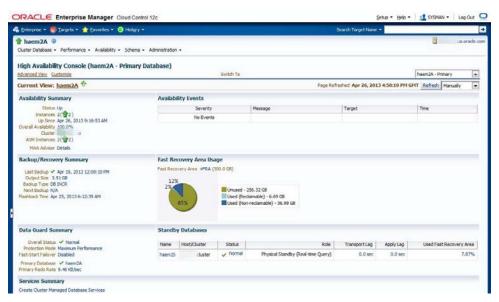


Figure 11: High Availability Console Page

General Availability

To confirm the overall health of the complete list EM components from Enterprise Manager Console navigate to **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Health Overview** where the overall status is displayed. To drill further into each component, click on the menu bar for OMS and Repository / Members / Show All.

Check the status of the key components such as the EM services, application deployment, WebLogic Deployments as described above. The status should show Up. Clicking on the status icon will drill down to show availability details. Each component represents a target in EM. If any components are down, use the information provided on the target's home page (i.e. errors/alerts) to assist in diagnosing and resolving the availability issue. It is important to note, if the system is configured with Level 4 High Availability, the standby OMS servers will show down. For additional information on High Availability configurations, see the Oracle Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Administrator's Guide.

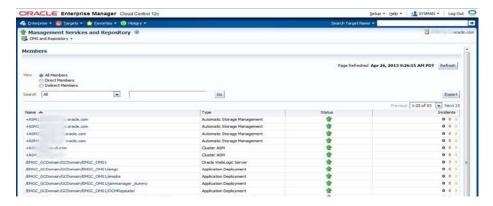


Figure 12: OMS and Repository All Members

EM Internal Subsystems

There are several internal subsystems that work in the background to process incoming data, evaluate alerts and severities, send notifications and do internal housekeeping for EM. This section will review four of the critical subsystems.

DBMS Scheduler

The DBMS Scheduler is a database feature and is used to execute SQL and PL/SQL at specific times. If any of the system jobs are running behind schedule or down completely, they can cause significant performance problems, stale and incorrect availability data, as well as missing critical alerts and notifications. For the repository jobs to run, the DBMS_SCHEDULER must be enabled and db initialization parameter JOB_QUEUE_PROCESSES must be set to a non-zero value. It is common to set JOB_QUEUE_PROCESSES to 0 during upgrades or patches, so be sure to reevaluate often.

To view the Job status click on **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Repository**.



Figure 13: Repository Jobs

In the **Repository Scheduler Jobs Status** section, check the following items:

- 1. Status Make sure all jobs are Up. If there are errors, click on the error to get more details.
- 2. **Processing Time (%) (Last Hour)** Seconds per hour for a job. If a job is consistently running at 50% or more, there may be a resource problem in the database. The overall health and performance of the database should be checked and any issues resolved if found to make sure the database does not start to fall behind and thereby create a permanent backlog problem. If the processing time

increases and runs consistently as high as 75%, this is a problem and it may mean a need to increase resources for the repository server.

- 3. **Next/Last Scheduled Run** If either of these are empty, the job is not submitted in the database and needs to be resubmitted. If the next scheduled time is not correct or empty, the database has stopped scheduling the job. The following steps below can be used to remove and restart the EM jobs.
 - Stop and remove jobs exec emd_maintenance.remove_em_dbms_jobs; COMMIT;
 - Submit and start jobs
 exec emd_maintenance.submit_em_dbms_jobs; COMMIT;

A few of the more critical system jobs are listed below with a description of the tasks that they control:

TABLE 5: KEY SCHEDULER JOBS

JOB NAME	SCHEDULER JOB NAME	TASK
Agent Ping	EM_PING_MARK_NODE_STATUS	Keeps track of the health of the host targets in EM. A nonzero number means there are machines that are suspected to be down. As long as this number is low relative to the total number of machines in EM (considering that some may be in blackout or offline), there is not a major health issue for EM. There is a potential problem if the processing time is showing 30-40% or higher and should be diagnosed further.
Daily Maintenance	EM_DAILY_MAINTENANCE	This job does the daily repository maintenance tasks such as partition maintenance, stats updates, etc. If this job is not running, you will eventually stop receiving information into the repository.
Job Step Scheduler	EM_JOBS_STEP_SCHED	This is the job that puts the work into the queues that are ready to be dispatched to the agents.
Repository Metrics	MGMT_COLLECTION.Collection Subsystem	This job shows the amount of work done for the repository metrics. This metric will have a number associated with it (i.e. Repository Metrics 71) and represent the short and long task workers. The short task workers handle tasks that should run in a minute or less and the long task workers handle the longer tasks. The best thing to look for here is that all Repository Metric jobs are within 10% of each other.
Rollup	EM_ROLLUP_SCHED_JOB	This job indicates the amount of data involved in the rollup job. This number may increase over time as more targets are added to the system but on a daily basis should remain about the same. Large spikes could indicate that agents are not communicating properly to the OMS.

Database Advanced Queuing (AQ)

Both the OMS and the repository rely heavily on Advanced Queues. This then implies that the Advanced Queues have to be 'up' and healthy. To confirm the status of the Advanced Queues in EM, do the following:

- 1. Click on Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Repository
- 2. Expand the bottom section titled "Management Services AQ Status"

If system performance deviates from previously experienced levels, it is possible that the AQ have become fragmented. Refer to the MOS note on AQ performance tuning for further details: Performance Tuning Advanced Queuing Databases and Applications [102926.1].

Loader Subsystem

All the data collected by agents has to be loaded to the repository. The efficiency of this process can greatly impact the performance and health of your system overall. To monitor the loader process observe the % of hour runs and rows/second/thread. The % of hour run indicates whether the loader threads are keeping up with incoming data. A value of 100% indicates the system is backlogged and not keeping up, a lower value indicates your loader throughput is efficient. For additional details on loader metrics and throughput see the Sizing guide.

A loader backlog can cause delays in receiving critical information and notifications. It can also cause the Agent to stop collecting data once it reaches it maximum threshold, to avoid filling up the file system it's installed on. Backlogs can also cause poor console performance and OMS restarts if not resolved quickly.

Some of the key metrics to watch are:

- Overall Backoff Requests in the Last 10 Mins
- Overall Rows Processed by Loader in the Last Hour
- Overall Upload Backlog (files)
- Overall Upload Backlog (MB)
- Overall Upload Rate (MB/sec)

EM provides a graph showing the Upload Rate and the Upload Backlog as seen below. This graph is found by clicking on **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Health Overview**.

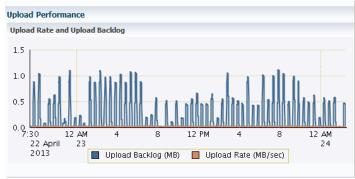


Figure 14: Upload Graph

Loader report

If an OMS is busy processing the uploaded XML files, it may send a backoff request to an agent, asking the agent to backoff sending the XML files for a specified period of time. EM provides a graph showing the overall backoff requests for a 24 hour period. A sample of this graph is shown below and can be found by clicking on **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Health Overview**.

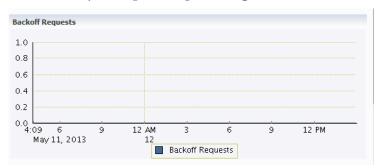


Figure 15: Backoff Requests Graph

EM also provides an out-of-the-box report showing loader statistics including the configured loader resource allocation, loader performance and the agent count broken down by agent priority level. The available values are None/Mission Critical/Production/Staging/Test/Development. This report is found under Enterprise / Reports / Information Publisher / Loader Statistics. If the Loader Performance (3 hours) chart shows a high number of backoff requests and there has not been a recent downtime, it is an indication that the OMS cannot keep up with the load from the agent. This report will also provide the priority level of the agents that can be used by the EMDIAG loader_health report as mentioned below.

EMDIAG also provides a report for the health of the loader subsystem. By using **repvfy dump loader_health** you can generate a report of loader health and statistics. The loader_health report will break down the backoff requests based on priority level (the lifecycle stages of the agent target) of the agents. It is important to watch for backoff requests for mission critical and production agents. If there are issues with these agents, contact Oracle Support for help in diagnosing the issue.

Notification Subsystem

The notification system controls all e-mail, ticket connectors and custom notification methods. For each event, the notification job checks to see if there's a required action and submits the task for processing. A backlog in notifications can cause a delay in alerts being sent, or a missing alert all together.

In the Console go to **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Health Overview**. Check the Notification Performance section for a notification backlog. A steady increase needs to be evaluated further using the guidelines below.



Figure 16: Notification Performance Graph

Select **OMS** and **Repository / Monitoring / All Metrics**. From here, validate Notification Status metric is Up.

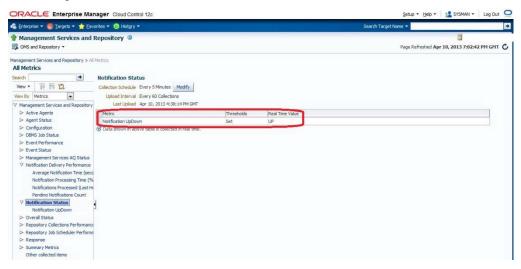


Figure 17: Notification Status

To determine if a specific notification queue is having a problem, select *Pending Notifications Count* metric as seen below.

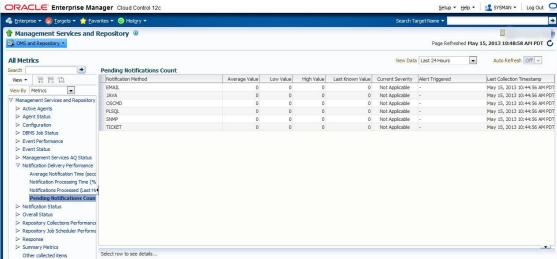


Figure 18: Pending Notification Count

There are 4 performance metrics for Notification delivery. By default, there are no Warning/Critical thresholds. Once you have your system running, evaluate the trend in these metrics and set a Warning/Critical threshold based on this baseline. The metrics below can be found by selecting **Setup** / **Health Overview**. Under the drop down list next to the OMS and Repository target, select **Monitoring / All Metrics / Notification Delivery Performance**

Average Notification Time (seconds) / Notification Processing Time (% of last hour) –

Average time for notification delivery and the total amount of processing time for notification delivery. If the average delivery time and notification processing time are both steadily increasing, you have a performance or capacity problem which will create a risk of not receiving notifications a timely manner. If the system is not experiencing a general performance problem, examine the notification queue detail to look for an issue with a specific queue. If a specific issue is not found, contact Oracle Support.

Notifications Processed (Last Hour) - The total number of notifications delivered by the Management Service over the previous 10 minutes. The metric is collected every 10 mins and no alerts will be generated. If the number of notifications processed is continually increasing over several days, consider adding another Management Service.

Pending Notifications Count - Notifications waiting to be delivered. If this number is continually increasing there is a notification backlog. Look at the view to determine which queue has an issue and use this to further diagnose the issue.

In addition, you can use the **repvfy dump notif_health** command to generate a detailed report to identify Notification statistics and backlogs.

Task Subsystem

EM provides a chart to display the backlog performance of the repository collections as seen in the example below. This chart can be found by clicking on **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Repository**. A steady increase in backlog indicates a problem that needs to be evaluated.



Figure 19: Repository Collections Graph

Many of the repository collection jobs are divided between short running tasks and long running tasks. Each EM environment should be configured with a minimum of 2 short running task workers and 2 long running task workers. The performance of these task workers can be monitored via the details in the Jobs Status chart above. The job names are Repository Metrics xx (where xx is a number). The lower numbers are the short running task workers and the higher numbers are the long running task workers. Look for any large spikes in processing time or throughput as this could indicate some occurrence that is generating more work for the repository (i.e. many server outages). If the throughput for these Repository Metric jobs is consistently high and the backlog is continuous or grows, then consider adding another task worker but keep the number of short and long task workers the same. To add a task worker, follow the commands below:

```
$ sqlplus /nolog

SQL> connect SYSMAN;

SQL> exec gc_diag2_ext.SetWorkerCounts(<number>);
```

The number can be 3 or 4 (the routine will not accept values larger than 4). If you need to go higher than 4, contact Oracle Support for further diagnostics.

To get a health report of the Task sub-system, run this EMDIAG report:

```
$ repvfy dump task_health
```

If you suspect a performance problem with the tasks the workers are executing, execute the following EMDIAG tests to look for 'expensive' tasks:

```
$ repvfy verify repository -test 6013 (short running tasks)
$ repvfy verify repository -test 6014 (long running tasks)
```

If a 'rogue/expensive' task is found, it can be further debugged using the following EMDIAG commands:

```
$ repvfy send run_task -id <task id>
$ repvfy dump trace
```

EM Job System

The EM job system is crucial to Enterprise Manager's health. The majority of background processes and tasks are run via a series of jobs. Included in these jobs are loading metric data, calculating availability of composite targets, rollup and purge of metric data and notifications. This Job System is an OMS subsystem and includes a Job Scheduler and Job Workers. The Job Scheduler in turn consists of two components, the Job Step Scheduler and the Job Dispatcher. Each of these components are described in further detail below.

Job Step Scheduler – The Job Step Scheduler is a global component so there is only one per EM environment. It is scheduled to run by the DBMS Scheduler. The primary purpose of this component is to look for jobs that need to be executed. Make sure that this job is up. This can be seen by clicking on **Setup** / **Manage Cloud Control** / **Repository** and looking for the status of the *Job Step Scheduler* in the Repository Scheduler Jobs Status section as seen below:

DBMS Job Name	Status	Throughput	Processing Time (%) (Last Hour)	Next Scheduled Run	Last Scheduled Run	
EM General Purge Policies	•	0.00	0.00 🖋	May 16, 2013 4:00:00 AM PDT 🥪	May 15, 2013 4:00:00 AM PDT	
Feature Usage Statistics Collection	•	0.00	0.00	May 17, 2013 12:00:00 AM PDT 🤣	May 10, 2013 12:00:00 AM PDT	
Job Step Scheduler	•	0.00	0.00 🖋	May 15, 2013 1:16:53 PM PDT 🥔	May 15, 2013 1:14:53 PM PDT	
Job System Purge	4	0.00	0.00	May 16, 2013 5:00:00 AM PDT 🛷	May 15, 2013 5:00:00 AM PDT	

Figure 20: Job Step Scheduler

Job Dispatcher - The EM Job system also has a notion of a 'short' and 'long' job (execution time wise) and has separate worker pools in the OMS (not in the database as with the job workers) to handle those requests. The Job Dispatcher runs locally on each OMS and its purpose is to dispatch the jobs found by the Job Step Scheduler to the job workers. If the dispatcher cannot keep up with the work in the queue, a backlog is created. This is not a problem as long as the backlog is temporary. If it is not, then either the dispatcher is not able to keep up with the amount of work which could mean adding another OMS server or there is a problem with the job workers and they are not able to accept the work from the dispatcher (see the next section below for details on how to diagnose a job worker problem.

Job Workers – The Job Workers take work from the Job Dispatcher and send it to the appropriate agent and they also receive information from the agents. If Job Workers are always busy and never free, then capacity needs to be added either via another OMS server or by increasing the number of job workers and potentially increasing the number of db connections (each job worker takes a connection to the database). EM provides a way to tell if the Job Workers are keeping up with the dispatched work. If the amount of work the dispatcher is able to give to the job workers approaches zero, then the workers are not keeping up. To see this detail, follow the steps below depending on the version of EM:

In EM 12.1.0.2, to see the Job Worker detail for each OMS server, select **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Management Services**. Click on the OMS server (check for each OMS). Click on the drop down next to the Oracle Management Service in the top left and select **Monitoring / All Metrics**. Expand the Job Dispatcher Performance metric group. The five metrics starting with "Free threads for" are the metrics that will provide the details on the job workers. Click on each of these metrics. If the number for Last Known Value is getting close to zero then the job workers for that

pool are not able to keep up with the dispatcher. See screenshot below (note the High Value shown for this metric is the default):



Figure 21: Free Threads Metrics 12.1.0.2

In EM 12.1.0.3 (PS2), to see the Job Worker details for each OMS server, select **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Management Services**. Click on the OMS server (check for each OMS). On this page, there is a section called Job Dispatcher. In that table, the Configured Threads column is the number of threads configured for each thread pool. The Threads Available / Cycle is the number of threads that are waiting to take work from the dispatcher. See screenshot below (note the configured threads shown below are the defaults).

- If the number for Threads Available / Cycle is getting close to zero then it means the dispatcher CANNOT dispatch to ALL the workers in a timely fashion.
- If the dispatched steps per cycle is HIGH, there is a resource problem, and the environment
 could probably benefit from more worker threads however do not go beyond 'doubling' the
 size of the threads. If doubling the number of threads does not seem high enough, contact
 Oracle as it might be better to add an additional OMS.
- If the dispatched steps per cycle is LOW, but the number of available threads per cycls is also low, this typically means that either a thread is stuck, or is 'busy for too long'. If this persists, refer to the section "Omsvfy Commands" in the <u>Use of the emctl dump Options to Collect OMS Log Files [ID 1369918.1]</u> for steps on how to take a thread dump of the OMS processes. It is also possible to use EMDIAG for this information with this command:

\$ omsvfy snapshot oms

Job Dispatcher			φ.
Number of dis	patcher cycles/min 27		
Throughput (ste	ps dispatched/min) 0		
Dispa	tcher run time (%) 0.29		
Thread Pool	Configured Threads	Steps Dispatched/Cycle	Threads Available/Cycle
User (Short - Running)	25	0	25
User (Long - Running)	12	0	12
System (Critical)	25	0	25
System (Non - Critical)	10	0	10
Internal	10	0.1	10

Figure 22: Free Threads 12.1.0.3

Agent Health

The overall health of the environment can also be seen by the status of the Agents. The central view for all agents can be seen from **Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Agents**. From here you can evaluate agents that are blacked out, unreachable, pending or blocked.

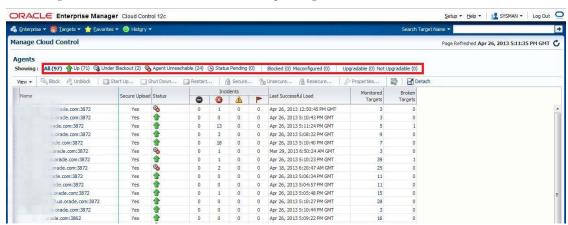


Figure 23: Manage Cloud Control Agents Page

This is a very powerful page for EM Administrators as you can issue various agent control commands from this page, including: startup, shutdown, block, unblock, restart, secure, unsecure. It is possible to edit agent properties (emd.properties file) or submit a job to edit properties for multiple agents at one time. For additional details on managing and configuring Agents, see Maintaining Cloud Control in the Oracle Enterprise Manager Cloud Control Administrator's Guide.

A significant percentage of agents down or not responding indicates an unhealthy environment and a lack of proper monitoring. The goal is to have 100% agent availability. Spot check the agent health daily watching for a significant increase in the percentage of problem agents and checking the alerts for the problem agents, correcting those that are creating issues (pinging, etc). On a bi-weekly basis, take the time to fix those agents that have shown problems for several days.

A large number of agents in the "Agent Unreachable", "Status Pending" and/or "Blocked/Misconfigured" status indicate that these targets are not being properly monitored/managed. Click on the status type in the summary line with the most problematic agents to get a list of these agents and begin diagnosing to resolve the issues. Basic agent troubleshooting steps to be followed:

Table 6: AGENT TROUBLESHOOTING

CHECK	NOTES
Host Up	Check to verify if the host is up.
	If not, is the host still valid? Many times hosts are decommissioned but
	not removed from monitoring.
Agent Up	Check to verify if the agent is up: emctl status agent
	Start agent if necessary
Agent Uploading	In the emctl status agent, check for messages about heartbeat/upload.
	Attempt upload with emctl upload
OMS Reachable	Ping the oms from the agent, and agent from the OMS, ensure ports
	are not blocked by firewalls
Check Logs	\$EMSTATE/agent_inst/sysman/log/ (Ex:
	/u01/app/oracle/em/agent_inst/sysman/log)
	 gcagent.log – contains trace, debug, information, error or warning messages from the agent.
	gcagent_skd.trc – logging about fetchlets and receivelets
	 gcagent_mdu.log – tracks the metadata updates to the agent
	emctl.log – information from the execution of the emctl commands
Agent Dump	If the agent is still not uploading or reachable, run a target and
	availability dump on the agent target from repvfy.
	Repvfy dump target –name <agent:port></agent:port>
	Repvfy dump availability –name <agent:port></agent:port>

REPVFY can also be used to get an overview of agent health by running a **repvfy dump agent_health** report. The command will provide details about the agent such as agent ping statistics, agent down statistics and system errors.

Events and Incidents

It is also necessary to review Critical or Warning errors which could indicate an underlying issue and lead to an outage. Also, large amounts of alerts cause a performance impact on the EM system. Metric errors indicate that data is not being collected or monitored properly, and these should be resolved to have an accurate picture of the current system status. For detailed look at using Incident

Manager see the <u>Oracle Enterprise Manager 12c Cloud Control Administrator's Guide</u>. Below is a list of some of the places to check for events and/or incidents.

 OMS and Repository Events and Incidents – Click on Setup / Manage Cloud Control / Health Overview. Then from the target menu select OMS and Repository / Monitoring / Incident Manager. This will filter the events and incidents to those related to the OMS and Repository targets. The default view is All open incidents.

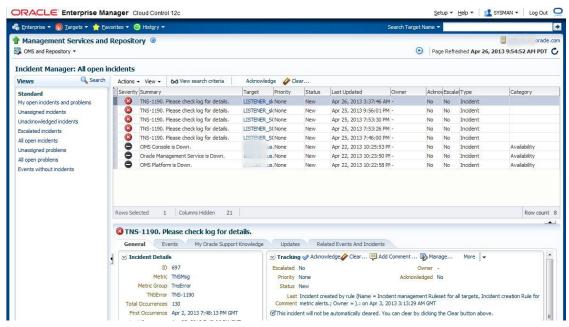


Figure 24: Open Incidents Page

Click on Events without incidents to see additional events. Depending on your incident rules, you may not be receiving an incident for each event.. For details on how to create the recommended rule set to ensure notifications are sent to the EM administrator, refer to <u>Oracle Enterprise Manager 12c Configuration Best Practices [1553342.1]</u>.

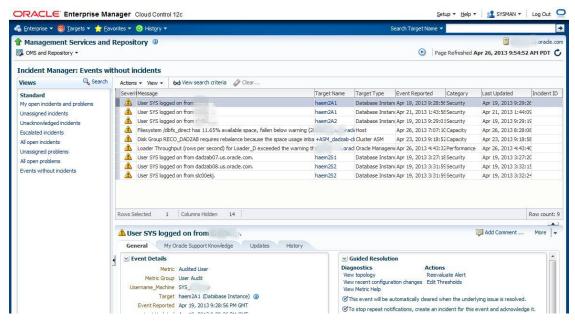


Figure 25: Open Events Page

Clicking on an individual message will provide more details for that particular alert. Look for repeating messages and address these first. Some alerts must be manually closed, such as TNS errors or alert log errors. These will have an additional action of Close as seen below. Clearing these errors regularly helps maintain a clean environment. This can also be done with the EM CLI utility using the clear_stateless_alerts flag.



Figure 26: Event Detail

• Note: You may see BEA-337 [WebLogicServer] errors coming from WebLogic Server. By default WLS will ping applications and wait for a response for up to 600 seconds. EM will keep threads running as long as there is work in the queue so they will not respond to a heartbeat, causing WLS to timeout and error. To work around this, increase the stuck thread timeout in the Admin server. This is done by logging onto the WLS Admin server. Click on Environment in the top right side menu and expand Servers. For each server, click on the server name and then on the Tuning tab on in the middle window. Change the value for Stuck Thread Max Time to 1800. Save and activate the change. This will require a restart of the OMS server.



Figure 27: Timeout Error

- 2. Target Incidents Click on Enterprise / Monitoring / Incident Manager. The list of incidents can be sorted by clicking on the column heading. To find the highest number of repeating error messages to address first, click on the Summary column to sort by error message.
- 3. System Errors EM 12c provides a system error log page. This page details the errors found on the repository and/or the management services. The URL to this page is http://your_em_link/em/console/health/healthSystemError. This page will provide information such as the component type, the agent monitoring that component, date and time of the error, level, and the error message text. It is used for advanced fault research and should only need to be reviewed to help resolve a problem that has not been resolved through any of the other event and incident management tools. It is best to work with Oracle Support for help in resolving these issues.

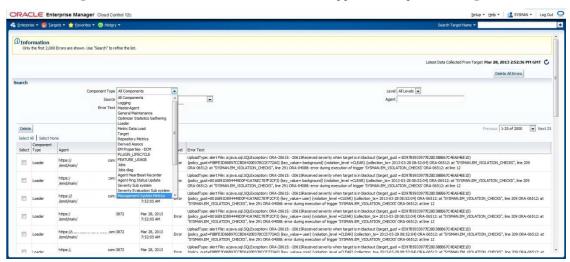


Figure 28: Health System Error Page

Log & Trace Files

As part of diagnosing problems with the different EM components, it is important to review the log and trace files for these components. The table below details the standard

location for log and trace files broken down by the different components. For more details on managing log files, refer to <u>Oracle Enterprise Manager 12c Cloud Control</u> <u>Administrator's Guide</u>.

Table 7: LOG/TRACE FILES

EM COMPONENT	LOG FILES	TRACE FILES
Oracle Management Agent	\$EMSTATE/sysman/log ("emctl getemhome" will return the location for \$EMSTATE) Ex: /u01/app/oracle/em/agent_inst/sysman/log	\$EMSTATE/diag/ofm/emagent/emagent/trace
Oracle Management Service	\$MWARE/gc_inst/em/ <omsname>/sysman/log (where \$MWARE is the middleware home and OMSNAME is the name of the oms instance ex: EMGC_OMS1)</omsname>	\$MWARE/gc_inst/em/ <omsname>/sysman/log (where \$MWARE is the middleware home and OMSNAME is the name of the oms instance ex: EMGC_OMS1)</omsname>
Oracle HTTP Server (OHS)	<pre><em_instance_base>/<webtier_instance_name>/diagn ostics/logs/OHS/<ohs_name> Ex: /u01/app/oracle/MWare/gc_inst/WebTierIH1/diagnostics/log s/OHS/ohs1</ohs_name></webtier_instance_name></em_instance_base></pre>	
OPMN	<pre><em_instance_base>/<webtier_instance_name>/diagn ostics/logs/OPMN/<opmn_name> Ex: /u01/app/oracle/MWare/gc_inst/WebTierIH1/diagnostics/log s/OPMN/opmn</opmn_name></webtier_instance_name></em_instance_base></pre>	
Oracle WebLogic	<pre><em_instance_base>/user_projects/domains/<domain_ name="">/servers/<server_name>/logs/<server_name>.log Ex: /u01/app/oracle/MWare/gc_inst/user_projects/domains/GCD omain/servers/EMGC_OMS1/logs</server_name></server_name></domain_></em_instance_base></pre>	

Incident Files

OMS Incident Files

Any errors in these log files indicate product defects (bugs). Open an SR with Oracle Support for these issues. There are two different locations for the Automatic Diagnostic Repository (ADR) incidents created on the OMS servers. These are as follows:

WebLogic Server incidents:

<EM_INSTANCE_BASE>/user_projects/domains/<domain_name>/servers/<SERVER_NAME >/adr/diag/ofm/EMGC_DOMAIN/EMOMS/incident

 $/u01/app/oracle/MWare/gc_inst/user_projects/domains/GCDomain/servers/EMGC_OMS1/adr/diag/ofm/EMGC_DOMAIN/EMOMS/incident$

EMS incidents:

<EM_INSTANCE_BASE>/user_projects/domains/<domain_name>/servers/<SERVER_NAME >/adr/diag/ofm/<domain_name>/<SERVER_NAME>/incident Ex:

 $/u01/app/oracle/MWare/gc_inst/user_projects/domains/GCDomain/servers/EMGC_OMS1/adr/diag/ofm/GCDomain/EMGC_OMS1/incident$

Agent Incident Files

The ADR incidents created for the Agent are found here: \$EMSTATE/diag/ofm/emagent/emagent/incident Ex:

/u01/app/oracle/em/agent_inst/diag/ofm/emagent/emagent/incident
NOTE: For more details on gathering incident information, refer to 12c Cloud Control: How to Invoke ADR
Command Interpreter (adrci) in OMS or Agent Home? [1512905.1]

Troubleshooting

The following are high-level process flows for troubleshooting various issues with Enterprise Manager.

Table 8: TROUBLESHOOTING

ISSUE	COMPONENT
Performance	Run repvfy execute optimize (for further details on this repvfy command, refer to ORACLE ENTERPRISE MANAGER 12C CONFIGURATION BEST PRACTICES [1553342.1])
	2. Evaluate DB Performance, locks, waits, etc.
	3. Look for ADDM recommendations
	4. Validate SYSMAN statistics
	5. Run repvfy dump performance
	6. Run repvfy dump errors
Jobs	Check <u>DBMS_SCHEDULER</u> Status
	2. Check value of JOB_QUEUE_PROCESSES
	Run repvfy dump job_health
	4. Check for errors relating to a specific job failure (see MOS note 744645.1 to identify the job)
	5. Refer to MOS notes <u>783357.1</u> and <u>1520580.1</u> for further help in diagnosing an issue with Jobs
Notifications – if a	Check event/incident details to see if Notification was triggered
notification is	Check EM Jobs Service – Notification Job
missing or late	Run repvfy dump notif_health
Events – missing	Check for loader backlog (repvfy dump loader_health)
event or incident	2. Check agent status (not blocked, uploading?)
	Check target thresholds
	Check incident rules
OMS Availability –	Verify that the repository database and listener are up
see MOS note	2. Verify that the sysman, sysman_opss, sysman_mds user accounts in the repository database are
1432335.1 for	open
details on OMS Process Control	3. Check log files (see MOS note 1448308.1)
	 emctl - <em_instance_base>/em/EMGC_OMSn/sysman/log</em_instance_base>
	OPMN - <em_instance_base>/WebTierIH1/diagnostics/logs/OPMN/opmn</em_instance_base>
	HTTP_SERVER - <em_instance_base>/WebTierlH1/diagnostics/logs/OHS/ohs1</em_instance_base>
	EM Node Manager - <em_instance_base>/NodeManager/emnodemanager</em_instance_base>
	Admin Server -

<EM_INSTANCE_BASE>/user_projects/domains/GCDomain/servers/EMGC_ADMINSERVE R/logs

- EM Managed Server
 <EM_INSTANCE_BASE>/user_projects/domains/GCDomain/servers/EMGC_OMS1/logs
- For diagnosing issues with connectivity between OMS and the Repository, refer to MOS note: 1448007.1

Target Availability

- 1. Check gcagent.log for ERROR messages
- 2. Run repvfy dump target
- 3. Run repvfy dump availability

Conclusion

As an environment grows for any enterprise, the dependency on Oracle Enterprise Manager 12c to help monitoring and administer the environment becomes very important. This also means that the EM environment itself must be supported, maintained and treated as highly available as the most highly available target it manages. Therefore, this means that EM must be properly configured, monitored, maintained and high performing to provide the daily monitoring and administration capabilities that an enterprise requires to maintain their environment.



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Hardware and Software, Engineered to Work Together