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*Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.*

# **ArcSDE 9.1 SP1 and SQL Server 2005 MSCS Active/Passive Cluster Configuration**

## **Systems Integration Test Report**

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## Test Objective

The objective is to document a working configuration of ESRI’s Spatial Database Engine (ArcSDE) 9.1 sp1 and Microsoft’s SQL Server 2005 Enterprise Edition, in an Active/Passive Microsoft Cluster Server (MSCS) configuration. This is in support of an ArcSDE high-availability configuration, which is required for many GIS environments. This report is not all-inclusive and is intended for technical engineers experienced with ArcSDE, SQL Server 2005, and MSCS clusters.

## Test Hardware and Software Configuration

The MSCS test cluster was located in ESRI’s Enterprise Systems Lab (ESL) and consisted of two INLINE Intel-based servers, each running Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition. Each cluster node was configured with dual Gigabit network interface cards (NIC). One NIC was dedicated to client network communications while the other was dedicated to real-time cluster monitoring (i.e., heartbeat). The SQL05 Group virtual IP address and virtual server name, which are used by client application connections, are “moved” via the MSCS software from one cluster node to the other during a failover event. Four public IP addresses are required for an Active/Passive MSCS/SQL Server cluster configuration; two for the physical nodes, one for the Cluster Group name, and one for the SQL05 Group virtual server. Also, two private IP addresses are required for private network communications between the two nodes. Table 1 below contains the ESL cluster configuration.

**Table 1  
Cluster Server Configuration**

Configuration Item	Configuration
Manufacturer	<a href="#">INLINE Corporation</a>
Operating System & Version	Windows Server 2003 Enterprise Edition
Number of CPUs & Type	2 x 3.2 GHz Intel Xeon
Memory (GB)	2
Node Names	ESLINLINE1 & ESLINLINE2
Network Access	Dual Gigabit NICs One set for Public network and one set for Private network
Shared Quorum Disk (Q:)	INLINE TF480 direct attached fiber channel disk array with LUN on two 146 GB 10K RPM SCSI drives (RAID-1)
Shared Data Disk (G:)	INLINE TF480 direct attached fiber channel disk array with LUN on two 146 GB 10K RPM SCSI drives (RAID-1)
Software	ArcSDE 9.1 sp1 SQL Server 2005, Standard Edition

## MSCS Cluster Installation and Configuration

The first part of the overall installation process is to install and configure the cluster software. For this test report the [single quorum device cluster model](#) was implemented. The cluster installation was performed using the following on-line Microsoft documentation.

- [Planning and Preparing for cluster installation](#)
- [Checklist: Planning and creating a server cluster](#)
- [Checklist: Validating your clustering system](#)

Following the completion of the MSCS installation, two cluster groups existed. The first group was the Cluster Group and it contained the default cluster resources (see Table 2). Though this group is required for the cluster, it is not used for the SQL Server and ArcSDE configuration. The second group was for the shared G: disk. To support the SQL Server and ArcSDE cluster resources, a new group was created, named "SQL Group," and the G: disk was moved into it. The empty default disk groups were then removed. Table 3 contains the SQL Group prior to the SQL Server and ArcSDE installation.

**Table 2**  
**Cluster Group Resources**

Resource Name	Notes
Quorum Disk (Q:)	Quorum disk used to manage cluster between nodes
Cluster Name	Default virtual server name (not used for SQL connections)
Cluster IP Address	Default virtual server IP address (not used for SQL connections)

**Table 3**  
**SQL Group Resources**

Resource Name	Notes
Data and Log Disk (G:)	Shared disk used to store database data and log files

## SQL Server Cluster Installation and Configuration

The clustered SQL Server installation was performed on the SQL Group using the following on-line Microsoft documentation.

- How to: Create a New SQL Server 2005 Failover Cluster (Setup)  
<http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms179530.aspx>

Following the SQL Server 2005 cluster setup procedure, the SQL Group was automatically populated with the necessary SQL Server resources. The name 'SQL05' was used because there was an existing SQL instance running in the environment. The complete SQL05 Group contained the resources listed in Table 4. The SQL IP address and Network name are referenced to the virtual server name that was assigned when setting up the cluster configuration. The additional SQL05 group components reference the database instance name that was used when installing SQL Server 2005. (Please see step #12 of the 'How to: Create a New SQL Server 2005 Failover Cluster' for explanation)

**Table 4**  
**Modified SQL Group Resources**

Resource Name	Notes
Data Disk (G:)	Shared disk used to store database data and log files
SQL IP Address(ESLSQL05)	SQL virtual server IP address
SQL Network Name(ESLSQL05)	SQL virtual server name (i.e., the “datasource”)
SQL Server(ESL)	SQL Server instance
SQL Server Agent(ESL)	SQL Server Agent instance
SQL Server Fulltext(ESL)	Microsoft Search Service Instance

## ArcSDE Cluster Installation and Configuration

To perform an ArcSDE clustered installation the software should be installed on the system disk of each node. The ArcSDE data and log files should be installed on the SQL Server shared disk.

The following steps identify the ArcSDE installation and configuration procedure. The ArcSDE commands assume the default ArcSDE instance name of “esri\_sde”. If a different instance name is used, be sure to include the “-i <instance>” parameter to reflect the configured instance name.

### Primary Node ArcSDE Installation Steps

1. Ensure that the SQL Group is on the primary node and install ArcSDE using standard installation procedures. For the Post Installation Setup two configurations must be performed:
  - For the SQL Server Instance name specify the SQL Server virtual server name. This should be the name that was identified during the SQL Server installation.
  - Choose the shared SQL Server disk for the data and log files. For this test we specified the G: drive.
2. After the post installation is completed, you will then need to delete and re-create the ArcSDE service. The default ArcSDE service will not work properly in a clustered environment. This is because by default, the service contains an RDBMS dependency. In a cluster environment, the cluster software manages the services and their dependencies and therefore it is necessary to delete the default ArcSDE service by issuing the following ArcSDE command. Prior to issuing the command, stop the ArcSDE service if running.

```
sdeservice -o delete -i <service>
```

3. Manually recreate the ArcSDE service without the database dependency. Be sure to use the SQL Server virtual server name for the ‘SQLSERVERINSTANCE’ parameter and the “-n” argument at end of syntax, which creates the service without a dependency.

```
sdeservice -o create -d <SQLSERVER,VIRTUAL SERVER NAME> -i <instance> -p <sde_Password> -n
```

4. Then you will need to register the database with the service. The purpose of this step is to tell the ArcSDE service the location of the metadata tables.

```
sdeservice -o register -r ADMIN_DATABASE -v <database_name> -d SQLSERVER -p <SDE_Password> -l <instance>
```

5. Prior to continuing with the secondary node installation, ensure that the ArcSDE service starts on the primary node. Once that has been verified, stop the ArcSDE service. You must stop the ArcSDE service on the primary node to allow the SQL Group to be moved to the secondary node, which is the first step of the secondary node installation process.

**Secondary Node ArcSDE Installation Steps**

1. Use the Cluster Administrator to move the SQL Group to the secondary node. Wait for this to complete before continuing.
2. Repeat steps 1 – 4 on the second node.
3. Prior to continuing the ArcSDE service in the cluster, ensure that the ArcSDE service starts on the secondary node. Once that has been verified, stop the ArcSDE service.

The MSCS and SQL Server 2005 installation creates all required SQL Server clustered Instance resources. However, following the ArcSDE installation, it is necessary to manually add the ArcSDE service as a resource to the SQL05 Group. This is done via the Cluster Administrator by choosing to add a new resource. Table 5 lists the required parameter settings when adding the ArcSDE resource to the SQL05 Group. It is important to note that improper configuration of the dependencies can result in cluster failover performance degradation, or even cluster failure.

**Table 5  
ArcSDE Cluster Resource Parameters**

<b>Resource Parameter</b>	<b>Setting</b>
Name	ArcSDE Service
Description	ArcSDE Service
Resource Type	Generic Service
Possible Owners	ESLINLINE1 & ESLINLINE2
Dependencies	SQL Server Agent
Service Name	esri_sql05
All Other Settings	Defaults*

By default, the ArcSDE service name is set to “ArcSDE Service(*instance name*)”. However, the service name to use when configuring the new resource is actually what is contained only within the parenthesis, which in this case is the default instance name of esri\_sde. Attempting to use the entire name during the resource configuration will result in a cluster resource configuration error. Once the ArcSDE resource has been successfully added to the SQL Group, bring the resource online via the Cluster Administrator. This will start the ArcSDE service on the node that currently controls the SQL Group.

\* If an ArcSDE client application such as ArcIMS is going to be running on the cluster, it will be necessary to “check” the “Use Network Name for Computer Name” box located on the parameters tab of the “ArcSDE Service” resource properties. If this box is unchecked, ArcSDE applications running on the cluster may not be able to connect to ArcSDE when both services are running on the same node (following a failover event, for example). This behavior is described in the following Microsoft TechNet article:

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;EN-US;q198893>

## License Manager Installation and Configuration

Although ArcSDE 9.x no longer uses FlexLM, there may be instances where it would be appropriate to install the license manager (LM) on clustered nodes to support ArcGIS Desktop clients. Previous test with Windows 2000 Advance Server indicated that the LM could not be integrated within the cluster software. However, testing with Windows Server 2003 proved that the LM can be integrated successfully into a cluster configuration. The LM was able to failover to the secondary node and fail back to the primary node. The install procedure for installing the LM is the same as a non-cluster system. The following steps show the install and cluster configuration procedure for the 8.x and 9.x LM:

1. Install the LM on the primary and secondary nodes using standard installation procedures. Using Windows "Services" set the LM service "startup type" to manual on both nodes.
2. To integrate the LM with MS Cluster, create a new cluster resource within the SQL Server group and configure as a "Generic Service."
3. On the ArcGIS Desktop client machines the license file variable needs to be configured to the SQL Server virtual server name (VSN). For ArcGIS 8.x, set `ESRI_LICENSE_FILE` to `27005@<SQL Server VSN>`. For ArcGIS 9.x, set `ARCGIS_LICENSE_FILE` to `27004@<SQL Server VSN>` or use the Desktop Administrator to point the LM to the "SQL Server VSN."

## Cluster Testing and Validation

Clients connecting to SQL Server should use the SQL Server virtual server name, or ESLSQL05 in this case. ArcSDE connection requests will be routed to the cluster node that currently controls the SQL Group. In the event of failover, the SQL Server virtual server name and associated group resources will "move" from the failed node to the surviving node. During failover, the client application will lose its connection to the ArcSDE server and it will be necessary to reconnect to the ArcSDE cluster once failover has completed.

Cluster testing was performed using ArcMap 9.1 sp1 to validate the configuration. Cluster failover was successfully executed in both directions. That is, from the primary node to the secondary node, and from the secondary node to the primary node. Upon a cluster node failure, the Cluster Administrator detected the failure and moved the Cluster Group and SQL Group to the surviving node. The client application, ArcCatalog, was then able to reconnect to the surviving node via the SQL Server virtual server name. The failover time, which is the time required for the client to reconnect and begin processing data, was 18 seconds. This is in the context of a read-only environment and therefore does not include any database rollback time that may exist in an editing environment during a failover.

## Conclusions

Testing verified that ArcSDE 9.1 sp1 and Microsoft SQL Server 2005, Standard Edition could be successfully integrated and utilized in a MSCS configuration.

## Configuration Support

It is important to realize that for enterprise configurations such as the one described in this paper, ESRI Support will typically be limited to supporting only the ESRI software components (ArcIMS, ArcSDE, etc.). ESRI Support strives to provide the best assistance possible, but problems or questions regarding third-party applications and components may require you to contact the support services provided by the respective vendor.

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