

ORA-09968, ORA-01102 When Starting a Database [ID 467251.1]

Applies to:

Oracle Server - Enterprise Edition - Version: 8.1.7.4 to 11.2.0.3 - Release: 8.1.7 to 11.2

Information in this document applies to any platform.

Checked for relevance on 18-Nov-2011

Symptoms

When trying to startup a database on an UNIX server having more than one database we receive errors similar to -

```
sculkget: failed to lock /usr/local/oracle/product/10.2.0/dbs/lkISODDEV exclusive
sculkget: lock held by PID: xxxx
ORA-09968: unable to lock file
SVR4 Error: 11: Resource temporarily unavailable
Additional information: xxxx
ORA-1102 signalled during: ALTER DATABASE MOUNT...
```

eg: We have two databases ISODTEST & ISODDEV, starting any of these errors out if the other one is already started. If one is shutdown, the other database can be started successfully.

When starting the database other than the already started one errors out with the same error message and shows that the same lkISODDEV file is being tried to be locked.

Changes

It is interesting to see that both the databases while starting up, are trying to lock the same file lkISODDEV as can be seen from the error messages in the alert logs for both the databases.

Cause

The parameter files for these two databases have the same entries for control_files and db_name like

```
...
*.control_files='xx/control01.ctl','xx/control02.ctl','xx/control03.ctl'
*.db_name=ISODDEV
...
```

When the database is started using any of the pfiles the database being started is ISODDEV which locks the file lklSODDEV. That is the reason why the other database on starting up looks for the same file and can't lock and errors out with

ORA-09968: unable to lock file.

Solution

Change the parameter file to have the correct entries for the control_files and db_name belonging to the individual databases.

Both the databases can now be started without the above errors.