

## Working with Apache Hive metastore

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# HMS table storage

You need to understand how the Hive metastore (HMS) stores Hive tables when you run a CREATE TABLE statement or migrate a table to Cloudera Data Platform. The success or failure of the statement, the resulting table type, and the table location depends on a number of factors.

## HMS table transformations

The HMS includes the following Hive metadata about tables that you create:

- A table definition
- Column names
- Data types
- Comments in a central schema repository

When you use the EXTERNAL keyword in the CREATE TABLE statement, HMS stores the table as an external table. When you omit the EXTERNAL keyword and create a managed table, or ingest a managed table, HMS might translate the table into an external table or the table creation can fail, depending on the table properties. An important table property that affects table transformations is the ACID or Non-ACID table type:

### Non-ACID

Table properties do not contain any ACID related properties set to true. For example, the table does not contain such properties transactional=true or insert\_only=true.

### ACID

Table properties do contain one or more ACID properties set to true.

### Full ACID

Table properties contain transactional=true but not insert\_only=true

### Insert-only ACID

Table properties contain insert\_only=true.

The following matrix shows the table type and whether or not the location property is supported.

ACID	Managed	Location Property	Comments	Action
Non-ACID	Yes	Yes	Migrated to CDP, for example from an HDP or CDH cluster.	Table stored as external
Non-ACID	Yes	No	Table location is null	Table stored in subdirectory of external warehouse*

\* metastore.warehouse.external.dir

HMS detects type of client for interacting with HMS, for example Hive or Spark, and compares the capabilities of the client with the table requirement. HMS performs the following actions, depending on the results of the comparison:

Table requirement	Client meets requirements	Managed Table	ACID table type	Action
Client can write to any type of ACID table	No	Yes	Yes	CREATE TABLE fails
Client can write to full ACID table	No	Yes	insert_only=true	CREATE TABLE fails
Client can write to insert-only ACID table	No	Yes	insert_only=true	CREATE TABLE fails

If, for example, a Spark client does not have the capabilities required, the following type of error message appears:

```
Spark has no access to table `mytable`. Clients can access this table only if
they have the following capabilities: CONNECTORREAD,HIVEFULLACIDREAD, HIVE
FULLACIDWRITE,
HIVEMANAGESTATS, HIVECACHEINVALIDATE, . . .
```

## Configuring HMS for high availability

To provide failover to a secondary Hive metastore if your primary instance goes down, you need to know how to add a Metastore role in Cloudera Manager and configure a property.

### About this task

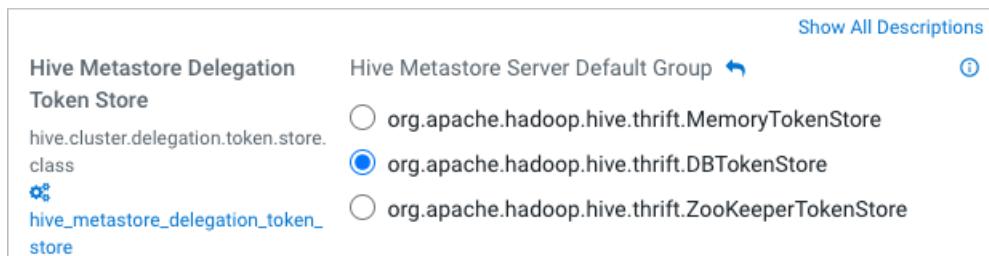
Multiple HMS instances run in active/active mode. Load balancing is done at the Hive client side (like HiveServer or Spark) as the HMS client picks an HMS instance randomly. By default, the `hive.metastore.uri.selection` property is set to `RANDOM`. If that HMS instance is down, then the client randomly picks another instance from the list of HMS instances specified through the `hive.metastore.uris` property.

### Before you begin

Minimum Required Role: Configurator (also provided by Cluster Administrator, Full Administrator)

### Procedure

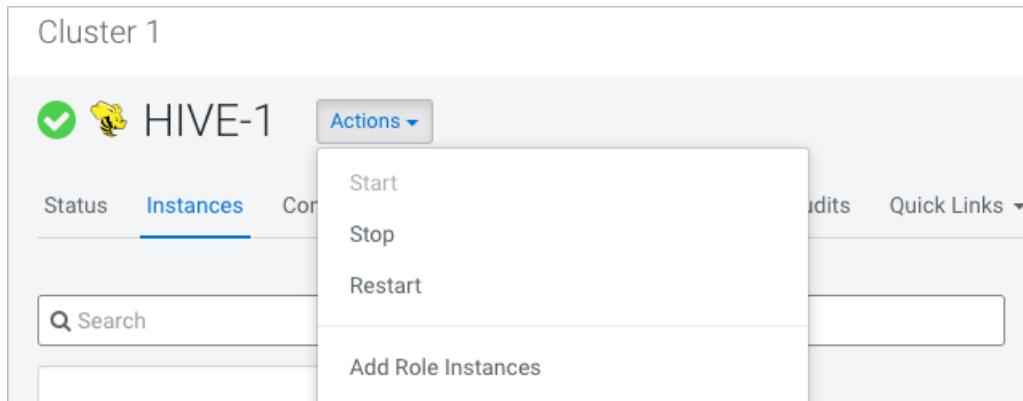
1. In Cloudera Manager, click Clusters Hive Configuration .
2. Take one of the following actions:
  - If you have a cluster secured by Kerberos, search for Hive Delegation Token Store, which specifies storage for the Kerberos token as described below.
  - If you have an unsecured cluster, skip the next step.
3. Select `org.apache.hadoop.hive.thrift.DBTokenStore`, and save the change.



The screenshot shows a configuration dialog for the 'Hive Metastore Delegation Token Store'. The 'hive.cluster.delegation.token.store.class' property is set to 'org.apache.hadoop.hive.thrift.DBTokenStore', which is highlighted with a blue selection circle. Other options shown are 'org.apache.hadoop.hive.thrift.MemoryTokenStore' and 'org.apache.hadoop.hive.thrift.ZooKeeperTokenStore'. A 'Show All Descriptions' link is visible at the top right of the dialog.

Storage for the Kerberos delegation token is defined by the `hive.cluster.delegation.token.store.class` property. The available choices are Zookeeper, the Metastore, and memory. Cloudera recommends using the database by setting the `org.apache.hadoop.hive.thrift.DBTokenStore` property.

4. Click Instances Actions Add Role Instances



5. In Assign Roles, in Metastore Server, click Select Hosts.
6. In Hosts Selected, scroll and select the host that you want to serve as the backup Metastore, and click OK.
7. Click Continue until you exit the wizard.
8. Start the Metastore role on the host from the Actions menu.  
The `hive.metastore.uris` property is updated automatically. To verify, go to `/etc/hive/config` directory in your cluster node and look for the updated property in the `hive-site.xml` file.
9. To check or to change the `hive.metastore.uri.selection` property, go to Clusters Hive Configurations in Cloudera Manager, and search for 'Hive Service Advanced Configuration Snippet (Safety Valve) for `hive-site.xml`'.
10. Add the property and value (SEQUENTIAL or RANDOM).

**Related Information**

[Custom Configuration \(about Cloudera Manager Safety Valve\)](#)