

Oracle10g New Features By Example V2.1

Oracle10g New Features By Example

SkillBuilders, Inc. 24 Salt Pond Road, Unit C-4 South Kingstown, RI 02880 www.skillbuilders.com knowledge@skillbuilders.com

Author: David G. Anderson

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A practical introduction to new and improved features related to Oracle 10g Backup and Recovery.

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Updated

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Lesson Objectives

- > Flash Recovery Area
- > Flashback Database
- Restore Points
- Simplified Recovery through RESETLOGS
- ➤ Compressed Backups
- ➤ Change Tracking

- Incrementally Updated Image Copies
- > SWITCH DATABASE
- ➤ New V\$ Views
- Encrypted Backups
- > CATALOG Command
- DROP DATABASE Command
- Miscellaneous New Features

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Flash Recovery Area: Concepts

- Storage area for all recovery-related files
 - > Redo logs , Archive logs
 - > Control file backups
 - > RMAN backups
 - > Flashback logs
- Optional, but Oracle recommends
 - Required for Flashback Database and Guaranteed Restore Points
- Use file system or ASM
- > Put on separate disks from datafile and log disks

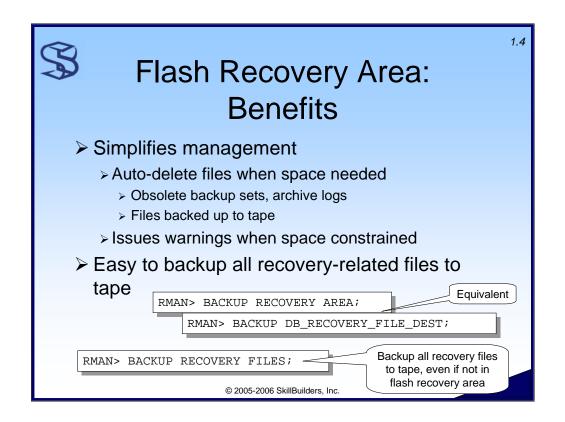
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The Flash Recovery Area, introduced with Oracle 10g Release 1, is an optional (but recommended) storage area for many types of recovery-related files. In addition to redo logs, archive logs, RMAN backupsets, this includes flashback logs, required for the FLASHBACK DATABASE statement. You will learn more about flashback logs and the FLASHBACK DATABASE statement later in this course.

The flash recovery area is optional. However, it is required for the 10g features Flashback Database and Guaranteed Restore Points, discussed in more detail later in this lesson.

The flash recovery area can be created on a OS file system or on Automated Storage Management (ASM) disks. ASM is the new integrated file and volume management system included in all editions of Oracle 10g. Refer to the *Automated Storage Management* lesson in this course for more information on ASM.

Whatever type of file system chosen, DBAs will want to create the flash recovery area on separate disks from the datafile and redo log disks. This will prevent the loss of both the primary database files and the backups (and flashback logs) if a disk fails.



The flash recovery area can simplify database management. For example, the database automatically deletes obsolete logs and backup sets when space is required, removing the need for the DBA to manage (e.g. clean-up) the disks containing these files. Recovery-related files become obsolete when they exceed the RMAN retention policy or have been backed up to tape. Refer to the next page to see the alert log error message issued if the flash recovery area begins to run out of space.

Another new RMAN command provides a convenient technique for backing up the recovery area to tape (tape is the mandatory destination for this command). This is accomplished with the "BACKUP RECOVERY AREA" command (BACKUP DB_RECOVERY_FILE_DEST is a synonym for BACKUP RECOVERY AREA). Files in the flash recovery area that are backed up to tape are retained on disk but are eligible for deletion if space becomes constrained. Refer to the BACKUP command in the **Oracle® Database Recovery Manager Reference 10g (Release 2)** for more information.

Oracle 10g RMAN also introduces the BACKUP RECOVERY FILES command. This command backups all disk-based recovery files to tape, whether they are in the flash recovery area or not.

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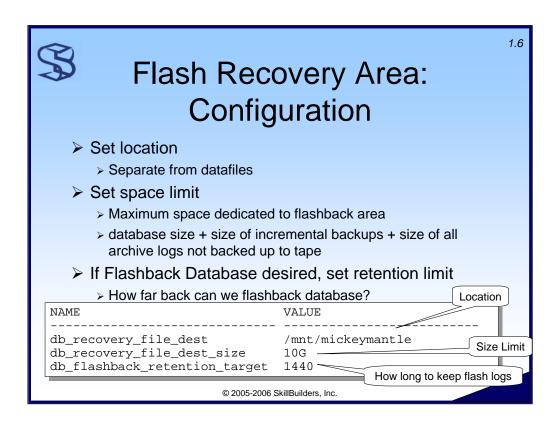
This is the alert log entry if you run short of space in the flash recovery area:

Errors in file /u01/app/oracle/admin/orcl/udump/orcl_ora_2723.trc:

ORA-19815: WARNING: db_recovery_file_dest_size of 2147483648 bytes is 92.12% used, and has 169270784 remaining bytes available.

You have the following choices to free up space from flash recovery area:

- 1. Consider changing your RMAN retention policy.
 - If you are using dataguard, then consider changing your RMAN archivelog deletion policy.
- 2. Backup files to tertiary device such as tape using the RMAN command BACKUP RECOVERY AREA.
- Add disk space and increase the db_recovery_file_ dest_size parameter to reflect the new space.
- 4. Delete unnecessary files using the RMAN DELETE command. If an OS command was used to delete files, then use RMAN CROSSCHECK and RMAN DELETE EXPIRED commands.

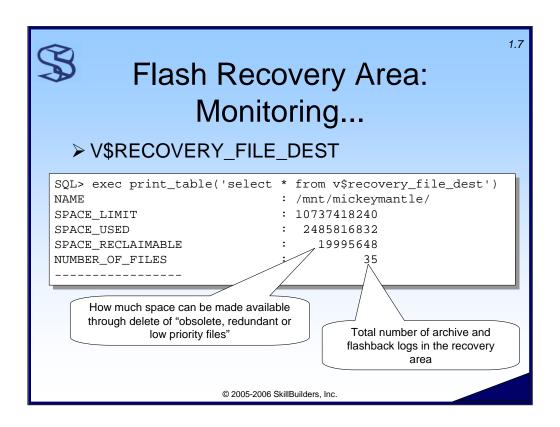


Set the location, space limit and retention limit (in minutes) for flashback logs (if flashback database capability is desired) when establishing the flash recovery area. Since this is a recovery-related area, keep this on separate disk devices from the database files.

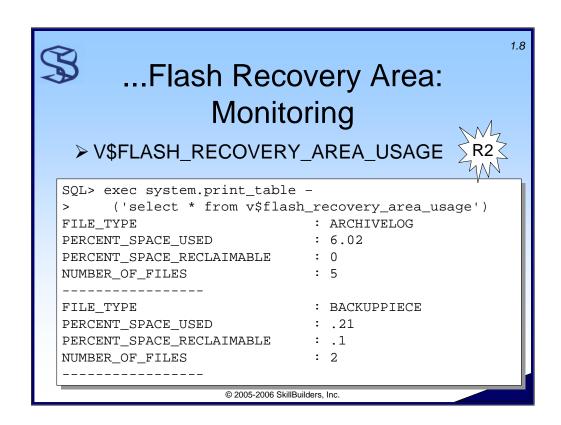
Refer to Section 3.2 of the Oracle Database Backup and Recovery Basics 10g Release 2 manual and Chapter 5 of the Oracle Database Backup and Recovery Advanced User's Guide 10g Release 2 for more information on configuring the Flash Recovery Area.

Supplemental Notes

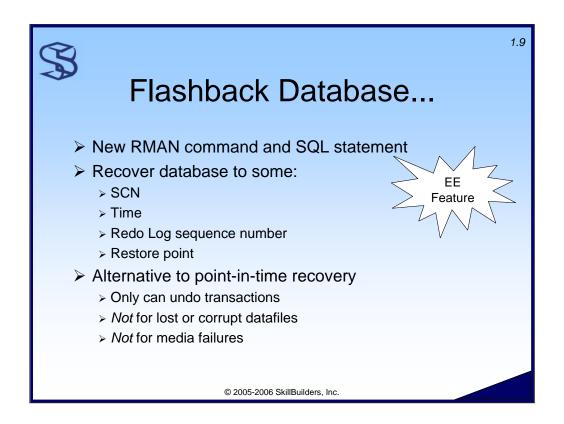
- 1. The Database Configuration Assistant supports the configuration of the Flash Recovery Area.
- 2. The LOG_ARCHIVE_START parameter is deprecated in Oracle10g.



A new view, V\$RECOVERY_FILE_DEST, is available to describe the current flash recovery area. Here we can quickly find space allocated, used and "reclaimable". Reclaimable space can be made available via the database deleting "obsolete, redundant or low priority files." Files become obsolete or redundant when they exceed the RMAN retention policy or have been backed up to tape.



Oracle10g Release 2 provides another dynamic performance view, V\$FLASH_RECOVERY_AREA_USAGE. This view records space used by file type, where the file type can be CONTROLFILE, ONLINELOG, ARCHIVELOG, BACKUPPIECE, IMAGECOPY, FLASHBACKLOG. The PERCENT_SPACE_USED is the percentage of the total space as reported by V\$RECOVERY_FILE_DEST.SPACE_USED.



Oracle 10g Release 1 (Enterprise Edition only) provides a new and easy alternative to using RMAN (or other methods) to perform a point-in-time (incomplete) recovery: Flashback Database. The FLASHBACK DATABASE statement is implemented as an SQL statement and an RMAN command. (The RMAN command provides more functionality, such as the ability to flashback database to a log sequence number.)

Flashback database is an alternative to point-in-time (incomplete) recovery. However, it cannot be used in cases of corrupt datafiles or media failure. The database must be in good working order for the FLASHBACK DATABASE statement to work.



...Flashback Database

- Versus traditional PIT recovery
 - > Easy to use
 - > Faster
 - > Restoring files unnecessary
 - > Can easily re-flashback more than once
- > FLASHBACK DATABASE statement uses
 - > Flashback logs
 - > Archived redo logs

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The benefits (versus traditional point-in-time recovery) include:

- > As I will demonstrate later in this lesson, it is easy to use.
- ➤ Restoring datafiles from backup sets or image copies is unnecessary. Therefore, recovery is faster than traditional point-in-time recovery.
- After you have flashed back the database you can query the database, confirm you like what you see, then use OPEN RESETLOGS to make the database generally available. If you do not like the point in time you have flashed back to, simply flash back again.

The flashback database operation uses a combination of flashback logs and archived redo logs to restore the database to the point requested. Next, we'll learn more about flashback logs.



Flashback Logs

- ➤ FLASHBACK DATABASE uses flashback logs
- Logs contain changed blocks
- > Automatic and ongoing creation of new logs
 - > Tune for best performance
 - > Undocumented parameters help?
- Written to Flash Recovery Area
- > Transactions dictate frequency / size of logs
- > Automatic deletion of obsolete logs

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Flashback logs are written to the flash recovery area if the database is configured for flashback database support. (We will see how to do that next.) The logs contain changed blocks. The flashback logs are different from redo logs and undo – they are a separate, optional recording of database activity.

The transaction rate on your database will have an affect on the performance of creating the logs and the number and size of the logs. Oracle says the overhead of enabling flashback database is "comparatively limited". Refer to chapter 5 of the **Oracle Database Backup and Recovery Basics** manual for tuning tips. I'll summarize them here:

- Use fast disks for the flash recovery area
- > Avoid file system caching. Use ASM if possible (refer to the *Automatic Storage Management* lesson of this course for more information on ASM).
- Use striped storage volumes, with a small (128k) stripe size (using ASM provides this).

Logs are automatically deleted when:

- > The flash recovery area becomes constrained (i.e. runs out of free space) and:
- ➤ The log is not needed for a recovery within the window specified in the DB_FLASHBACK_RETENTION_TARGET parameter.

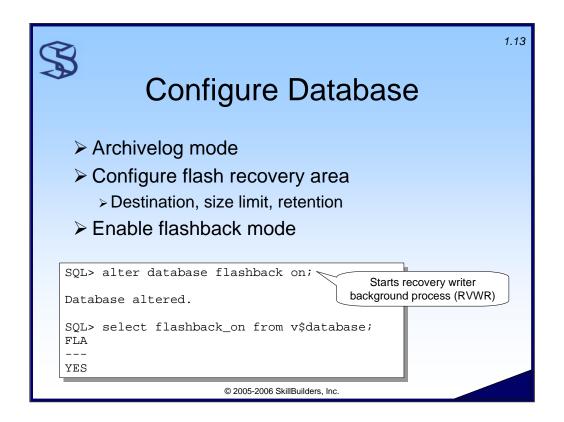
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There are a few undocumented flashback database-related parameters that could be investigated for additional control and tuning options. See the script **flashback_parameters_undocumented.sql** for the following code:

SYS@orcl> SELECT x\$ksppi.ksppinm, x\$ksppi.ksppdesc, x\$ksppcv.ksppstvl

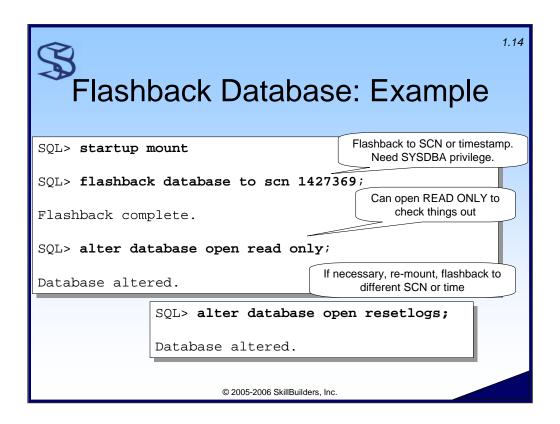
- 2 FROM x\$ksppi, x\$ksppcv
- 3 WHERE x\$ksppi.indx = x\$ksppcv.indx
- 4 and x\$ksppi.ksppinm like '/_%flashback%' escape '/'
- 5 order by 1;

KSPPINM	KSPPDESC	KSPPSTVL
_flashback_allow_noarchivelog	Allow enabling flashback on noarchivelog database	FALSE
_flashback_barrier_interval	Flashback barrier interval in seconds	1800
_flashback_copy_latches	Number of flashback copy latches	10
_flashback_fuzzy_barrier	Use flashback fuzzy barrier	TRUE
_flashback_generation_buffer_size	flashback generation buffer size	4194304
_flashback_hint_barrier_percent	Flashback hint barrier percent	20
_flashback_log_io_error_behavior	Specify Flashback log I/O error behavior	0
_flashback_log_min_size	Minimum flashback log size	100
_flashback_log_size	Flashback log size	1000
_flashback_logfile_enqueue_timeout	flashback logfile enqueue timeout for opens	600
_flashback_max_log_size	Maximum flashback log size in bytes (OS limit)	0
_flashback_max_n_log_per_thread	Maximum number of flashback logs per flashback thread	2048
_flashback_n_log_per_thread	Desired number of flashback logs per flashback thread	128
_flashback_standby_barrier_interval	Flashback standby barrier interval in seconds	1800
_flashback_verbose_info	Print verbose information about flashback database	FALSE
_flashback_write_size_qm	Desired flashback write size in quarter MB	4
_percent_flashback_buf_partial_full	Percent of flashback buffer filled to be considered partial full	50
_validate_flashback_database	Scan database to validate result of flashback database	FALSE
_verify_flashback_redo	Verify that the redo logs needed for	TRUE
19 rows selected.	flashback are available	
19 TOWS SETECTED.		



The database must be configured for flashback database:

- The database must be in archivelog mode.
- Configure a flash recovery area. The flash recovery area is the repository for the flashback logs. Refer to the information presented earlier in this lesson and Chapter 5 of the Oracle Database Backup and Recovery Basics manual to learn how to configure the flash recovery area.
- ➤ Put the database in flashback mode. As shown above, this is done with the ALTER DATABASE FLASHBACK ON statement. This starts a new background process (RVWR) to write the logs.



This is a simple example of using flashback database. Here, I flashback to an SCN which I might have gotten from a flashback version query (or the logminer utility). The database is opened in read-only mode, at which time tables can be queried. If you decide you would like to flashback to a different point in time, shutdown and mount the database, then use flashback database again. When the database is flashed back to the desired point in time, open the database with the RESETLOGS option.

Supplemental Notes

Offline datafiles are *not* flashed back. However, if there are referential integrity issues because you have not flashed back one or more datafiles, you'll receive the error:

ORA-01152: file 4 was not restored from a sufficiently old backup

So, essentially, you cannot do this – you will have to either recover or drop the file.

Finally, note that I would normally recommend a full backup be taken after the OPEN RESETLOGS operation. However, Oracle 10g provides a seamless recovery across RESETLOGS so this is not as essential as it used to be. Refer to this lesson for more information.



Flashback Database TO BEFORE RESETLOGS



1.15

- ➤ R2 introduces "TO BEFORE RESETLOGS" option
- Restore to the previous incarnation
- Undo an OPEN RESETLOGS

SYS@orcl> startup mount ORACLE instance started.

SYS@orcl> flashback database to before resetlogs;

Flashback complete.

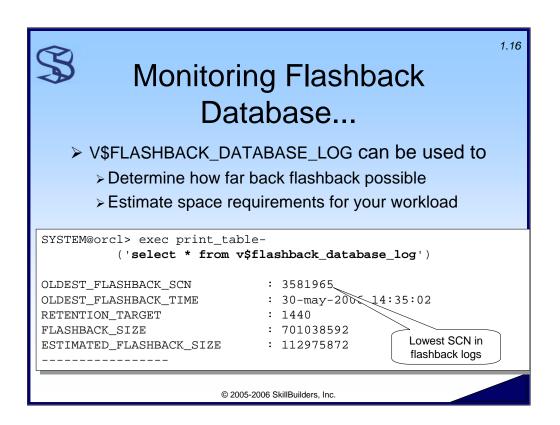
SYS@orcl> alter database open resetlogs;

Database altered.

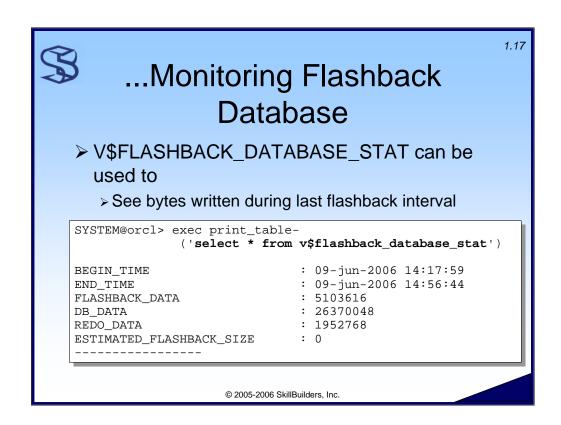
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Release 2 of Oracle 10g introduces the "TO BEFORE RESETLOGS" clause of the FLASHBACK DATABASE statement. It provides an easy way to flashback across a RESETLOGS operation – to restore to the previous incarnation of the database. (It is actually supported by the same new architecture that supports the "simplified recovery across resetlogs operations", discussed later in this lesson.) The FLASHBACK DATABASE TO BEFORE RESETLOGS statement provides an easy way to undo an OPEN RESETLOGS operation.

See Chapter 7 of the **Backup and Recovery Basics** manual for more information and examples of this feature. Also refer to the **Oracle Backup and Recovery Reference 10g Release 2** and the **Oracle Database SQL Reference 10g Release 2** for syntax and more information on the FLASHBACK DATABASE statement.



The new V\$FLASHBACK_DATABASE_LOG dynamic performance view reveals some useful information about the state of flashback database and flashback log size requirements. For example, OLDEST_FLASHBACK_SCN and OLDEST_FLASHBACK_TIME reveal how far back the database can be flashed back. FLASHBACK_SIZE shows the amount of space currently being used by flashback data. ESTIMATED_FLASHBACK_SIZE shows how much space — given the current workload — is actually required to maintain 1440 minutes of retention.



The V\$FLASHBACK_DATABASE_STAT view can be used to see how many bytes of flashback data (database and redo too) were written during the last "interval". The length of an interval is undocumented (or at least I could not find it).

It also can be helpful in determining space requirements for the flashback logs.



Restore Points...

- > Equate arbitrary name with an SCN
 - > Flashback Database to restore point
- ➤ Normal restore point
 - Flashback target limited by DB_FLASHBACK_RETENTION_TARGET
- Guaranteed restore point
 - Alternative to duplicate database before major upgrade
 - > Does not require flashback logging
 - > Database can hang if no space for flashback logs

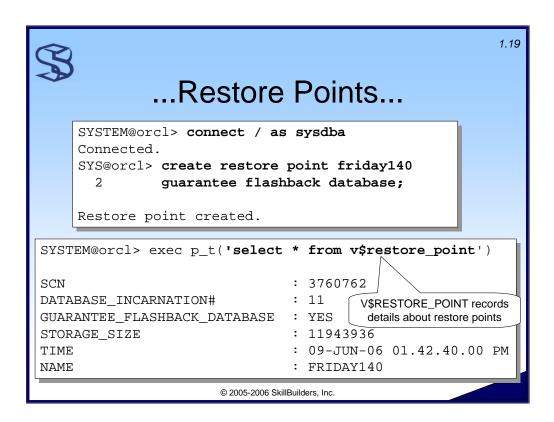
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Restore points give the DBA a convenient method of defining an arbitrary string that is equated to an SCN. The restore point (i.e. the "string") can be used in a FLASHBACK DATABASE statement.

Normal restore points can be used to flashback database as far back as the DB_FLASHBACK_RETENTION_VALUE (flashback logs older than that can be purged). SELECT ANY DICTIONARY or FLASHBACK ANY TABLE privilege is required to create a normal restore point.

Guaranteed restore points prohibit the database from purging flashback logs needed to flashback the database to that point. CAUTION: If you run out of space in the flash recovery area, the database will hang. Oracle 10g issues an "alert" if reclaimable space is less than 15%. ("Reclaimable" means creating free/available space by deleting obsolete logs, RMAN backup pieces, etc.) Alerts are recorded in the DBA_OUTSTANDING_ALERTS view and, using Enterprise Manager, can easily notify the DBA via email or page. SYSDBA privilege is required to create a guaranteed restore point.

Next, let's look at an example...

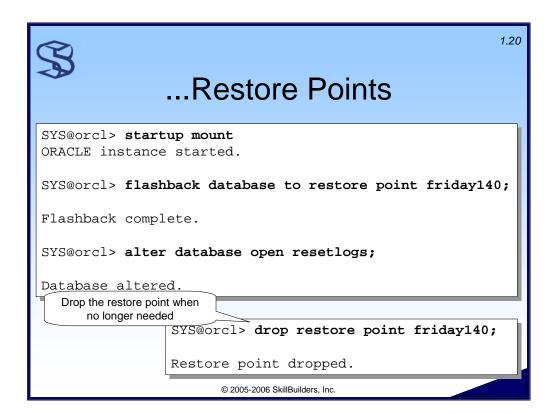


Creating a restore point is done with the CREATE RESTORE POINT statement. In this example, a guaranteed restore point is created, requiring SYSDBA privilege.

Details concerning restore points are recorded in a new view V\$RESTORE_POINT.

Refer to Chapter 5 of the **Backup and Recovery Basics** manual for more information and examples of this feature. Also refer to the **Oracle10g SQL Reference** manual for the syntax of the CREATE RESTORE POINT statement.

Refer to the supplied script **v\$restore point.sql** for a copy of this code.



In this example we see the FLASHBACK DATABASE statement being used to flashback to the restore point "FRIDAY140" (created in the previous example). The OPEN RESETLOGS is required to open the database for read / write activity.

Restore points are a persistent object. Therefore, you can flashback database to a restore point, retry the upgrade or application and, if another failure occurs, flashback again to the restore point.

Because restore points persist in the database, they should (must in the case of guaranteed restore points) be dropped; otherwise, the flash recovery area can fill with unnecessary flashback logs.



Simplified Recovery Through RESETLOGS (SRR)

- After PIT recovery or recovery with a backup controlfile, must OPEN RESETLOGS
- Now, backups taken before RESETLOGS can be used in recovery
- > Benefits
 - > No need to do full database backup after RESETLOGS
 - > "Old" backups can be used to recover database
 - RMAN incrementals can be based on pre-RESETLOGS full backups
- > Transparent
 - > Existing RMAN RESTORE/RECOVERY scripts work

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After a point-in-time recovery (incomplete recovery) or a recovery using a backup control file, the Oracle database must be opened with the RESETLOGS operation. RESETLOGS creates a new incarnation of the database. An incarnation SCN and timestamp are recorded in the control file, data file headers, redo logs, archived logs and backup pieces.

In prior releases, backups and archive logs created before a RESETLOGS could not be used in the recovery of the current database incarnation unless an RMAN catalog was used to record all database incarnations. With Oracle10g, this is no longer true. This provides several benefits:

- > There is no need to do a full database backup after OPEN RESETLOGS and before opening the database for general use.
- > "Old" backups can be used in recovery. If newer backups are corrupted or lost, "old" backup can be used if available.
- RMAN incremental backups can be based on a level 0 backup taken before RESETLOGS.

Oracle has implemented this so as to be transparent to the DBA. i.e. Existing RMAN restore and recovery scripts will work, even if they access a backup created before a RESETLOGS operation.



SRR Architectural Changes...

- > LOG ARCHIVE FORMAT
 - > Name includes "%r"
 - > RESETLOGS identifier
 - Keeps it unique from logs created by another incarnation
- > V\$ARCHIVED LOG new column
 - > RESETLOGS_ID

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Obviously, there are some architecture changes required to support the simplified recovery through resetlogs. In essence, what Oracle 10g needs to do is keep track of each incarnation and be able to determine what recovery-related files belong to each incarnation. To do this, Oracle 10g implements the following changes:

- ➤ The LOG_ARCHIVE_FORMAT parameter (which controls the name of the archive log) must include a new variable, "%r". The %r variable provides an incarnation identifier (Oracle calls it a "resetlogs identifier"). %r insures that the archive log name is unique if a new incarnation of the database is created. (Other items in the archive log name typically include %t (thread) and %s (sequence number) which can be redundant across incarnations because the sequence number is reset to 0 by RESETLOGS.)
- > V\$ARCHIVED_LOG view contains a new column, RESETLOGS_ID, that contains the resetlogs identifier.

Architecture changes continued on the next slide...



...SRR Architectural Changes...

- V\$LOG HISTORY and V\$OFFLINE RANGE
 - > Not cleared during RESETLOGS
 - New columns RESETLOGS_CHANGE# and RESETLOGS_TIME
- > V\$DATABASE_INCARNATION
 - > Records parent/child relationship of incarnations
 - > RESETLOGS ID for each incarnation
 - New column FLASHBACK_DATABASE_ALLOWED
 - > Possible to flashback to some point in that incarnation?

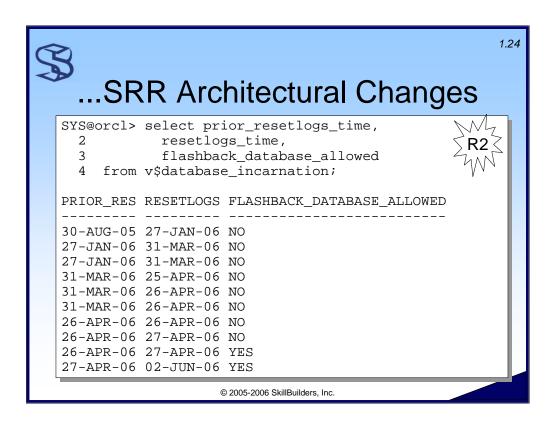


1.23

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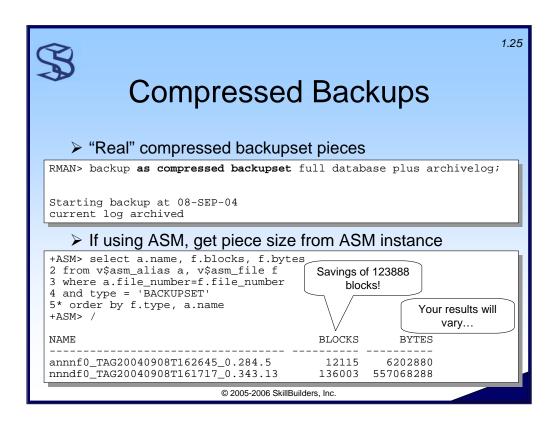
Architecture changes (continued):

- Dynamic performance views V\$LOG_HISTORY and V\$OFFLINE_RANGE are not cleared by RESETLOGS operations.
- > The V\$LOG_HISTORY and V\$OFFLINE_RANGE views contain new columns that hold the SCN and date of the database incarnation that the log belongs to.
- ➤ The dynamic performance view V\$DATABASE_INCARNATION contains new columns to support the tracking of the parent / child relationship between incarnations and the RESETLOGS identifier for each incarnation. Release 2 adds a new column, FLASHBACK_DATABASE_ALLOWED, which is demonstrated next in this lesson.



Release 2 of Oracle 10g adds a new column to the V\$DATABASE_INCARNATION view called FLASHBACK_DATABASE_ALLOWED. This indicates whether or not the database will support a FLASHBACK DATABASE statement to some time or SCN within that incarnation. The ability to flashback into an incarnation would require flashback logs and archived redo logs old enough to support the operation.

See the supplied script **v\$database_incarnation.sql** for a copy of this code.



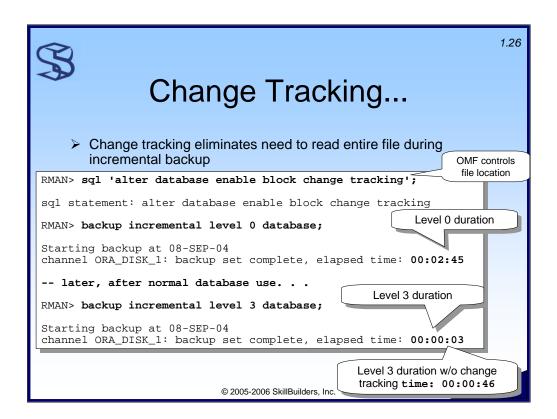
RMAN now supports the creation of compressed backupset pieces. As you can see, my tests show significant reduction in piece size. Compression not only saves space but can save lots of time for network backups (due to the reduced number of bytes sent across the network).

Supplemental Notes

You can configure your RMAN environment so compression is the default. For example:

```
RMAN> configure device type disk backup type 2> to compressed backupset;
RMAN> configure device type sbt backup type 2> to compressed backupset;
```

The V\$BACKUP_PIECE view has a new column, COMPRESSED, which will contain "YES" for compressed backup pieces.

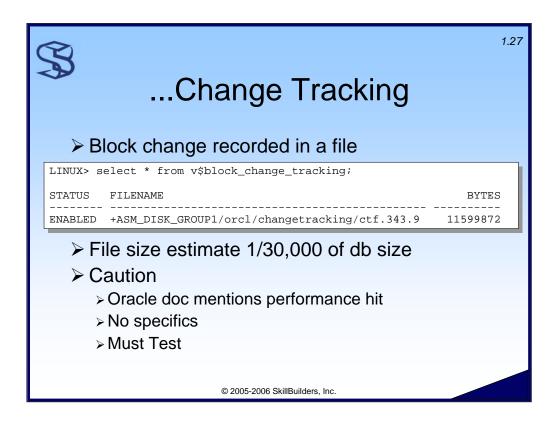


Oracle10g RMAN incremental backups are potentially much faster because the entire datafile does not have to be read to determine which blocks have changed. Instead, the database records (i.e. tracks) changed blocks in a file. When an incremental backup is taken, RMAN accesses the "block change tracking file" to determine which blocks to backup.

In the test shown above, the elapsed time of the level 3 incremental backup is 3 seconds; the same level 3 incremental backup with change tracking disabled required 46 seconds.

This behavior must be configured with the ALTER DATABASE ENABLE BLOCK CHANGE TRACKING statement as shown above. The default location of the block change tracking file is the Oracle Managed File DB_CREATE_FILE_DEST parameter. Use the "FILE" clause if you are not using OMF or you want to put the file in a location other than DB_CREATE_FILE_DEST.

Refer to the **Oracle10g SQL Reference** for more information on the ALTER DATABASE statement and the **Oracle10g Database Backup and Recovery Basics** manual for more information on this feature in general.



Change tracking is implemented by the creation of a file that records which blocks are changed. The Oracle documentation says that the initial size of the file is 10MB and grows in 10MB increments. The space *required* is 1/30,000 of the blocks tracked. The file size shown in the example above is roughly 10MB.

While the file size should not be an issue, Oracle does mention a performance hit related to the use of this feature. Test before implementing.

Refer to Chapter 4 of the **Oracle10g Database Backup and Recovery Basics** manual for more information on change tracking. Specifically, read the section entitled "**Improving Incremental Backup Performance: Change Tracking.**"

Supplemental Notes

Execute the following query to determine if change tracking is enabled for your database:

DAVE@linux3> select status from v\$block change tracking;

STATUS
ENABLED



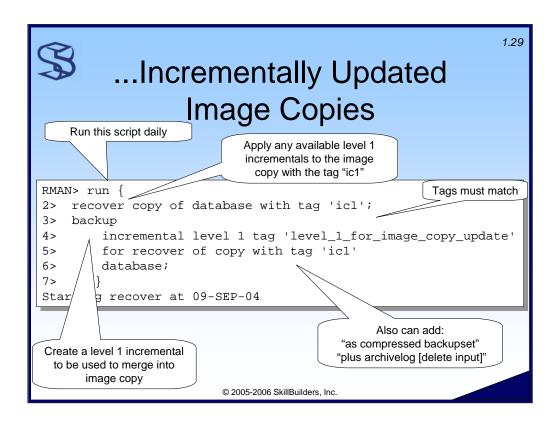
Incrementally Updated Image Copies...

- > Apply (merge) incremental backups into image copies
- > Reduce recovery time
 - > At most 24 hours of redo to apply if run daily
- > Reduce number of times image copies are taken
 - > Optimally, just once

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The RMAN Incrementally Updated Backup feature is designed to limit the amount of redo you will need to apply during recovery operations – thus reduce recovery time.

The basic idea is to create image copies of your datafiles, then subsequently update the image copies with incremental backups, i.e. merge level 1 incremental backups into an existing image copy.



The script can be run daily. Each day this runs:

- ➤ The RECOVER COPY command updates all datafile image copies (with the tag "IC1") with the previous day's level 1 incremental. If it does not find an image copy to update or a level 1 to apply, the RECOVER command simply issues messages and successfully terminates. Note that an *identical* user-defined tag must be used on the RECOVER COPY command and the BACKUP FOR RECOVER OF COPY WITH TAG clause.
- > The BACKUP command creates a new level 1 incremental. However, if a level 0 image copy does not exist (e.g. on the 1st run), the BACKUP command will create one.

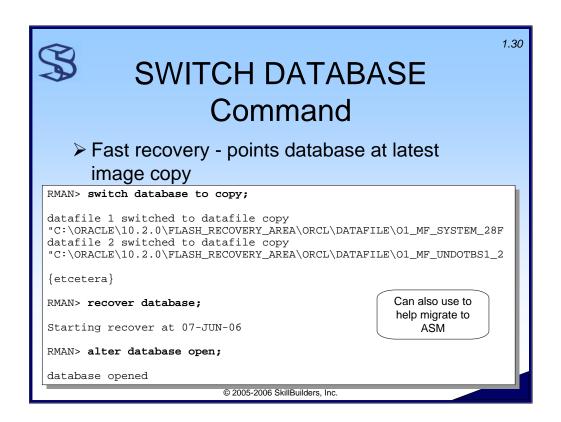
Thus, at all times, you have available for recovery:

- Image copy up to a maximum of 48 hours old
- Level 1 incremental up to a maximum of 24 hours old
- Online and archive logs to support point-in-time or complete recovery.

With this strategy, you will never have to apply more than 24 hours of redo (archive logs) to apply to perform a complete recovery.

Using a tag on the INCREMENTAL LEVEL 1 clause is optional, but I did not like the default tag RMAN supplied for the incrementals, so I supplied my own.

Refer to the article "Oracle10g - RMAN Incrementally Updated Backups" by Dave Anderson (find at www.skillbuilders.com) for a detailed discussion of this feature.



A new 10g RMAN command – SWITCH DATABASE TO COPY – provides a convenient technique for quickly switching to the latest image copies (i.e. making the latest image copies the current datafiles). So, in the event of failure of the primary datafiles, you can very quickly switch to the image copies – without the overhead of manually changing the control file or restoring (i.e. copying) the image copies. You'll notice that after switching the image copies to the current datafiles, you need to recover the new datafiles (i.e. apply all changes made to the database since the image copy was created). If you use the incrementally update image copy technique demonstrated earlier in this lesson, your image copies will be quite current and the RECOVER operation will hopefully be quick (how long it takes is directly related to the amount of updates occurring on your database).

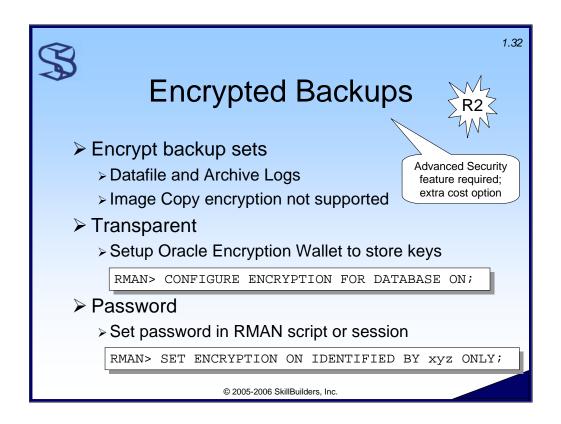
The SWITCH DATABASE command updates the control file(s) to point to the new datafiles, just like the ALTER DATABASE RENAME FILE statement. The SWITCH DATABASE command also updates the RMAN repository to reflect the change (i.e. it deletes the entries for the image copies since they are now the primary datafiles).

This might be a somewhat temporary solution since your database will now be operating using image copies in a *backup* location as the primary datafiles. In the example shown above, the SWITCH DATABASE command switched the database to use the image copies located in the Flash Recovery Area. However, you can easily take another image copy while the database is online – into the correct location for your datafiles – and then later, when the database can be brought down, use another SWITCH DATABASE TO COPY command to reset the database to use the datafiles in the proper production location. Refer to the supplied demonstration file **switch_database_to_copy_demo.txt** for an example of using this command.

Notes for this slide continue on the next page...

The SWITCH to COPY command also supports the DATAFILE and TABLESPACE level. Refer to the Oracle Database Backup and Recovery Reference 10g Release 2 for more information on the RMAN SWITCH command.

Finally, note that this command can be used as part of a procedure to migrate to Automatic Storage Management (ASM). Refer to the **Oracle Database Backup and Recovery Advanced User's Guide 10g Release 2** (see the section entitled "Disk-Based Migration of a Database to ASM").



Another RMAN R2 feature (Enterprise Edition only) is support for encrypted backup sets (encrypting image copies is not supported).

Oracle supports three encryption techniques:

- Transparent In this mode an encryption key is stored in the Oracle Encryption Wallet feature, which must be previously configured. I believe this (Oracle Encryption Wallet) also supports the R2 feature transparent column encryption. A password for encryption and decryption is not required. This is the default.
- ➤ Password Password encryption requires that the DBA provide the same password on the backup and restore commands. Forgetting the password renders the backupset useless. This mode can be particularly useful when restoring on a remote system.
- ➤ Dual Mode With this technique, either the password or the Wallet can be used to decrypt the backup.

Encryption of data requires CPU resources. I have not yet tested the overhead (June 2006).



RMAN DROP DATABASE

- New command removes
 - > Controlfiles
 - > Datafiles
 - > Logfiles
 - > Spfile
- Optionally drops
 - > Archivelogs
 - > Backup pieces
 - > Image copies
- Unregisters database
 - > If connected to catalog
- > Database in mount exclusive mode

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Oracle 10g introduces a DROP DATABASE command. It is offered as both a SQL statement and an RMAN command. The RMAN command offers more functionality than does the SQL statement. For example, the RMAN command offers the ability to optionally drop the archivelogs and backup pieces as shown in this example:

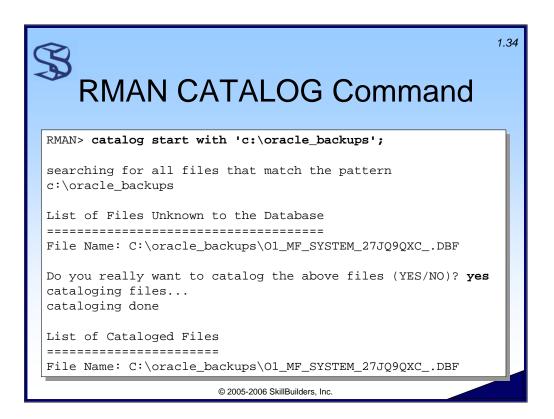
RMAN> DROP DATABASE INCLUDING BACKUPS;

Dropping the database drops the controlfiles, datafiles, logfiles and, if used, the SPFILE. If the database is connected to an RMAN catalog when the database is dropped, RMAN also unregisters the database from the catalog.

The database must not be open; it must be mounted in exclusive mode.

References:

- ➤ Metalink Note:251412.1
- > Oracle Database Recovery Manager Reference 10g Release 2 (10.2)

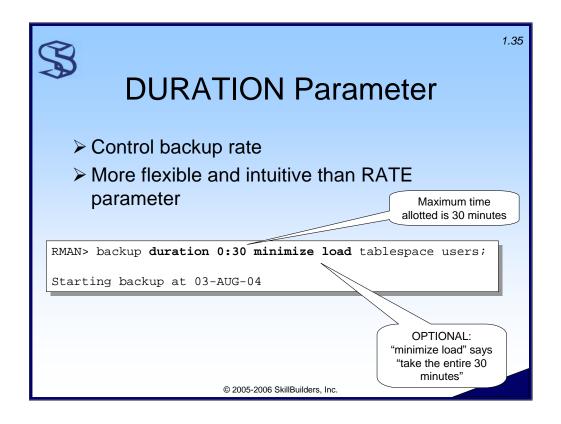


Oracle9i provided the CATALOG command to add information about datafile copies, control file copies, or archived logs to the target database control file and recovery catalog (if available). Oracle10g extends the capability of the CATALOG command to support:

- ➤ BACKUPPIECE Use this option to catalog (in the control file and recovery catalog, if applicable) a backup piece that has been copied or moved to a new location.
- ➤ RECOVERY AREA or DB_RECOVERY_FILE_DEST Use this option to catalog all backup sets, image copies and archive logs in the flash recovery area. A NOPROMPT option is available to eliminate prompting for each item. RECOVERY AREA and DB RECOVERY FILE DEST are equivalent clauses.
- START WITH 'location' Use this option to catalog all files in the specified location.

The example above demonstrates cataloging an image copy that was copied (using an operating system command) to a secondary location. If desired, after cataloging, use the LIST command to verify the cataloging of the image copy, backup piece or control file copy.

Refer to the **Oracle Database Recovery Manager Reference 10g Release 2** for more information and examples of the RMAN CATALOG command.



The BACKUP DURATION parameter will do one of two things for you:

- ➤ If MINIMIZE LOAD is specified, RMAN will *reduce* resource consumption so that the job requires the amount of time specified. This is like the RATE parameter, but perhaps more intuitive.
- ➤ IF MINIMIZE LOAD is not specified, the time specified is the maximum time the BACKUP can execute. RMAN will *kill the job* when it reaches the specified time limit.



New V\$ Views



1.36

- > R2 adds 18 new views
- > V\$RMAN_BACKUP_JOB_DETAILS
 - > Status, date/time, elapsed time, read rate, more
 - > Helpful for tuning RMAN jobs
- > V\$BACKUP_SET_DETAILS
 - > Incremental level, number of pieces, size , status
- > V\$BACKUP PIECE DETAILS
 - > File handles, status, size

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Oracle10g adds 18 new backup and recovery-related views. Refer to the Oracle Database Reference manual (Release 2) for details on these views:

V\$BACKUP_ARCHIVELOG_DETAILS

V\$BACKUP ARCHIVELOG SUMMARY

V\$BACKUP_CONTROLFILE_DETAILS

V\$BACKUP_CONTROLFILE_SUMMARY

V\$BACKUP_COPY_DETAILS

V\$BACKUP COPY SUMMARY

V\$BACKUP_DATAFILE_DETAILS

V\$BACKUP DATAFILE SUMMARY

V\$BACKUP_PIECE_DETAILS

V\$RMAN_OUTPUT

V\$RMAN STATUS

V\$BACKUP_SET_DETAILS

V\$BACKUP_SET_SUMMARY

V\$BACKUP_SPFILE_DETAILS

V\$BACKUP_SPFILE_SUMMARY

V\$RMAN_BACKUP_JOB_DETAILS

V\$RMAN_BACKUP_SUBJOB_DETAILS

V\$RMAN_BACKUP_TYPE

V\$FLASH_RECOVERY_AREA_USAGE

V\$RMAN_ENCRYPTION_ALGORITHMS



More RMAN Enhancements...

- > Archive log deletion policy
 - > Automatic clean up of obsolete logs
- > RESTORE DATABASE PREVIEW
 - > Identify the backups that would be used
- Restore failover
 - If error reading backup, RMAN keeps trying different backup copies until all possible exhausted
- CONVERT Command
 - > Convert datafiles to different platform

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Here is a brief description of additional Oracle10g RMAN enhancements:

- ➤ The CONFIGURE command can be used to configure an archivelog deletion policy. There are 2 main options: "NONE", which means RMAN can delete archive logs from the flash recovery area only after they've been backed up and are obsolete (according to the configured retention policy). "APPLIED ON STANDBY" means the archive logs can be deleted if they have been applied to a standby database.
- ➤ A new RESTORE DATABASE PREVIEW command is available which identifies which backups RMAN would use to perform the restore.
- RMAN will automatically failover to another backup piece (even from an older backup if necessary) if corruption is encountered. It will continue to failover until a non-corrupt backup is found or all possibilities are exhausted.
- RMAN 10g provides a CONVERT command to convert datafiles to a different platform. For example, a datafile from a Solaris server could be transported to a Windows server (consider using data pump transportable tablespace and DBMS_FILE_TRANSFER; refer to the *Utilities Enhancements* lesson in this course book for an example). Refer to the **Oracle Backup and Recovery Reference 10g Release 2** for more information on the CONVERT command.



...More RMAN Enhancements

- Channel failover for BACKUP
- COPY command deprecated
 - > BACKUP command with COPY parameter creates image copies
- Default backup can be configured to create
 - > Normal backupset
 - > or compressed backupset
 - > or disk-based image copy
- RMAN catalog tablespace created in SYSAUX

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Additional RMAN enhancements, continued:

- > RMAN now has the ability to try another channel if a channel fails during backup.
- The COPY command is deprecated (will eventually be desupported) because the BACKUP command can be used to create image copies. For example:

```
RMAN> backup as copy tablespace users;
```

➤ The CONFIGURE DEVICE TYPE command now supports configuring for normal backupset, compressed backup or image copy. (Note that the image copy option only works for DEVICE TYPE DISK..) For example:

```
RMAN> show device type ;
```

RMAN configuration parameters are:

CONFIGURE DEVICE TYPE DISK PARALLELISM 1 BACKUP TYPE TO BACKUPSET; # default

RMAN> configure device type disk backup type to compressed backupset;

new RMAN configuration parameters:

CONFIGURE DEVICE TYPE DISK BACKUP TYPE TO COMPRESSED BACKUPSET PARALLELISM 1;

new RMAN configuration parameters are successfully stored

➤ To alleviate clutter in the SYSTEM tablespace, the RMAN catalog is now by default created in the new SYSAUX tablespace.



Additional R2 RMAN Enhancements...



1.39

- Missing tempfiles automatically recreated during open
 - > After whole database restore / recovery
- Unused block compression
 - Under the right conditions, unused blocks are not written to backupset
- > RAC dynamic channel allocation

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Oracle10g Release 2 also provides these RMAN enhancements:

- After a whole (full) database restore and recovery, and at database open, Oracle will automatically created missing tempfiles. The original size, location, AUTOEXTEND and MAXSIZE attributes are used to recreate the tempfile. The tempfile must be locally managed (as opposed to dictionary managed). Refer to Chapter 6 of the Oracle Database Backup and Recovery Basics 10g Release 2 manual for more information on this feature.
- ➢ If certain conditions are met, Release 2 of 10g RMAN will backup only in-use blocks (previous releases of RMAN backed up any block that ever contained data − even if it was not currently in-use (this was called "NULL compression")). Refer to the BACKUP command in the Oracle 10g Release 2 Recovery Manager Reference for more information. The conditions include:
 - > Full or Level 0 backup
 - No guaranteed restore points in effect
 - > Locally managed datafile
 - Disk-based backupset
- RAC backups no longer require manual channel allocation for each node dynamic channel allocation is now supported. For more information, refer to Chapter 1 of the Oracle 10g R2 New Features Guide and Chapter 8 of the Oracle 10g R2 Database Oracle Clusterware and Oracle Real Application Clusters Administration and Deployment Guide.



...Additional R2 RMAN Enhancements

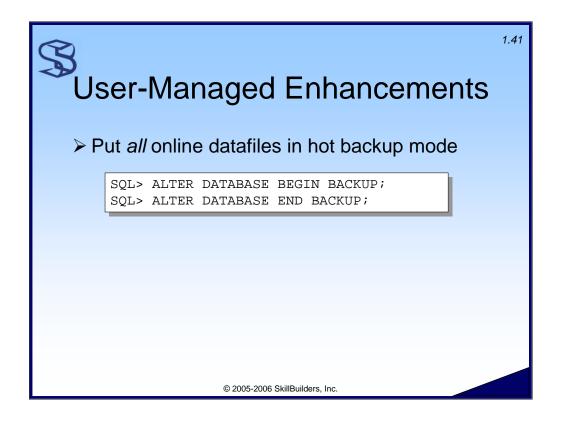


1.40

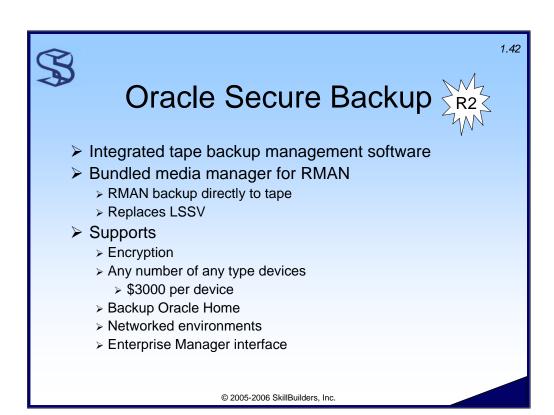
- Create incremental since last sync with Standby Database
- > OEM enhancements
 - > Use compression for clone operations
 - > Script support
 - > Backup job notification

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- Oracle 10g R2 provides the ability to create an incremental backup as of some SCN. Only changes made at or after that SCN are backed up. This can be useful for updating a Standby Database with changes made to the primary database since the last synchronization with the standby. For more information refer to the Oracle 10g R2 Backup and Recovery Advanced User's Guide and the BACKUP INCREMENTAL FROM SCN [scn] DATABASE command.
- > Oracle Enterprise Manager has been enhanced to support:
- > Compression during cloning operations, reducing data transmitted over a network.
- RMAN scripts created by OEM can be edited. Refer to Chapter 9 of the Oracle Database 2 Day DBA 10g Release 2 manual for more information.
- Backup job notification



User-managed hot backups are made simpler with the new command ALTER DATABASE BEGIN BACKUP. This places all online and available datafiles in hot backup mode. This is in contrast to the ALTER TABLESPACE BEGIN BACKUP command, which needs to be repeated for each tablespace to be backed up.



Oracle 10g Release 2 includes Oracle Secure Backup, an integrated tape management software solution. Oracle Secure Backup supports:

- RMAN. As an RMAN media manager, it enables RMAN to backup directly to tape devices. Oracle Secure Backup is positioned as a replacement for Legato Single Server Version, which was shipped at no cost with Release 1. LSSV supports just one tape device (among several other limitations).
- > Encryption of backups.
- > Any number of output devices, tape or otherwise, at a cost of \$3000 per device.
- Backup of non-database files. For example, you can backup the Oracle software in the Oracle Home.
- > Networked environments. A single installation of Oracle Secure Backup can be used to

For more information, refer to the **Oracle Database Readme 10g Release 2**, section 10 Media Management Software. The Readme document can be accessed from the welcome.html message shipped with Oracle 10g Release 2.



Lesson Summary...

- > Easier management of files with flash recovery area
- Flashback Database
 - > Point-in-time recovery for entire database
 - > Must configure database to create flashback logs
 - > R2 supports
 - > Restore points
 - > "TO BEFORE RESETLOGS"
 - > EE feature
- Restore points
 - > Convenient technique for flashback database

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With the new features Oracle10g introduces, I think many DBAs will now start to view RMAN as a viable tool for backup and recovery of production databases.

While I have tried to highlight the "most important" RMAN enhancements in this lesson, there are more and undoubtedly you will find enhancements not covered here that are important to you. So, refer to the section "What's New in Backup and Recovery" in the **Backup and Recovery Advanced User's Guide** for more information.



...Lesson Summary...

- > Transparent recovery through RESETLOGS
- > Real compression for RMAN backup pieces
- Much faster incremental backups with Change Tracking
- Update image copies with incremental backups
 - > Faster recovery
- > SWITCH DATABASE to image copies

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...Lesson Summary

- Secure backups with encrypted RMAN backup sets
- Integrated media manager for tape backups > "Oracle Secure Backup"
- Enterprise Manager enhanced to support RMAN
- > Lots of minor features!

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