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Performing Flashback and Database Point-in-Time Recovery

This chapter explains how to investigate unwanted database changes, and select and perform an appropriate recovery strategy based upon Oracle Flashback Technology and database backups. It contains the following topics:

18.1 Overview of Oracle Flashback Technology and Database Point-in-Time Recovery

This overview describes the purpose and basic concepts of Oracle Flashback Technology and database point-in-time recovery.

18.1.1 Purpose of Flashback and Database Point-in-Time Recovery

Certain situations are suited for using point-in-time recovery or flashback features to return the database or database object to its state at a previous point in time.

Some typical situations include the following:

- A user error or corruption removes needed data or introduces corrupted data. For example, a user or DBA might erroneously delete or update the contents of one or more tables, drop database objects that are still needed during an update to an application, or run a large batch update that fails midway.
- A database upgrade fails or an upgrade script goes awry.
- A complete database recovery after a media failure cannot succeed because you do not have all of the needed redo logs or incremental backups.

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18.1.2 About Point-in-Time Recovery and Flashback Features

Database point-in-time recovery (DBPITR) and Flashback features enable you to recover your database to a prior point in time.

DBPITR is the most basic solution to unwanted database changes. It is sometimes called incomplete recovery because it does not use all of the available redo or completely recover all changes to your database. In this case, you restore a whole database backup and then