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**DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

THEORY ASSIGNMENT#9

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**PURPOSE OF DATA RECOVERY**

In enterprise information technology (IT), data recovery typically refers to the restoration of data to a desktop, laptop, server, or external storage system from a backup.

The data recovery process may vary, depending on the circumstances of the data loss, the data recovery software used to create the backup, and the backup target media. For example, many desktop and laptop backup software platforms allow end users to restore lost files themselves, while restoration of a corrupted database from a tape backup is a more complicated process that requires IT intervention. Data recovery can also be provided as service. Such services are typically used to retrieve important files that were not backed up and accidentally deleted from a computer's file system but still remain on disk in fragments.

An organization's disaster recovery plan should make known who in the organization is responsible for recovering data, provide a strategy for how data will be recovered and document acceptable recovery point and recovery time objectives.

**Types of failure**

**User Error:**

A database administrator can do little to prevent user errors (for example, accidentally dropping a table). Usually, user error can be reduced by increased training on database and application principles. Furthermore, by planning an effective recovery scheme ahead of time, the administrator can ease the work necessary to recover from many types of user errors.

**Statement Failure:**

Statement failure occurs when there is a logical failure in the handling of a statement in an Oracle program. For example, assume all extents of a table (in other words, the number of extents specified in the MAXEXTENTS parameter of the CREATE TABLE statement) are allocated, and are completely filled with data; the table is absolutely full. A valid INSERT statement cannot insert a row because there is no space available. Therefore, if issued, the statement fails.

**Process Failure:**

A process failure is a failure in a user, server, or background process of a database instance (for example, an abnormal disconnect or process termination). When a process failure occurs, the failed subordinate process cannot continue work, although the other processes of the database instance can continue.

**Network Failure:**

When your system uses networks (for example, local area networks, phone lines, and so on) to connect client workstations to database servers, or to connect several database servers to form a distributed database system, network failures (such as aborted phone connections or network communication software failures) can interrupt the normal operation of a database system.

**Database Instance Failure: D**atabase instance failure occurs when a problem arises that prevents an Oracle database instance (SGA and background processes) from continuing to work. An instance failure can result from a hardware problem, such as a power outage, or a software problem, such as an operating system crash. Instance failure also results when you issue a SHUTDOWN ABORT or STARTUP FORCE command.

**THE STORAGE HIERARCHY**

Data hierarchy refers to the systematic organization of data, often in a hierarchical form. Data organization involves fields, records, files and so on.

A data field holds a single fact or an attribute of an entity. Consider a date field, e.g. "September 19, 2004". This can be treated as a single date field (e.g. birthdate), or 3 fields, namely, month, day of month and year.

A record is a collection of related fields. An Employee record may contain a name field(s), address fields, birthdate field and so on.

A file is a collection of related records. If there are 100 employees, then each employee would have a record (e.g. called Employee Personal Details record) and the collection of 100 such records would constitute a file (in this case, called Employee Personal Details file).

**BUFFER MANAGEMENT**

A buffer is an 8-KB page in memory, the same size as a data or index page. Thus, the buffer cache is divided into 8-KB pages. The buffer manager manages the functions for reading data or index pages from the database disk files into the buffer cache and writing modified pages back to disk. A page remains in the buffer cache until the buffer manager needs the buffer area to read in more data. Data is written back to disk only if it is modified. Data in the buffer cache can be modified multiple times before being written back to disk.

A hash table is used to figure out what page frame a given disk page (i.e., with a given pageId) occupies. A buffer descriptor object is associated with every page frame in the buffer pool. It contains a dirty bit, the page number, and the pin count for the page occupying that frame.

When a page is requested, the buffer manager brings it in and pins it. The buffer manager does not keep track of all the pages that have been pinned by a transaction. It is up to the various components (that call the buffer manager) to make sure that all pinned pages are subsequently unpinned.