9.7.1 Converting a Physical Standby Database into a Snapshot Standby Database

Perform the following steps to convert a physical standby database into a snapshot standby database:

1. Stop Redo Apply, if it is active.
2. Ensure that the database is mounted, but not open.
3. Ensure that a fast recovery area has been configured. It is not necessary for flashback database to be enabled.
4. Issue the following SQL statement to perform the conversion:
5. SQL> ALTER DATABASE CONVERT TO SNAPSHOT STANDBY;

**Note:**

A physical standby database that is managed by the Data Guard broker can be converted into a snapshot standby database using either DGMGRL or Oracle Enterprise Manager. See *[Oracle Data Guard Broker](https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E11882_01/server.112/e40771/toc.htm)* for more details.

9.7.2 Using a Snapshot Standby Database

A snapshot standby database can be opened in read-write mode and is fully updatable.

A snapshot standby database has the following characteristics:

* A snapshot standby database cannot be the target of a switchover or failover. A snapshot standby database must first be converted back into a physical standby database before performing a role transition to it.
* A snapshot standby database cannot be the only standby database in a Maximum Protection Data Guard configuration.

**Note:**

Flashback Database is used to convert a snapshot standby database back into a physical standby database. Any operation that cannot be reversed using Flashback Database technology will prevent a snapshot standby from being converted back to a physical standby.

For information about some of the limitations of Flashback Database, see *[Oracle Database Backup and Recovery User's Guide](https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E11882_01/backup.112/e10642/flashdb.htm /l BRADV543).*

9.7.3 Converting a Snapshot Standby Database into a Physical Standby Database

Perform the following steps to convert a snapshot standby database into a physical standby database:

1. On an Oracle Real Applications Cluster (Oracle RAC) database, shut down all but one instance.
2. Ensure that the database is mounted, but not open.
3. Issue the following SQL statement to perform the conversion:
4. SQL> ALTER DATABASE CONVERT TO PHYSICAL STANDBY;

The database is dismounted after conversion and must be restarted.

Redo data received while the database was a snapshot standby database will be automatically applied when Redo Apply is started.

**Note:**

A snapshot standby database must be opened at least once in read-write mode before it can be converted into a physical standby database.