**In this Document**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | [Purpose](https://support.oracle.com/epmos/faces/DocumentDisplay?_afrLoop=534336782898256&parent=SrDetailText&sourceId=3-13858865121&id=397269.1&_afrWindowMode=0&_adf.ctrl-state=rjmj18wfx_217 \\l PURPOSE) |

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|  | [Scope](https://support.oracle.com/epmos/faces/DocumentDisplay?_afrLoop=534336782898256&parent=SrDetailText&sourceId=3-13858865121&id=397269.1&_afrWindowMode=0&_adf.ctrl-state=rjmj18wfx_217 \\l SCOPE) |

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|  | [Details](https://support.oracle.com/epmos/faces/DocumentDisplay?_afrLoop=534336782898256&parent=SrDetailText&sourceId=3-13858865121&id=397269.1&_afrWindowMode=0&_adf.ctrl-state=rjmj18wfx_217 \\l BODYTEXT) |

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**APPLIES TO:**

Oracle Database - Enterprise Edition - Version 8.1.7.0 and later  
 Information in this document applies to any platform.

**PURPOSE**

Guideline to set CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME in relation to the RETENTION POLICY

**SCOPE**

All DBA's using RMAN as Backup & Recovery tool

**DETAILS**

RMAN backup keeps the backup metadata information in the reusable section of the controlfile. It depends on the parameter CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME. CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME specifies the minimum number of days before a reusable record in the control file can be reused. In the event a new record needs to be added to a reusable section and there is not enough space then it will delete the oldest record, which are aged enough.  
  
 Backup retention policy is the rule to set regarding which backups must be retained (whether on disk or other backup media) to meet the recovery and other requirements.  
  
 If the CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME is less than the retention policy then it may overwrite reusable records prior to obsoleting them in the RMAN metadata. Therefor it is recommended that the CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME should set to a higher value than the retention policy.  
  
 Formula  
  
 CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME = retention period + level 0 backup interval + 1  
  
 For e.g.  
  
 e.q. level 0 backup once a week with retention policy of a recovery windows of 14 days then in this case the CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME should be 14+7+1=22