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**APPLIES TO:**

Oracle Database - Enterprise Edition - Version 9.2.0.1 and later  
 Information in this document applies to any platform.  
 \*\*\*Checked for relevance on 17-Jul-2016\*\*\*

**SYMPTOMS**

The setting for CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME does not seem to affect the entries in section 11 (Archived Log) of the controlfiles  
  
 For example  
  
 If CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME = 30 (days) ... why are the Archived Log entries in the controlfile (as seen by V$ARCHIVED\_LOG) not overwritten after 30 days?

**CAUSE**

CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME specifies the **minimum** number of days before a reusable record in the control file can be reused ... NOT the MAXIMUM  
  
 For full details see:   
  
  Oracle Database Reference - CONTROL\_FILE\_RECORD\_KEEP\_TIME  
  
 A controlfile's record is reused when the V$CONTROLFILE\_RECORD\_SECTION ... RECORD\_USED = RECORD\_TOTAL  
  
 This is true for every section that uses circular records (Archive Log ... Redo Log etc)

**SOLUTION**

Unfortunately there is no way to force a **MAXIMUM** number of days for which the controlfiles will keep Archived Log records  
  
 The number of records is the only mechanism of control that exists for Archived Log controlfile entries  
  
 The MAXLOGHISTORY clause of the CREATE CONTROLFILE statement ... directly controls the maximum number of records for Log History (section 9) of the controlfiles ... it also indirectly controls (via an internal formula) the Archive Log (section 11)  
  
 For more information see :  
  
    **Oracle Database SQL Language Reference - CREATE CONTROLFILE - MAXLOGHISTORY Clause**