Snapshot Standby

Introduced in 11g, snapshot standby allows the standby database to be opened in read-write mode. When switched back into standby mode, all changes made whilst in read-write mode are lost. This is achieved using flashback database, but the standby database does not need to have flashback database explicitly enabled to take advantage of this feature, thought it works just the same if it is.

If you are using RAC, turn off all but one of the RAC instances. Make sure the instance is in MOUNT mode.

```
SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATE;
STARTUP MOUNT;
```

Make sure managed recovery is disabled.

```
ALTER DATABASE RECOVER MANAGED STANDBY DATABASE CANCEL;
```

Convert the standby to a snapshot standby. The following example queries the `V$DATABASE` view to show that flashback database is not enabled prior to the conversion operation.

```
SELECT flashback_on FROM v$database;

FLASHBACK_ON
------------------
NO

ALTER DATABASE CONVERT TO SNAPSHOT STANDBY;
ALTER DATABASE OPEN;
SELECT flashback_on FROM v$database;

FLASHBACK_ON
------------------
RESTORE POINT ONLY

SQL>
```

You can now do treat the standby like any read-write database.

To convert it back to the physical standby, losing all the changes made since the conversion to snapshot standby, issue the following commands.

```
SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATE;
STARTUP MOUNT;
ALTER DATABASE CONVERT TO PHYSICAL STANDBY;
SHUTDOWN IMMEDIATE;
STARTUP NOMOUNT;
```

```
ALTER DATABASE MOUNT STANDBY DATABASE;
ALTER DATABASE RECOVER MANAGED STANDBY DATABASE DISCONNECT;
SELECT flashback_on FROM v$database;

FLASHBACK_ON
------------------
NO

SQL>
```

The standby is once again in managed recovery and archivelog shipping is resumed. Notice that flashback database is still not enabled.