ORACLE 11G DATABASE ADMINISTRATION PART 4 – RECOVER SPFILES
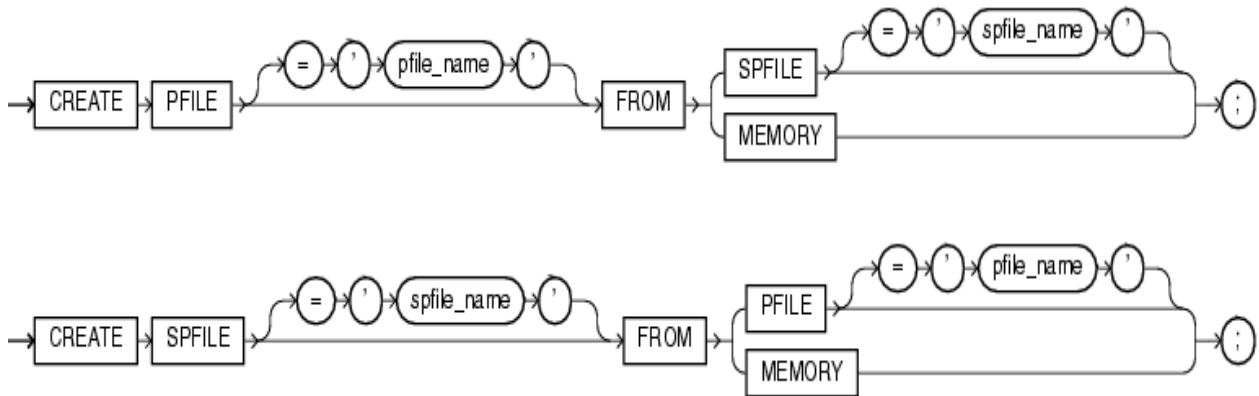
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INTRODUCTION

Prior to Oracle 11g, we have to make sure that all changes done dynamically is also recorded in `SPFILE` using `SCOPE=BOTH` clause. If it is not done, then we will miss the change when database is restarted. Similarly if we are not taking RMAN Autobackup and lost the `SPFILE`, we may have to go thru Alert.log file to create new init.ora and then spfile. It may happen that database was started using client side parameter file and so we might not have original parameter file available on the server. Oracle 11g has provided some good enhancement so as manage the `PFILE / SPFILE` as shown below

1. `CREATE` pfile `FROM MEMORY`
2. `CREATE` Spfile `FROM MEMORY`
3. Check the location of the Paramter `PFILE` or `SPFILE` used to start the Database

ORACLE 11G PFILE AND SPFILE NEW SQL SYNTAX

CREATE PFILE OR SPFILE FROM MEMORY

```
Create PFILE from Memory guarantee that all parameter are recorded correctly as it may be
possible that they are not recorded in Spfile
SQL> create pfile from memory;
File created.


You cannot use the same SPFILE location as is already used by the current instance. This
is not new in Oracle 11g
SQL> create spfile from memory;
create spfile from memory
*
ERROR at line 1:
ORA-32002: cannot create SPFILE already being used by the instance


Create SPFILE if you lost it or if you have not recorded some parameter changed
dynamically
SQL> create spfile='/tmp/spfile11gtest.ora' from memory;
File created.
```

PFILE OR SPFILE LOCATION USED TO START THE INSTANCE

Oracle 11g creates two types of Alert log file as described in
http://www.datasoftech.com/library/DSI_11g_ADR1.pdf . If you use the alert log file create in
$ADR_HOME/trace directory, you can see the type [Client side PFILE OR Server side SPFILE]
and location of the initialization parameter file. See below for an example from the trace file

Using PFILE to start the Instance

```
Starting up ORACLE RDBMS Version: 11.1.0.6.0.
Using parameter settings in   client-side pfile   /home/oracle/app/admin/11gtest/pfile/init.ora
on machine   db02pn
# Please note that it also show the name of Client which contains the location of pfile
System parameters with non-default values:
  processes               = 150
  sga_target              = 752M
```

Using SPFILE to start the Insrtance

```
Starting up ORACLE RDBMS Version: 11.1.0.6.0.
Using parameter settings in server-side spfile   /oracle/app/product/11/db_1/dbs/spfile11gtest.ora
System parameters with non-default values:
  processes               = 150
  sga_target              = 752M
```

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