**Snapshots**

VM snapshots allow administrators to create point-in-time checkpoints of a VM. The snapshot captures the state of the VM at a specific point in time. VMware administrators can then revert to their pre-snapshot state in the event the changes made since the snapshot should be discarded. Or, if the changes should be preserved, the administrator can commit the changes and delete the snapshot.

This functionality can be used in a variety of ways. Suppose you’d like to install the latest vendor-supplied patch for the guest OS instance running in a VM but you want to be able to recover in case the patch installation runs amok. By taking a snapshot *before* installing the patch, you can revert to the snapshot in the event the patch installation doesn’t go well. You’ve just created a safety net for yourself. Keep in mind that snapshots do not affect RDM virtual hard disks or in-guest mounted iSCSI or NFS file systems. Also remember snapshots are made on a per-VM basis. If you have an application with multiple tiers and that is spread between multiple virtual machines, you may encounter application inconsistencies when reverting snapshots.

