

How to: Back Up a Database (SQL Server Management Studio)

SQL Server 2005

This topic explains how to create a full database backup.

Note:

When you specify a back up task by using SQL Server Management Studio, you can generate the corresponding Transact-SQL [BACKUP](#) script by clicking the **Script** button and selecting a script destination.

To back up a database

1. After connecting to the appropriate instance of the Microsoft SQL Server Database Engine, in Object Explorer, click the server name to expand the server tree.
2. Expand **Databases**, and depending on the database, either select a user database or expand **System Databases** and select a system database.
3. Right-click the database, point to **Tasks**, and then click **Back Up**. The **Back Up Database** dialog box appears.
4. In the **Database** list box, verify the database name. You can optionally select a different database from the list.
5. You can perform a database backup for any recovery model (**FULL**, **BULK_LOGGED**, or **SIMPLE**).
6. In the **Backup type** list box, select **Full**.

Note that after creating a full database backup, you can create a differential database backup; for more information, see [How to: Create a Differential Database Backup \(SQL Server Management Studio\)](#).
7. For **Backup component**, click **Database**.
8. Either accept the default backup set name suggested in the **Name** text box, or enter a different name for the backup set.
9. Optionally, in the **Description** text box, enter a description of the backup set.
10. Specify when the backup set will expire and can be overwritten without explicitly skipping verification of the expiration data:
 - To have the backup set expire after a specific number of days, click **After** (the default option), and enter the number of days after set creation that the set will expire. The default value is set in the **Default backup media retention (in days)** option of the **Server Properties** dialog box (Database Settings Page). To access this, right-click the server name in Object Explorer and select properties; then select the **Database Settings** page.
 - To have the backup set expire on a specific date, click **On**, and enter the date on which the set will expire. For more information about backup expiration dates, see [BACKUP \(Transact-SQL\)](#).
11. Choose the type of backup destination by clicking **Disk** or **Tape**. To select the paths of up to 64 disk or tape drives containing a single media set, click **Add**. The selected paths displayed in the **Backup to** list box.

To remove a backup destination, select it and click **Remove**. To view the contents of a backup destination, select it and click **Contents**.
12. To view or select the advanced options, click **Options** in the **Select a page** pane.
13. Select an **Overwrite Media** option, by clicking one of the following:
 - **Back up to the existing media set**
For this option, click either **Append to the existing backup set** or **Overwrite all existing backup sets**. For more information, see [Appending to Existing Backup Sets and Overwriting Backup Sets](#).
Optionally, select **Check media set name and backup set expiration** to cause the backup operation to verify the date and time at which the media set and backup set expire.
Optionally, enter a name in the **Media set name** text box. If no name is specified, a media set with a blank name is created. If you specify a media set name, the media (tape or disk) is checked to see whether the actual name matches the name you enter here.
 - **Back up to a new media set, and erase all existing backup sets**
For this option, enter a name in the **New media set name** text box, and, optionally, describe the media set in the **New media set description** text box. For more information, see [Creating a New Media Set](#).
14. In the **Reliability** section, optionally check:
 - **Verify backup when finished**.
 - **Perform checksum before writing to media**, and, optionally, **Continue on checksum error**. For information on checksums, see [Detecting and Coping with Media Errors](#).
15. If you are backing up to a tape drive (as specified in the **Destination** section of the **General** page), the **Unload the tape after backup** option is active. Clicking this option activates the **Rewind the tape before unloading** option.

Note:

The options in the **Transaction log** section are inactive unless you are backing up a transaction log (as specified in the **Backup type** section of the **General** page).

Note:

Alternatively, you can use the Maintenance Plan Wizard to create database backups.

See Also

Tasks

[How to: Create a Full Database Backup \(Transact-SQL\)](#)
[How to: Start the Maintenance Plan Wizard \(SQL Server Management Studio\)](#)
[How to: Create a Differential Database Backup \(SQL Server Management Studio\)](#)
[How to: Restore a Database Backup \(SQL Server Management Studio\)](#)

Concepts

[Differential Database Backups](#)

[Full Database Backups](#)

[Performing a Complete Database Restore \(Full Recovery Model\)](#)

[Performing a Complete Database Restore \(Simple Recovery Model\)](#)

[Maintenance Plan Wizard](#)

Other Resources

[Back Up Database \(General Page\)](#)

[Back Up Database \(Options Page\)](#)

[SQL Server Management Studio Tutorial](#)

Help and Information

[Getting SQL Server 2005 Assistance](#)

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