

Column physical_device_name is NULL in msdb.dbo.backupmediafamily

Last updated by | Vitor Tomaz | Feb 24, 2023 at 3:29 AM PST

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Issue

Customer took copy-only (manual) backups on MI, were able to get the file name from physical_device_name column in msdb.dbo.backupmediafamily table. Starting sometime in October, the copy-only backups no longer record the file location in the physical_device_name column.

Investigation

Before

When customers query msdb.dbo.backupmediafamily for copy-only backups taken before October 2022, they could see the physical_device_name populated with the location of the backup file:

```
select backup_set_id, media_set_id, user_name, is_copy_only, database_name, * from msdb.dbo.backupset where ba
```

Sample Output:

Results	Messages	backup_set_id	media_set_id	user_name	is_copy_only	database_name	backup_set_id	backup_set_uid	media_set_id	first_family_number	first_media_number	last_family_number	last_media_number	catalog_family_number	catalog
1		2	2		1	AdvWorkbak	2	96CA01E2-F79F-4F52-9215-A28F8A22BA95	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

```
select * from msdb.dbo.backupmediafamily where media_set_id = 2
```

Sample Output:

media_set_id	family_sequence_number	media_family_id	media_count	logical_device_name	physical_device_name	device_type	physical_block_size	mirror
2	1	2164DF4C-0000-0000-0000-000000000000	1	NULL	https://t123.blob.core.windows.net/np...	9	65536	0

Now

When customers query msdb.dbo.backupmediafamily for copy-only backups taken after mid-October 2022, they see that the physical_device_name is NULL:

```
select backup_set_id, media_set_id, user_name, is_copy_only, database_name, * from msdb.dbo.backupset where ba
```



Sample Output:

	backup_set_id	media_set_id	user_name	is_copy_only	database_name	backup_set_id	backup_set_uuid	media_set_id	first_family_number	first_media_number	last_family_number	la
1	21137	21137	NULL	1	AdventureWorks2	21137	67D7DD9F-8F54-4D5F-97C9-77E1230B5658	21137	1	1	1	1

```
select * from msdb.dbo.backupmediafamily where media_set_id = 21137
```

Sample Output:

	media_set_id	family_sequence_number	media_family_id	media_count	logical_device_name	physical_device_name	device_type	physical_block_size	mirror
1	21137	1	8FEDFC23-0000-0000-0000-000000000000	1	NULL	NULL	9	65536	0

Mitigation

Engineering team is aware of the issue and has a repair item in their backlog (ETA - possibly early next year).

If customers had auditing set up (prior to initiating the backup) for audit action group 'BACKUP_RESTORE_GROUP', they would be able to see the backup taken along with the storage url under the 'statement'. This works for both scenarios - backup taken via T-SQL as well SSMS GUI.

Public Doc Reference

- [Fields removed with introduction of backup transparency.](#) 

How good have you found this content?



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