

# Redgate SQL Toolbelt Essentials - Hands-On Exercise

Welcome to the SQL Toolbelt Essentials practical exercise. This guide will walk you through exploring Redgate's database DevOps tools using sample databases.

## Getting Started

The presenter will provide you with a **Demo VM** that has all required software pre-installed.

**Want to try this on your own machine?** Follow the [Setup Guide](#) to install SQL Server, SSMS, and the Redgate tools.

### Step 1: Download the Exercise Files

1. Open a browser on the Demo VM and go to:
  - <https://github.com/MrTyRedgate/RGToolbeltEssentialsExercise>
2. Click the green **Code** button, then select **Download ZIP**
3. Create the folder `C:\Temp\ToolbeltEssentialsExercise\`
4. Copy the downloaded ZIP file into `C:\Temp\ToolbeltEssentialsExercise\`
5. Extract the contents of the ZIP file into this folder

### Step 2: Connect to SQL Server

1. Open **SQL Server Management Studio 18.10 (SSMS)**
2. In the Connect dialog:
  - **Server name:** REDGATE-DEMO\SQLEXPRESS
  - **Authentication:** Windows Authentication
  - Tick **Trust server certificate** (if applicable)
  - Click **Connect**

### Step 3: Run the Database Setup Script

1. In SSMS, go to **File > Open > File**
2. Navigate to `C:\Temp\ToolbeltEssentialsExercise\` and open `CreateSimpleDBDatabases.sql`

*Alternatively: Open a new query window and copy-paste the contents of the file*
3. Click **Execute** (or press F5)
4. Wait for the script to complete
5. Refresh the Databases folder in Object Explorer to see:
  - SimpleDB\_Dev1
  - SimpleDB\_Dev2
  - SimpleDB\_Test
  - SimpleDB\_Prod
6. **Optional:** To clean up the view, right-click on the **Databases** folder, select **Filter >**

**Filter Settings**, set the Name filter to `Simple`, and click **OK**. This limits the view to only the newly created databases.

## Exercise Goals

By the end of this exercise, you will be familiar with:

**Primary Focus:** - **SQL Source Control** - Version control your database schema - **SQL Compare** - Compare and synchronize database schemas between environments

**Secondary Tools:** - **Dependency Tracker** - Visualize object dependencies in your database  
- **SQL Doc** - Generate documentation for your database schema

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## Part 1: Explore the Tools

| Wait for the instructor before completing these exercises.

### Exercise A: SQL Source Control - Initial Setup

**Objective:** Link a database to source control and commit the initial schema

1. In SSMS Object Explorer, right-click on `SimpleDB_Dev1`
  2. Select **SQL Source Control > Link Database to Source Control...**
  3. Choose your source control system (Git, TFS, SVN, etc.) or “**Just let me try it out**” for a Demo
  4. Select a repository folder
  5. Click **Link**
  6. Observe how database objects appear as scripts in source control in the Commit tab
  7. **Commit** all objects to version control as your initial baseline - think of a meaningful commit message (e.g., “Initial database schema”)
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### Exercise B: SQL Source Control - Making Changes

**Objective:** Make schema changes and commit them to source control

1. In SSMS, go to **File > Open > File** and open `Exercises.sql` from `C:\Temp\ToolbeltEssentialsExercise\`
  2. Run the tasks in order (1, 2, 3) to make schema changes to `SimpleDB_Dev1`
  3. Return to SQL Source Control in SSMS and use the Commit Tab
  4. See the new changes appear (the `Socials` table, `ListSocials` stored procedure, and `WorkPhone` column)
  5. Select and **Commit** all your changes to version control using a relevant commit message
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### Exercise C: SQL Compare - Deploy to Test

**Objective:** Deploy your changes from Dev1 to Test

1. Open **SQL Compare** from the Start menu or SSMS Tools menu
2. In the comparison wizard:
  - o **Source:** Select **SQL Source Control**, then choose `SimpleDB_Dev1` with revision **Latest (HEAD)**
  - o **Target:** Select **Database**, choose server `REDGATE-DEMO\SQLEXPRESS`, tick **Trust**

**certificate**, then select `SimpleDB_Test`

3. Click **Compare Now**
  4. Review the differences - you should see the changes you made in Exercise B
  5. Select all the new objects to deploy
  6. Click **Deploy** and then **Deploy using SQL Compare** and Next using other defaults
  7. Review the script and deploy the changes
  8. Now repeat the process to deploy those changes to `SimpleDB_Prod` but beware! **NB**  
Did you notice anything about Prod that was concerning? You should have spotted the Drift, don't Deploy to Prod Skip to ### Bonus Exercise 2 to fix the drift first then return to this step
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## Exercise D: Dependency Tracker (Secondary)

**Objective:** Visualize database object dependencies

1. Open **Dependency Tracker** from the Start menu
  2. Connect to `SimpleDB_Dev1`
  3. Explore the dependency graph for:
    - `Sales.Orders` table - see related views, stored procedures, and foreign keys
    - `Sales.CustomerOrdersView` - see which tables it depends on
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## Exercise E: SQL Doc (Secondary)

**Objective:** Generate database documentation

1. Open **SQL Doc** from the Start menu
  2. Create a new project and connect to `SimpleDB_Test`
  3. Select all database objects to document
  4. Choose output format (HTML, PDF, or Word)
  5. Generate documentation
  6. Review the output - tables, relationships, stored procedures are all documented
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## Bonus Exercise 1: Link Dev2 to the Same Repository

**Objective:** Link a second database to an existing source control repository and sync changes

1. In SSMS Object Explorer, right-click on `SimpleDB_Dev2`
  2. Select **SQL Source Control > Link Database to Source Control...**
  3. Link it to the **same repository folder** you used for `SimpleDB_Dev1` which is an **existing** repository
  4. Once linked, go to the **Get Latest** tab
  5. Pull the latest changes from source control to update `SimpleDB_Dev2` with the schema changes from Dev1
  6. Verify that Dev2 now has the `Socials` table, `ListSocials` procedure, and `WorkPhone`
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## Bonus Exercise 2: Rescue Prod Drift into Source Control

**Objective:** Bring untracked production changes back under version control

In Exercise C, you may have noticed Prod has some unexpected differences. This simulates a common real-world scenario where someone made “emergency” changes directly to production without going through source control.

1. Open **SQL Compare**
2. Set up a **reverse comparison**:
  - **Source:** SimpleDB\_Prod database
  - **Target:** SimpleDB\_Dev1 database
3. Click **Compare Now**
4. Identify the drift - you should see:
  - Customers.Customer has an extra column (`LastLoginDate`)
  - Inventory.TempFlightCache is an extra table
5. **Decide what to do:**
  - Is the `LastLoginDate` column valuable? (Yes - security team needs it)
  - Is `TempFlightCache` needed? (No - it’s leftover from an old report)
6. Select only `Customers.Customer` and deploy to Dev1
  - You will have noticed that column `WorkPhone` would have been dropped from Dev1 by SQL Compare so you need to add it back, use the `Exercises.sql` to add just `WorkPhone` back. Select the code block for this and execute, taking care not to rerun the whole exercises script.
7. Return to SQL Source Control and **commit** the rescued change
8. Now your source control reflects the legitimate production change, and you can clean up the unnecessary `TempFlightCache` table from Prod later
9. **Now go and finish off your Prod deployment as the Drift is repaired**

## Database Schema Overview

Each sample database contains:

Schema	Objects
<b>Customers</b>	Customer, LoyaltyProgram, CustomerFeedback tables + views
<b>Inventory</b>	Flight, FlightRoute, MaintenanceLog tables + views
<b>Sales</b>	Orders, DiscountCode, OrderAuditLog tables + views + stored procedures

**Sample Stored Procedures:** - Sales.GetCustomerFlightHistory - View customer’s order history - Sales.UpdateOrderStatus - Update an order’s status - Sales.ApplyDiscount - Apply discount codes to orders - Inventory.UpdateAvailableSeats - Manage flight seat inventory - Customers.RecordFeedback - Record customer feedback

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## Quick Reference

Tool	Purpose	Access
SQL Source Control	Version control for databases	SSMS > Right-click database
SQL Compare	Schema comparison & sync	Start Menu or SSMS Tools
Dependency Tracker	Visualize object relationships	Start Menu
SQL Doc	Generate documentation	Start Menu

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*Happy exploring! Ask questions if you get stuck.*