**Restoring a database**

The principal reason we take backups of system and user defined databases is that it allows us to restore the databases in case of a disaster. There are a few restore commands that we should be familiar with and they are as follows:

**Restore Commands:**

• RESTORE DATABASE - allows us to restore a full, differential, file or filegroup backup  
• RESTORE LOG - allows us to restore a transaction log backup

**Informational Restore Commands:**

• RESTORE HEADERONLY - gives you a list of all the backups in a file  
• RESTORE FILELISTONLY - gives you a list of all of the files that were backed up for a give backup  
• RESTORE VERIFYONLY - verifies that the backup is readable by the RESTORE process  
• RESTORE LABELONLY - gives you the backup media information

RESTORE HEADERONLY  
The RESTORE HEADERONLY option allows you to see the backup header information for all backups for a particular backup device.

**Example:**

RESTORE HEADERONLY FROM DISK = 'C:\FullBackups\test.bak'  
GO  
RESTORE FILELISTONLY

The RESTORE FILELISTONLY option allows you to see a list of the files that were backed up such as the .mdf and .ldf.

**Example:**

RESTORE FILELISTONLY FROM DISK = 'C:\FullBackups\test.bak'  
GO

RESTORE VERIFYONLY

Verifies that the backup is readable by the RESTORE process

**Example:**

RESTORE VERIFYONLY from disk = 'C:\FullBackups\test.bak'  
RESTORE LABELONLY  
The RESTORE LABELONLY option allows you to see the backup media information for the backup device