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In SQL Server Always On Availability Groups, if you want to perform backups on secondary replicas while ensuring that they don't interfere with the log chain of the primary database, using the `COPY_ONLY` option is essential.

This option allows backups to be taken without affecting the backup sequence and is crucial for maintaining the integrity of your log backups.

Key Points on Using `COPY_ONLY` for Backups

1. Backup on Secondary Replicas: When you configure your backup jobs on secondary replicas, including `COPY_ONLY` in the backup command prevents these backups from breaking the log chain. This is especially important for transaction log backups that depend on the sequence of previous backups.

2. Example T-SQL for Backups:

Full Backup on Primary Replica:

```
BACKUP DATABASE [YourDatabase]
TO DISK = 'C:\Backups\YourDatabase_Full.bak'
WITH COPY_ONLY, COMPRESSION;
```


Full Backup on Secondary Replica:

```
BACKUP DATABASE [YourDatabase]
TO DISK = 'C:\Backups\YourDatabase_Full_Secondary.bak'
WITH COPY_ONLY, COMPRESSION;
```

3. Usage in SQL Server Agent Jobs: When configuring jobs for backups in Ola Hallengren's maintenance solution or any custom scripts, ensure that both primary and secondary backup jobs include the `COPY_ONLY` option in their respective backup commands.

4. Recovery Considerations: When restoring from backups taken with the `COPY_ONLY` option, you can restore the database without impacting the ongoing backup sequence on the primary replica. This is especially useful for testing or reporting scenarios.

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Summary

For effective backup management in an Always On environment, using `COPY_ONLY` for backups on secondary replicas is a best practice.

It allows you to maintain the log backup chain while still being able to offload backups from the primary replica, thus balancing the load and enhancing overall performance.

Always ensure that both primary and secondary backups are configured correctly to avoid any disruptions in your disaster recovery strategy.