

Is there an open source SQL Server DB compare tool? [closed]

Asked 16 years, 4 months ago Modified 10 years, 6 months ago

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42



As it currently stands, this question is not a good fit for our Q&A format. We expect answers to be supported by facts, references, or expertise, but this question will likely solicit debate, arguments, polling, or extended discussion. If you feel that this question can be improved and possibly reopened, [visit the help center](#) for guidance.

Closed 12 years ago.

I'm working on an open source project that uses SQL Server 2005 as the data store. We need a DB compare tool to generate diff scripts to be able to upgrade a DB from one version to another.

Is there an open source or free SQL Server DB diff tool out there that generates a convert script?

sql-server

sql-server-2005

compare

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edited Jun 16, 2014 at 10:58

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mehdi lotfi

11.5k ● 18 ● 83 ● 128

asked Aug 22, 2008 at 16:26



Guy

67.1k ● 101 ● 265 ● 331

12 Answers

Sorted by:

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I think that Open DBiff does a good job. It's simple and I works with SQL Server 2005/2008.

17



But only generate the change script. Nothing more and nothing less.



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answered Feb 13, 2009 at 16:36



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Mauro



also seems to work with 2012, however it might be ignoring new features and Options that could potentially be scripted
– [adolf garlic](#) Nov 20, 2015 at 12:16



On CodePlex I noticed yesterday **DbDiff** (<http://www.codeplex.com/OpenDBiff>) that you could try. Supports Sql2005 and 2008, I did not try it.

12



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edited Nov 12, 2008 at 17:28

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answered Nov 12, 2008 at 17:03



ila

4,724 ● 7 ● 38 ● 41

-
- 1 This doesn't seem to work on Win7 64bit. – [Marc](#) Mar 5, 2010 at 20:12
-

It did not work for me on Win7 64bit, but i managed to build it from source (added some missing dlls from Binary distribution, and System.Data.SQLite.DLL from a copy of SubSonic). It took me 5 minutes or so to do. Give it a try - it seems to produce good results (generates a sync script). Have run tested the scripts yet, but the tool looks very promising. – [Muxa](#) Jul 24, 2010 at 8:50

For info, this now works with 64-bit. Just tried it, very good tool. Not quite as good as AdeptSQL Diff, but it's free!
– [Chris Haines](#) Jan 18, 2011 at 10:43



6



I'd recommend spending some cash and getting [Red Gate's SQL Compare](#) tool which does an excellent job, and can even compare databases to Visual Studio database projects to generate upgrade scripts. It's fast and easy to use, and works well. The upgrade scripts are also of decent quality.



It's not that expensive. Probably less expensive than your time. Just think about how much your hourly rate is, and how many hours it might take to investigate an open-source tool and get it working (and how many you have already spent), then multiply them together. That's how

much a 'free' tool is really costing you, which is often significantly more than a commercial tool.

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answered Nov 12, 2008 at 17:56

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[Greg Beech](#)

136k ● 45 ● 209 ● 250

9 This argument can be used to justify purchasing EVERYTHING, from Aeron chairs to 40" screens to people who're standing behind you and massage your back. For a small business with no sales yet, which has to purchase many more items, \$400 for SQL Compare is simply a waste of funds. Contrast this with Typemock Isolator which costs \$90 "For solo developers who work at home", Beyond Compare which costs \$30, visualSVN whinc costs \$50 - you see my point (all numbers are rounded). They should have made a "personal" version. – [Avi](#) Jun 29, 2009 at 7:54

1 He explicitly said he wanted an open source tool or free tool and did not entirely state why. Maybe even small purchases take months in his organization. Maybe he is doing it for charity for free. Because this is so far from answering his question I downvoted you. – [Squeaky](#) May 2, 2012 at 16:41



It's not open source, but is free (as in beer): [Sql Effects Accord \(aka Clarity\) Community Edition](#)

5



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answered Aug 22, 2008 at 16:46

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[Mark Brackett](#)

85.6k ● 17 ● 111 ● 155



Just tried this... it doesn't generate diff scripts so not that useful. – [Chris Haines](#) Jan 18, 2011 at 10:44

The registration on the page for their anno 2007 tool is also broken... – [Oskar Austegard](#) Feb 26, 2014 at 19:08



4

AdeptSQL Diff and DataDiff are wonderful products, much cheaper than RedGate's and a much more simplified UI, and I have yet to run into a scenario it cannot handle.



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answered Oct 27, 2009 at 17:33

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[Wes](#)

721 ● 7 ● 6



Agreed, very good tools. – [Chris Haines](#) Jan 18, 2011 at 10:44



3

Aloha

You might want to try [SqlDbDiff](#). It can generate change scripts. The free edition does a good enough job.



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edited Aug 14, 2010 at 19:32

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answered Dec 17, 2008 at 12:37




edosoft

17.3k ● 25 ● 80 ● 114

Freeware version only supports SQL2000. – [Lee](#) Aug 14, 2010 at 3:32

@lee are you sure, I've used it on SQL 2005 boxes. Not sure about sql2008 though – [edosoft](#) Aug 14, 2010 at 19:33

Freeware version wouldn't connect to default SQLEXPRESS instance for SQL2008. Shareware version offers a free trial period and does say it supports 2005 & 2008. I have moved on to Open DBiff for my use. It is not fancy, but it is truly free. – [Lee](#) Aug 16, 2010 at 19:16

The shareware trial is good... the freeware version is not as good as OpenDbDiff imho. – [Chris Haines](#) Jan 18, 2011 at 10:48 



1



Anyone try xSQL Bundle (xSQL Data Compare and xSQL Object Compare)? Our place only uses for DB diffs, no syncs, so can't say for syncing but the diff and reports are not bad.

Also, OpenDbDiff has a spin off, not sure which is better - <http://code.google.com/p/sql-dbdiff/>

Anyone know if any of the free/open source DB diff tools mentioned here offer scriptable / command line interface

to automate the diffs and synching?

I looked into xSQL tools, they offer command line access but unfortunately, no scriptable command to export diff results to (report) file.

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answered Nov 8, 2010 at 0:39

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David

3,443 ● 3 ● 31 ● 42



1

While it's not exactly what you want, I found this for postgres:

<http://mbk.projects.postgresql.org/>



It doesn't generate a diff to apply, but rather allows you to merge a full dump of the new version of the table with the previous version.



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answered Nov 30, 2010 at 10:15

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mkm

1,575 ● 2 ● 14 ● 21



0

Hmm, none that I know of. You can always retrieve the definitions as SQL and then run a diff tool on them, but it's a bit of a pain in the rear.



Probably the best solution for this is using some kind of "Migrations" tool, so you can keep your database definitions together with your code, and version them, etc.

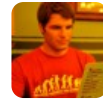




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answered Aug 22, 2008 at 17:08

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[dguaraglia](#)

6,014 ● 1 ● 27 ● 23



Update

0



On Sourceforge I found [Whiz SQL Structure Compare](#) with this description: Whiz is a database diff utility which will be useful to find difference between two MS-SQL Server databases. It also able to generate SQL script to update the changes from one database to another database.



However, I've been unsuccessful in getting it to work so far...

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answered Aug 23, 2008 at 18:46

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[Guy](#)

67.1k ● 101 ● 265 ● 331



We have both SQL Delta and SQL Compare. Each has strengths, but each also have weaknesses that make them quite a pain.

0



SQL Delta will miss some triggers in its comparison, and it will take actions not found in the action list, and it will sometimes take actions you did not want it to take. That was discovered at quite a cost in time.



SQL Compare will catch the triggers, but they are embedded within the table listings. On a large database, that means going through each table and sifting them out. Something the tool should have isolated for us. Again, quite a cost in time.

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answered Jul 3, 2009 at 15:00

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0

Its is a little late, but I just relased a real simple project on code plex:

<http://dbcompare.codeplex.com>



Enter (or build) two connection strings and it will compare all Tables, Views and Stored Procedures.



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answered Feb 27, 2012 at 20:54

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[user1054326](#)

318 ● 1 ● 3