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Back up your app in Azure

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The Backup and Restore feature in [Azure App Service](#) lets you easily create app backups manually or automatically. You can restore your app to a previous state, or create a new app based on one of your original app's backups.

For information on restoring an app from backup, see [Restore an app in Azure](#).

What gets backed up

App Service can back up the following information:

- App configuration
- File content
- Any Azure SQL Databases or Azure MySQL (ClearDB) databases connected to your app (you can choose which ones to include in the backup)

This information is backed up to the Azure storage account and container that you specify.

Note

Each backup is a complete offline copy of your app, not an incremental update.

Requirements and restrictions

- The Backup and Restore feature requires the App Service plan to be in the **Standard** tier or higher. For more information about scaling your App Service plan to use a higher tier, see [Scale up an app in Azure](#). Note that **Premium** tier allows a greater number of daily backups than **Standard** tier.
- You need an Azure storage account and container in the same subscription as the app that you want to back up. For more information on Azure storage accounts, see the [links](#) at the end of this article.
- Backups can be up to 10GB of app and database content. You will get an error if the backup size exceeds this limit.

Create a manual backup

- In the [Azure Portal](#), navigate to your app's blade, select **Settings**, then **Backups**. The **Backups** blade will be displayed.

The screenshot shows two side-by-side windows from the Azure Portal. On the left is the 'cephalin-appwithsql' App Service blade, which includes tabs for 'Essentials' and 'Monitoring'. The 'Essentials' tab displays basic app details like Resource group, Status, Location, Subscription name, and Subscription ID. On the right is the 'Settings' blade, which contains sections for 'ROUTING' and 'FEATURES'. The 'FEATURES' section has a 'Backups' item highlighted with a red box. Both windows have a top navigation bar with various icons for managing the app.

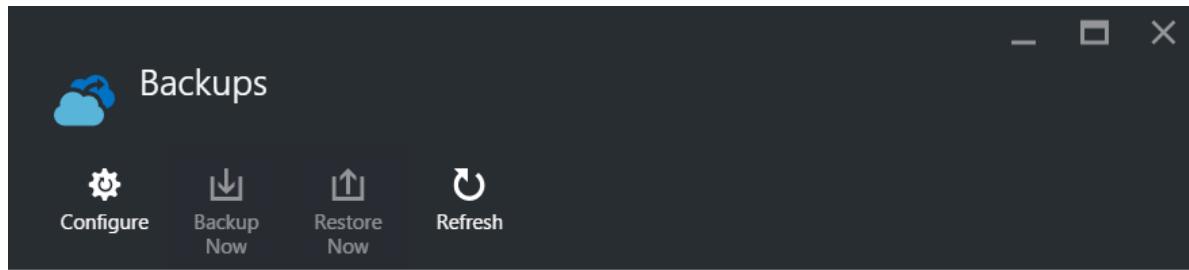
Note

If you see the message below, click it to upgrade your App Service plan before you can proceed with backups. See [Scale up an app in Azure](#) for more information.



Backup and Restore feature requires your App Service plan to be Standard or higher.
Click here to upgrade your App Service plan and access this feature.

- In the **Backups** blade, click **Storage: Not configured** to configure a storage account.



Backup Configuration Summary

Backup not configured. Start backing up your app by selecting a storage account.

Storage: Not configured

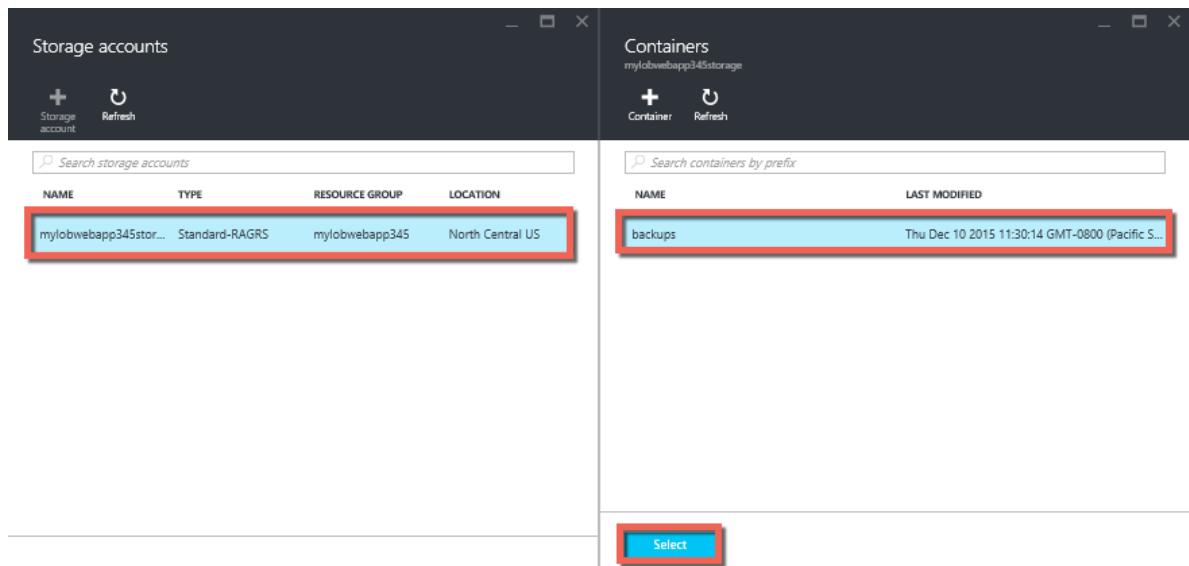
Schedule: Not configured

Databases: Not configured

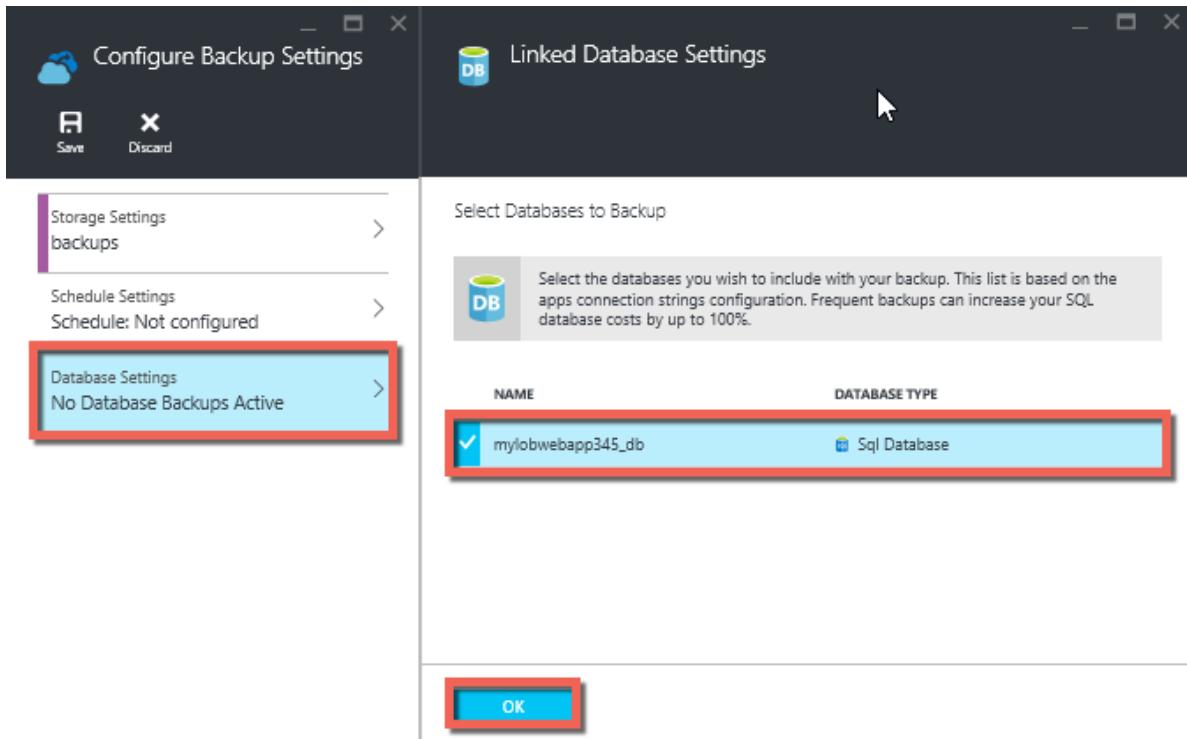
All backups

STATUS	BACKUP TIME	SIZE (MB)	LAST RESTORED
No backup history is available			

3. Choose your backup destination by selecting a **Storage Account** and **Container**. The storage account must belong to the same subscription as the app you want to back up. If you wish, you can create a new storage account or a new container in the respective blades. When you're done, click **Select**.



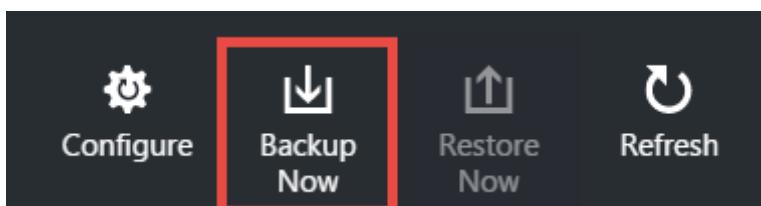
4. In the **Configure Backup Settings** blade that is still left open, click **Database Settings**, then select the databases you want to include in the backups (SQL database or MySQL), then click **OK**.



Note

For a database to appear in this list, its connection string must exist in the **Connection strings** section of the **Application settings** blade for your app.

5. In the **Configure Backup Settings** blade, click **Save**.
6. In the command bar of the **Backups** blade, click **Backup Now**.



You will see a progress message during the backup process.

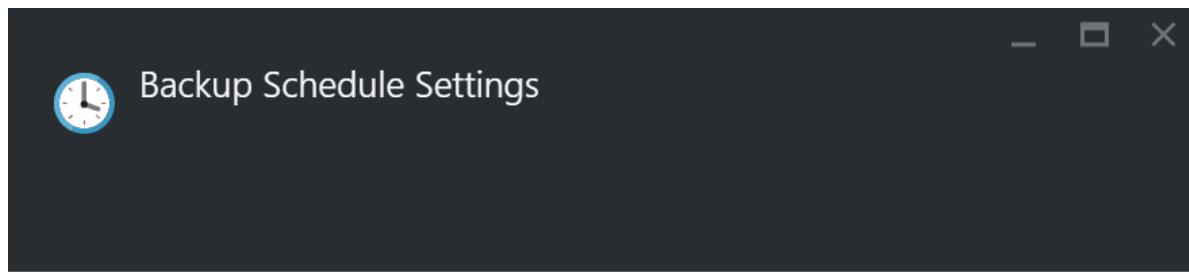
After you have configured a storage account and container for backups, you can make a manual backup at any time.

Configure automated backups

1. In the **Backups** blade, click **Schedule: Not configured**.

The screenshot shows the 'Backups' blade in the Azure portal. At the top, there are four buttons: 'Configure', 'Backup Now', 'Restore Now', and 'Refresh'. Below this is a section titled 'Backup Configuration Summary' with a message: 'Backup is configured. Click Backup Now to manually start a backup or configure a schedule for automatic backups.' Three status indicators are shown: 'Storage: Configured' (with a bar chart icon), 'Schedule: Not configured' (with a clock icon highlighted by a red box), and 'Databases: 1 Configured' (with a database icon). Below this is a section titled 'All backups' with a table header row containing 'STATUS', 'BACKUP TIME', 'SIZE (MB)', and 'LAST RESTORED'. A single row below the header states 'No backup history is available'.

2. On the **Backup Schedule Settings** blade, set **Scheduled Backup** to **On**, then configure the backup schedule as desired and click **OK**.



3. In the **Configure Backup Settings** blade that is still left open, click **Storage Settings**, then choose your backup destination by selecting a **Storage Account** and **Container**. The storage account must belong to the same subscription as the app you want to back up. If you wish, you can create a new storage account or a new container in the respective blades. When you're done, click **Select**.

The screenshot shows two overlapping windows from the Azure portal. On the left, the 'Storage accounts' blade displays a table with one row selected, highlighted by a red box. The selected row contains the name 'mylobwebapp345stor...', type 'Standard-RAGRS', resource group 'mylobwebapp345', and location 'North Central US'. On the right, the 'Containers' blade shows a table with one row selected, also highlighted by a red box. This row has the name 'backups' and a last modified date of 'Thu Dec 10 2015 11:30:14 GMT-0800 (Pacific S...'. A blue 'Select' button is visible at the bottom of the containers blade.

4. In the **Configure Backup Settings** blade, click **Database Settings**, then select the databases you want to include in the backups (SQL database or MySQL), then click **OK**.

The screenshot shows two windows side-by-side. The left window is the 'Configure Backup Settings' blade, which includes tabs for 'Storage Settings' (selected) and 'Database Settings'. The 'Database Settings' tab is highlighted with a red box. The right window is the 'Linked Database Settings' blade, which shows a list of databases to backup. One database, 'mylobwebapp345_db', is selected and highlighted with a red box. At the bottom of this blade is a blue 'OK' button, which is also highlighted with a red box.

Note

For a database to appear in this list, its connection string must exist in the **Connection strings** section of the **Application settings** blade for your app.

5. In the **Configure Backup Settings** blade, click **Save**.

Backup just part of your app

Sometimes you don't want to backup everything on your app. Here are a few examples:

- You set up weekly backups of your app that contains static content that never changes, such as old blog posts or images.
- Your app has over 10GB of content (that's the max amount you can backup at a time).
- You don't want to back up the log files.

Partial backups will let you choose exactly which files you want to back up.

Exclude files from your backup

To exclude files and folders from your backups, create a `_backup.filter` file in the `D:\home\site\wwwroot` folder of your app and specify the list of files and folders you want to exclude in there. An easy way to access this is through the [Kudu Console](#).

Suppose you have an app that contains log files and static images from past years that are never going to change. You already have a full backup of the app that includes the old images. Now you want to backup the app every day, but you don't want to pay for storing log files or the static image files that never change.

[... / wwwroot](#)  | 17 items

	Name
 	 App_Data
 	 bin
 	 Content
 	 Images
 	 Logs
 	 Scripts
 	 About.cshtml
 	 Default.cshtml

[... / Images](#)  | 6 items

	Name
 	 2013
 	 2014
 	 2015
 	 Products
 	 bkg.png
 	 brand.png

The below steps show how you would exclude these files from the backup.

1. Go to <http://{yourapp}.scm.azurewebsites.net/DebugConsole> and identify the folders that you want to exclude from your backups. In this example, you would want to exclude the following files and folders shown in that UI:

[Copy](#)

```
D:\home\site\wwwroot\Logs  
D:\home\LogFiles  
D:\home\site\wwwroot\Images\2013  
D:\home\site\wwwroot\Images\2014  
D:\home\site\wwwroot\Images\brand.png
```

[AZURE.NOTE] The last line shows that you can exclude individual files as well as folders.

2. Create a file called `_backup.filter` and put the list above in the file, but remove `D:\home`. List one directory or file per line. So the content of the file should be:

```
\site\wwwroot\Logs \LogFiles \site\wwwroot\Images\2013  
\site\wwwroot\Images\2014 \site\wwwroot\Images\brand.png
```

3. Upload this file to the `D:\home\site\wwwroot\` directory of your site using [ftp](#) or any other method. If you wish, you can create the file directly in <http://{yourapp}.scm.azurewebsites.net/DebugConsole> and insert the content there.
4. Run backups the same way you would normally do it, [manually](#) or [automatically](#).

Now, any files and folders that are specified in `_backup.filter` will be excluded from the backup. In this example, the log files and the 2013 and 2014 image files will no longer be backed up, as well as brand.png.

Note

You restore partial backups of your site the same way you would [restore a regular backup](#). The restore process will do the right thing.

When a full backup is restored, all content on the site is replaced with whatever is in the backup. If a file is on the site but not in the backup it gets deleted. But when a partial backup is restored, any content that is located in one of the blacklisted directories, or any blacklisted file, is left as is.

How backups are stored

After you have made one or more backups for your app, the backups will be visible on the **Containers** blade of your storage account, as well as your app. In the storage account, each backup consists of a .zip file that contains the backup data and an .xml file that contains a manifest of the .zip file contents. You can unzip and browse these files if you want to access your backups without actually performing an app restore.

The database backup for the app is stored in the root of the .zip file. For a SQL database, this is a BACPAC file (no file extension) and can be imported. To create a new SQL

database based on the BACPAC export, see [Import a BACPAC File to Create a New User Database](#).

⚡ Warning

Altering any of the files in your **websitebackups** container can cause the backup to become invalid and therefore non-restorable.

Next Steps

For information on restoring an app from a backup, see [Restore an app in Azure](#). You can also backup and restore App Service apps using REST API (see [Use REST to back up and restore App Service apps](#)).

>Note

If you want to get started with Azure App Service before signing up for an Azure account, go to [Try App Service](#), where you can immediately create a short-lived starter web app in App Service. No credit cards required; no commitments.

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How can i exclude App Configuration from backup?

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