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Back up your app in Azure



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In this article

- [What gets backed up](#)
- [Requirements and restrictions](#)
- [Create a manual backup](#)
- [Configure automated backups](#)
- [Backup just part of your app](#)
- [How backups are stored](#)
- [Next Steps](#)

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

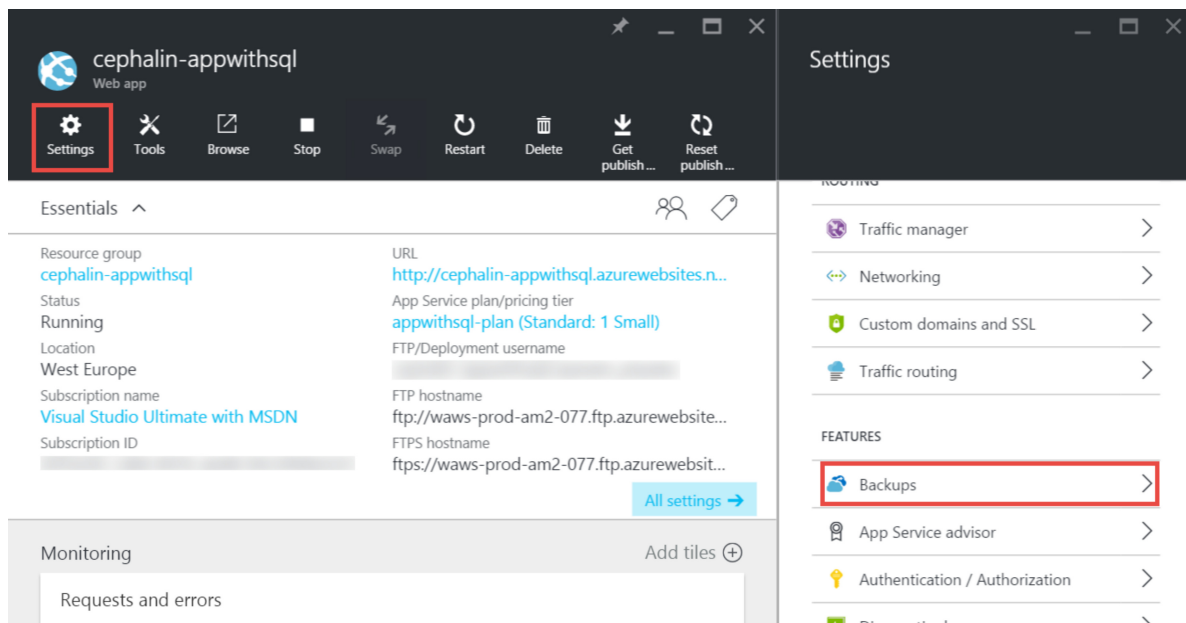
Each backup is a complete offline copy of your app, not an incremental update.

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

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



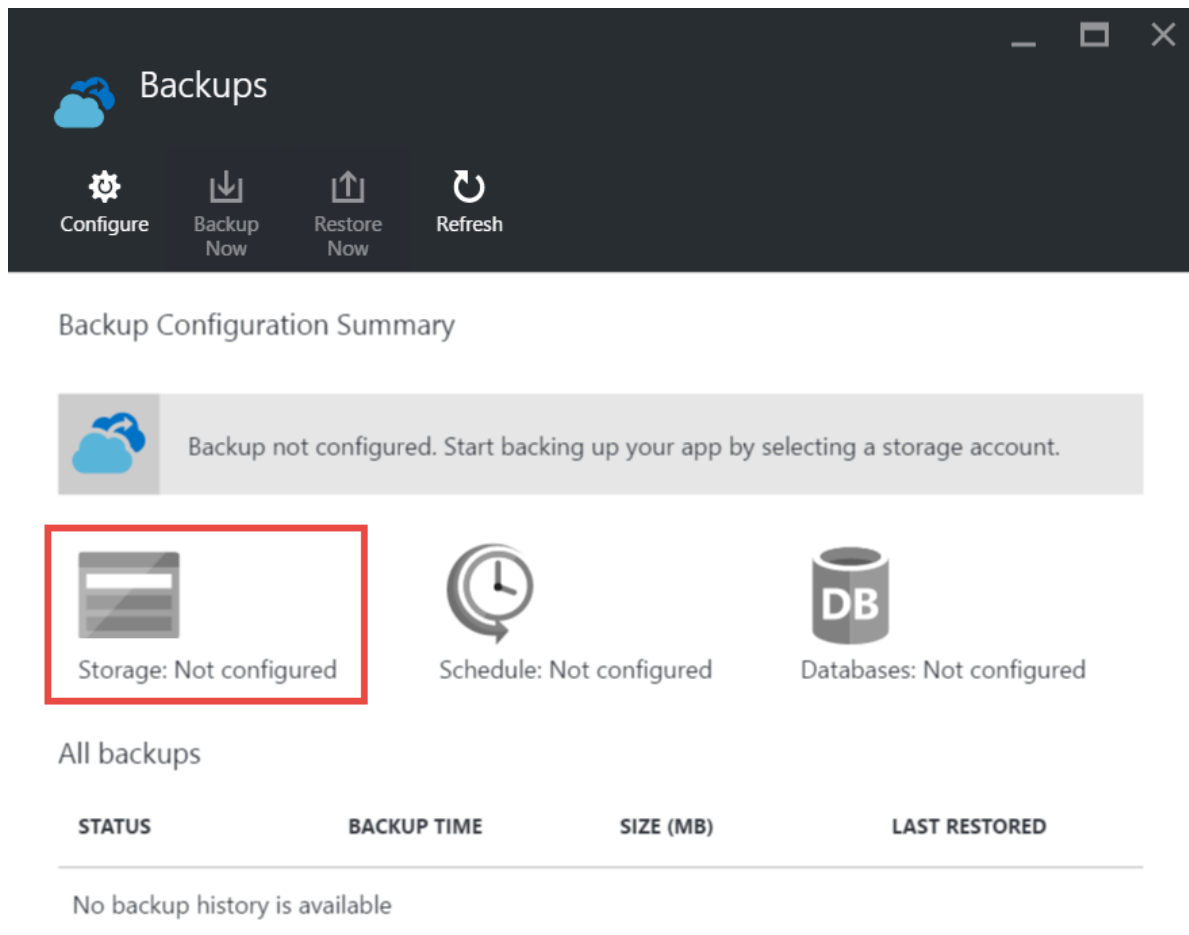
Note

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.

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



Backups

Configure Backup Now Restore Now Refresh

Backup Configuration Summary

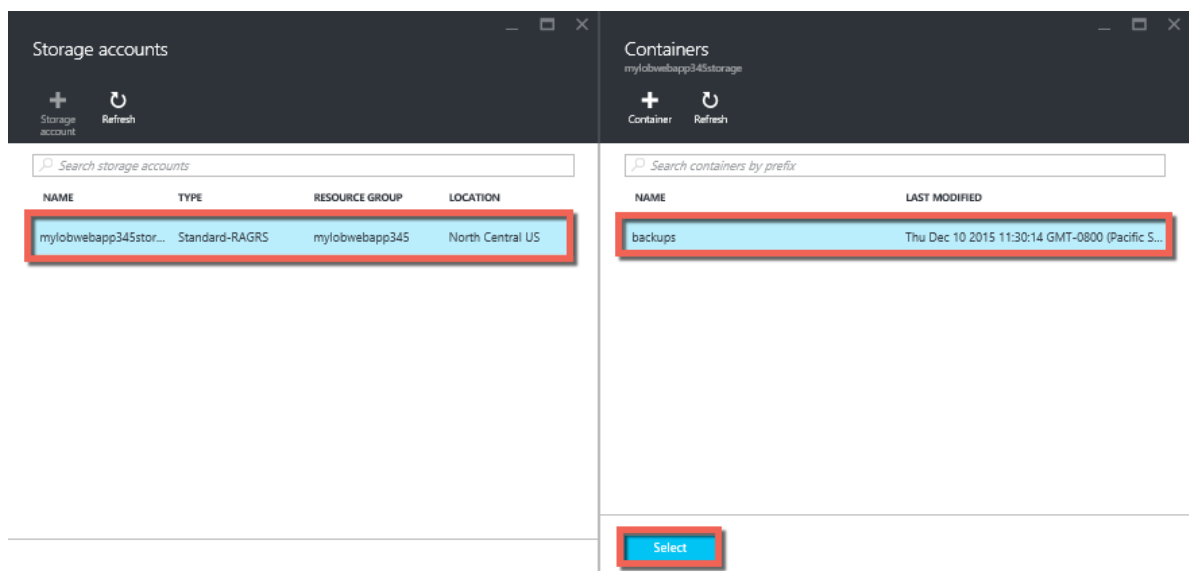
Backup not configured. Start backing up your app by selecting a storage account.

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**.



Storage accounts

Search storage accounts

NAME	TYPE	RESOURCE GROUP	LOCATION
mylobwebapp345stor...	Standard-RAGRS	mylobwebapp345	North Central US

Containers

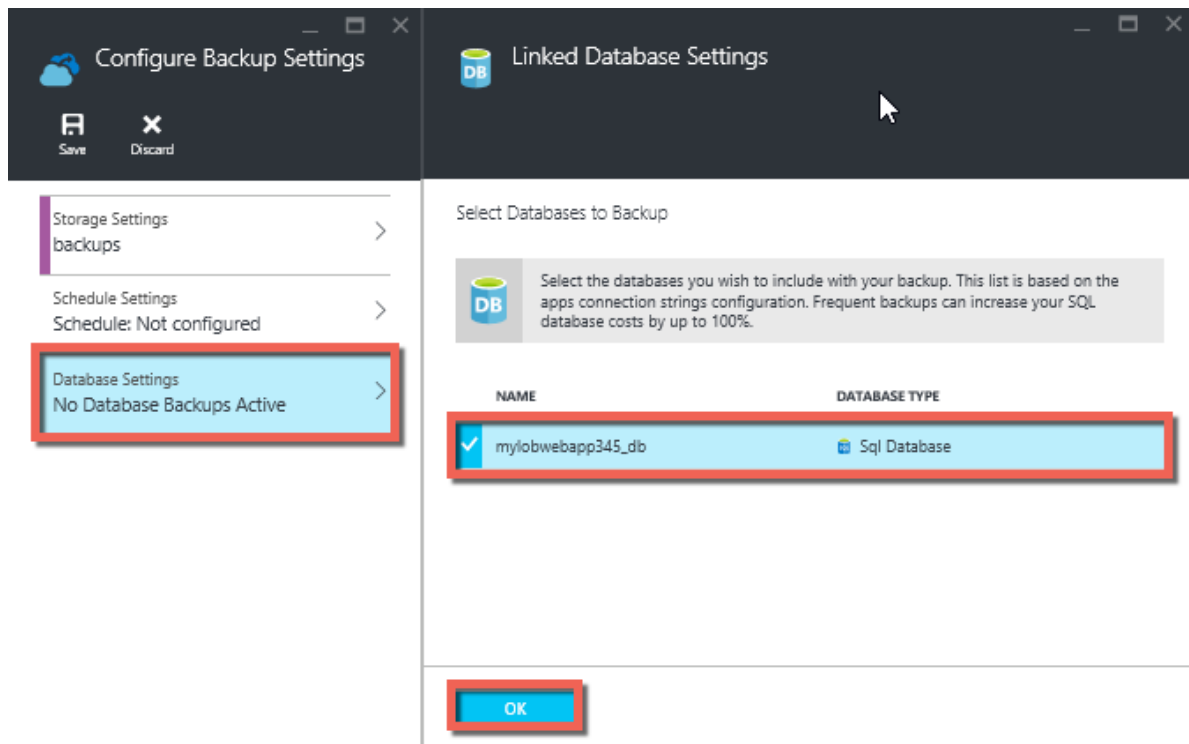
mylobwebapp345storage

Search containers by prefix

NAME	LAST MODIFIED
backups	Thu Dec 10 2015 11:30:14 GMT-0800 (Pacific S...)

Select

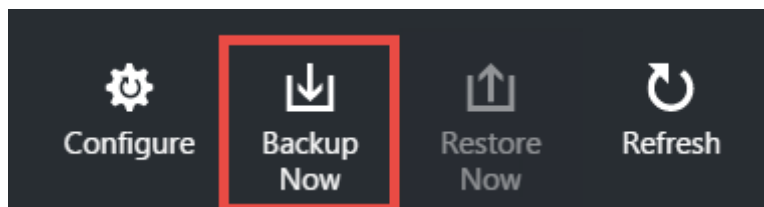
4. In the **Configure Backup Settings** blade that is still left open, click **Database Settings**, then select the databases you want to include in the backups (SQL database or MySQL), then click **OK**.



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**.

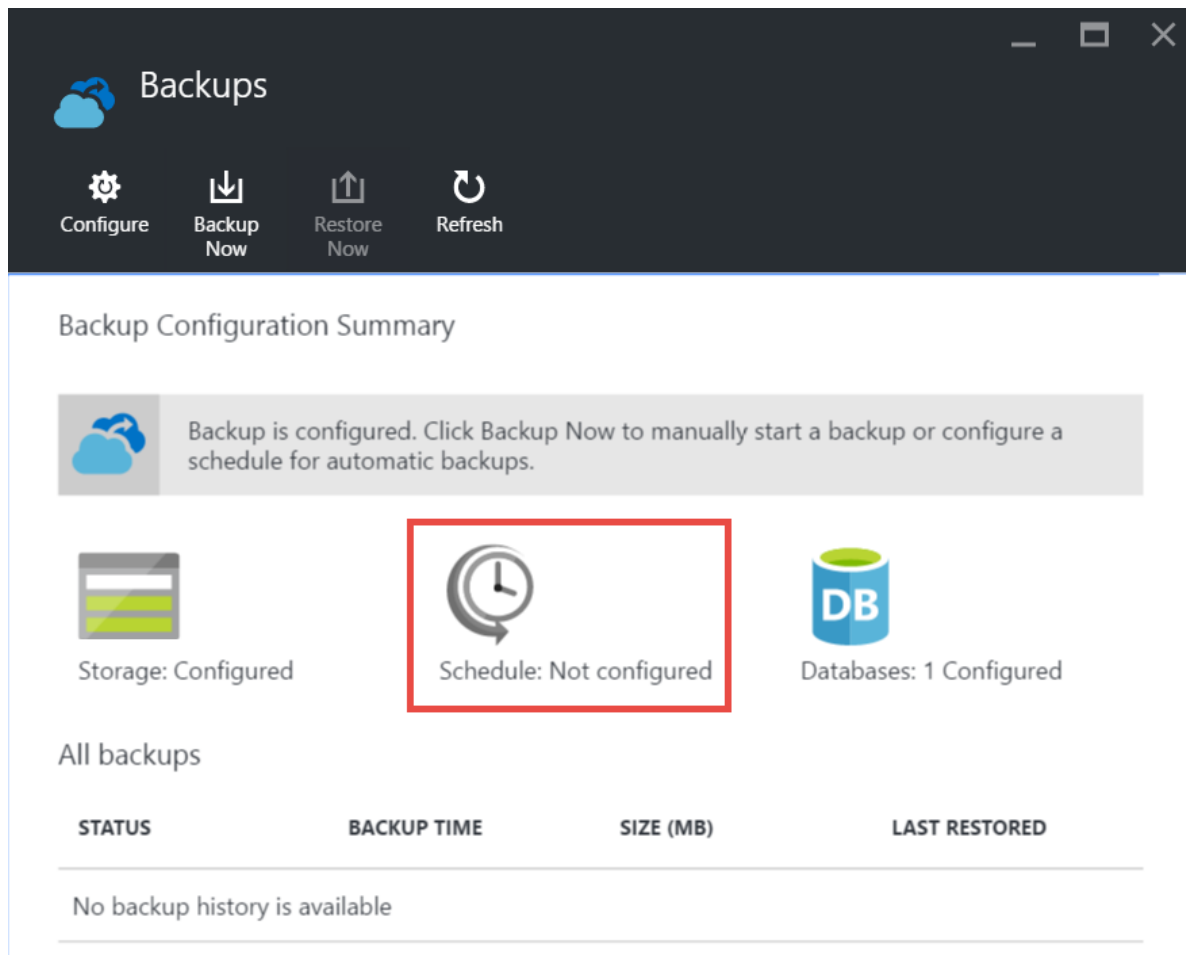


You will see a progress message during the backup process.

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

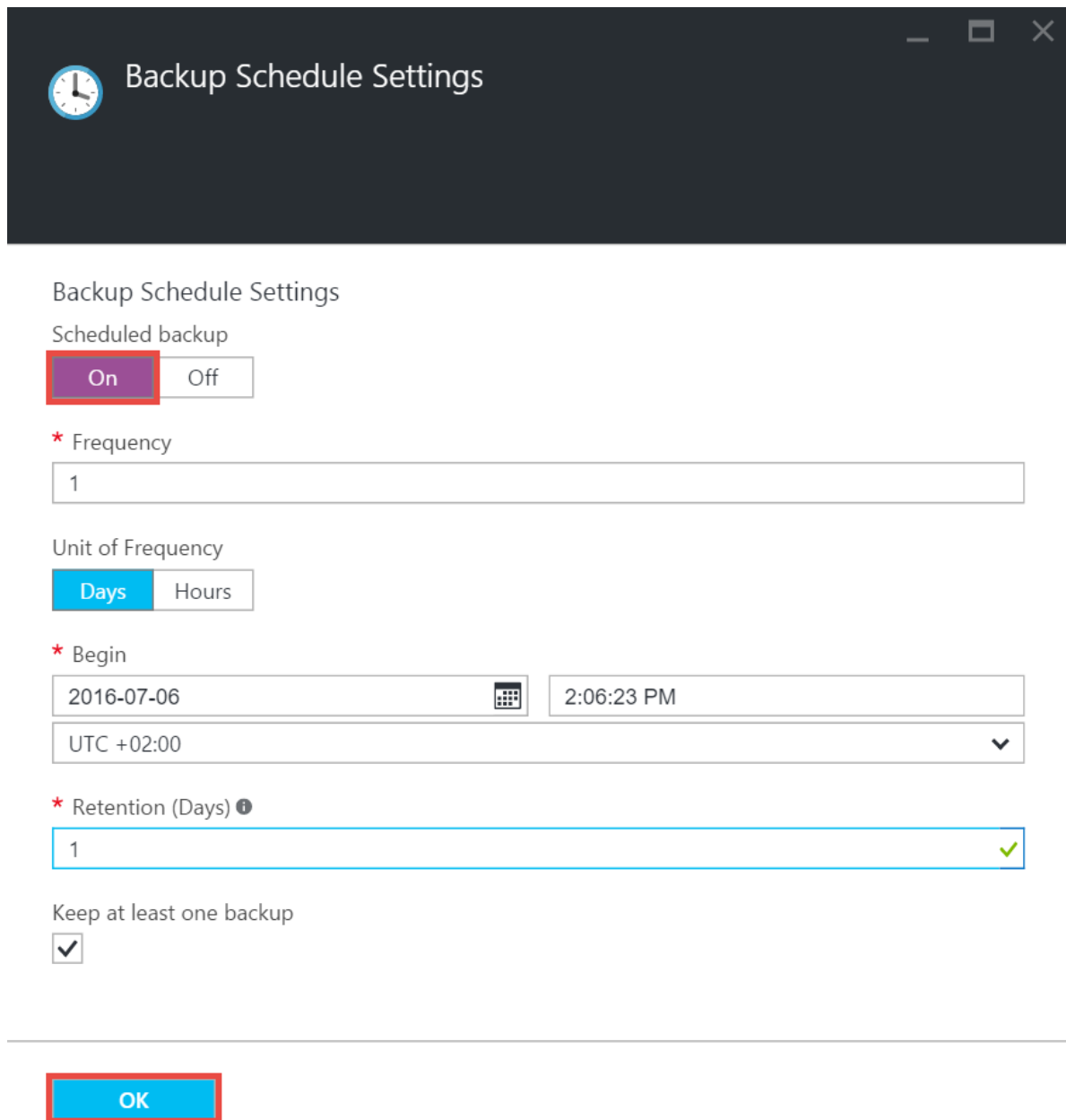
Configure automated backups

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 these is the 'Backup Configuration Summary' section. A message states: 'Backup is configured. Click Backup Now to manually start a backup or configure a schedule for automatic backups.' Below this message are three status indicators: 'Storage: Configured' (with a storage icon), 'Schedule: Not configured' (with a clock icon and highlighted by a red box), and 'Databases: 1 Configured' (with a database icon). At the bottom, there is a table titled 'All backups' with columns: STATUS, BACKUP TIME, SIZE (MB), and LAST RESTORED. The table currently contains the text '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**.



Backup Schedule Settings

Scheduled backup

On Off

* Frequency

1

Unit of Frequency

Days Hours

* Begin

2016-07-06 2:06:23 PM

UTC +02:00

* Retention (Days) ⓘ

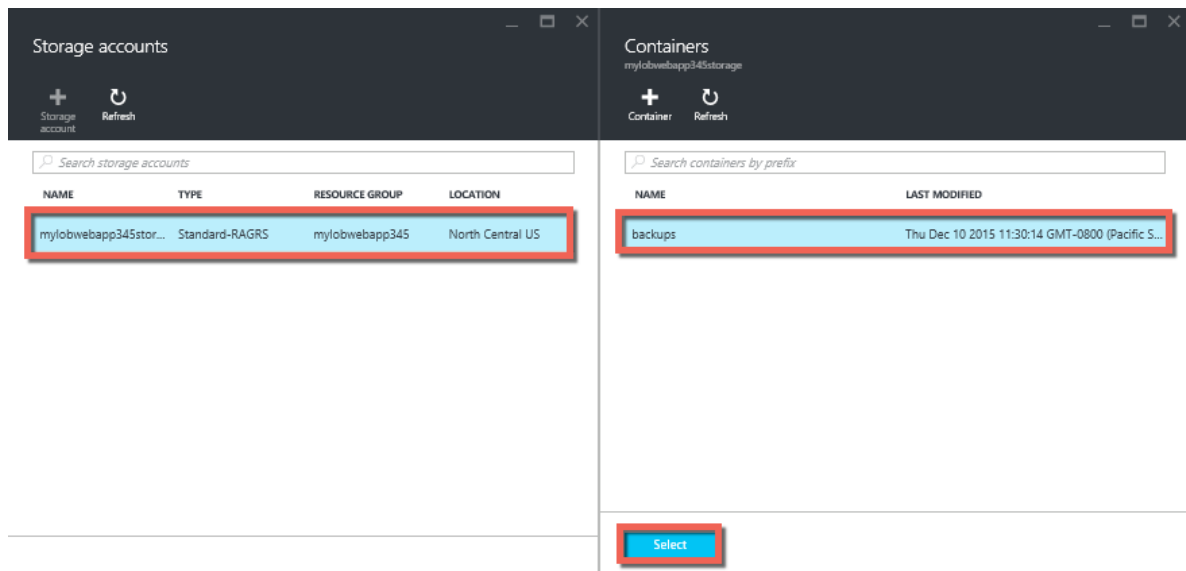
1 ✓

Keep at least one backup

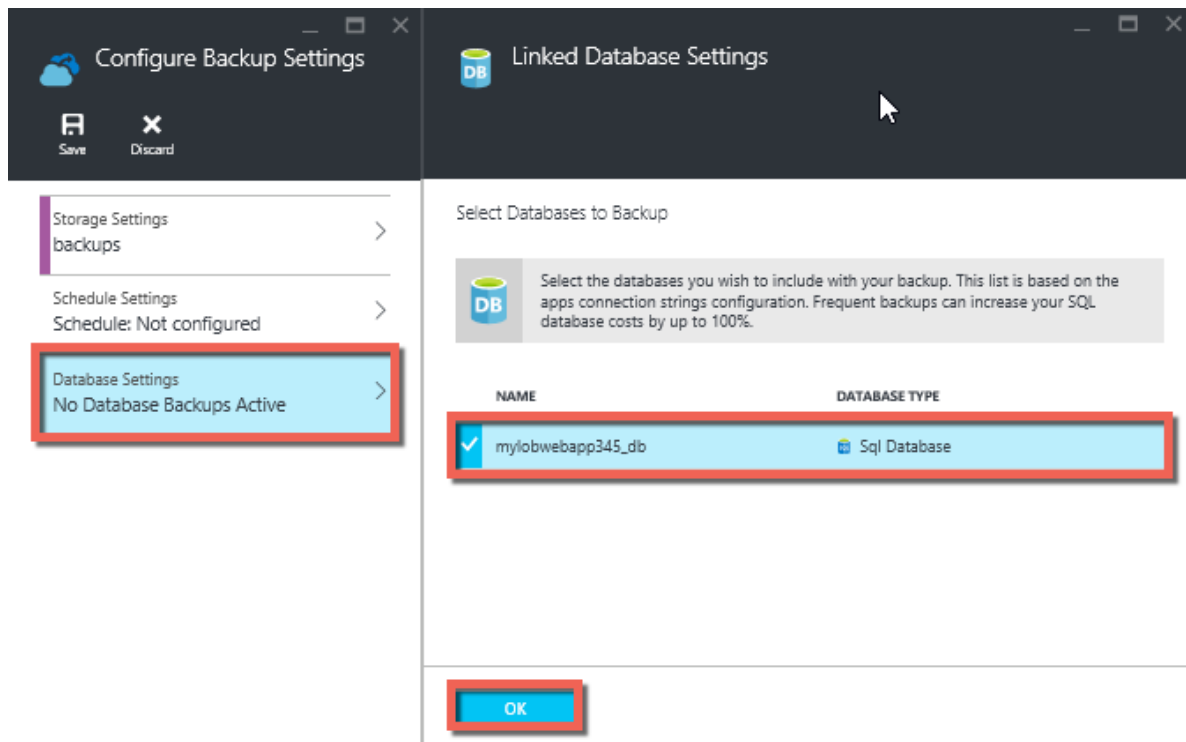
☒

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**.



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**.



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 individuals 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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