**<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190646.aspx>**

**Save an Execution Plan in XML Format**

**SQL Server 2012**

[Other Versions](javascript:;)

http://i3.technet.microsoft.com/Areas/Epx/Content/Images/ImageSprite.png

* [SQL Server 2008 R2](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190646(v=sql.105).aspx)
* [SQL Server 2008](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190646(v=sql.100).aspx)
* [SQL Server 2005](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms190646(v=sql.90).aspx)

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Use SQL Server Management Studio to save execution plans as an XML file, and to open them for viewing.

To use the execution plan feature in Management Studio, or to use the XML Showplan SET options, users must have the appropriate permissions to execute the Transact-SQL query for which an execution plan is being generated, and they must be granted the SHOWPLAN permission for all databases referenced by the query.

**To save a query plan by using the XML Showplan SET options**

1. In SQL Server Management Studio open a query editor and connect to Database Engine.
2. Turn SHOWPLAN\_XML on with the following statement:

[Copy](javascript:if%20(window.epx.codeSnippet)window.epx.codeSnippet.copyCode('CodeSnippetContainerCode_df955afa-007e-4b37-8505-6a2cc09f9b1d');" \o "Copy to clipboard.)

SET SHOWPLAN\_XML ON;

GO

To turn STATISTICS XML on, use the following statement:

[Copy](javascript:if%20(window.epx.codeSnippet)window.epx.codeSnippet.copyCode('CodeSnippetContainerCode_7144d028-1f4e-4cbb-afbb-01f0a595f396');)

SET STATISTICS XML ON;

GO

SHOWPLAN\_XML generates compile-time query execution plan information for a query, but does not execute the query. STATISTICS XML generates run-time query execution plan information for a query, and executes the query.

1. Execute a query. Example:

[Copy](javascript:if%20(window.epx.codeSnippet)window.epx.codeSnippet.copyCode('CodeSnippetContainerCode_460d685e-2965-4a55-ac52-e5ea86173111');)

USE AdventureWorks2012;

GO

SET SHOWPLAN\_XML ON;

GO

-- Execute a query.

SELECT BusinessEntityID

FROM HumanResources.Employee

WHERE NationalIDNumber = '509647174';

GO

SET SHOWPLAN\_XML OFF;

1. In the Results pane, right-click the Microsoft SQL Server XML Showplan that contains the query plan, and then click Save Results As.
2. In the Save <Grid or Text> Results dialog box, in the Save as type box, click All files (\*.\*).
3. In the File name box provide a name, in the format <name>.sqlplan, and then click Save.

**To save an execution plan by using SQL Server Management Studio options**

1. Generate either an estimated execution plan or an actual execution plan by using Management Studio. For more information, see [Display the Estimated Execution Plan](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms191194.aspx) or [Display an Actual Execution Plan](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms189562.aspx).
2. In the Execution plan tab of the results pane, right-click the graphical execution plan, and choose Save Execution Plan As.

As an alternative, you can also choose Save Execution Plan As on the File menu.

1. In the Save As dialog box, make sure that the Save as type is set to Execution Plan Files (\*.sqlplan).
2. In the File name box provide a name, in the format <name>.sqlplan, and then click Save.

**To open a saved XML query plan in SQL Server Management Studio**

1. In SQL Server Management Studio, on the File menu, choose Open, and then click File.
2. In the Open File dialog box, set Files of type to Execution Plan Files (\*.sqlplan) to produce a filtered list of saved XML query plan files.
3. Select the XML query plan file that you want to view, and click Open.

As an alternative, in Windows Explorer, double-click a file with extension .sqlplan. The plan opens in Management Studio.

[See Also](javascript:void(0))

**Reference**

[SET SHOWPLAN\_XML (Transact-SQL)](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187757.aspx)

[SET STATISTICS XML (Transact-SQL)](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms176107.aspx)