First Responder Kit (FRK) Automation Installation & Usage Guide

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☑ Overview

This guide explains how to install and use the First Responder Kit (FRK) automation script to deploy a SQL Server performance monitoring solution. The script installs jobs, configures monitoring, handles exports, and ensures everything is hardened and idempotent.

⏱ Prerequisites

1. SQL Server Requirements

- SQL Server 2012 or later
- SQL Server Agent must be running
- PowerShell access with `SqlServer` module installed

2. Account Permissions

- A SQL login with sysadmin privileges to execute this script
- A **dedicated job owner** (not `sa`, unless testing), must exist in `sys.server_principals`

3. Folder Setup

- Ensure the export folder (e.g., `D:\SQL_Exports`) exists and is writable by the SQL Agent service account

4. Tools

- First Responder Kit procedures (Blitz, BlitzFirst, BlitzCache, BlitzWho, BlitzIndex) must already be present in `master` database.
    - Download from: https://github.com/BrentOzarULTD/SQL-Server-First-Responder-Kit
    - Once downloaded, execute the Install-All-Scripts.sql script in SSMS to install all necessary stored procedures into the `master` database.

🔧 Installation Instructions

Step 1: Open SSMS

Open SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) as a sysadmin user.

Step 2: Modify Configuration Block

In the script section:

```
INSERT INTO #FRK_Config VALUES
(
    N'DBAtools', -- FRK target database
    30,          -- Retention in days (minimum 7)
    N'sa',       -- Job owner (replace with dedicated account)
    N'Database Maintenance (FRK)',
    N'D:\SQL_Exports'  -- Export location
);
```

Replace:

- `DBAtools` with the desired database name
- `sa` with the actual job owner
- `D:\SQL_Exports` with a valid directory path

Step 3: Execute the Script

Run the entire script in a single session.

The script will:

- Create the monitoring database if not present
- Add job categories
- Drop and recreate any existing FRK jobs
- Create `FRK_JobExecutionLog` table in `msdb`
- Deploy 5 jobs:
    - **Daily Health Check** (2:00 AM daily)
    - **Peak Hour Performance Snapshot** (10:30 AM & 2:30 PM)
    - **Weekly Index Analysis** (Sunday 10:00 PM)
    - **Weekly Data Cleanup** (Saturday 11:00 PM)
    - **Manual Export to CSV** (on-demand only)

If an error occurs, the script will automatically roll back all changes.

Job Overview & Execution Schedule

Job Name	Purpose	Schedule
FRK - Daily Health Check	Blitz, BlitzFirst, BlitzCache, BlitzWho	Daily @ 2:00 AM
FRK - Peak Hour Performance	BlitzFirst + BlitzWho (short sample)	10:30 AM & 2:30 PM
FRK - Weekly Index Analysis	BlitzIndex deep dive	Sunday @ 10:00 PM
FRK - Weekly Data Cleanup	Retention-based cleanup (>=7 days)	Saturday @ 11:00 PM
FRK - Export Raw Data Locally	Exports all Blitz* tables to CSV	Manual

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Using the Export Job

1. Prerequisite

Ensure PowerShell has the `SqlServer` module installed:

```
Install-Module SqlServer -Scope CurrentUser
```

2. Running the Export Job

Go to SQL Server Agent > Jobs > **FRK - Export Raw Data Locally** > Right-click > **Start Job at Step**.

Exports are stored in:

```
D:\SQL_Exports\RawExport_YYYYMMDD\*.csv
```

Monitoring & Logs

- All job runs are tracked in `msdb.dbo.FRK_JobExecutionLog`
- Table structure:

```
JobLogID INT IDENTITY
JobName NVARCHAR(128)
StepName NVARCHAR(128)
StartTime DATETIME2
EndTime DATETIME2
Success BIT
ErrorMessage NVARCHAR(MAX)
```

- Query failed jobs:

```
SELECT * FROM msdb.dbo.FRK_JobExecutionLog WHERE Success = 0;
```

🌐 Re-running the Script

The script is fully **idempotent**. You may re-run it safely to:

- Add a new server
- Reset or clean job schedules
- Update retention period or export path

⚠ Troubleshooting Tips

Issue	Resolution
`Configured service account does not exist`	Create login using `CREATE LOGIN` and assign appropriate role
`Export job fails`	Ensure PowerShell can run scripts, and that SQL Agent has permission to the export folder
`No data exported`	Ensure Blitz* procedures are called and tables created during job runs

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