

Backup Monitoring



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Self-help content presented in Azure Portal

(This content was shown to the customer during case submission. It's also visible on 'Diagnose and solve problems' blade.)

Azure SQL Managed Instance stores backup information in the [msdb database](#)  and also emits events (also known as [Extended Events or XEvents](#) ) during backup activity for the purpose of reporting. Configure an XEvent session to track information such as backup status, backup type, size, time, and location within the **msdb** database. This information can be integrated with backup monitoring software and also used for the purpose of Enterprise Audit.


Use our guidance to learn more about monitoring Azure SQL Managed Instance backup activity. Scan and select one or more of the following sections.

View automated backup history

The [msdb database](#)  enables backup transparency in Azure SQL Managed Instance by making backup history tables queryable.

The **msdb** database in SQL Managed Instance displays the following backup information:


- The type of automated backup taken, such as full, differential, or log.
- Metadata about the backup such as the status, size, time, and location.
- The replica where the backup was taken, such as the primary, or secondary. The ability to take backups from the secondary replica is currently in private preview, and only available on the Business Critical service tier.




To track when automated backups have been performed on a managed instance by either querying the **msdb** database or by configuring extended event (XEvent) sessions, review [Monitor backup activity](#) .

View backup history for user-initiated/manual backups

The **msdb** database in SQL Managed Instance displays metadata about native backups taken manually. However, some fields such as file path and usernames may not be populated. Use the `is_copyonly` column in the `msdb.dbo.backupset` to determine if a backup was taken manually or automatically. Only FULL backup type will be visible for these manual backups.

View long-term retention (LTR) backups




Long-term backup retention (LTR) leverages the full database backups that are [automatically created](#)  to enable point in time restore (PITR). If an LTR policy is configured, these backups are copied to different blobs for long-term storage.

The **msdb** database **does not** have information about the backups stored for long-term retention, as this is done by copying out files at the storage level, and isn't visible to the instance. To view the backups that are retained for a specific database with an LTR policy, use [Portal](#) , [Azure CLI](#)  or [PowerShell](#)  to list all the existing LTR backups.


Support, limitations and considerations

Supported tables

The **msdb** database in SQL Managed Instance supports the following backup tables:

- [Backupset](#) 
- [Backupmediaset](#) 
- [Backupmediafamily](#) 

The following backup tables aren't used by SQL Managed Instance, and won't be populated with data:

- [Backupfile](#) 
- [Backupfilegroup](#) 

Removed fields

Since SQL Managed Instance is a cloud service with data stored in storage, the following fields won't be populated with data:

- Fields that pertain to the user who is logged in.
- Fields that pertain to the path of the backup file.
- Backup expiration information.








Considerations

When reviewing your backup history in the **msdb** database, consider the following:

- Backup history doesn't contain all information about user-initiated backups, such as usernames of the user who initiated the backup.
- Fields that aren't relevant to the cloud won't be populated, such as the machine name, physical drive, and physical name.

- Backup information is inserted to the **msdb** database when the backup completes. Ongoing backups aren't supported.

Resources

- [msdb database](#) 
- [Backupset](#) 
- [Backupmediaset](#) 
- [Backupmediafamily](#) 
- [Backupfile](#) 
- [Backupfilegroup](#) 
- [Monitor backup activity for Azure SQL Managed Instance](#) 

How good have you found this content?



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