Backup, Restore and DB Import or Export

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What is a database backup

Database backups are an essential part of any business continuity and disaster recovery strategy, because they protect your data from corruption or deletion. These backups enable database restore to a point in time within the configured retention period. If your data protection rules require that your backups are available for an extended time (up to 10 years), you can configure long-term retention for both single and pooled databases.

Backups

SQL Database uses SQL Server technology to create full backups every week, differential backups every 12 hours, and transaction log backups every 5-10 minutes. The backups are stored in RA-GRS storage blobs that are replicated to a paired data center for protection against a data center outage. When user restore a database, the service figures out which full, differential, and transaction log backups need to be restored.

Restores

With the available backups, user can

- Restore existing database to a point-in-time in the past within the retention period using the Azure portal, Azure PowerShell, Azure CLI, or REST API. In Single database and Elastic pools, this operation will create a new database in the same server as the original database.
- Restore a database to another geographical region. Geo-restore allows user to recover from a geographic disaster when user cannot access server and database. It creates a new database in any existing server anywhere in the world.
- Restore a database from a specific long-term backup on Single Database or Elastic Pool if the database has been configured with a long-term retention policy (LTR). LTR allows user to restore an old version of the database using the Azure portal or Azure PowerShell to satisfy a compliance request or to run an old version of the application.

Below are the Support Topics for Backup and Restore for which we have TSG content:

- Automated backups
- How to questions or planning a recovery strategy
- Long-term backup retention
- Recover dropped server or resource group
- Restore a database

How good have you found this content?