

LAB - Drop Database

In this lab, you will learn how to delete a database in a SQL Server instance using the `DROP DATABASE` statement and SQL Server Management Studio.

Note that this lab uses the `TestDb` and `SampleDb` created in the `CREATE DATABASE` lab.

TASK 1: Using the SQL Server `DROP DATABASE` statement to delete a database

To remove an existing database from a SQL Server instance, you use the `DROP DATABASE` statement.

The `DROP DATABASE` statement allows you to delete one or more databases with the following syntax:

```
DROP DATABASE [ IF EXISTS ]
    database_name
    [,database_name2,...];
```

In this syntax, you specify the name of the database that you want to drop after the `DROP DATABASE` keywords. If you want to drop multiple databases using a single statement, you can use a comma-separated list of database names after the `DROP DATABASE` clause.

The `IF EXISTS` option is available from SQL Server 2016 (13.x). It allows you to conditionally delete a database only if the database already exists. If you attempt to delete a nonexisting database without specifying the `IF EXISTS` option, SQL Server will issue an error.

Before deleting a database, you must ensure the following important points:

- First, the `DROP DATABASE` statement deletes the database and also the physical disk files used by the database. Therefore, you should have a backup of the database in case you want to restore it in the future.
- Second, you cannot drop the database that is currently being used.

Trying to drop a database currently being used causes the following error:

```
Cannot drop database "database_name" because it is currently in use.
```

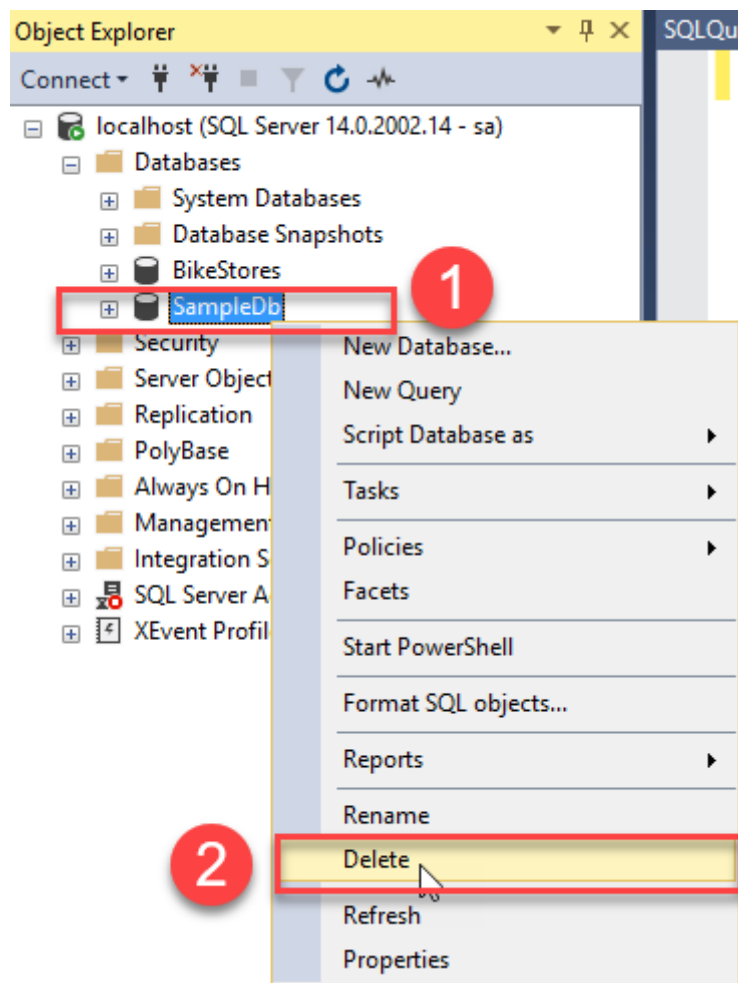
The following example uses the `DROP DATABASE` statement to delete the `TestDb` database:

```
DROP DATABASE IF EXISTS TestDb;
```

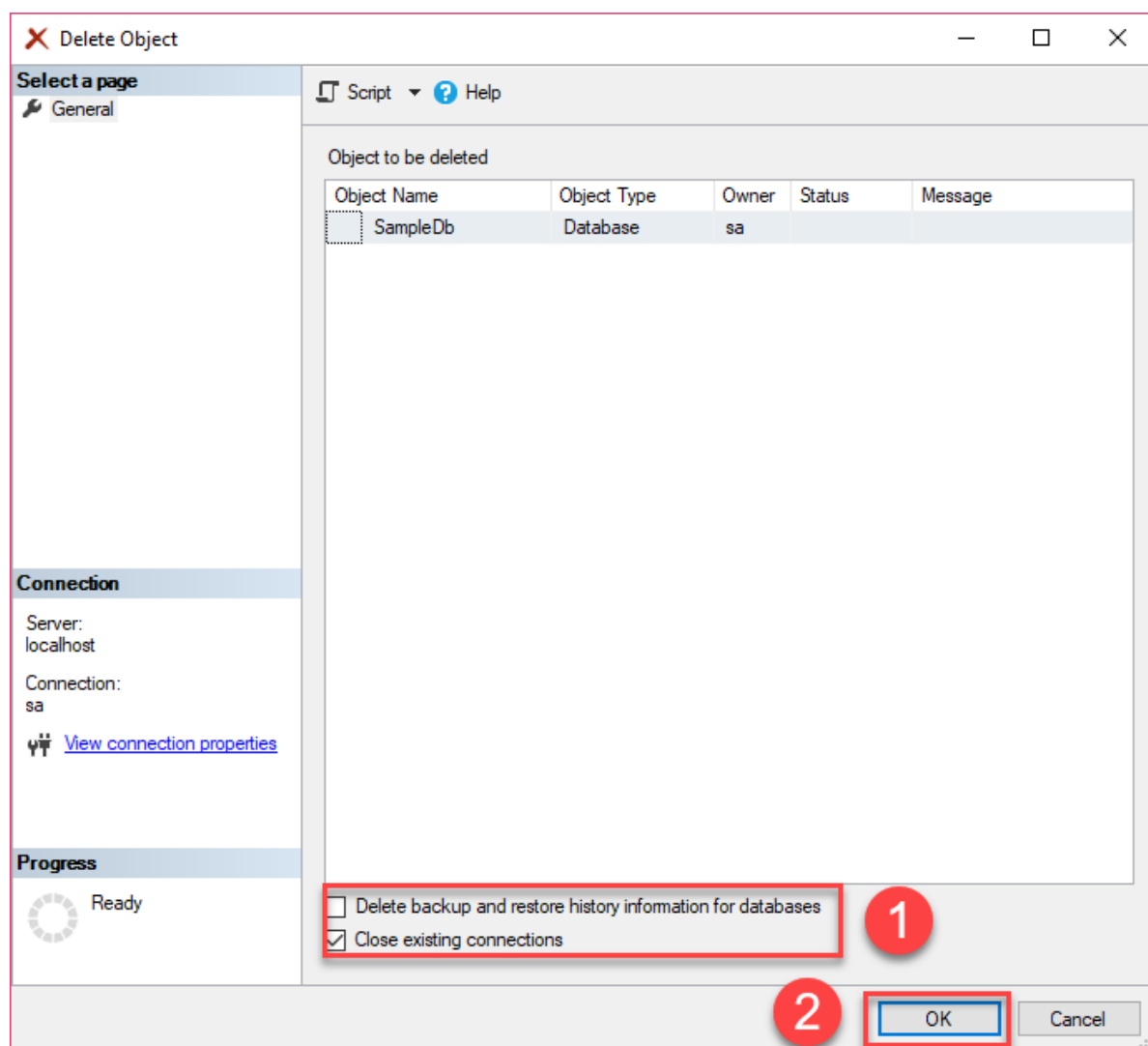
TASK 2: Using the SQL Server Management Studio to drop a database

You can follow these steps to delete the `SampleDb` database:

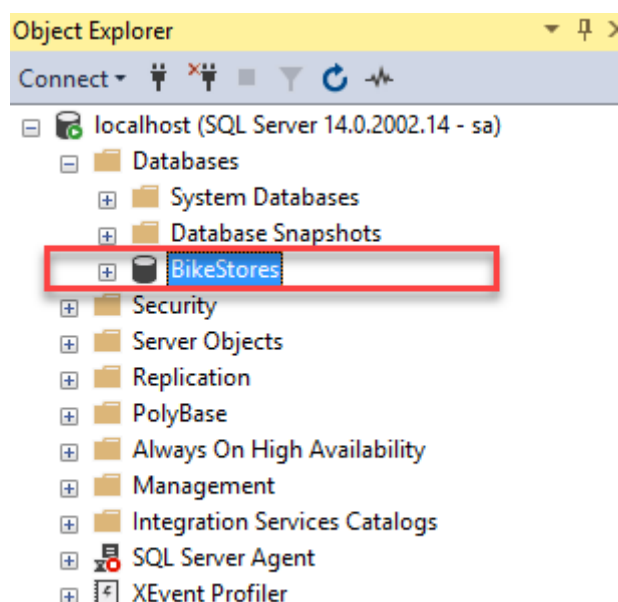
First, right-click on the database name that you want to delete and choose **Delete** menu item:



Second, uncheck the **Delete backup and restore history information for databases** check box, check the **Close existing connections** check box, and click the **OK** button to delete the database.



Third, verify that the database has been dropped from the Object Explorer.



In this lab, you have learned how to use the SQL Server `DROP DATABASE` statement and SQL Server Management Studio to delete databases in an SQL Server instance.

