


View or Change the Recovery Model of a Database (SQL Server)

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APPLIES TO:  SQL Server  Azure SQL Database  Azure Synapse Analytics (SQL DW)  Parallel Data Warehouse

This topic describes how to view or change the database by using SQL Server Management Studio or Transact-SQL.

A *recovery model* is a database property that controls how transactions are logged, whether the transaction log requires (and allows) backing up, and what kinds of restore operations are available. Three recovery models exist: simple, full, and bulk-logged. Typically, a database uses the full recovery model or simple recovery model. A database can be switched to another recovery model at any time. The **model** database sets the default recovery model of new databases.

For a more in depth explanation, see [recovery models](#).

Before you begin

- [Back up the transaction log](#) **before** switching from the [full recovery](#) or [bulk-logged recovery model](#).

- Point-in-time recovery is not possible with bulk-logged model. Running transactions under the bulk-logged recovery model that require a transaction log restore can expose them to data loss. To maximize data recoverability in a disaster-recovery scenario, switch to the bulk-logged recovery model only under the following conditions:
 - Users are currently not allowed in the database.
 - All modifications made during bulk processing are recoverable without depending on taking a log backup; for example, by re-running the bulk processes.

If you satisfy these two conditions, you will not be exposed to any data loss while restoring a transaction log that was backed up under the bulk-logged recovery model..

Note! If you switch to the full recovery model during a bulk operation, bulk operations logging changes from minimal logging to full logging, and vice versa.

Required permissions

Requires ALTER permission on the database.

Using SQL Server Management Studio

To view or change the recovery model


1. After connecting to the appropriate instance of the SQL Server Database Engine, in Object Explorer, click the server name to expand the server tree.
2. Expand **Databases**, and, depending on the database, either select a user database or expand **System Databases** and select a system database.
3. Right-click the database, and then click **Properties**, which opens the **Database Properties** dialog box.

4. In the **Select a page** pane, click **Options**.
5. The current recovery model is displayed in the **Recovery model** list box.
6. Optionally, to change the recovery model select a different model list. The choices are **Full**, **Bulk-logged**, or **Simple**.
7. Click **OK**.

Using Transact-SQL

To view the recovery model

1. Connect to the Database Engine.
2. From the Standard bar, click **New Query**.
3. Copy and paste the following example into the query window and click **Execute**. This example shows how to query the [sys.databases](#) catalog view to learn the recovery model of the **model** database.

| SQL |  Copy |
|--|--|
| <pre>SELECT name, recovery_model_desc FROM sys.databases WHERE name = 'model' ; GO</pre> | |

To change the recovery model

1. Connect to the Database Engine.
2. From the Standard bar, click **New Query**.

3. Copy and paste the following example into the query window and click **Execute**. This example shows how to change the recovery model in the `model` database to `FULL` by using the `SET RECOVERY` option of the [ALTER DATABASE](#) statement.

SQL

 Copy

```
USE [master] ;  
ALTER DATABASE [model] SET RECOVERY FULL ;
```

Recommendations: After you change the recovery model

- **After switching between the full and bulk-logged recovery models**

- After completing the bulk operations, immediately switch back to full recovery mode.
- After switching from the bulk-logged recovery model back to the full recovery model, back up the log.

NOTE: Your backup strategy remains the same: continue performing periodic database, log, and differential backups.

- **After switching from the simple recovery model**

- Immediately after switching to the full recovery model or bulk-logged recovery model, take a full or differential database backup to start the log chain.

NOTE: The switch to the full or bulk-logged recovery model takes effect only after the first data backup.

- Schedule regular log backups, and update your restore plan accordingly.

IMPORTANT!!!! Back up your logs!! If you do not back up the log frequently enough, the transaction log can

expand until it runs out of disk space!

- **After switching to the simple recovery model**

- Discontinue any scheduled jobs for backing up the transaction log.
- Ensure periodic database backups are scheduled. Backing up your database is essential both to protect your data and to truncate the inactive portion of the transaction log.

Related tasks

- [Create a Full Database Backup \(SQL Server\)](#)
- [Back Up a Transaction Log \(SQL Server\)](#)
- [Create a Job](#)
- [Disable or Enable a Job](#)

Related Content

- [Database Maintenance Plans](#) (in SQL Server 2008 R2 Books Online)

See Also

[Recovery Models \(SQL Server\)](#)

[The Transaction Log \(SQL Server\)](#)

[ALTER DATABASE \(Transact-SQL\)](#)

[sys.databases \(Transact-SQL\)](#)

[Recovery Models \(SQL Server\)](#)

Is this page helpful?

 Yes  No
