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SQL BACKUP DATABASE Statement

In this tutorial, we'll learn about backing up databases with the help of examples.

It is important to create database backups regularly so that our data won't get lost if the database gets corrupted.

In SQL, we can create database backups using the `BACKUP DATABASE` statement. For example,

```
BACKUP DATABASE my_db
TO DISK = 'C:\my_db_backup.bak';
```

Here, the SQL command creates a backup file of the `my_db` database inside **C** drive, named `my_db_backup.bak`.

Note: It's a common convention to use the **.bak** file extension for database backup files, however, it's not mandatory.

Backup Only New Changes in SQL

In SQL, we can also backup only the new changes compared with previous backup by using the `WITH DIFFERENTIAL` command. For example,

```
BACKUP DATABASE my_db
TO DISK = 'C:\my_db_backup.bak'
WITH DIFFERENTIAL;
```

Here, the SQL command appends only new changes to the previous backup file. Hence, this command may work faster.

Restore Database From Backup

To restore a backup file to the database management system, we can use the `RESTORE DATABASE` statement. For example,

```
RESTORE DATABASE my_db
FROM DISK = 'C:\my_db_backup.bak';
```

Here, the SQL command restores the `my_db_backup.bak` file in the database named `my_db`.

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