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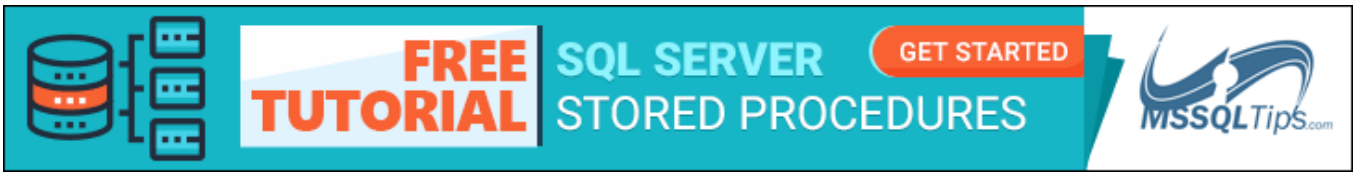
SQL Server Filegroup Backups



By: Greg Robidoux

Overview

In addition to doing "File" backups you can also do "Filegroup" backups which allows you to backup all files that are in a particular filegroup. By default each database has a PRIMARY filegroup which is tied to the one data file that is created. You have an option of creating additional filegroups and then placing new data files in any of the filegroups. In most cases you will probably only have the PRIMARY filegroup, so this is topic is not relevant.

Explanation

As mentioned above you can back up each filegroup individually. The one advantage of using filegroup backups over file backups is that you can create a Read-Only filegroup which means the data will not change. So instead of backing up the entire database all of the time you can just backup the Read-Write filegroups.

A filegroup backup can be completed either using T-SQL or by using SSMS.

Create a filegroup backup of the TestBackup database

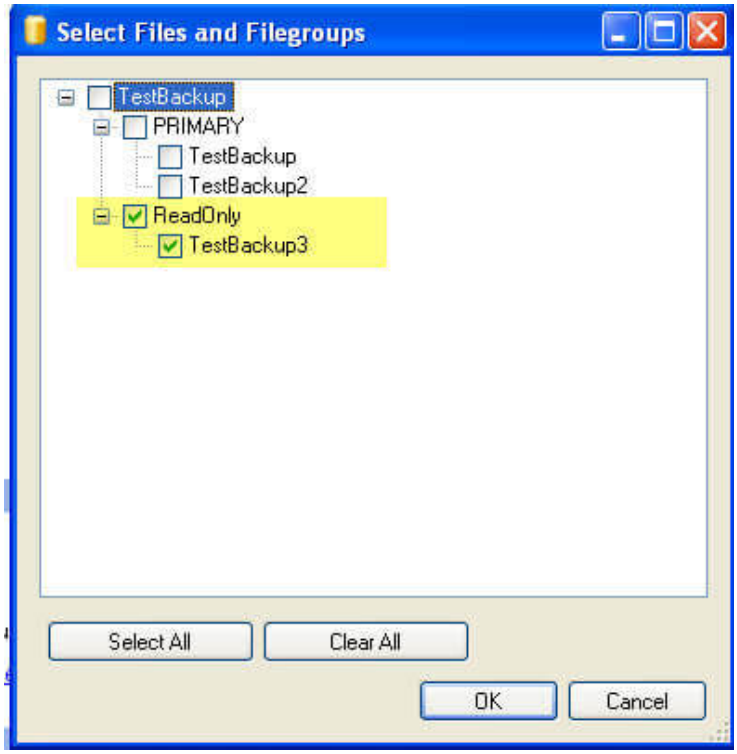
For this example I created a new database called TestBackup that has three data files and one log file. Two data files are the PRIMARY filegroup and one file is in the ReadOnly filegroup. The code below shows how to do a filegroup backup.

T-SQL

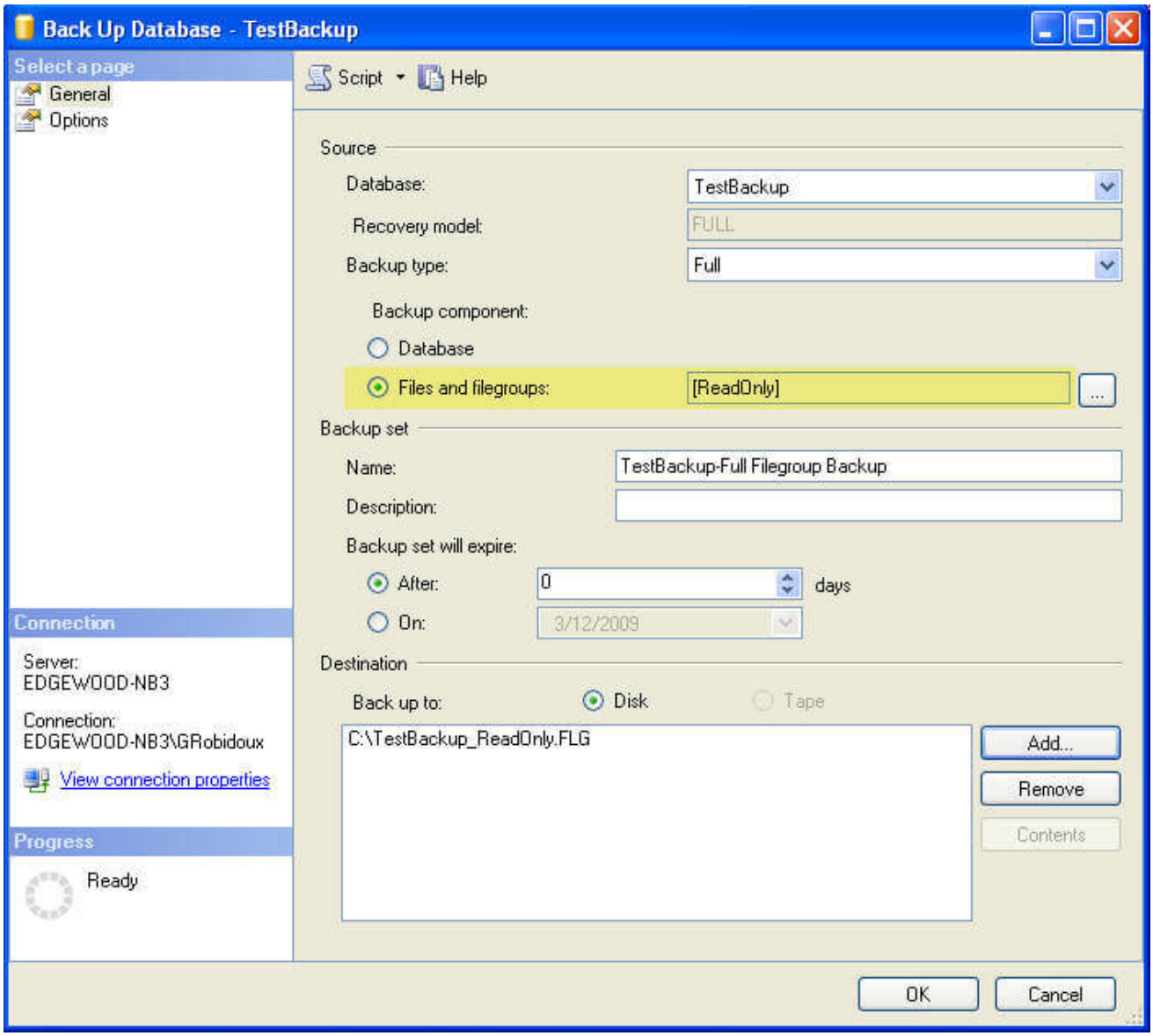
```
BACKUP DATABASE TestBackup FILEGROUP = 'ReadOnly'
TO DISK = 'C:\TestBackup_ReadOnly.FLG'
GO
```

SQL Server Management Studio

- Right click on the database name
- Select Tasks > Backup
- Select either "Full" or "Differential" as the backup type
- Select "Files and filegroups"
- Select the appropriate filegroup and click "OK"



- Select "Disk" as the destination
- Click on "Add..." to add a backup file and type "C:\TestBackup_ReadOnly.FLG" and click "OK"
- Click "OK" again to create the backup and repeat for other filegroups



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*** NOTE *** - If you want to include code from SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) in your post, please copy the code from SSMS and paste the code into a text editor like NotePad before copying the code below to remove the SSMS formatting.

p

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Monday, February 15, 2016 - 10:26:34 AM - Greg Robidoux Back To Top

Hi Sachin,

A readonly filegroup is helpful if you have data that does change and you want to prevent updates to the data. Since the data in the readonly filegroup does not change you can also change your backup processing to not have to continue to backup the data that doesn't change. It does make your backup and restore process more complex though, so keep that in mind.

-Greg

Monday, February 15, 2016 - 2:14:28 AM - Sachin Jain Back To Top

Dear Author,

If we create a filegroup and make it read-only, so whether we will not be able to modify(update/delete/insert) the data after that present in that filegroup?

I am still confused on the read-only filegroup and the advantage which comes with it.

Please help. Thanks in advance.

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