



Changing the backup retention policy

SnapManager Oracle

NetApp

November 04, 2025

This PDF was generated from https://docs.netapp.com/us-en/snapmanager-oracle/windows/task_retaining_backups_forever.html on November 04, 2025. Always check docs.netapp.com for the latest.

Table of Contents

- Changing the backup retention policy 1
 - Retaining backups forever 1
 - Assigning backups with a specific retention class 1
 - Changing the retention policy default behavior 1
 - Freeing or deleting retention policy exempt backups 2

Changing the backup retention policy

You can change properties of a backup so it is eligible or ineligible for deletion according to the retention policy.

When you create a backup, you can set its retention policy. You can later choose to either keep that backup for a longer period than the retention policy allows or specify that you no longer need the backup and want the retention policy to manage it.

Related information

[The smo backup update command](#)

Retaining backups forever

You can specify that a backup should be ineligible for deletion by the retention policy to keep the backup indefinitely.

1. To specify that a backup be retained on an unlimited basis, enter this command:`smo backup update -profileprofile_name {-labellabel [data | -archivelogs] | -idid} -retain -unlimited`

Related information

[The smo backup update command](#)

Assigning backups with a specific retention class

DBAs can assign a specific retention class of hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly to backups. Assigning a specific retention class makes the backups performed under this change eligible for deletion.

1. To assign a specific backup retention class, enter this command:`smo backup update -profileprofile_name {-labellabel [data | -archivelogs] | -idid | all} -retain [-hourly | -daily | -weekly | -monthly]`

Changing the retention policy default behavior

When a backup expires based on the retention policy, SnapManager determines whether to delete the backup based on the retention settings. Deletion of backups is the default behavior. You can change this default behavior and choose to free the unprotected backups instead.

By default, Snap Manager deletes the backup when they expire.

1. Access the following default location:

```
default smo installation location\properties\smo.config
```

2. Edit the `smo.config` file.
3. Set the `retain.alwaysFreeExpiredBackups` property in the `smo.config` file to true.

For example, `retain.alwaysFreeExpiredBackups = true`

Related information

[The smo backup update command](#)

Freeing or deleting retention policy exempt backups

Backups with the retention class of "unlimited" cannot be deleted or freed directly. To delete or free these backups, you must first assign another retention class, such as hourly, daily, weekly, or monthly. To delete or free a backup that is exempt from the retention policy, you must first update the backup to make it eligible for deletion or free it.

1. To update the backup to make it eligible for deletion by the retention policy, enter this command: `smo backup update -profileprofile_name {-labellabel [data | -archivelogs] | -idid} -retain [-hourly | -daily | -weekly | -monthly]`
2. After updating the backup so it is eligible for deletion, you can either delete the backup or free backup resources.
 - To delete the backup, enter this command: `smo backup delete -profileprofile_name {-labellabel [data | -archivelogs] | -idid | -all}`
 - To free the backup resources, rather than delete the backup, enter this command: `smo backup free -profileprofile_name {-labellabel [data | -archivelogs] | -idid | -all} [-force] [-dump] [-quiet | -verbose]`

Related information

[The smo backup update command](#)

Copyright information

Copyright © 2025 NetApp, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Printed in the U.S. No part of this document covered by copyright may be reproduced in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, taping, or storage in an electronic retrieval system—without prior written permission of the copyright owner.

Software derived from copyrighted NetApp material is subject to the following license and disclaimer:

THIS SOFTWARE IS PROVIDED BY NETAPP “AS IS” AND WITHOUT ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, WHICH ARE HEREBY DISCLAIMED. IN NO EVENT SHALL NETAPP BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PROCUREMENT OF SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE USE OF THIS SOFTWARE, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE.

NetApp reserves the right to change any products described herein at any time, and without notice. NetApp assumes no responsibility or liability arising from the use of products described herein, except as expressly agreed to in writing by NetApp. The use or purchase of this product does not convey a license under any patent rights, trademark rights, or any other intellectual property rights of NetApp.

The product described in this manual may be protected by one or more U.S. patents, foreign patents, or pending applications.

LIMITED RIGHTS LEGEND: Use, duplication, or disclosure by the government is subject to restrictions as set forth in subparagraph (b)(3) of the Rights in Technical Data -Noncommercial Items at DFARS 252.227-7013 (FEB 2014) and FAR 52.227-19 (DEC 2007).

Data contained herein pertains to a commercial product and/or commercial service (as defined in FAR 2.101) and is proprietary to NetApp, Inc. All NetApp technical data and computer software provided under this Agreement is commercial in nature and developed solely at private expense. The U.S. Government has a non-exclusive, non-transferrable, nonsublicensable, worldwide, limited irrevocable license to use the Data only in connection with and in support of the U.S. Government contract under which the Data was delivered. Except as provided herein, the Data may not be used, disclosed, reproduced, modified, performed, or displayed without the prior written approval of NetApp, Inc. United States Government license rights for the Department of Defense are limited to those rights identified in DFARS clause 252.227-7015(b) (FEB 2014).

Trademark information

NETAPP, the NETAPP logo, and the marks listed at <http://www.netapp.com/TM> are trademarks of NetApp, Inc. Other company and product names may be trademarks of their respective owners.