



# Changing the backup retention policy

## SnapManager Oracle

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# 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 smc 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: `smc 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: `smc backup delete -profileprofile_name {-labellabel [data | -archivelogs] | -idid | -all}`
  - To free the backup resources, rather than delete the backup, enter this command: `smc backup free -profileprofile_name {-labellabel [data | -archivelogs] | -idid | -all} [-force] [-dump] [-quiet | -verbose]`

## Related information

[The smc backup update command](#)

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