

Checking Backup Status on Multiple SQL Server Systems

Monitor backup status without having to rely on a third-party scheduler or backup tool

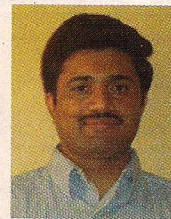
Making sure that every database on every server is backed up daily is one of the most important tasks on a DBA's to-do list. But how do you make sure every backup job has run every single day? What if someone has put the job on hold without your knowledge, especially if there are many DBAs on your team managing the environment? You want to make sure every single database has been backed up without relying on any particular backup method, whether it's native SQL Server backup or another product. The task is even more complicated if you have multiple SQL Server systems; multiple sources of schedulers, such as a SQL Server agent and third-party schedulers; and multiple backup methods, such as SQL Server native backup and a third-party backup tool.

That's why you need to have BI—not business intelligence but backup intelligence. This article shows you how to monitor the backup status of multiple servers from a central server without relying on a scheduler

or alternative method, as well as generate a backup report. Note that you shouldn't rely solely on this method to verify your backup jobs. This report gives only the information that's stored in SQL Server. You should physically verify your backups for integrity and do test restores whenever possible.

Generating the Backup Status Report

There are multiple ways to monitor and generate comprehensive backup reports. If you don't have the budget to buy a third-party tool, you can use these scripts to generate a good report on your own. The scripts in this article work with SQL Server 2008, 2005, and 2000, as well as SQL Server 7.0. Note that if you're managing a multiserver environment, you must designate one SQL Server system as the master server (as shown in Figure 1) where you can create a central database for storing backup information from the monitored linked servers.



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MORE on the WEB

See the web listings and download the code at InstantDoc ID 102606.

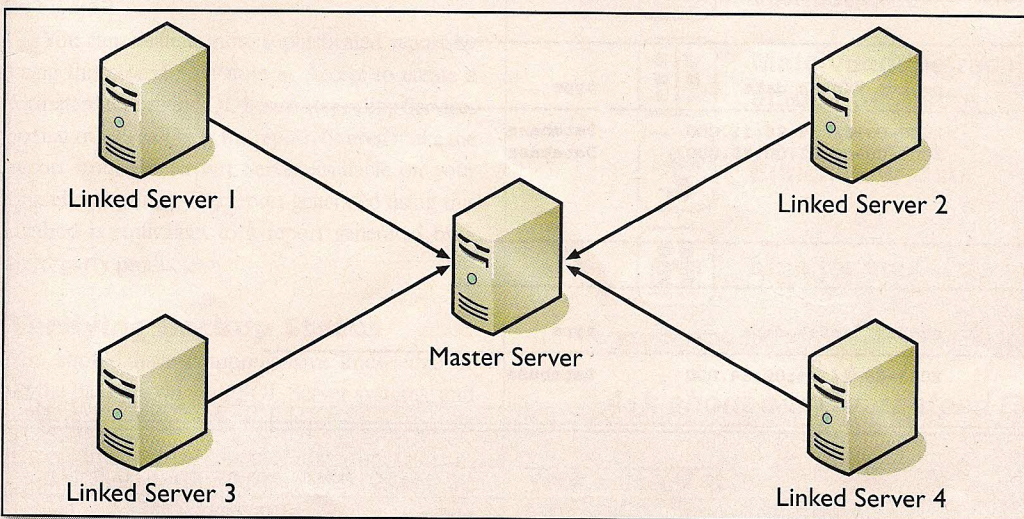


Figure 1

Monitoring multiple linked SQL Server systems from a central server