

## Setting up SQL 2008 Maintenance Cleanup Task

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### Introduction

Some Enterprise and Lab Edition servers running Microsoft SQL Server 2008 are missing the Maintenance Cleanup Task subplan in the Reedholm Maintenance plan. Instead, the History Cleanup Task is being invoked.

This note describes the differences between the History Cleanup Task and the Maintenance Cleanup Task. In addition, it provides instructions on adding the Maintenance Cleanup Task subplan to the Reedholm Maintenance plan.

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### Running Out of Disk Space

The Reedholm database is backed up and maintained by the custom maintenance plan. Backups expire three days after they are created. However, expired files are not automatically removed.

Not automatically removing expired files causes disk space to be used up, and eventually prevents effective use of the database.

### History Cleanup vs. Maintenance Cleanup

The History Cleanup Task provided by SQL Server 2008 only deletes logs and historical fields. Those measures are of little value, but running the cleanup task is not harmful.

The Maintenance Cleanup Task provided by SQL Server 2008 is a configurable tool that allows for the scheduled removal of expired files by extension and directory. This task must be used to prevent running out of disk space due to old backups.

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### Maintenance Plan Modifications

The Maintenance Cleanup task subplan is added to the Reedholm Maintenance plan. Removal of the History Cleanup task is not covered because it is not harmful to the SQL Database.

- 1) Within the SQL Server Management Studio, Management → Maintenance Plans → Reedholm Maintenance is double clicked to access the design view.
- 2) “Add Subplan” is used to create the new subplan.
- 3) The calendar icon is clicked to schedule the subplan daily recurrence at 5:00am.
- 4) “Maintenance Cleanup Task”, located within the toolbox, is added to the design view and edited with these options:
  - a) Delete backup files
  - b) Within a specific folder
  - c) Folder: C:\Reedholm Backups
  - d) File Extension: BAK
  - e) Checkbox: Include first level subfolders
  - f) Set to delete files 3 days and older
- 5) The subplan is saved and exited.