

Re: Backup jobs

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.server/2004-12/1585.html>

From: Andrew J. Kelly (sqlmvpnoospam_at_shadhawk.com)

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This post from Bill at MS is a pretty good start.

<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:Q303292>

This is likely to be either a permissions problem or a sharing violation problem. The maintenance plan is run as a job, and jobs are run by the SQLServerAgent service.

Permissions:

1. Determine the startup account for the SQLServerAgent service (Start|Programs|Administrative tools|Services|SQLServerAgent|Startup). This account is the security context for jobs, and thus the maintenance plan.
2. If SQLServerAgent is started using LocalSystem (as opposed to a domain account) then skip step 3.
3. On that box, log onto NT as that account. Using Explorer, attempt to delete an expired backup. If that succeeds then go to Sharing Violation section.
4. Log onto NT with an account that is an administrator and use Explorer to look at the Properties|Security of the folder (where the backups reside) and ensure the SQLServerAgent startup account has Full Control. If the SQLServerAgent startup account is LocalSystem, then the account to consider is SYSTEM.
5. In NT, if an account is a member of an NT group, and if that group has Access is Denied, then that account will have Access is Denied, even if that account is also a member of the Administrators group. Thus you may need to check group permissions (if the Startup Account is a member of a group).
6. Keep in mind that permissions (by default) are inherited from a parent folder. Thus, if the backups are stored in C:\bak, and if someone had denied permission to the SQLServerAgent startup account for C:\, then C:\bak will inherit access is denied.

Sharing violation:

This is likely to be rooted in a timing issue, with the most likely cause being another scheduled process (such as NT Backup or Anti-Virus software) having the backup file open at the time when the SQLServerAgent (i.e., the maintenance plan job) tried to delete it.

1. Download filemon and handle from www.sysinternals.com.
2. I am not sure whether filemon can be scheduled, or you might be able to use NT scheduling services to start filemon just before the maintenance plan job is started, but the filemon log can become very large, so it would be best to start it some short time before the maintenance plan starts.
3. Inspect the filemon log for another process that has that backup file open (if your lucky enough to have started filemon before this other process grabs the backup folder), and inspect the log for the results when the SQLServerAgent agent attempts to open that same file.
4. Schedule the job or that other process to do their work at different times.
5. You can use the handle utility if you are around at the time when the job is scheduled to run.

If the backup files are going to a \\share or a mapped drive (as opposed to local drive), then you will need to modify the above (with respect to where the tests and utilities are run).

Finally, inspection of the maintenance plan's history report might be useful.

Thanks,

Bill Hollinshead
Microsoft, SQL Server

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Andrew J. Kelly  SQL MVP  
"huckster" <huckster@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message  
news:1BD61386-4219-41C4-9A10-F4AF0B690EBF@microsoft.com...  
> SQL backup files are not being deleted after 3 days of age, as is  
> configured  
> in the backup maintenance job.  
>  
> What are possible reasons for this.  
>  
> New to this stuff!!!
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