

Backups and Transaction Log file size

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I am slowly going insane trying to figure out backups.

From all that I read and understand, the purpose of the transaction log is

to save actions until committed to the actual db, and, a backup of both db and log should committ things and the log would get smaller (or at least have more empty space).

Instead, I have a log that is growing bigger and bigger, and, is much larger (1.3 Gb vs. 370 MB) than the DB.

I am using SQL 2K5 Ent SP2 with latest patches and hotfix rollup. The database Recovery Model is Full. Each morning I run a maintenance plan that includes backup of the db file, then the transaction log file (I later added a second backup of the db file right after the transaction log file backup, as I was unsure of the correct sequence). Each day, both files steadily get bigger, with backups doing nothing to decrease the size (or available freespace of the log file).

What do I not understand, or, am doing wrong?

I wouldn't care about the size (not out of room or anything), but, the speed of the application using the database files gets REAL slow, the bigger the log gets.

Thanks.

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