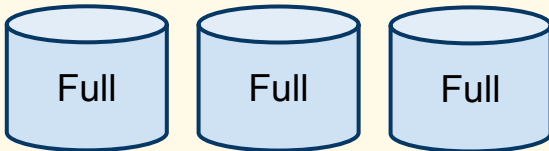


SQL Server backup types cheat sheet by SqlBak.com

This explains the differences between Full, Differential and Transaction Log backups in MS SQL Server

1. Full backup

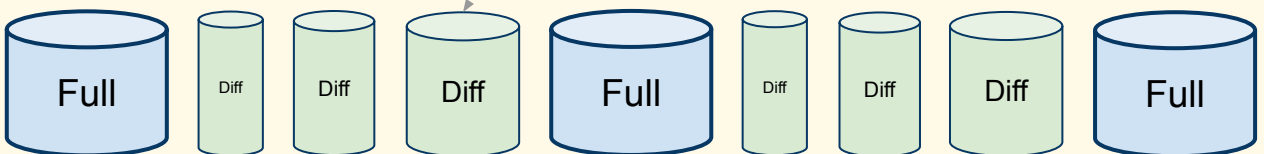


For smaller databases with less important, read-only or easily-recoverable data

PROS: Easy to restore (just a single file), no transaction logs (simpler)

CONS: Can be restored only up to the time of a backup, takes a lot of space

2. Full + Differential backup



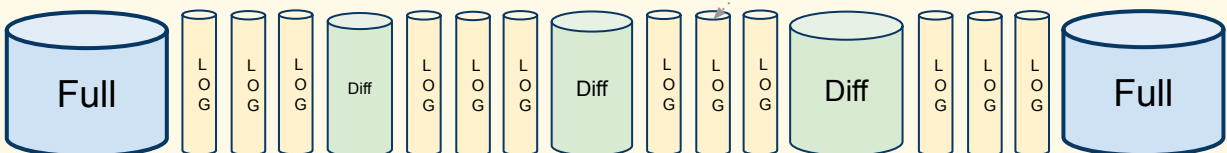
Create diff-backups till they grow to size of full backup. Contains all the data since the last full backup.

For larger databases or databases with low transaction density where some data loss can be tolerated

PROS: Takes less space than full backup, no logs (simpler), more precise restore

CONS: Can be restore only up to the time of a backup, more complicated restore (needs two files)

3. Full + Differential + Transaction log backup



Backup frequency may vary depending of transaction density

For databases with high transaction density and/or important data where little data loss is tolerated

PROS: Database can be restored to any point of time with almost no data loss

CONS: A database needs transaction log management, larger in size, effortful restore process

Requires SIMPLE recovery model

Requires FULL recovery model