

Your Question

Article: 00093

Question:

How do I Reduce the Size of the Transaction Logs?

Net Report Answer

Introduction

This Article explains how to resolve the situation when your transaction logs increase to an unacceptable size. When this occurs you must reduce the size of the transaction logs. To do so, you must truncate the inactive transactions in your transaction log and shrink the transaction log file.

This Article is made up of two sections:

- **Section 1:** Shrinking the Transaction Log File
- **Section 2:** Following an Example using the netreport Database



Warning: the transaction logs are very important in maintaining the transactional integrity of the database. Therefore, you must not delete the transaction log files, even after you have made a backup of your database and the transaction logs.

Section 1: Shrinking the Transaction Log File

To shrink a transaction log file to a smaller size and remove unused pages, please follow the steps below:

Steps

1. Use the DBCC SHRINKFILE command. When DBCC SHRINKFILE is run, SQL Server shrinks the file by removing virtual log files in order to reach the target size.
2. Run a BACKUP LOG statement to free up space by removing the inactive portion of the log.
3. Run a DBCC SHRINKFILE command again with the desired target size in MB.

Section 2: Following an Example using the netreport Database

The following example illustrates a working example using the instructions above, with the netreport database in the attempt to shrink the netreport_log file to 100 MB.

Steps

1. Run the following code:

```
DBCC SHRINKFILE(netreport_log, 100)
```



Note: if the target size remains unchanged, proceed to the next step.

2. Run the following command:



Warning: only run the following code if you want to truncate the transaction log and you do not want to keep a backup of the transaction log. The `Truncate_only` command invalidates your

transaction log backup sequence. Make a full backup of your database after you have performed backup log with the `Truncate_only` command..

```
BACKUP LOG netreport WITH TRUNCATE_ONLY
```

3. Run the command:

```
DBCC SHRINKFILE (netreport_log,100)
```

4. Note that the transaction log has now been shrunk to 100 MB.

Further Information

Visit the Net Report Web site:

<http://www.net-report.net>