

Protect Your Data, Protect Your Business



Backup Strategy Best Practices for *WO Traffic* and *WO Network*

As every IT professional knows, regular data backups are a critical part of any business continuity plan. Here are a few tips and best-practices to help ensure your organization's WideOrbit systems are adequately backed up so you're prepared in the event of a server failure or data corruption.

Our Professional Services team offers consulting services to help guide you through developing and implementing your backup strategy. For assistance with any of the best practices that follow, please [contact Support](#) for more information.

Back Up Your Data Every Night

Your WideOrbit SQL databases stores data in .mdf, .ldf, and (sometimes) .ndf files. However, you won't be able to get a valid backup by copying or backing up these files directly. We recommend that you schedule a nightly back-up using either the Microsoft SQL Server's built-in backup feature or a third-party backup utility, such as Symantec Backup Exec or Quest Litespeed. Direct this nightly backup to a storage volume on the database server, separate from your data and log files. Finally, use any file copy utility to copy the backup file to another location off the server – either to alternate media or to a network share.

Back Up Data to Multiple Locations for Added Security and Efficient Recovery Times

We suggest backing up first to a volume on the database server, and then copying that backup to alternate media or a network shared drive. This is because backing up to the same server allows for the fastest backup and recovery times should your production database become compromised, while having a second backup in a different location provides an extra layer of security.

Important considerations when creating backups:

- Your database server should not be your only backup location. If you lose the server or the storage array, you will lose your backup(s), too. Always combine local backups with alternative storage media or network backups. If resources permit, an even better practice is to also transport or replicate backups to another physical site.
- Backups will quickly fill up your server drives unless you overwrite the old ones or have a scheduled job in place to remove them. We recommend keeping three days' worth of backups on the database server itself.
- We also recommend keeping an additional 14

days of backups on a machine separate from the database server, but on the same network.

- We also recommend having the same 14 days of backups in an off-site location.
- To best utilize server space, you can compress your SQL Server backups, which is supported in all modern versions of SQL Server.

Save Copies of WideOrbit Application Servers for Faster Recovery

Your WideOrbit application servers do not store data and do not require nightly backups. However, if these servers fail, they will need to be rebuilt and WideOrbit's Professional Services team can help.

For the *WO Traffic* and *WO Network* application servers, it is good practice to save a copy of the D:\WideOrbit folders following the initial installation and after each upgrade. Doing so allows for faster recovery. If resources permit, especially if running the application servers in a virtual environment, you can take a full disk image of each server following the initial installation and after each upgrade. Having these images on hand will allow for the fastest possible recovery.

WideOrbit's Professional Services Team Can Help

If you need assistance with or advice on configuring your *WO Traffic* or *WO Network* backups, or with making any other changes to your WideOrbit server environment, our Professional Services team is here to help. Professional Services can also provide tips on configuring backups for other WideOrbit products. Please contact Support or your Customer Success Manager for more information.

Enjoy Peace of Mind with WideOrbit Managed Services

WideOrbit offers hosting services for our core products, *WO Traffic* and *WO Network*, as well as for *WO Media Sales* and *WO Program*. With WideOrbit Managed Services, system updates and WideOrbit product updates are managed with the client's involvement, so you can ensure you're always

running on the most up-to-date version.

Along with web-enabled, remote access for your end-users, our Managed Services solution also provides improved security and reliability, committed service levels, geo-redundant backups, and secured off-site data retention. You'll also save on both hardware and IT costs, from initial setup, through monitoring, maintenance, and security.

With WideOrbit Managed Services, you can leave the backup plans to us. [Learn More →](#)

"Most people think of backups the same way they think about insurance policies - out of sight and out of mind until they're needed. Given the world we live in today, with ransomware and other potentially crippling cyber threats, backups should hold the same importance as production environments."

JAI DALAL, Vice President, IT & Technical Services, WideOrbit

NOTICE

WideOrbit makes these suggestions as a courtesy. There are many strategies to accomplish backups and backup replication, as well as tools to manage them. All suggestions in this document are provided "as is". These suggestions are not professional advice based on your specific system and environment and are not a substitute for such professional advice. WideOrbit has no control over customer-owned infrastructure, and we are not responsible for any future data losses that may occur even if all of these suggestions are followed.