

Backup Agent v12 - Release Notes

General Release – December 2014

Welcome to Backup Agent v12. This document contains the following topics:

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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Backup Agent, an offering in the PSQL product suite. Backup Agent provides you with an alternative method for implementing the Continuous Operations function provided with PSQL. Backup Agent fits seamlessly into your environment as well as working seamlessly with many of the most popular backup applications on the market today.

Please review these release notes for last-minute information not included in the Backup Agent user documentation.

Action Corporation is dedicated to providing new and improved functionality with each release of Backup Agent to help you manage your data monitoring needs. The following section outlines some of the features and enhancements found in this release.

What's New in Backup Agent

Backup Agent has been adapted to the new Windows 8 screen format. On the Apps screen, shortcuts for Backup Agent Event Log, Backup Agent User Guide, and Backup Agent appear in a Backup Agent parent folder.

Supported Operating Systems and Database Products

This section lists the supported operating systems and the required Actian Corporation products for Backup Agent v12.

Supported Operating Systems

Backup Agent has been tested and is supported on the same platforms as PSQL v12. For a complete list of the supported operating systems, refer to the PSQL website.

Supported Database Products

Backup Agent is supported on the following PSQL database products:

PSQL Product	Release	Windows	Linux
Server	v12	Yes	Yes
Vx Server	v12	Yes	Yes
Workgroup	v12	Yes	Not applicable

You do not need a license key for Backup Agent if you install it on the same machine as PSQL Server or Vx Server. To add Backup Agent to Workgroup, you must obtain a separate Backup Agent license.

Upgrade Notes

Backup Agent v12 is an upgrade from all previous versions of Backup Agent. The upgrade enables the functionality of your previous release to be compatible with PSQL Vx Server and other PSQL products. See [Supported Database Products](#).

Windows Platforms

If you upgrade to Backup Agent v12 from Backup Agent v1 or Backup Agent v2 32-bit, you must first uninstall the previous version of Backup Agent. Also note that Backup Agent v12 must be installed in attended mode if you upgrade from Backup Agent v2 64-bit. That is, Backup Agent v12 cannot be installed silently if Backup Agent v2 is present on the system. For all other versions of Backup Agent, the upgrade to Backup Agent v12 automatically uninstalls the previous version during the upgrade installation.

Linux Distributions

Linux does not support upgrading Backup Agent the same way as on Windows platforms. With Linux distributions, you first uninstall the previous version of Backup Agent and then install the version you want.

Usage Notes

If you have a backup process that already uses Continuous Operations or Backup Agent, you can continue to use that process with PSQL VSS Writer. PSQL VSS Writer does not interfere with Continuous Operations or Backup Agent. However, there is no advantage to using *both* PSQL VSS Writer and Continuous Operations (or Backup Agent) together. Your backup process will be more streamlined if you select one method or the other.

Note that PSQL VSS Writer requires the Microsoft VSS framework. Backup Agent does not use the Microsoft VSS framework. Consequently, Backup Agent does not participate in the backup when the VSS framework calls PSQL VSS Writer and I/O operations are quiesced. Backup Agent must be added separately to the backup process. The backup process must also start and stop Backup Agent.

Backup Agent operations for data backup cannot be performed on a file that is undergoing defragmentation.

Known Issues

All known issues for Backup Agent v12 are published on the PSQL website.

Limitations

The following lists known limitations in Backup Agent v12.

- You must disable Archival Logging before using Backup Agent.
- Backup Agent does not place temporary files into Continuous Operations.
- Backup Agent does not put the files that reside in a Read-Only directory into Continuous Operations.
- Although Read-Only files cannot be accessed for Write operations, Backup Agent puts these files into Continuous Operations. The Backup Agent Log file lists the files as being in Continuous Operations. If a Read-Only file is then opened for reading or writing, the database engine does not have to start Continuous Operations. The database engine does not create the delta file, however, since there would be no updates to a Read-Only file. Since the delta file is never created, there is nothing left for Backup Agent to manage.
- You should not use other utilities such as BUTIL or the Maintenance Utility to start Continuous Operations. Use the same utility to take files out of Continuous Operations that you used to put files into Continuous Operations.
- When using Backup Agent in a Workgroup environment, only the local files on the machine where Backup Agent is installed are placed into Continuous Operations. Remote files are never placed into Continuous Operations.

Documentation Notes

This section provides information regarding the Backup Agent documentation included in this release.

- *Backup Agent Guide* (CHM and PDF)
- These release notes (readme_ba.htm)

These documents are placed on your machine as part of the Backup Agent product installation. You can access them from the Start menu or in the installation directory.

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*** End of Release Notes ***

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