

Backup Agent v13 - Release Notes

General Release – November 2017

Welcome to 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 and works alongside 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.

The following topics cover features and enhancements found in this release:

- [What's New in Backup Agent](#)
- [Supported Operating Systems and Database Products](#)
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What's New in Backup Agent

For Windows environments, Backup Agent provides both a 64- and 32-bit version. The installer automatically selects the appropriate version for your existing engine.

For Linux and OS X, Backup Agent provides only a 64-bit version. This support includes ARM64.

For Windows environments, Backup Agent has been adapted to the Windows 8 user interface. 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

Backup Agent has been tested and is supported on the same terms as PSQL v13 SP1. For a complete list of the supported operating systems, refer to the [Actian website](#).

Backup Agent is supported on the following PSQL database products.

PSQL Product	Release	Bitness	Windows	Linux	OS X
Server	v13	64-bit	Yes	Yes	Yes
		32-bit	Yes	Not applicable	Not applicable
Vx Server	v13	64-bit	Yes	Yes	Yes
		32-bit	Yes	Not applicable	Not applicable
Workgroup	v13	32-bit	Yes	Not applicable	Not applicable

Windows support does not include Nano Server or IoT Core.

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.

Backup Agent v13 does not require a separate license when used with PSQL Server. It is included with PSQL v13 Server for Windows.

Upgrade Notes

You can use Backup Agent v13 to upgrade from all previous versions of Backup Agent.

Windows

On Windows platforms, PSQL v13 SP1 provides two upgrade paths from older versions of Backup Agent. The following table compares the two upgrades.

Backup Agent	Upgrade Method
13.00	The Backup Agent v13 installer prompts for a license even though a Backup Agent license is already authorized. You may reenter the existing license key, but it is not necessary. If you click through the dialog box to continue without providing a license, the installer allows you to complete the Backup Agent v13 upgrade.
3.x	The PSQL v13 SP1 installer warns that it is not compatible with Backup Agent 3.x, but it allows you to complete the PSQL v13 installation. After installing PSQL v13 SP1, you can upgrade to Backup Agent v13. Running the Backup Agent v13 installer automatically uninstalls Backup Agent 3.x and replaces it.
2.x 1.x	The PSQL v13 SP1 installer informs you that the PSQL installation cannot run until you uninstall Backup Agent. Exit from the PSQL v13 SP1 installer, uninstall Backup Agent, and then restart the PSQL v13 installer. After PSQL v13 SP1 installation is finished, you can install Backup Agent v13.

Linux and OS X

On Linux and OS X, after installing PSQL v13 SP1 you must manually uninstall your existing version of Backup Agent and then manually install Backup Agent v13.

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 v13 are published on the [PSQL website](#).

Limitations

The following lists known limitations in Backup Agent v13.

- 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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