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**Procedure:** SQL Server – Purging Database Mail History

**Source:** [**LINK**](http://sqlandme.com/2012/05/10/sql-server-purging-database-mail-history/)

**Permalink:** [**LINK**](http://heelpbook.altervista.org/2012/sql-server-purging-database-mail-history/)

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# **SQL Server – Purging Database Mail History**

SQL Server stores all mails and attachments in **msdb** database. To avoid unnecessary growth of **msdb** database you should remove these mail history unless it is required for auditing or other purposes.

To check all mails processed by Database Mail, you can use **sysmail\_allitems** catalog view:

SELECT COUNT(\*)

FROM msdb.dbo.sysmail\_allitems

**Output:**

125

There are 3 siblings of this catalog view **sysmail\_faileditems**, **sysmail\_unsentitems** and **sysmail\_sentitems** which shows mails of different status respectively.

If you are frequently sending larger attachments using database mail this can cause **msdb** to grow rapidly. All attachments stored in **msdb** database are available in **sysmail\_attachments.**

To delete mail items you can use system stored procedure **sysmail\_delete\_mailitems\_sp**, it has below syntax:

sysmail\_delete\_mailitems\_sp [@sent\_before] [@sent\_status]

You can delete mail using either of the parameters, ***@sent\_before*** deletes all mail that were sent before specified date, and ***@sent\_status*** deletes all mails with specified status.

For example, to delete all mails which are sent and are older than current month we can use:

EXEC msdb.dbo.sysmail\_delete\_mailitems\_sp

@sent\_before = '2012-05-10 00:00:00',

@sent\_status = 'sent'

**Output:**

(100 row(s) affected)

You can query the **sysmail\_event\_log** view to check the deletions that has been initiated.

SELECT description

FROM sysmail\_event\_log

ORDER BY log\_date DESC

**Output:**

**Description**

Mail items deletion is initiated by user “**sa**”. 100 items deleted.

DatabaseMail process is started

Hope This Helps!