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!