

# Definition of terms

## Adhoc workloads

The option for optimizing adhoc workloads helps to improve the efficiency of the plan cache for workloads that contain many single user adhoc batches.

## Auto Shrink

Microsoft SQL Server automatically shrinks databases to remove unused space. In some cases shrinking databases may not be the best option for your environment since it may cause fragmentation.

SQL Elements provides a Health Check to let you know if the Auto Shrink option is enabled or disabled.

## Availability Data

Availability Data refers to the instance status (up or down), instance response time, and database status (normal, suspect, offline, inaccessible or emergency mode).

## Capacity data

Capacity data refers to the storage capacity of your drives and databases in your environment. SQL Elements lets you know if your drives or databases are at risk of being full soon.

## CHECKDB

Checks the logical and physical integrity of all the objects in the specified database. If corruption has occurred for any reason, the DBCC CHECKDB command will find it, and tell you exactly where the problem is.

## Computer

Refers to the server that hosts a SQL Server, this maybe a physical or virtual server. SQL Elements gathers configuration, capacity, and performance data for SQL Server instance host servers, also known as "Servers".

## Configuration Data

SQL Elements performs the following configuration data checks:

- Auto Shrink configuration
- Xp\_cmdshell configuration
- Tempdb files configuration

## Database

A database is a data structure that stores organized information. Most databases contain multiple tables, which may each include several different fields. For example, a company database may include tables for products, employees, and financial records. Each of these tables would have different fields that are relevant to the information stored in the table.

## Disaster recovery

Disaster recovery is a process to help you recover information if disaster occurs. Disaster recovery planning refers to the preparation that must occur in response to a disaster. SQL Elements provides Health Checks that give you information of your latest backups, alerting you if any of your databases have not been backed up recently.

## Health Checks

Health checks include monitoring CPU utilization, database status, available disk space, database backup status, and other performance issues in general.

The purpose of performing Health Checks is to determine if settings are appropriate for your particular environment and if they allow you to have the highest performance and availability from your databases.

## Instance

Also known as SQL Server or SQL server instance. SQL Server supports multiple "instances" or installations on the same host computer. Each instance runs independently from all others and has its own set of installation code, configuration parameters, system and user databases, memory allocation, and security configuration.

## Location

The location refers to the physical or geographical location of an instance, such as Houston for example. SQL Elements allows you to add this information on the instance that you are registering so you can later filter and get details or graph views for the instances belonging to this location.

## Owner

The owner refers to the user whom the instance belongs to. When you register an instance, Idera recommends that you register the instance owner, so later you can easily get information from this owner and his/her respective instances.

## Performance data

SQL Elements measures performance data such as CPU% usage, Memory % usage, Disk IO, and Network IO.

## Tag

Tags help you group your instances for better management. For example, use a tag name such as "Business critical" to identify all your registered instances that are business critical to you, and have quick access to views and details from this group of instances.

A single instance can belong to one or more tags.

## Tempdb files

It is important to configure the tempdb files with the same initial size and with the same growth settings so that Microsoft SQL Server can write the data across the files as evenly as possible. The data files for tempdb should all be the same size and large enough to handle workload for 24 hours. This configuration helps SQL Server distribute the work evenly across the tempdb data files.

SQL Elements provides a Health Check to let you know if tempdb files are the same size or not.

## Xp\_cmdshell

Xp\_cmdshell is essentially a mechanism to execute arbitrary calls into the system using either the SQL Server context (i.e. the Windows account used to start the service) or a proxy account that can be configured to execute xp\_cmdshell using different credentials.

When xp\_cmdshell is enabled, the user could escalate his/her privileges to sysadmin. It is important to be aware which instances have the xp\_cmdshell option enabled for security reasons.

SQL Elements provides a Health Check to let you know if the xp\_cmdshell is enabled or disabled in an instance.