

# How grooming works

Grooming allows you to permanently delete event data from the Repository databases. You can groom Repository databases for all registered SQL Server instances or for specific SQL Server instances.

Use grooming to ensure your Repository databases contain only the event data you need. You can delete events and alerts older than a specified age (in days).

To increase storage on the host SQL Server instance, also consider archiving your audit data. Archiving provides additional storage flexibility and security. For example, you can back up archive databases, storing the backup files on a dedicated backup server computer, and then remove the archive databases. When you need to report on the archived data, you can use tools such as Idera SQLsafe to easily and quickly restore the archive databases, and then attach the archives.

For more information on how to groom events, see [Groom audit data](#).

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