SQL Schema Compare IDERA Snapshot Utility

IDERA Snapshot Utility is a tool that allows you to create database snapshots via the command line. A snapshot is a file that contains all the schema information for a database. The schema information is stored in a proprietary format and can only be read by the IDERA SQL Schema Compare user interface or command line.

> ⓘ A snapshot file stores only the structure of the database, with no user-data of any kind. It can be used to recreate the tables and other objects in a database, but the tables will be empty.

The Snapshot Utility accepts parameters in the format `/name:value`. There are no spaces between the name and the value and the value is separated from the name with a colon <:>. If the value itself contains spaces, it should be surrounded in double quotes.

Idera Snapshot Utility supports the following arguments:

- `/s:<server>` Specifies the SQL Server instance.
- `/d:<database>` Specifies the database name.
- `/t:` Indicates that the connection to the database should be a trusted connection. If not specified, the connection by default is trusted.
- `/u:<username>` Specifies the username when the database uses the SQL Server authentication.
- `/p:<password>` Specifies the password when the database uses the SQL Server authentication.
- `/sp:<filename>` Saves the snapshot to the specified filename. If the filename is not set, the snapshot file will be named as database.snpx.
- `/cs:<connection_string>` Specifies the connection string to the database. Use this option when you need to set additional settings that are not supported directly such as the connection timeout.
- `/f:<setting_file>` Creates the snapshot using the settings in the specified file. When the /f parameter is specified, all other parameters are ignored. In addition of being easier to manage, using a setting file allows you also to create snapshots for multiple databases. In this case use one line per database.

Samples:

The following command creates a snapshot for the database AdventureWorks on the local SQL Server using a trusted connection:

```
IderaSnapshot /s:(local) /d:AdventureWorks /sp:"c:\AdventureWorks.snpx"
```

The following command creates the snapshot by specifying a connection string:

```
IderaSnapshot /cs:"Persist Security Info=False;User ID=<username>;Password=<password>;Initial Catalog=AdventureWorks;Data Source=(local)" /sp:"c:\AdventureWorks.snpx"
```

The following command uses the setting file snapshot.txt to create the snapshot for two databases:

```
IderaSnapshot /f:"c:\snapshot.txt"
```

The setting file snapshot.txt contains the following lines:

```
/s:(local) /d:AdventureWorks_DEV /sp:"c:\AdventureWorks_DEV.snpx"
/s:(local) /d:AdventureWorks_PROD /sp:"c:\AdventureWorks_PROD.snpx"
```

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