EVALUATION GUIDE

How to make the case for SQL Source Control in 5 steps

When you want to suggest SQL Source Control to your team and get purchase approval, this guide will help you make the case for adopting it.

91% of Fortune 100 companies use Redgate ingeniously simple
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Bring your team on board

You won’t have to change the way you work to use SQL Source Control, but adopting a new tool can still take some convincing. This section covers some ways you can make the case for database source control to your team:

- Introduce your team to the basics of database source control
- Show how source control keeps your production data safe
- Make your DBA's life easier with a comprehensive revision history
- Explain the business advantages – time and money savings, strong regulatory compliance, and fast and reliable delivery of new products to customers

Have you ever tried to debug a database deployment after something went wrong? Then you know how hard it is when you’re missing a detailed change history, and when you can’t simply roll the change back.

But if the idea of database source control is new to your team, it helps to cover some of the benefits, such as keeping a full change history, efficiently sharing changes between developers, and having a dedicated local development sandbox.

Articles

Introduce your team to the benefits of database source control with these articles:

- Why Put Your Database into Source Control?
- The unnecessary evil of the shared development database

Video

If you prefer to see exactly how it works, get your team together and watch this introductory video:

- Redgate SQL Source Control - an intro with Steve Jones

You can also contact us at SQLSourceControlQuestions@red-gate.com to arrange a bespoke webinar demo for you and your team.
Whitepaper

Show your managers the business benefits of database source control with this whitepaper. It covers how you can improve productivity, change management, scalability, and code quality with SQL Source Control.

- The business benefits of database source control

Get your DBA involved

DBAs are responsible for protecting critical data, so they often need to review changes before deployment. If change scripts get passed back and forth between developers, testers, and DBAs, there's a large cost to your time and a high risk of mistakes.

If your DBA can access a full revision history and change log for the database, they can see exactly what's changed, and why. They can look up bugs or work items linked in the comments. They can even roll back unwanted changes.

With a comprehensive change history at their fingertips, your DBA can make sure your data stays safe.

Nail the basics of database source control

Most developers are used to working with source control for application code.

Until now, however, many teams have had to do without version control for their databases.

If you or your team would like to get up to speed with source control best practices, the Stairway to Database Source Control on SQLServerCentral.com is a good place to start:

- Stairway to Database Source Control

If you haven’t seen it already, check out our guide on how to set up SQL Source Control.
Getting purchase approval

Once your team is agreed, the next step is procurement. Purchasing processes vary, but we can help you get started.

Make the ROI and benefits clear

SQL Source Control makes developers’ lives easier by reducing errors, simplifying deployment, and making it quick to share changes. From a business point of view, it improves your change management, reduces risk, and makes your teams more able to deliver.

This whitepaper gives you an overview of the business benefits of database source control:

- The business benefits of database source control

Deliver faster

If developers spend less time on frustrating manual tasks, they can spend that time doing more valuable things.

Give developers the ability to share changes quickly in SQL Server Management Studio, and you’ve removed one of the most painful bottlenecks in database development. Your teams can collaborate more closely, and start to use each other’s changes as soon as they’re checked in to source control.

Having the database in source control simplifies deployments, and is the first step to automating them. Simpler deployments lead to shorter release cycles, putting your changes in front of users as soon as possible.

Electronic Health Records company Practice Fusion puts solid ROI numbers on adopting SQL Source Control, and estimates the benefit at around $2500 per developer per year:

- Practice Fusion: Taking the pain out of database deployments
Better change management

We hear it again and again from the organizations we talk to: having a commit message to explain every database change makes a massive difference.

DBAs, developers, testers, and managers can see why any change was made, without having to track down who made it in the first place.

And when you can see the reasoning behind every change, you can start to have confidence in the quality of the code.

Less risky deployment

If you know when every change is committed, built, and deployed to testing, it’s easier to link issues to a specific change.

This lowers the risk of issues spreading to production, where they could affect critical data.

If any bugs do make it into production, you can fix them faster. You have a full change log, and a previous stable version ready to roll back to.

Let us talk to your team for you

If you’d like some extra help, the simplest way to persuade your organization of SQL Source Control’s value is to encourage decision-makers to get in touch with us. Our technical team is happy to discuss your needs and procurement process. We can arrange custom demos for you, or webinars on change management, productivity, or the business benefits of database source control.

To arrange a consultation, email SQLSourceControlQuestions@red-gate.com.