Selecting and Protecting the Right SharePoint Backup Targets







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About Cardinal



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350+ FTEs \$50M+ Revenue



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Mobile
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What we'll cover

What we'll cover

- Define a backup target
- Identify the core SharePoint targets
- Examine related backup targets
- Identify some "potential" targets that move beyond the core farm
- Wrap it all up



but first, a story





Once upon a time, an admin needed to back up a SharePoint Online site collection ...

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The cloud had it covered.

end of story

oversimplification?

oversimplification?



Yes, but we're talking in on-prem terms today.

SO ...

SO ...

Why am I talking about disaster recovery (DR)?



SO ...

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 I was a DR architect for a Cincinnati-based financial services and insurance company

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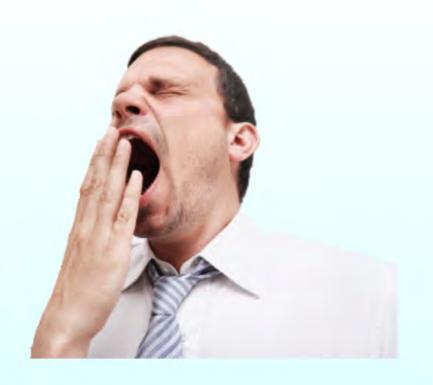
- I was a DR architect for a Cincinnati-based financial services and insurance company
- I've co-authored two books on SharePoint disaster recovery

Why am I talking about disaster recovery (DR)?



- I was a DR architect for a Cincinnati-based financial services and insurance company
- I've co-authored two books on SharePoint disaster recovery
- I'm fascinated by the sight of people yawning.







I'll do my best to keep it interesting ...





I'll do my best to keep it interesting ...

... without getting too crazy.



Let's talk about

"How" vs "What"







How to perform a backup and restore





"How"

How to perform a backup and restore

How to establish high availability



"How"

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How to establish high availability

How to clone a set of virtual machines



"How"

How to perform a backup and restore

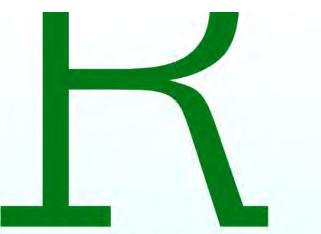
How to establish high availability

How to clone a set of virtual machines

"How" is about tools and procedures



What you should be protecting



"What"



What you should be protecting

What the viable strategies are for a target

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What makes a target unique

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What you should be protecting

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"What" is all about backup targets

t backup targets



- They can be protected
- Tangible typically file(s)
- Can be described and referenced in a plan
- Prioritized for protection and recovery

Different target types

- Some are common in all SharePoint environments
- Others depend on SharePoint version or platform technologies in-use



Two different pictures of backup targets





BCP* Picture

- This is how business stakeholders see targets
- Focuses primarily on use cases tied to business activities and data
- Somewhat abstract and less concretely defined



Example: "Systems for inventory tracking and control must be protected"

BCP = business continuity plan

BCP*

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Example: "Systems for inventory tracking and control must be protected"



DR Plan Picture

- Fits within the BCP
- Typically focuses on the platforms & technologies needed by business
- Targets typically defined more concretely than within the BCP

Example: "The 'Inventory' site collection, Excel services, and BCS connections to SAP must be protected"

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Our focus today

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The technical (DR plan) targets

- What are they?
- Where do they reside?
- When are they important?
- Protection approaches*
- Special considerations and watch-outs



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Important reminder:

Even though this presentation focuses on technical targets, the actual selection and prioritization of targets should be driven by the business.

II) raiders



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DR plan







DR Horizon

what we'll cover in this session ...



- Content databases
- · Central Admin (content) DB
- · Farm Configuration database
- · Service Applications
- · Search



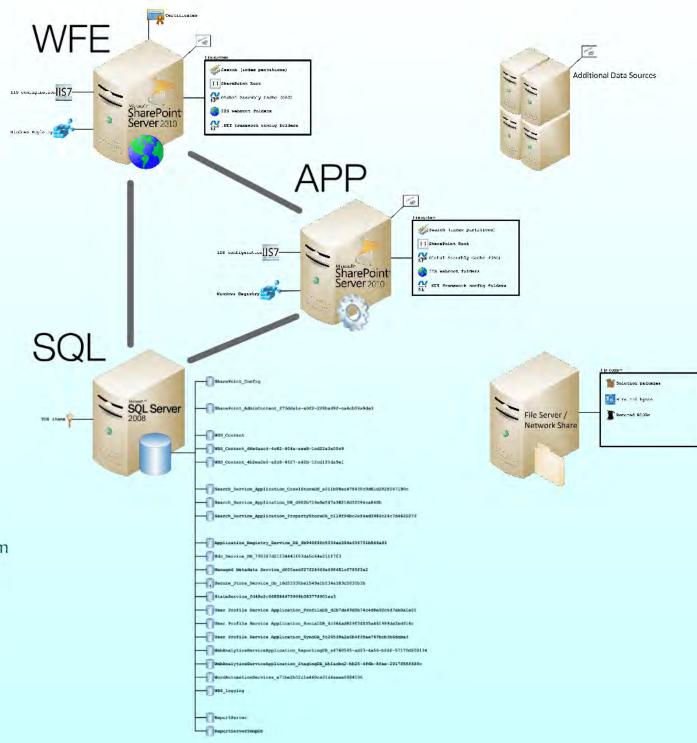
Related targets "important to remember"

- · Solution packages
- SharePoint Root
- IIS Configuration
- Certificates
- · IIS web root
- · GAC
- Registry
- Bits and bytes



Potential targets beyond the farm sometimes confused with the dark arts ...

- · .NET framework config folders
- Remote BLOB storage (RBS)
- SQL Server TDE
- External data sources







Core SharePoint targets

aka, "the meat and potatoes"

- Content databases
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- Farm Configuration database
- Service Applications
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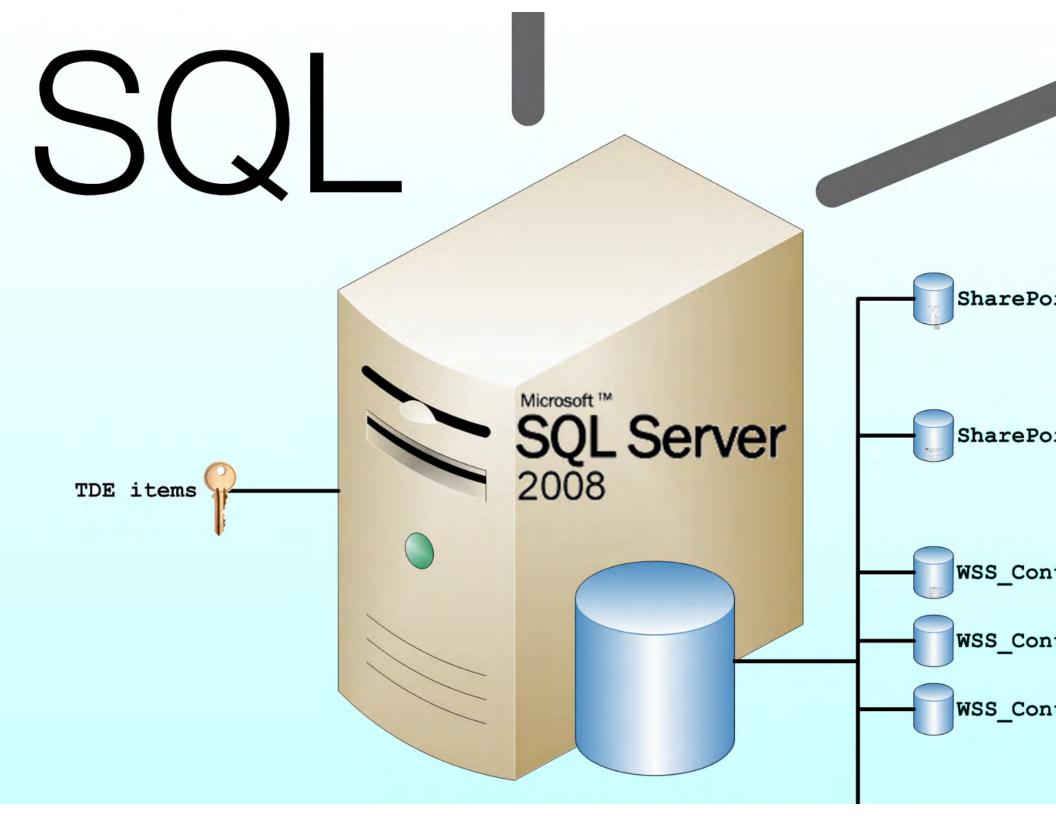
- Hands-down #1 protection target set
- Houses majority of your users' content
- Must protect; can't be recreated if lost

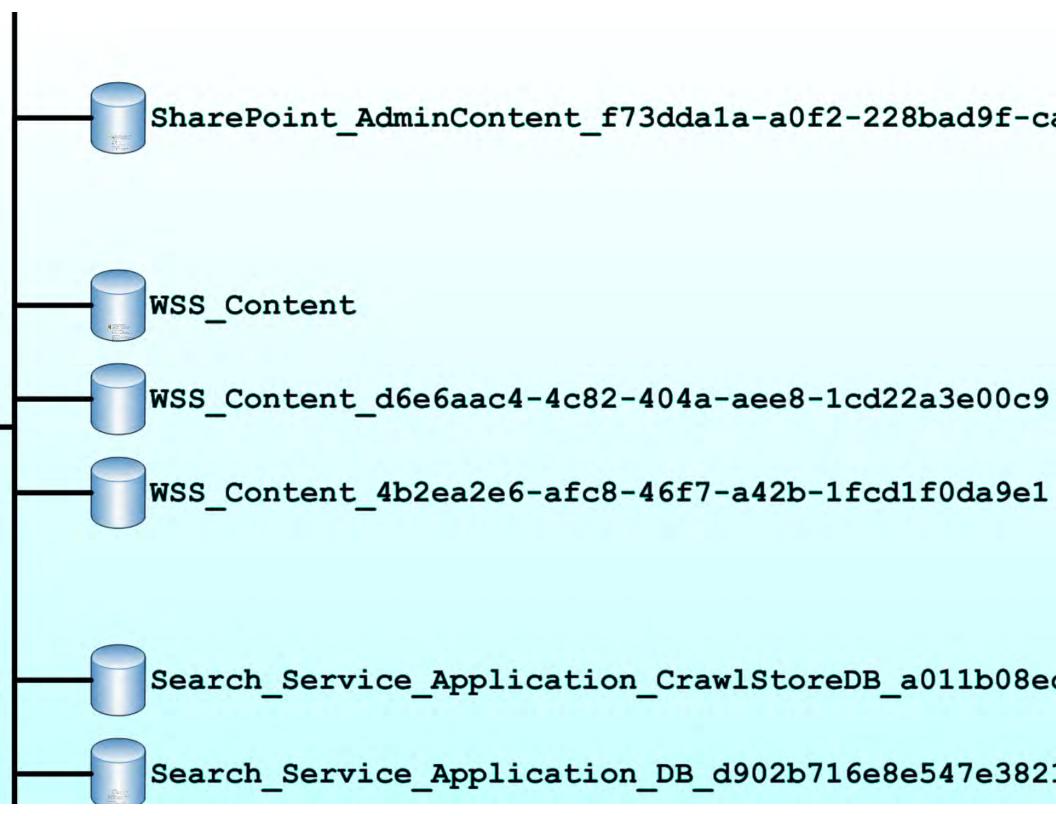


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 SharePoint (farm) backups, SQL backups, high availability (HA) mechanisms, 3rd party tools



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Watch out for EBS/RBS ...



Central Admin content DB

- Simply another content database
- Houses Central Administration site and help collection

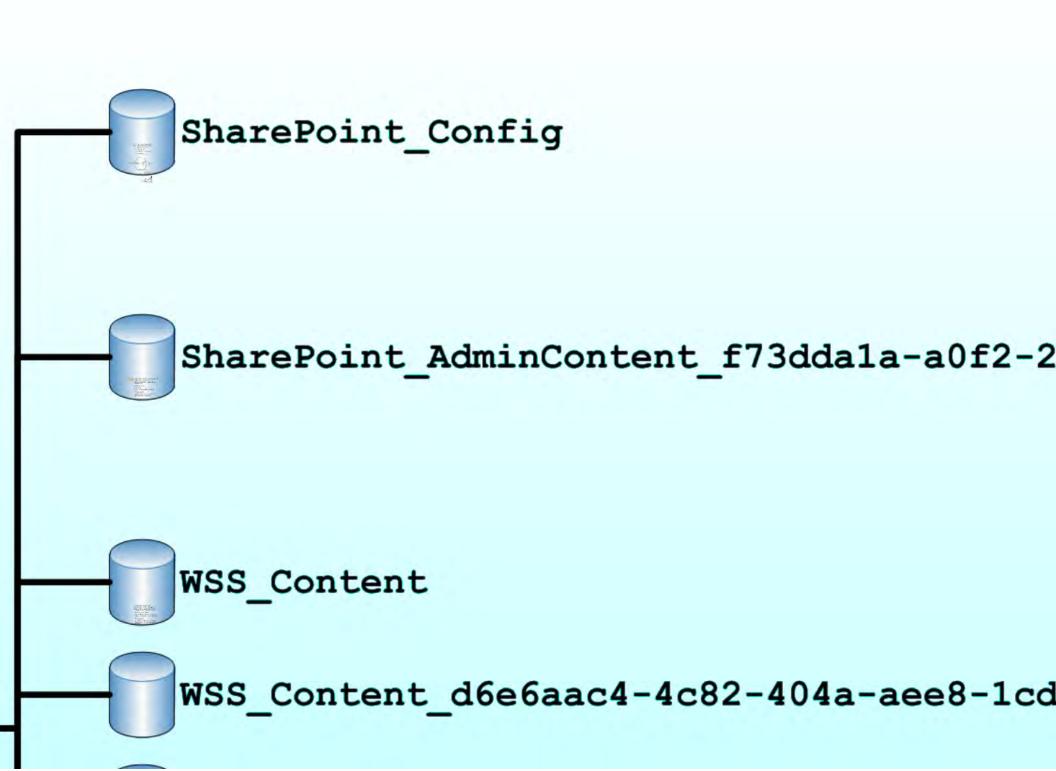


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Protection

- Farm provisioning creates a new one
- Not usually worth protecting*



Farm Configuration DB

 Repository for farm-wide configuration data, web application settings, services information, and more

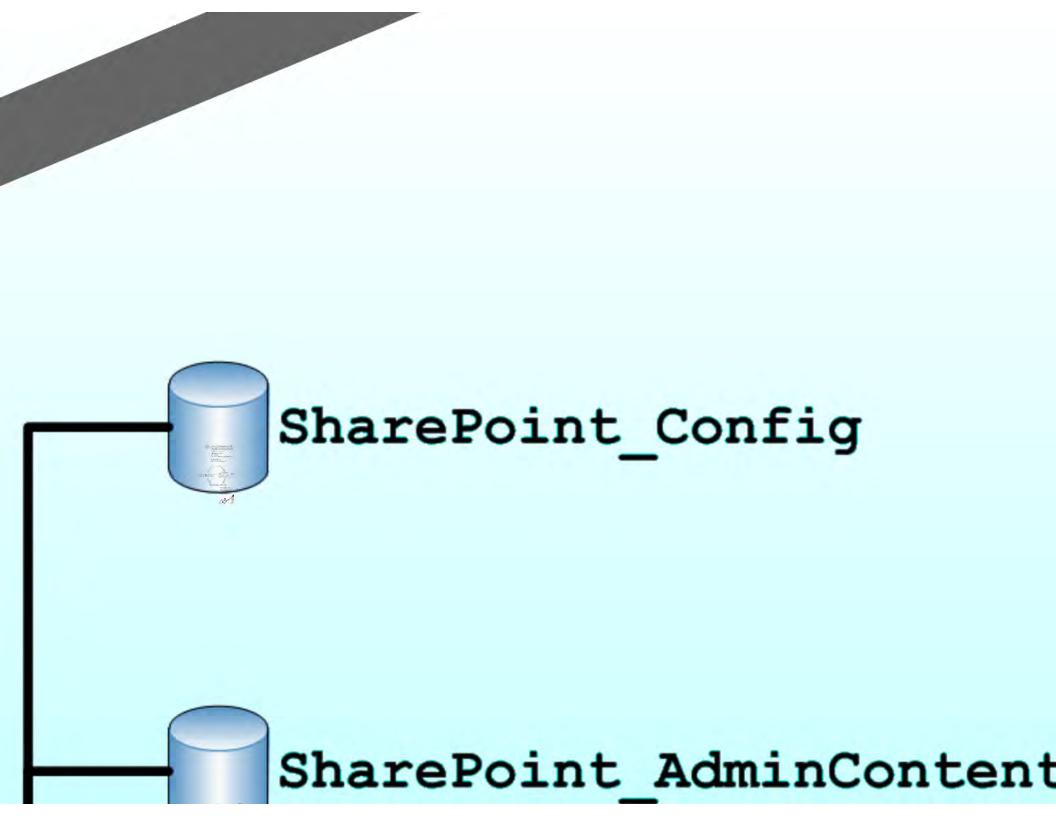


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Protection

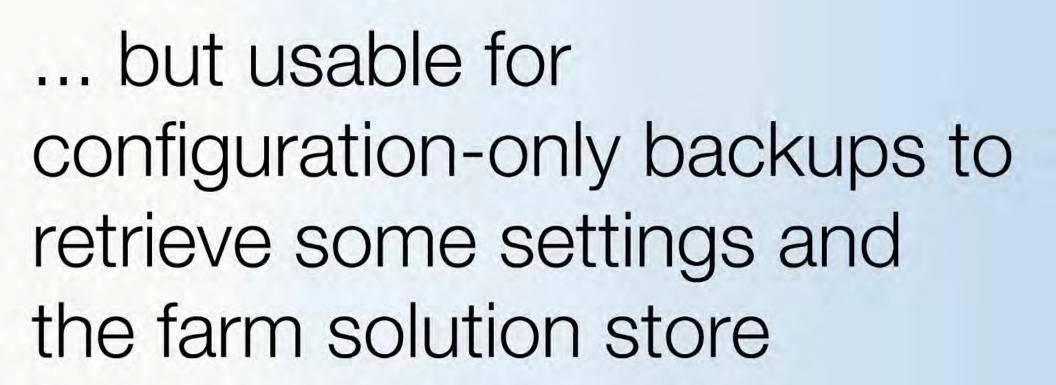
So, is it worth protecting

No ... and Yes!

No ...

Not portable or supported for stand-alone restore ...

Yes!



Protection

So, is it worth protecting?

No ... and Yes!

Not portable or supported for stand-alone restore ...

... but usable for configuration-only backups to retrieve some settings and the farm solution store



options

- SharePoint backups
- SQL Server backups
- HA mechanisms
- Documentation
- 3rd party tools

3rd party tools



Service Applications

A collection of services that are consumed by web applications and the site collections they contain

Excel services, Managed Metadata Service, BCS, User Profile Service, etc.



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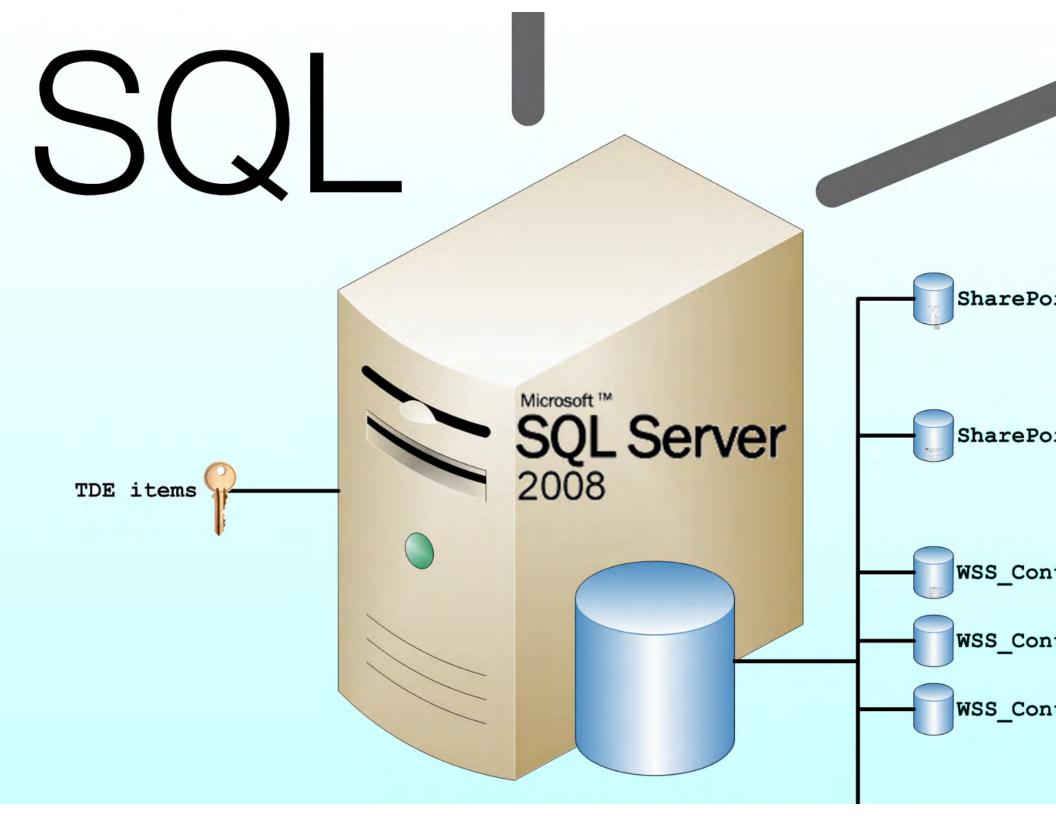
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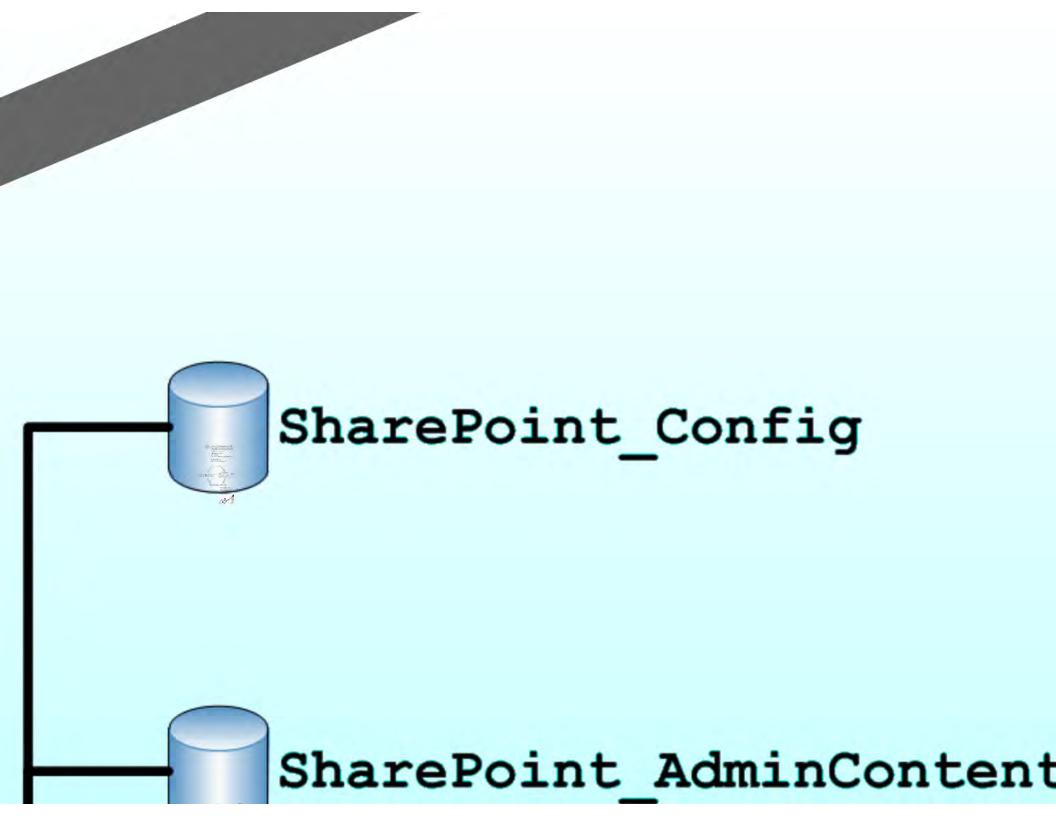
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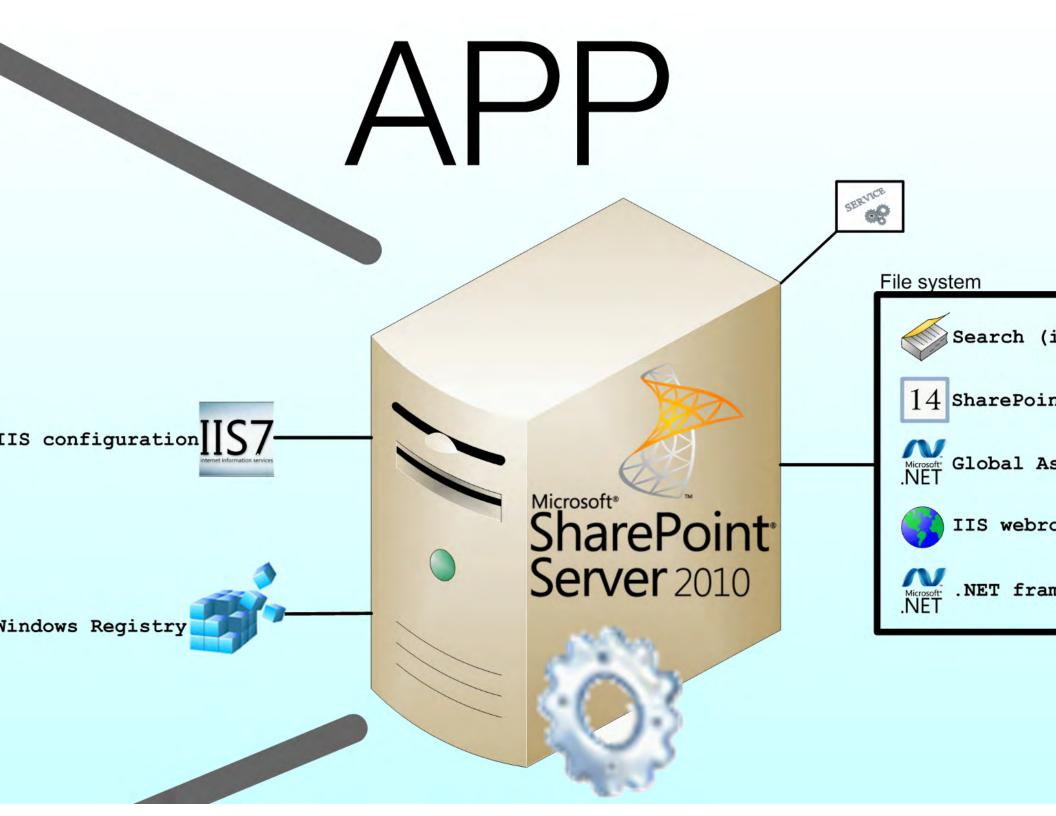
Where are they?

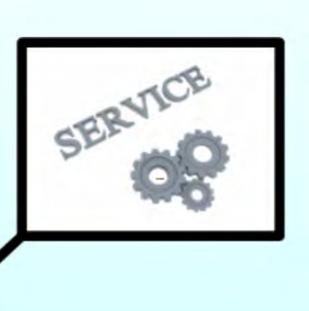
· Simple answer: all over the place ...



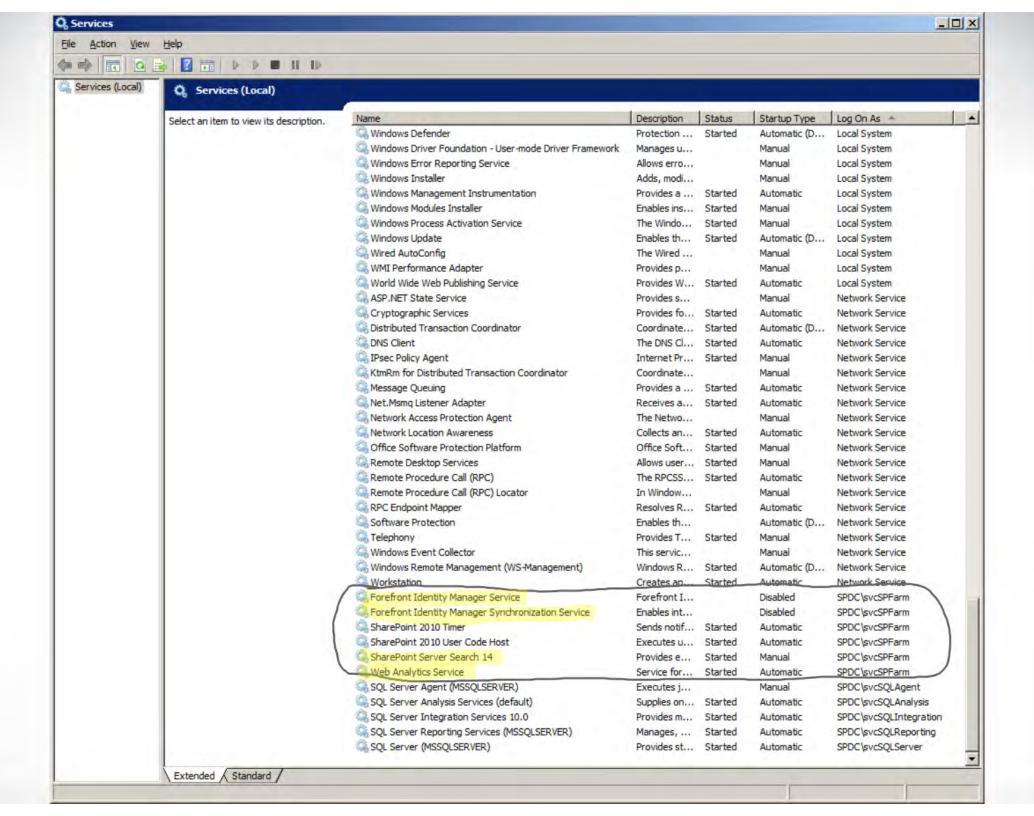






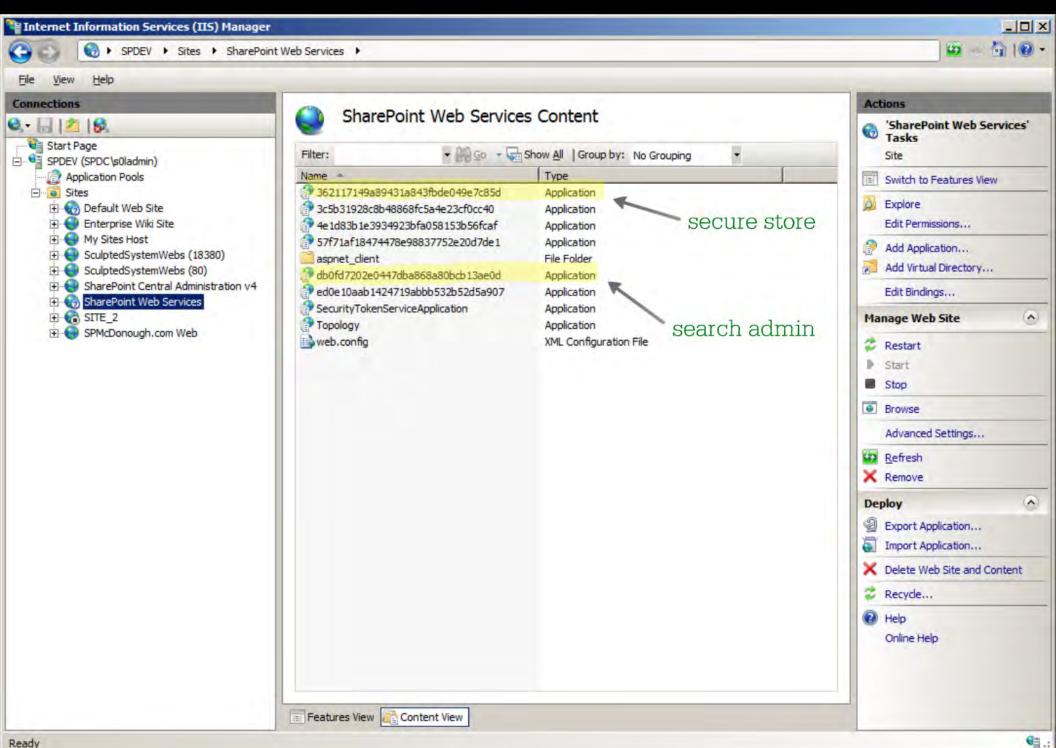


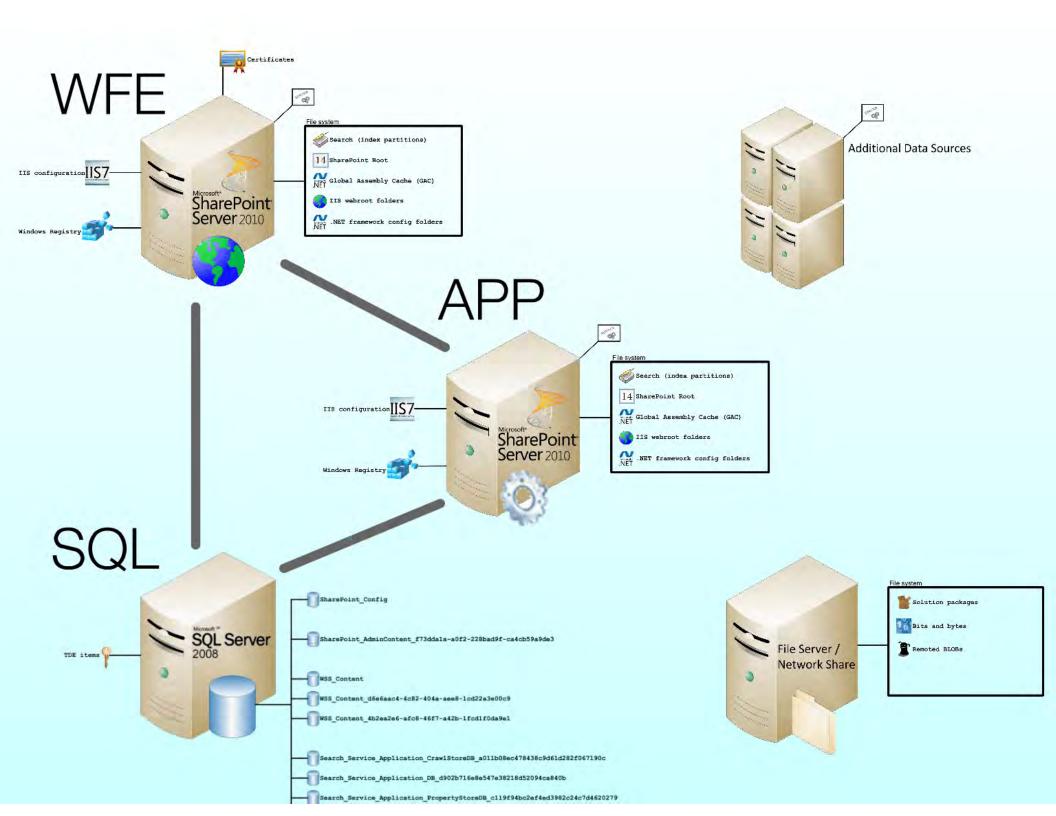
File system



- Telephony Windows Event Collector Windows Remote Management (WS-Management) Workstation Forefront Identity Manager Service Forefront Identity Manager Synchronization Service SharePoint 2010 Timer SharePoint 2010 User Code Host SharePoint Server Search 14 Web Analytics Service SQL Server Agent (MSSQLSERVER) SQL Server Analysis Services (default)
- SQL Server Integration Services 10.0

IIS configuration IIS 7-





Protecting them

- Full farm backup (ideal)
- By service application/group*
- 3rd party tools

or

 Protect databases and augment with documentation of config/settings



Central Administration • Perform a Backup - Step 1 of 2: Select Component to Back Up

Select the items you want to back up. Click Next to continue the backup process.

3

Central Administration

Application Management

System Settings

Monitoring

Backup and Restore

Security

Upgrade and Migration

General Application Settings

Configuration Wizards

Readiness

No backup or restore in progress. Backup and Restore Job Status

Administration service is running.

Select component to back up

Select the top-level component to back up, You can also click the name of a Web application to browse its contents.

Select	Component	Type	Description
	∃Farm SP2010_ConfigDB	Farm Configuration Database	Content and configuration data for the entire server farm. Configuration data for the entire server farm.
	☐ InfoPath Forms Services	Server Settings and Content	Administrator-approved content and settings for the server farm.
	Settings	Settings	Settings
	Data Connections	Data Connections	Administrator-approved data connection files.
	Form Templates	Form Templates	Administrator-approved form templates.
	■ Exempt User Agents	Exempt User Agents	The collection of user agents that receive InfoPath forms instead of Web pages.
	☐ SharePoint Server State Service	State Service	Service for storage of temporary state information used by various SharePoint Server features.
	■ State Service Application	State Service Application	
	☐ Microsoft SharePoint Foundation Web Application	Microsoft SharePoint Foundation Web Application	Collection of Web Applications
	⊞ Enterprise Wiki Site	Web Application	Content and configuration data for this Web application.
	My Sites Host	Web Application	Content and configuration data for this Web application.
	■ SculptedSystemWebs (18380)	Web Application	Content and configuration data for this Web application.
	■ SPMcDonough.com Web	Web Application	Content and configuration data for this Web application.
		Central Administration Web Application	Collection of Web Applications Content and configuration data for this Web application.
	☐ SharePoint Server State Service Proxy	State Service Proxy	
	State Service Application Proxy	State Service Application Proxy	
	☐ SPUserCodeV4	Microsoft SharePoint Foundation Sandboxed Code Service	Settings for the Sandboxed Code Service,
	[Solution Validators Group.]	Backup Group	Collection of components grouped together for backup and restore.
	Sandboxed Code Load Balancer Provider using Popularit	Sandboxed Code Load Balancer Provider using yPopularity	
	[Resource Measures Group.] [Execution Tiers Group.] Microsoft SharePoint Server Diagnostics Service	Backup Group Backup Group Microsoft SharePoint Server Diagnostics Service	Collection of components grouped together for backup and restore. Collection of components grouped together for backup and restore. Settings for the diagnostics service.
	Global Search Settings	Search object in configuration database	Crawler impact rules for the farm
	Application Registry Service	Application Registry Service	Backwards compatible Business Data Connectivity API.
	Microsoft Office Web Apps Diagnostics Service	Microsoft Office Web Apps Diagnostics Service Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services Diagnostics Service	Settings for the diagnostics service.
	Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Services Diagnostics Service		Settings for the diagnostics service.
	Microsoft SharePoint Foundation Diagnostics Service	Microsoft SharePoint Foundation Diagnostics Service	Settings for the diagnostics service.
	☐ Shared Services	Shared Services	Shared Services of the server farm.
	■ Shared Services Applications	Shared Services Applications	Shared Services Applications of the server farm.
	⊞ Shared Services Proxies	Shared Services Proxies	Shared Services Applications of the server farm,

Microsoft Office Web Apps Diagnosti
Microsoft SQL Server Reporting Serv
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Test, test, TEST, III

Protecting them

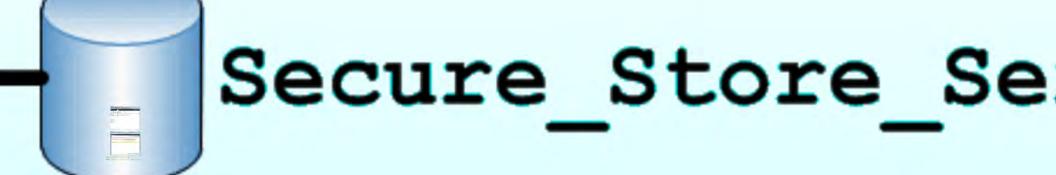
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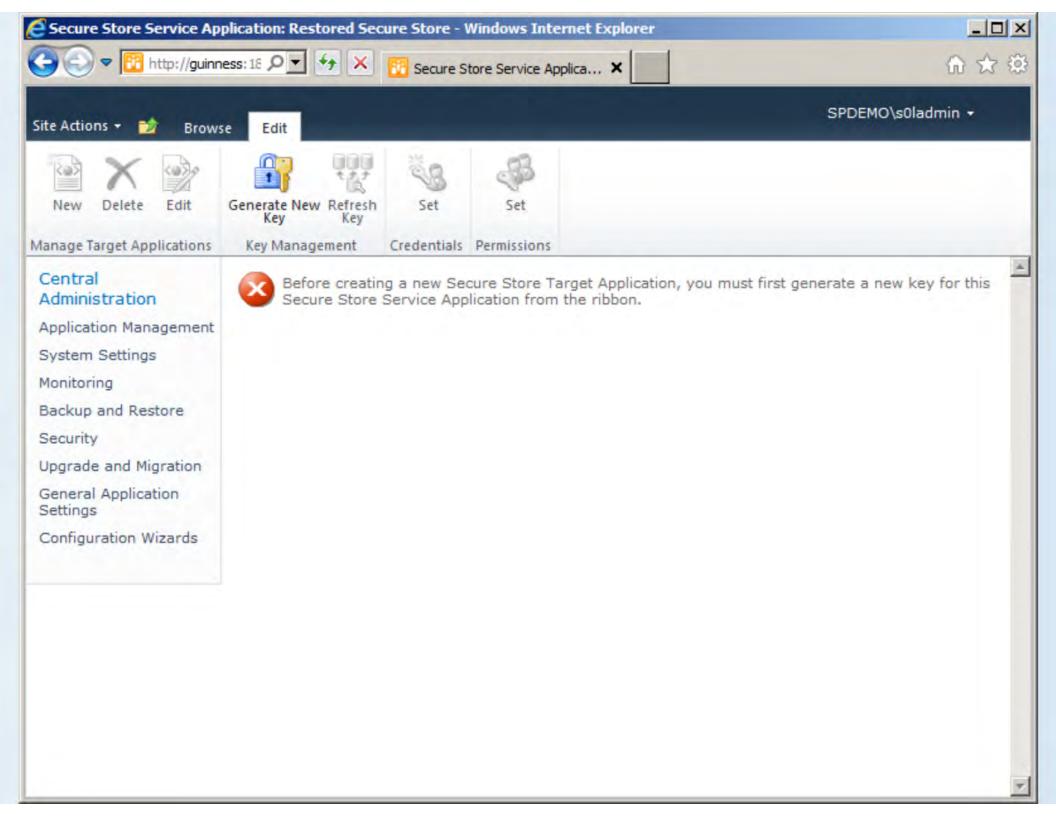
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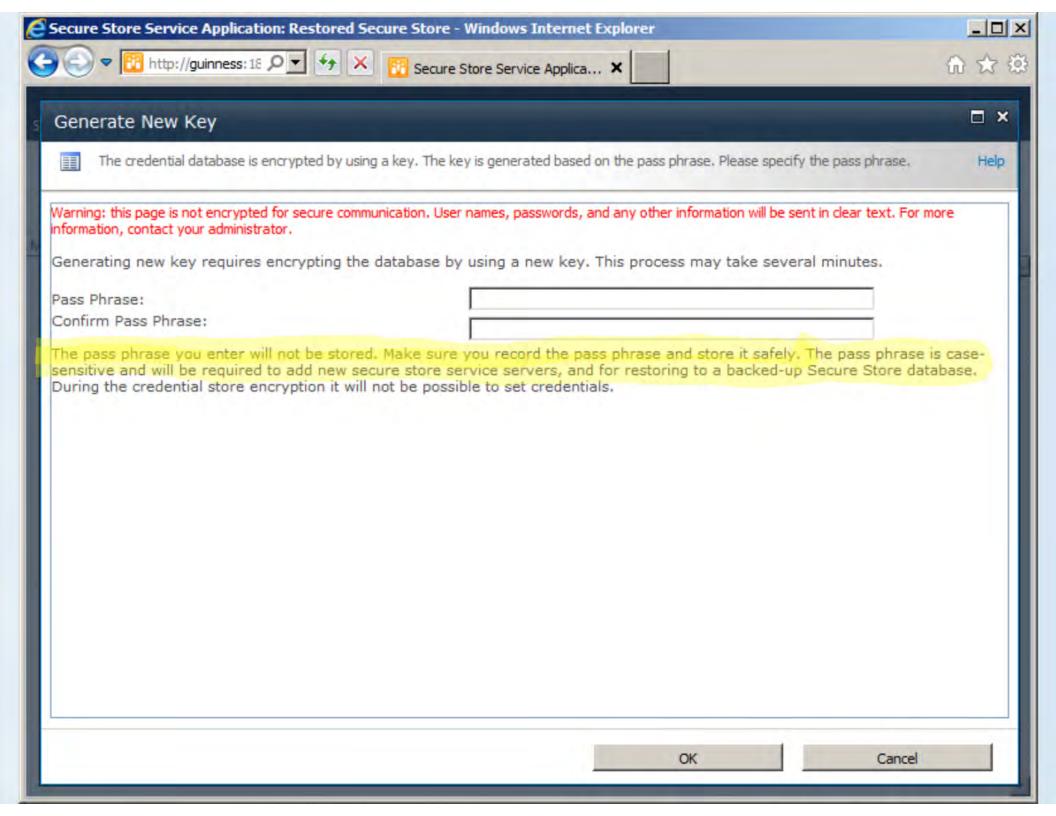
Watch out for omitted config items and required external data. For example ...

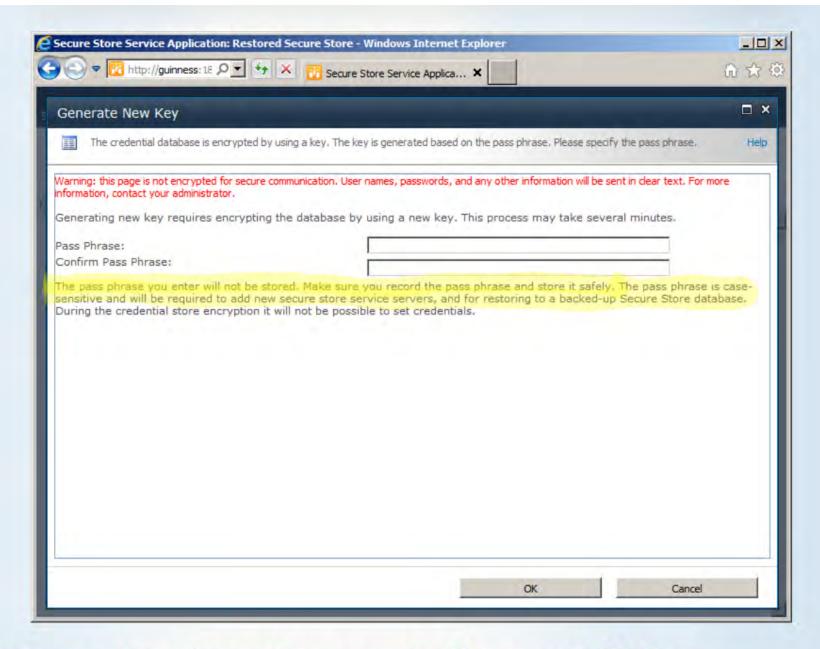












Documentation in some form will be required for any protection strategy selected.



Search

 Yes, it's a service application ... but not like other service applications!

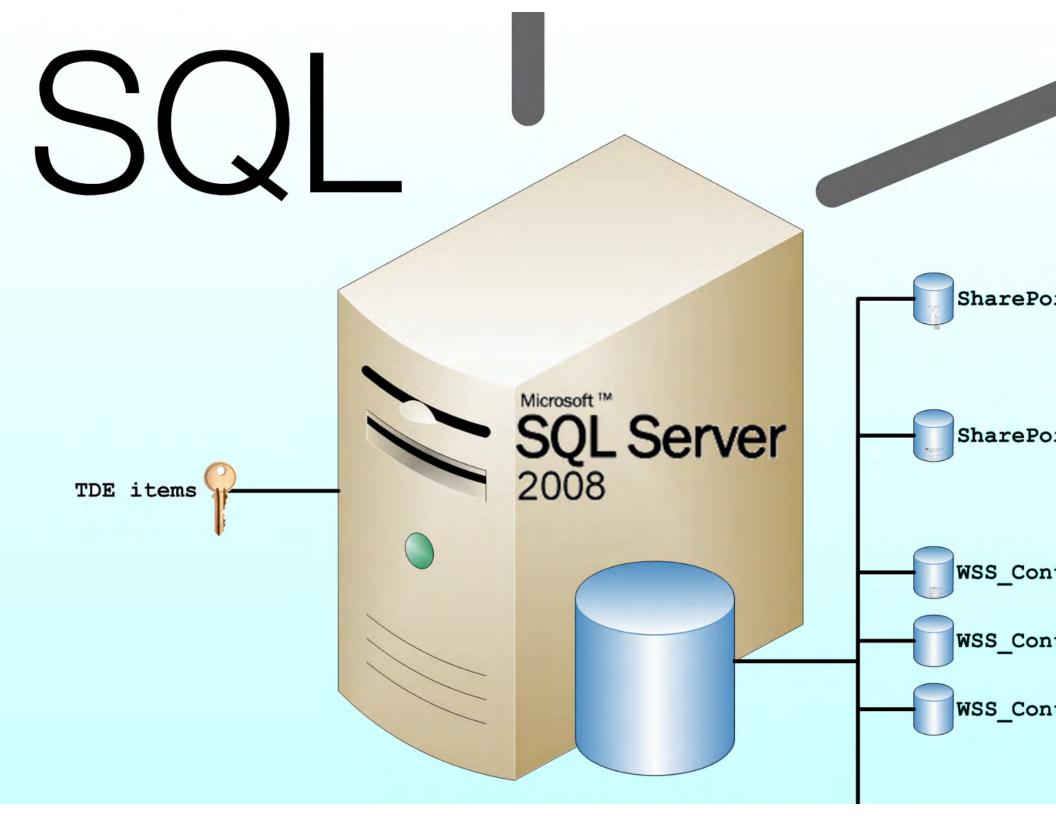


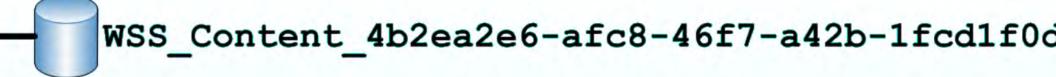
Search

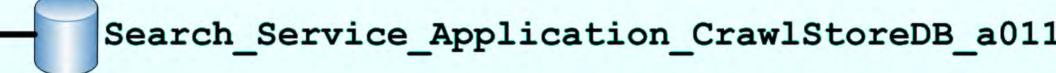
 Yes, it's a service application ... but not like other service applications!

Where is it?

- SQL Server houses several databases (admin, crawl, plus others by specific SP version)
- File system houses index partitions

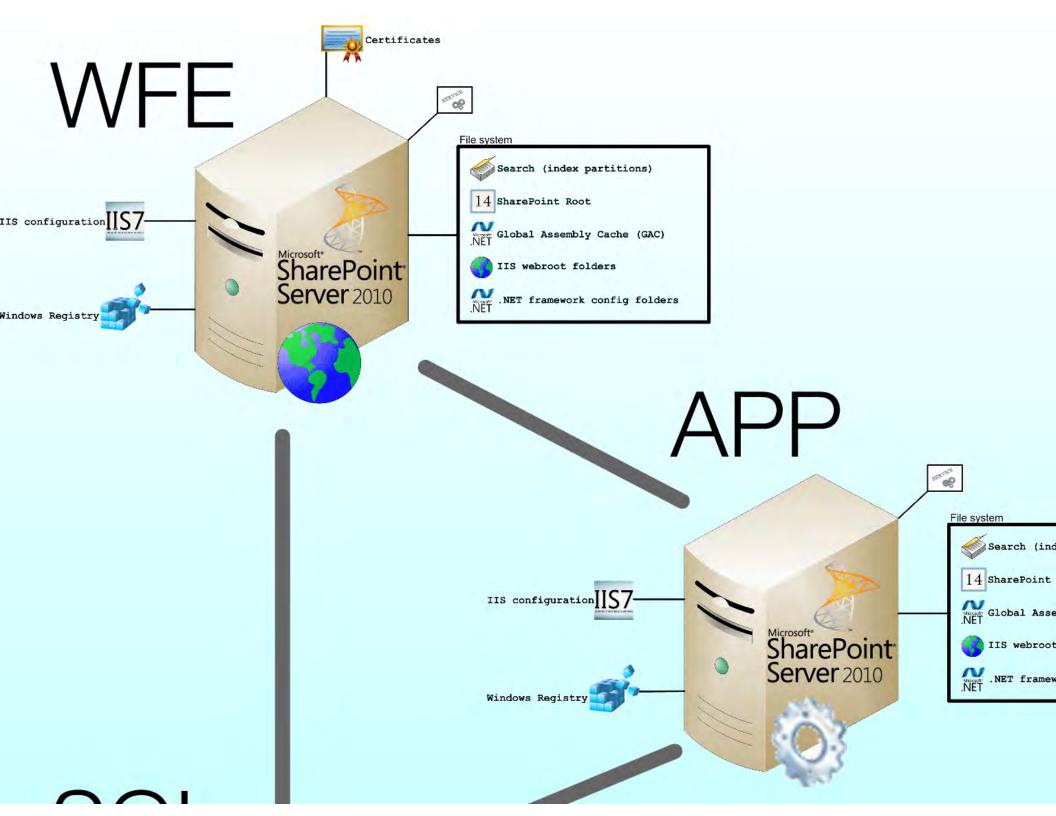






- Search_Service_Application_DB_d902b716e8e547
- Search_Service_Application_PropertyStoreDB_c

Application_Registry_Service_DB_9b940f8fc593



File system



Search (index partitions)

14 SharePoint Root



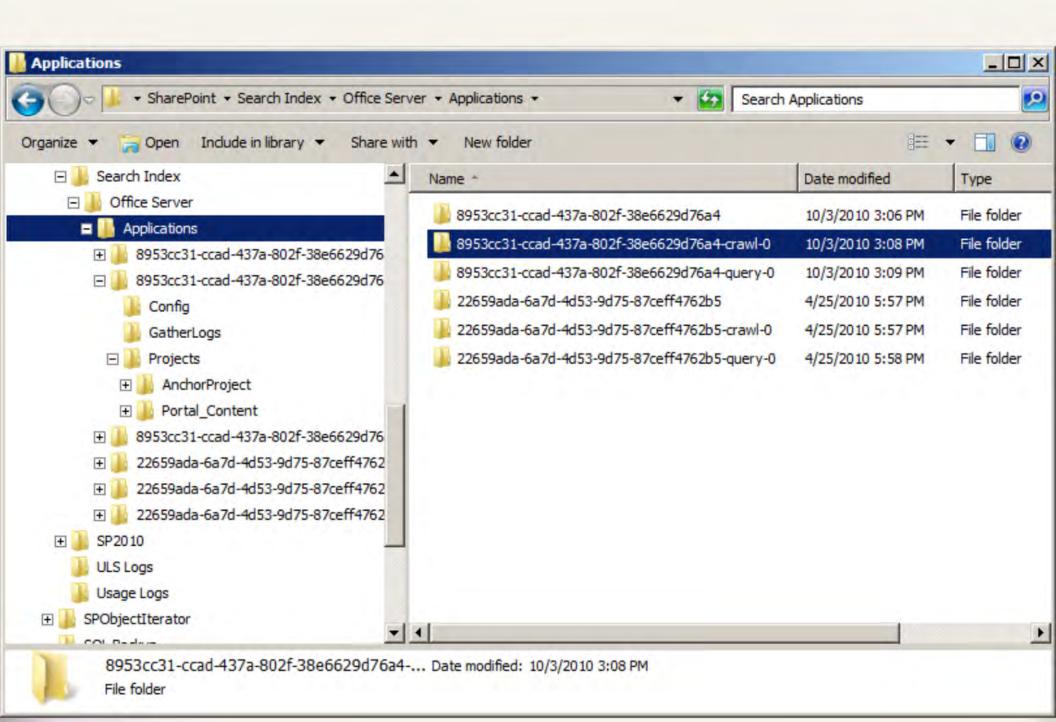
Global Assembly Cache (GAC)



IIS webroot folders



.NET framework config folders





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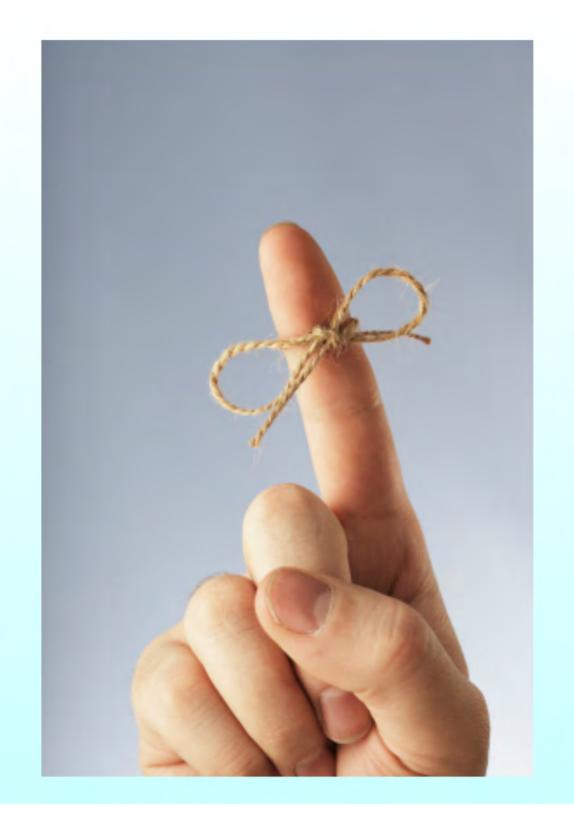
- Can be configured for high availability OOTB
- SharePoint native or SPF VSS Writer-based backups
- 3rd party tools
- Sync between index partitions & crawl database is critical!



Core SharePoint targets

aka, "the meat and potatoes"

- Content databases
- Central Admin (content) DB
- Farm Configuration database
- Service Applications
- Search





Related targets

"important to remember"

- Solution packages
- SharePoint Root
- IIS Configuration
- Certificates
- IIS web root
- GAC
- Registry
- Bits and bytes



 .wsp files that are added to the farm to deploy custom code, Features, etc.

You are packaging your customizations this way ... right?

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If you answered "no," then pay attention ...

You were doing it wrong, but now you're doing it "less wrong."

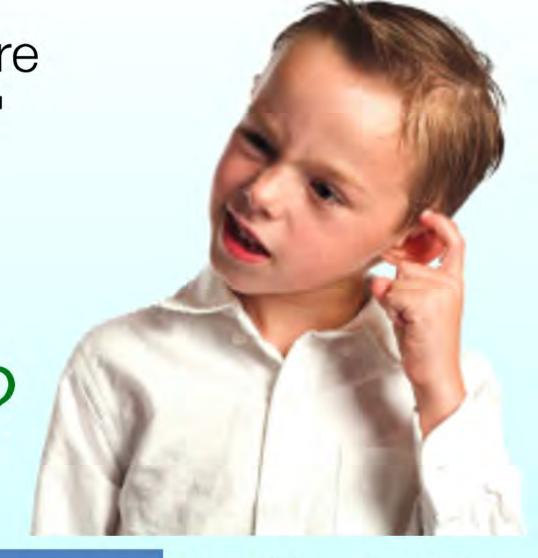
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Confused?



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"No more feature framework?" **Correct**

We recommend remote provisioning patterns rather than feature framework usage

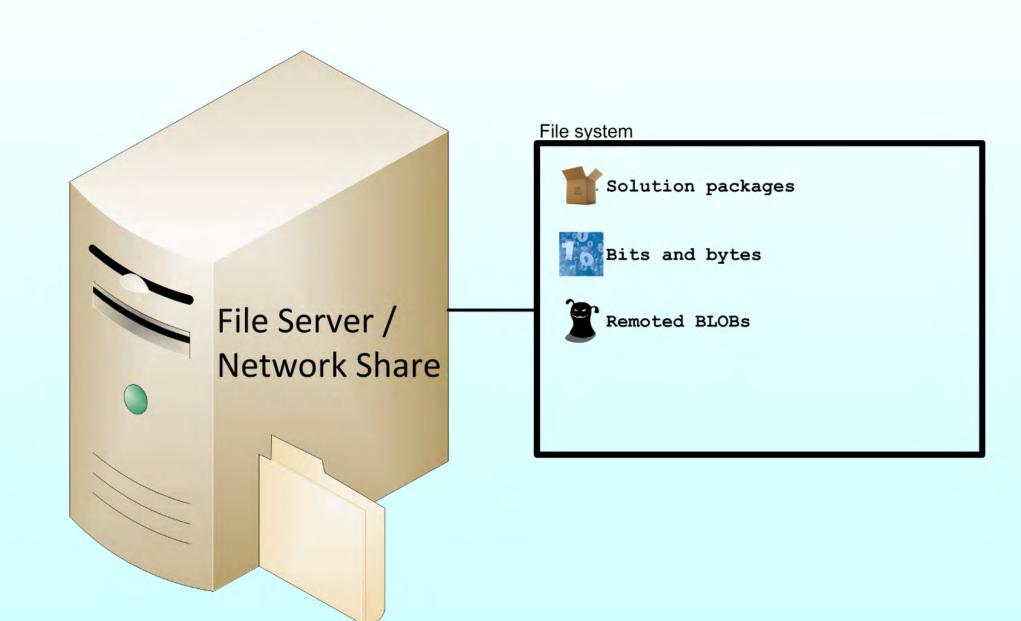
from Vesa Juvonen, Senior Program Manager for Office 365 Engineering



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Protection

- For centrally managed solution packages, basic file protection/backup is common
- Alternative: configuration-only backup



SharePoint Root

- The guts of SharePoint's core file system
- Previously known as "hives" (e.g., "14-hive")

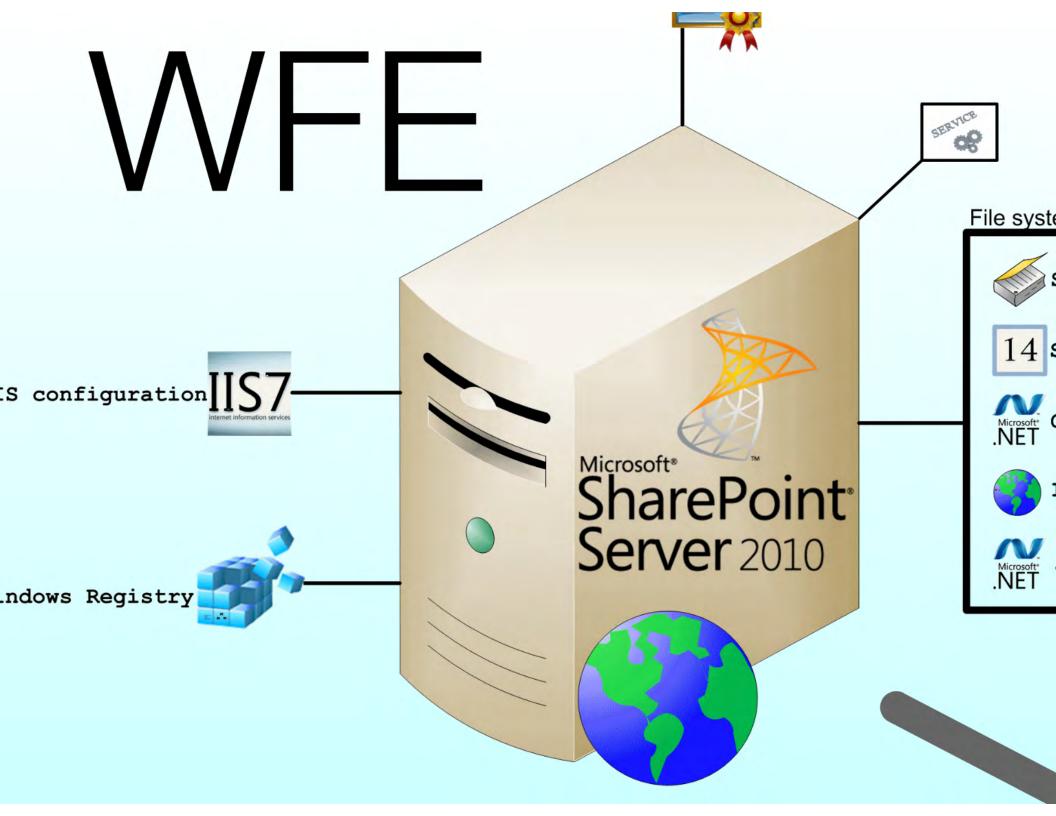


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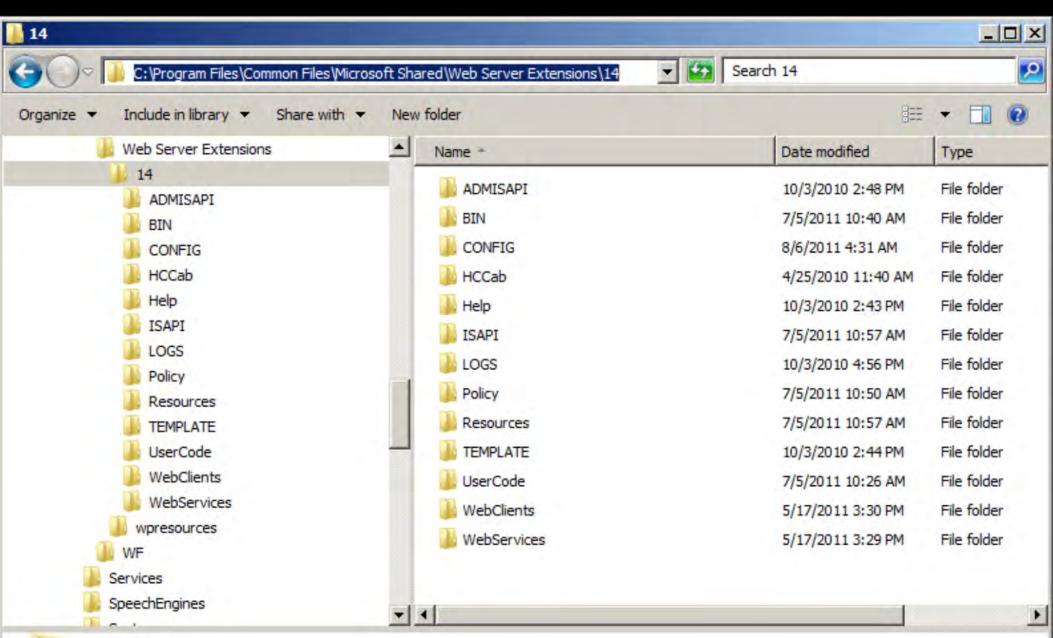


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File system backup



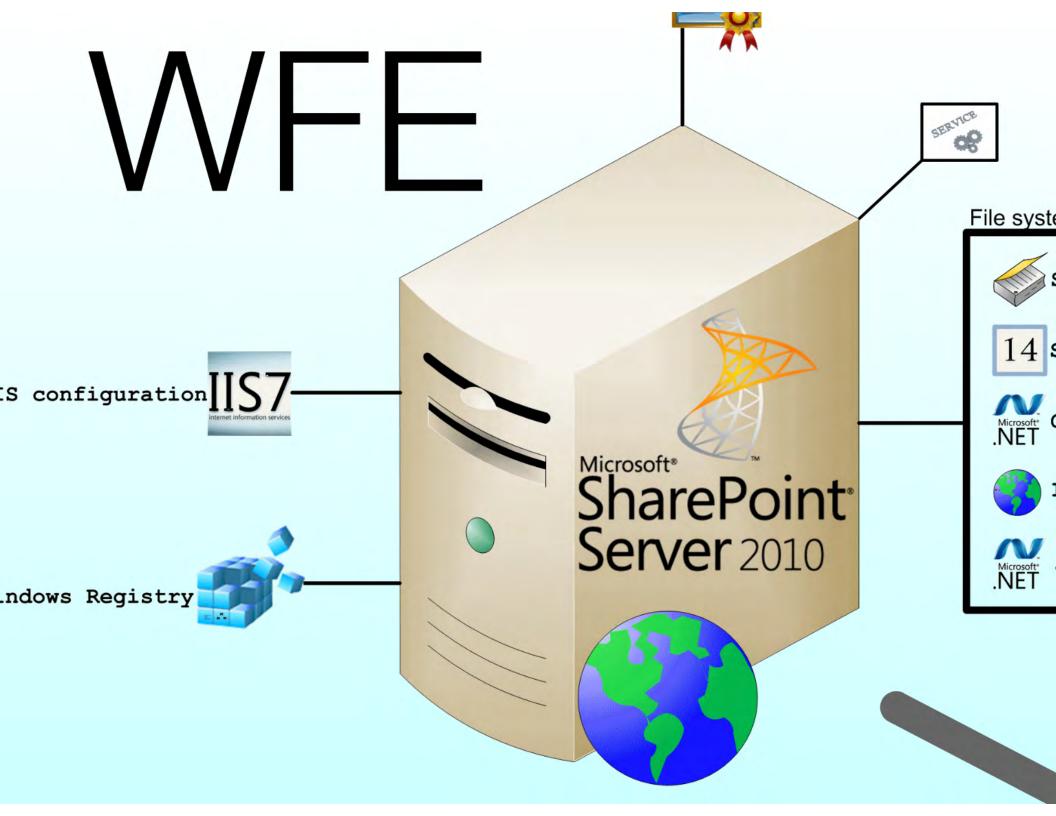
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- Covers app pools, ports, protocols, etc.



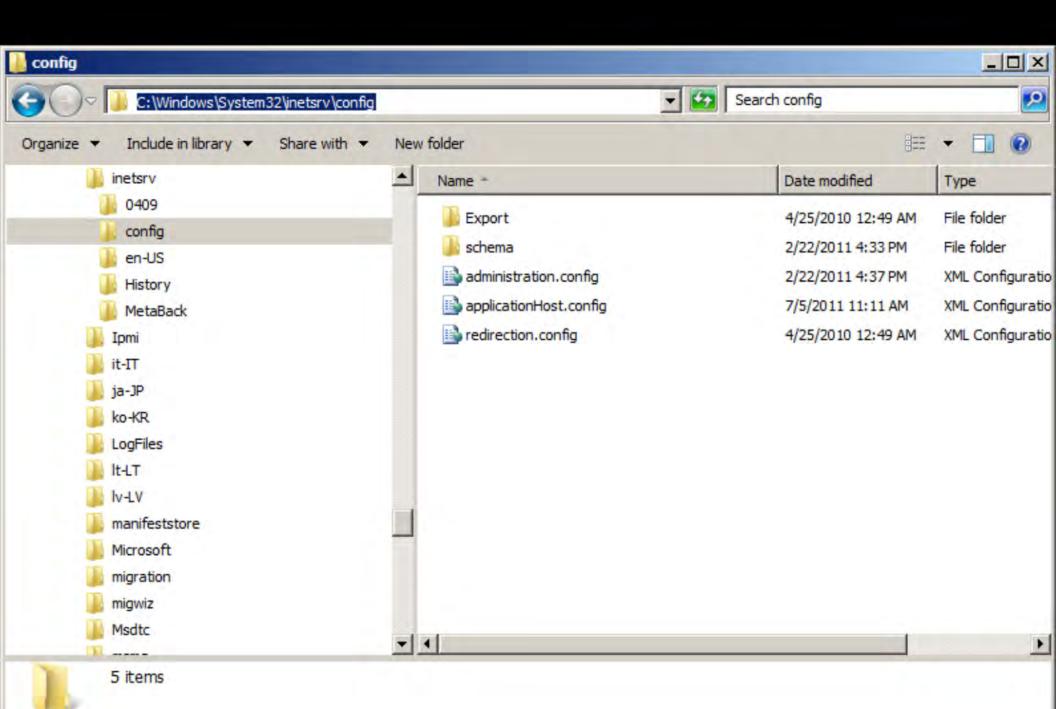
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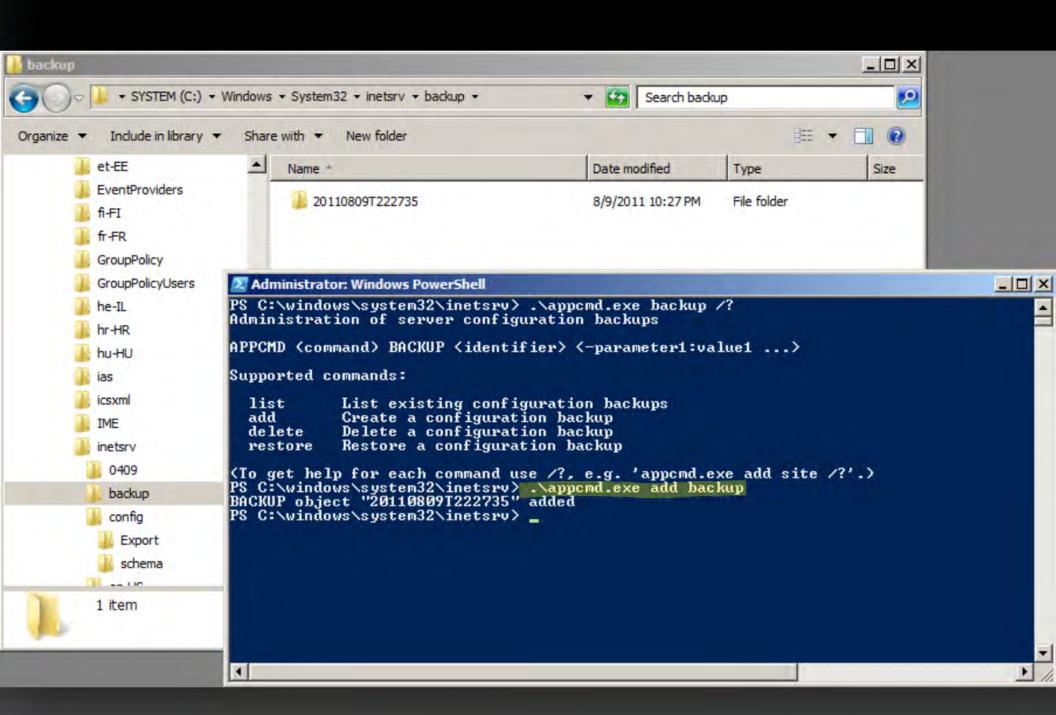
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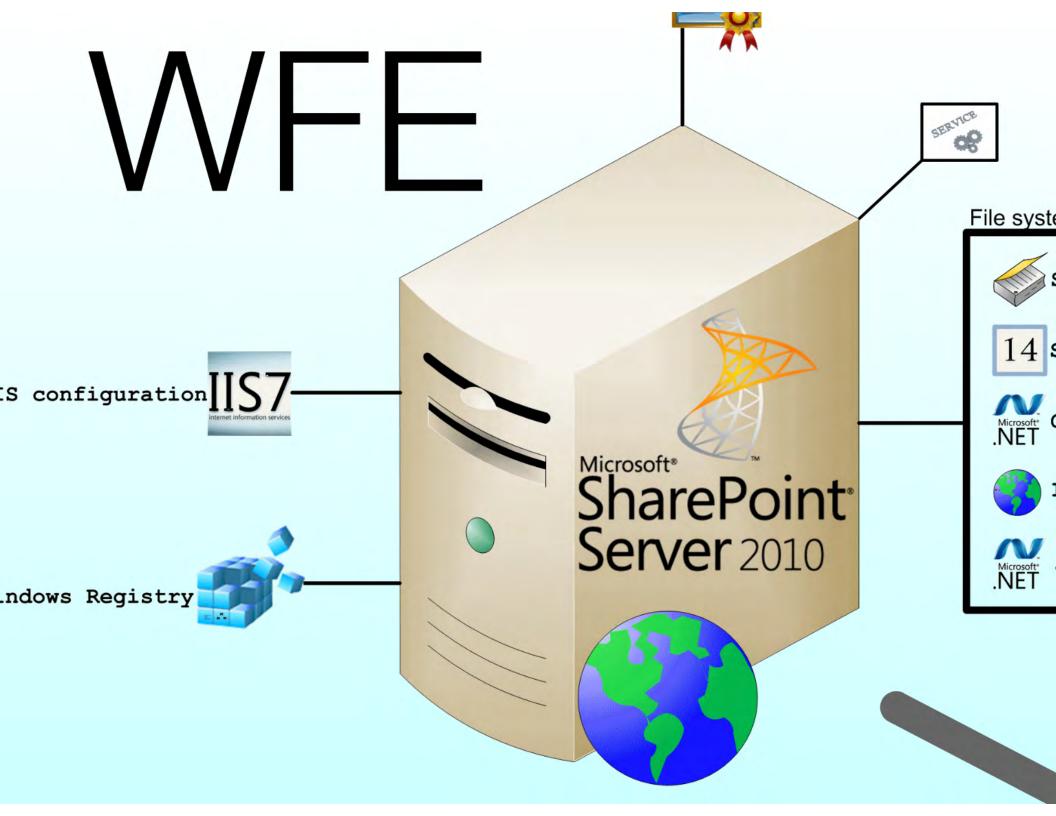
 Commonly used for encryption (SSL) to sites and between farm members

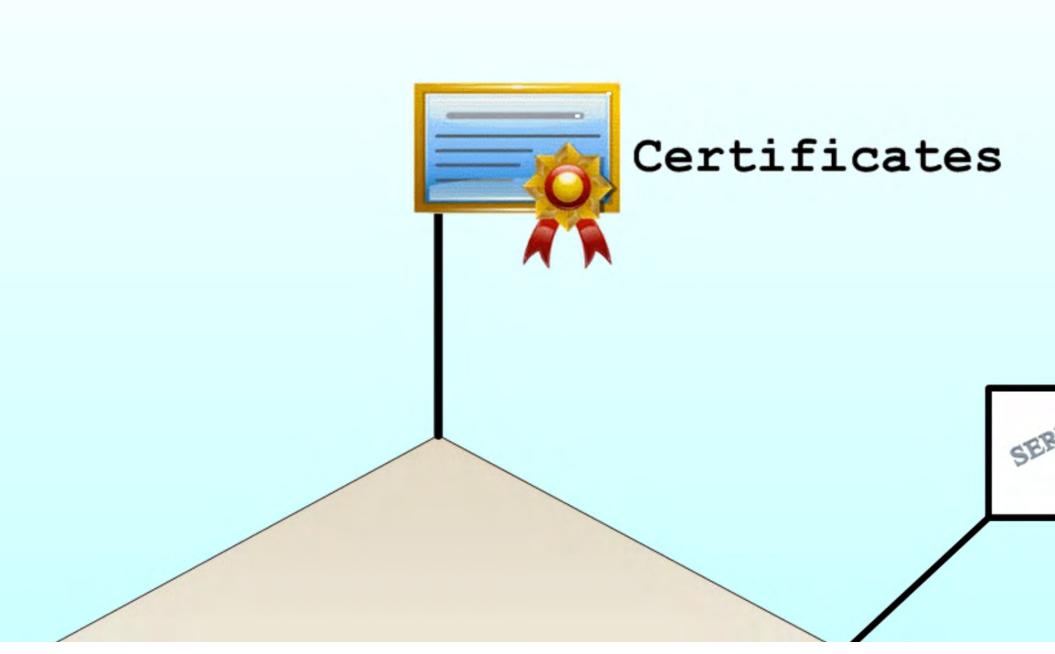


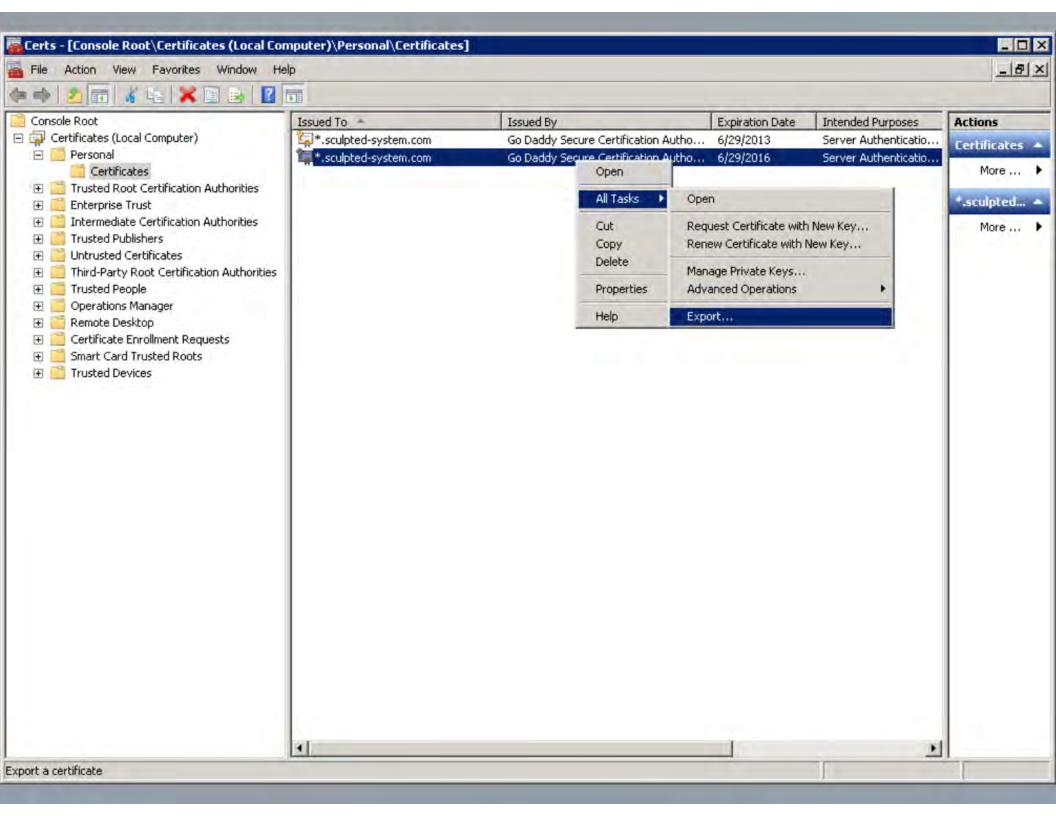
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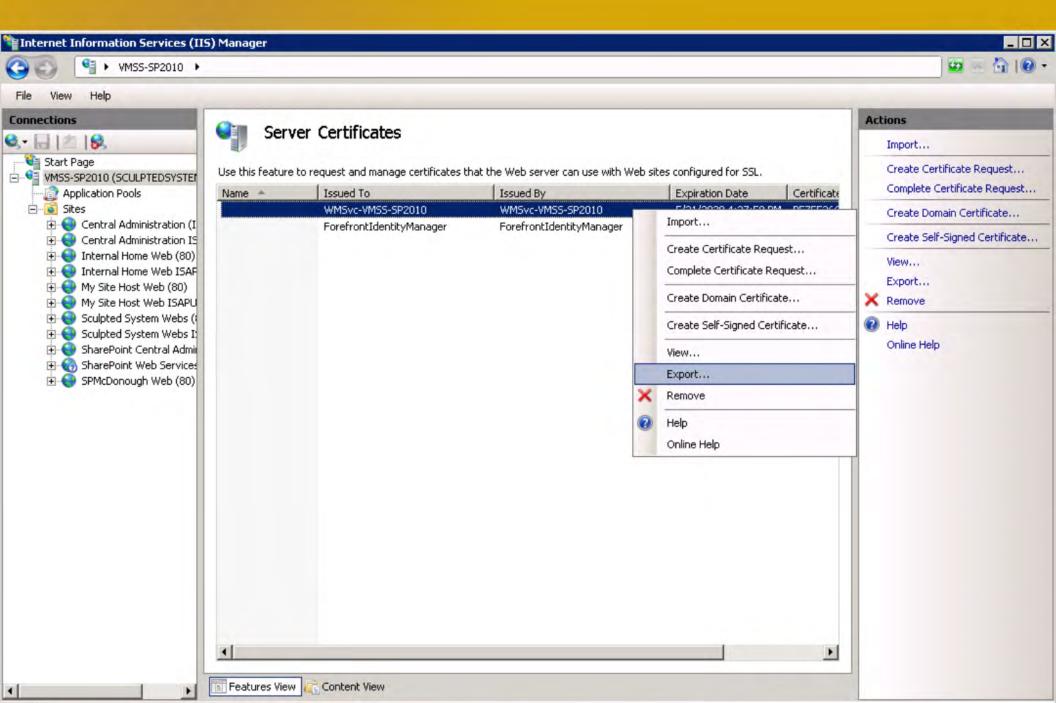
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- Local machine certificate store
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Ready



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- Export via PowerShell or code



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Worth protecting?

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Pay attention to where SSL terminates to find certs



IIS web root

 Web files for each IIS site associated with a SharePoint Web application

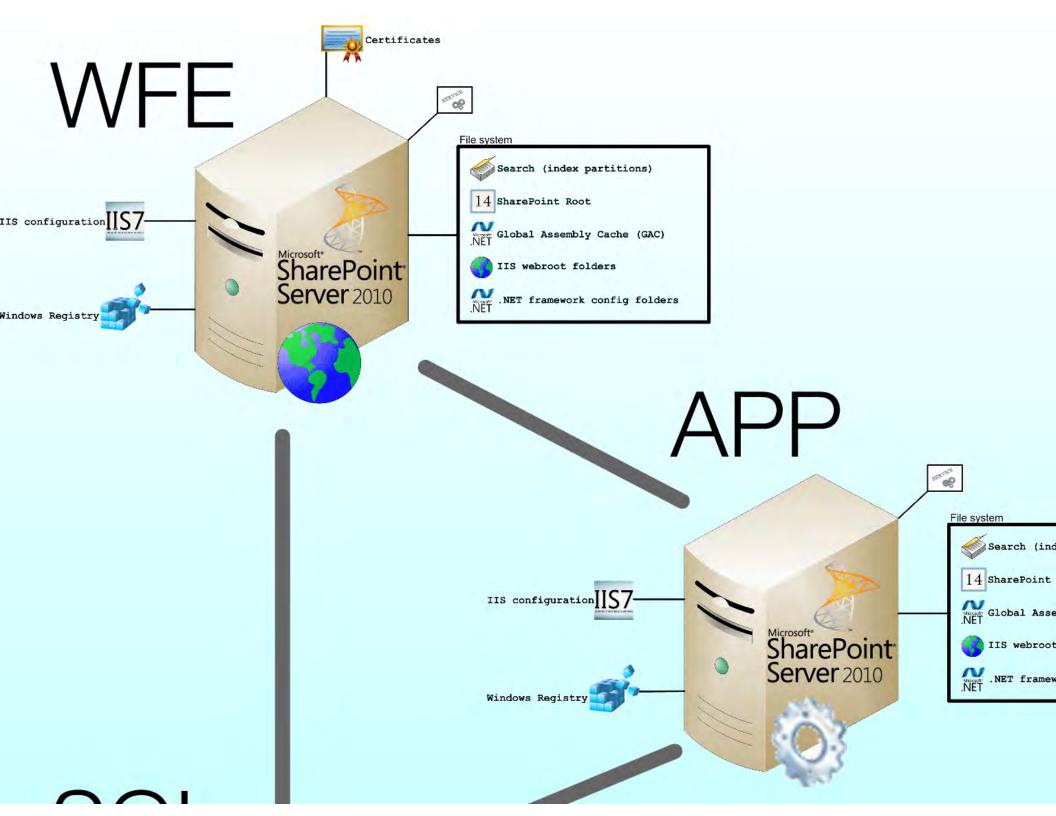


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Where is it?

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- Other paths possible



File system



Search (index partitions)

14 SharePoint Root



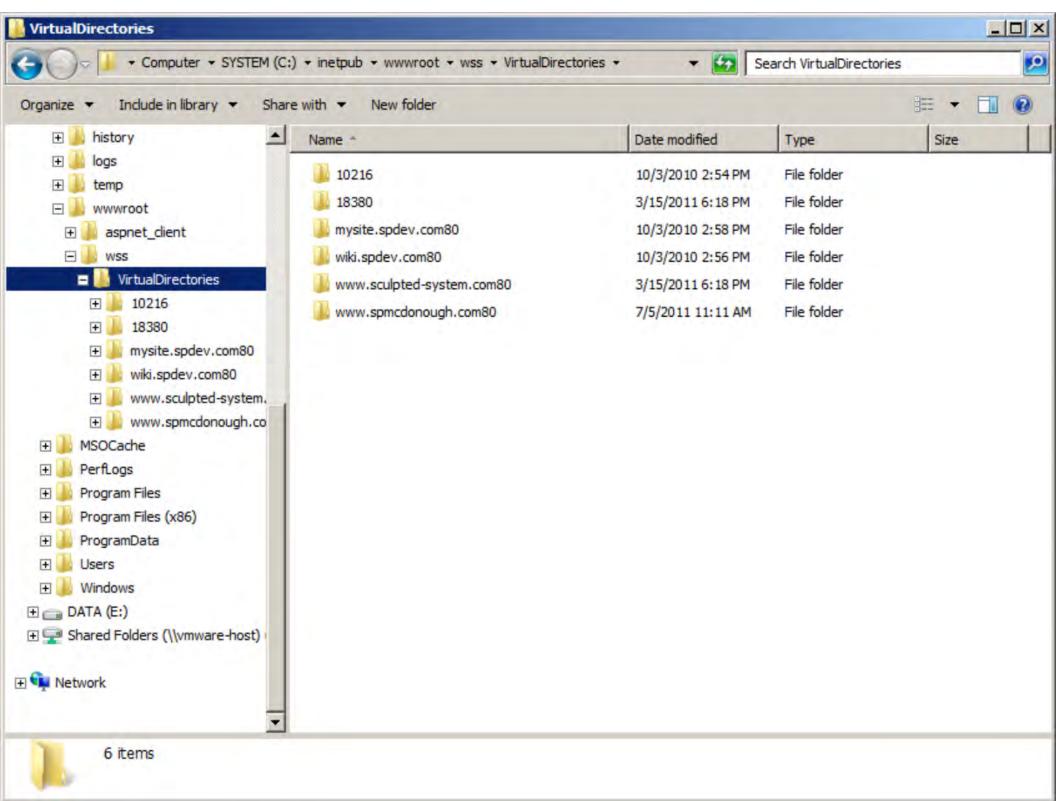
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Where is it?

- C:\inetpub\wwwroot\wss\VirtualDirectories
- Other paths possible

Worth protecting?

- · Usually for web.config files et al
- "Yes" for decentralized customizations

Protection

File system backup, documentation



Global Assembly Cache

 Microsoft .NET Framework GACs are repositories for shared libraries (DLLs) and native images

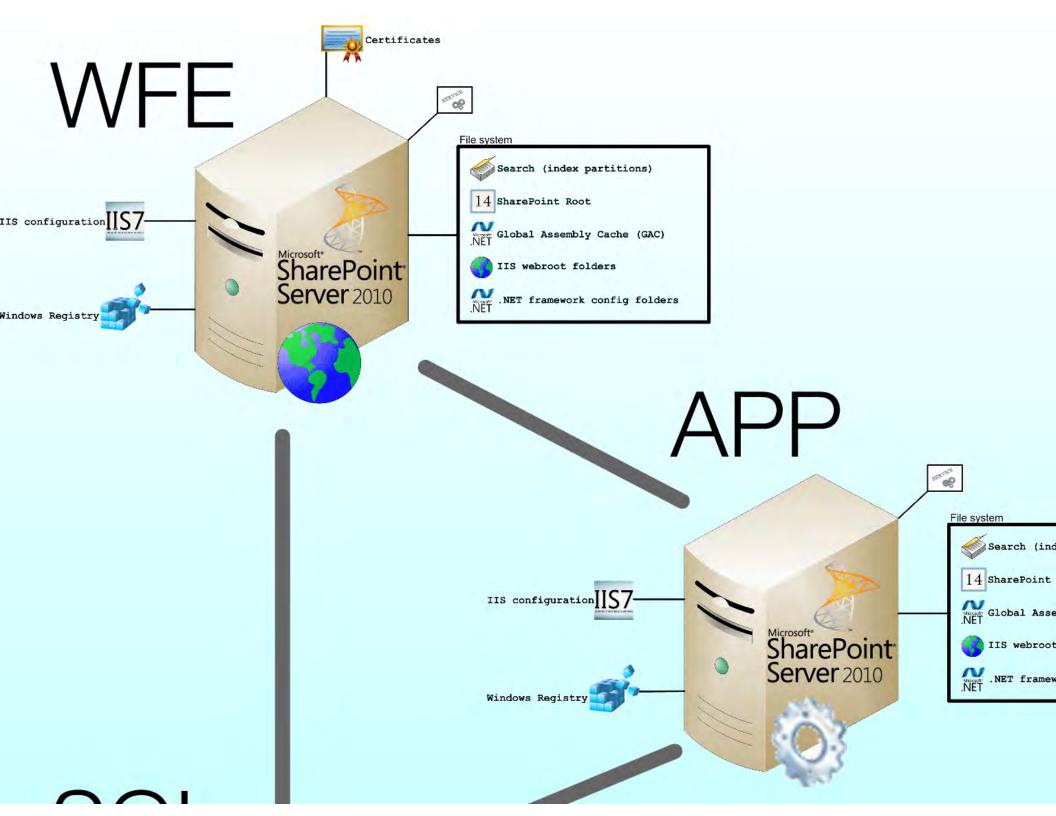


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File system



Search (index partitions)

14 SharePoint Root



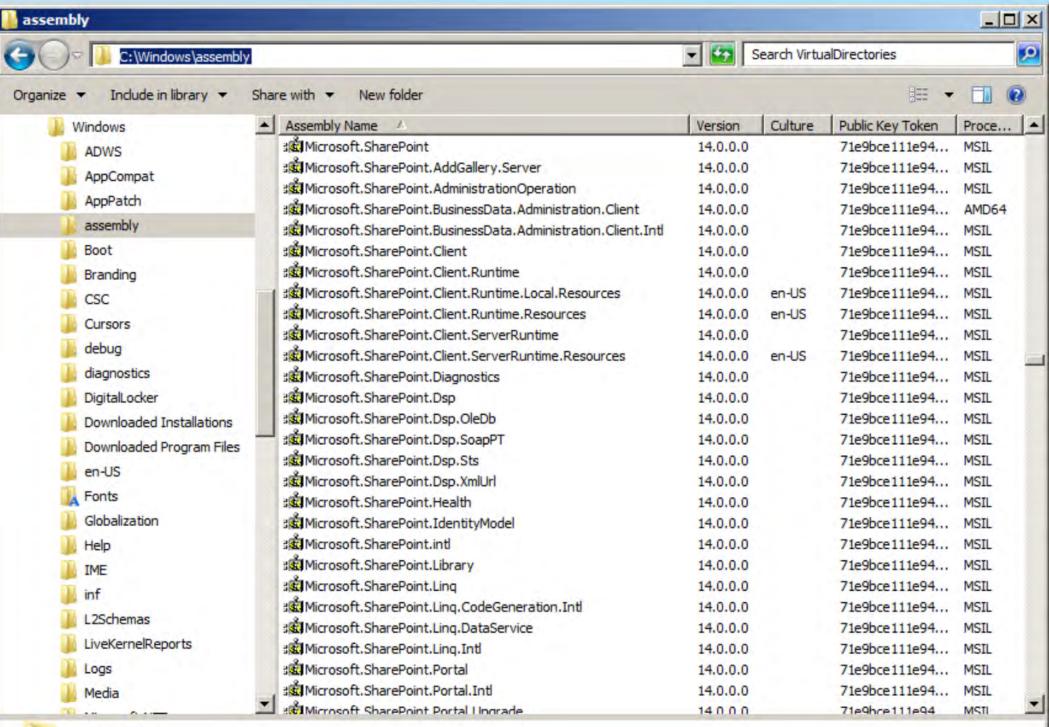
Global Assembly Cache (GAC)

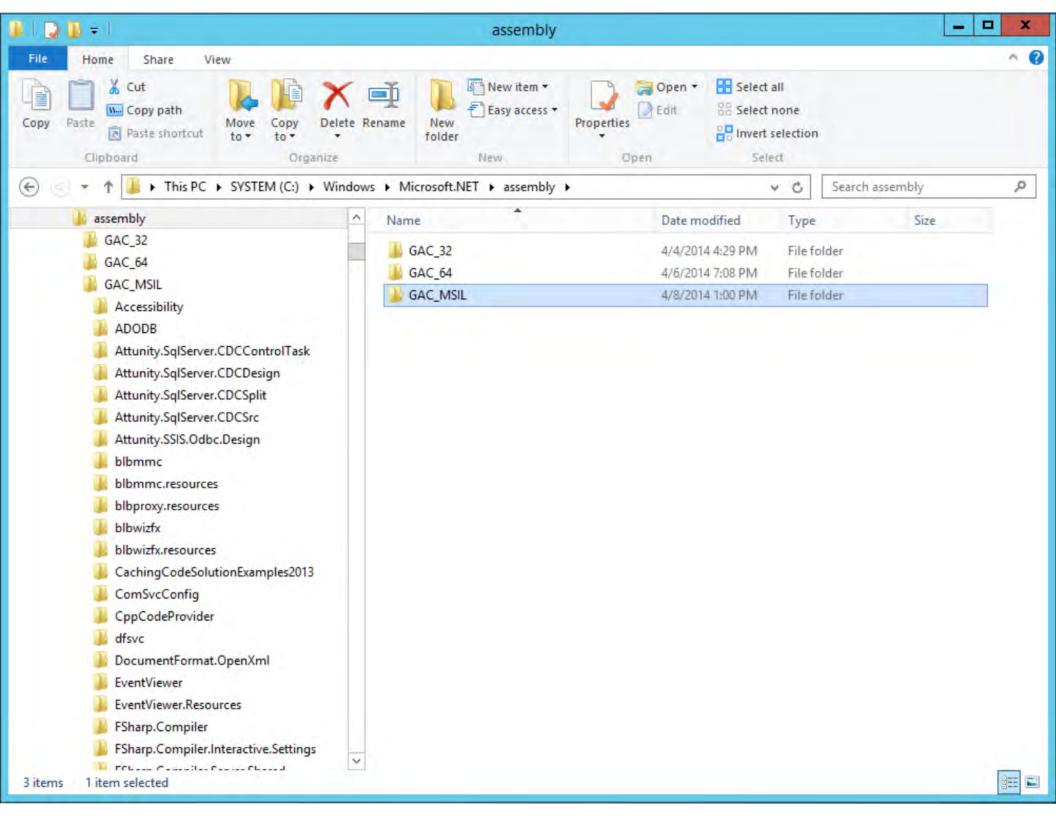


IIS webroot folders



.NET framework config folders







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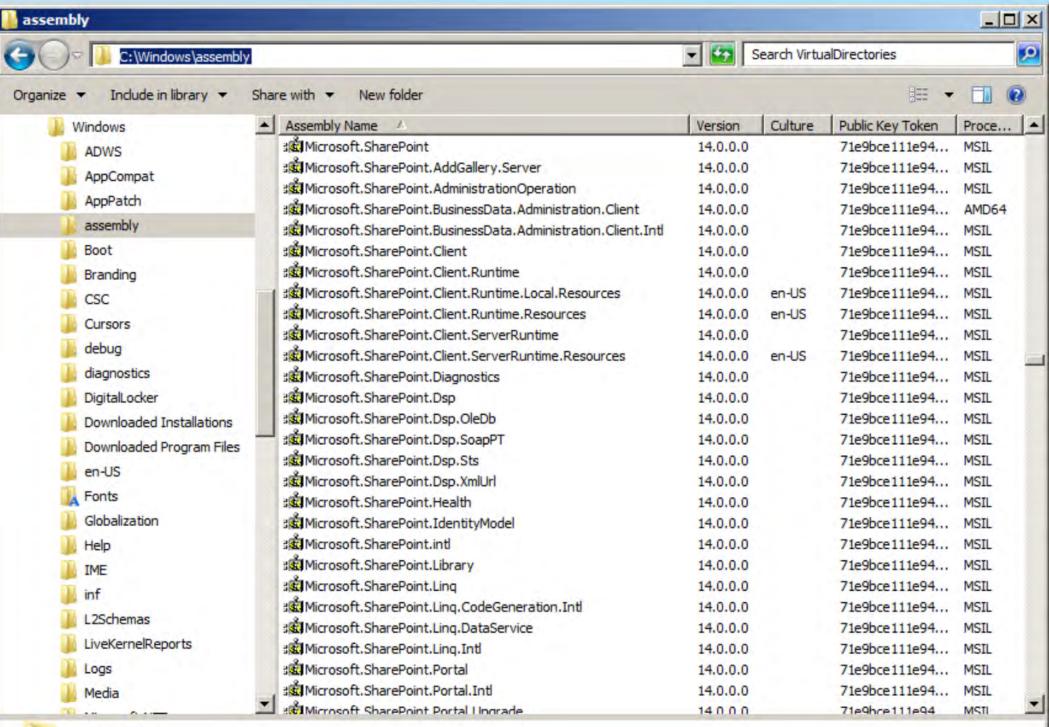
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File system backup*





PS C:\windows\assembly> dir

Directory: C:\windows\assembly

Mode	LastWriteTime		Length Name
d	3/15/2011	6:03 PM	GAC
d-r	7/1/2011	11:49 AM	GAC_32
d-r	7/5/2011	10:57 AM	GAC_64
d-r	8/8/2011	5:33 PM	GAC_MSIL
d	7/5/2011	2:57 PM	NativeImages_v2.0.50727_32
d	7/5/2011	10:54 AM	NativeImages_v2.0.50727_64
d	7/1/2011	1:46 PM	NativeImages_v4.0.30319_32
d	7/1/2011	1:20 PM	NativeImages_v4.0.30319_64
d	8/8/2011	5:30 PM	temp
d	8/8/2011	5:33 PM	tmp

PS C:\windows\assembly>



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Be careful: do not overwrite entirely when restoring!



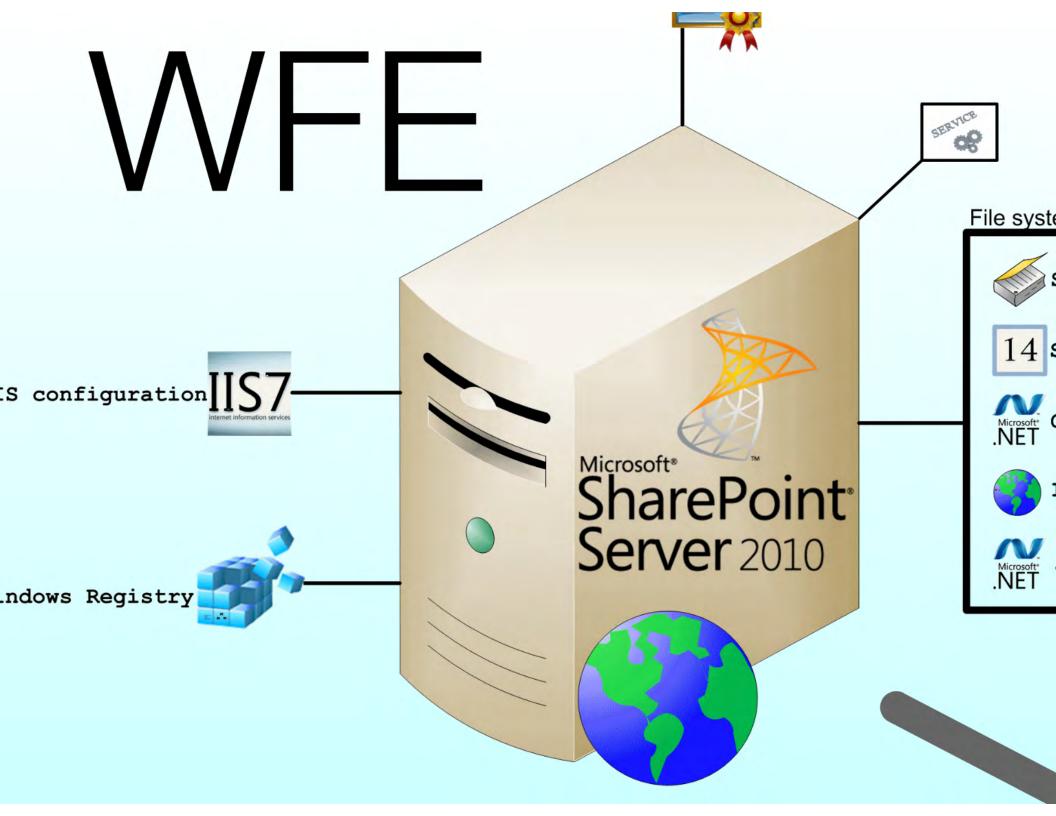
 Windows OS database for storage of system and program settings



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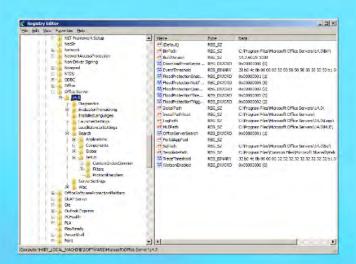
- C:\Windows\System32\config (non-user specific)
- User profile settings area (for each user's HKEY_CURRENT_USER settings)



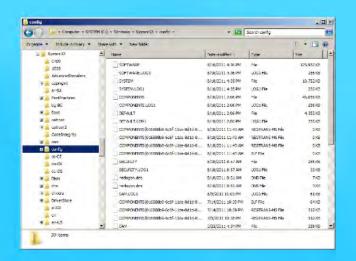


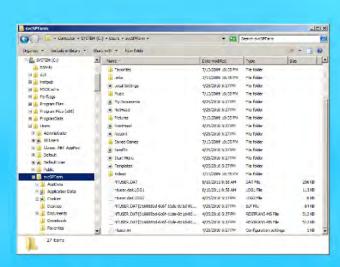


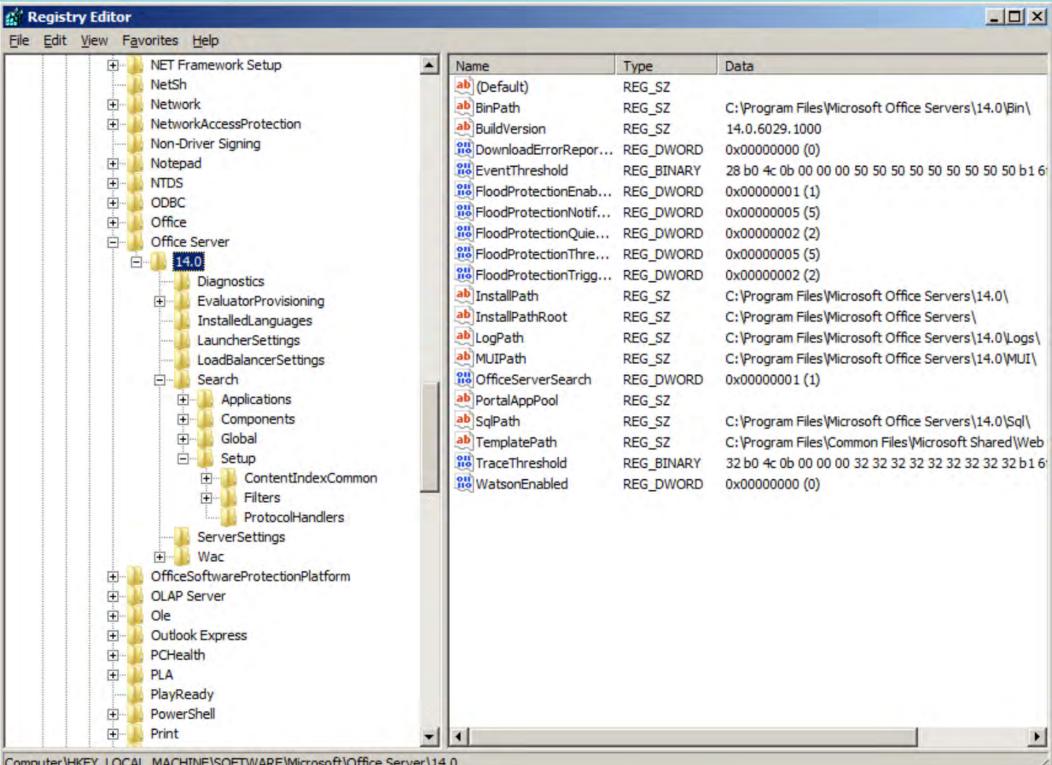


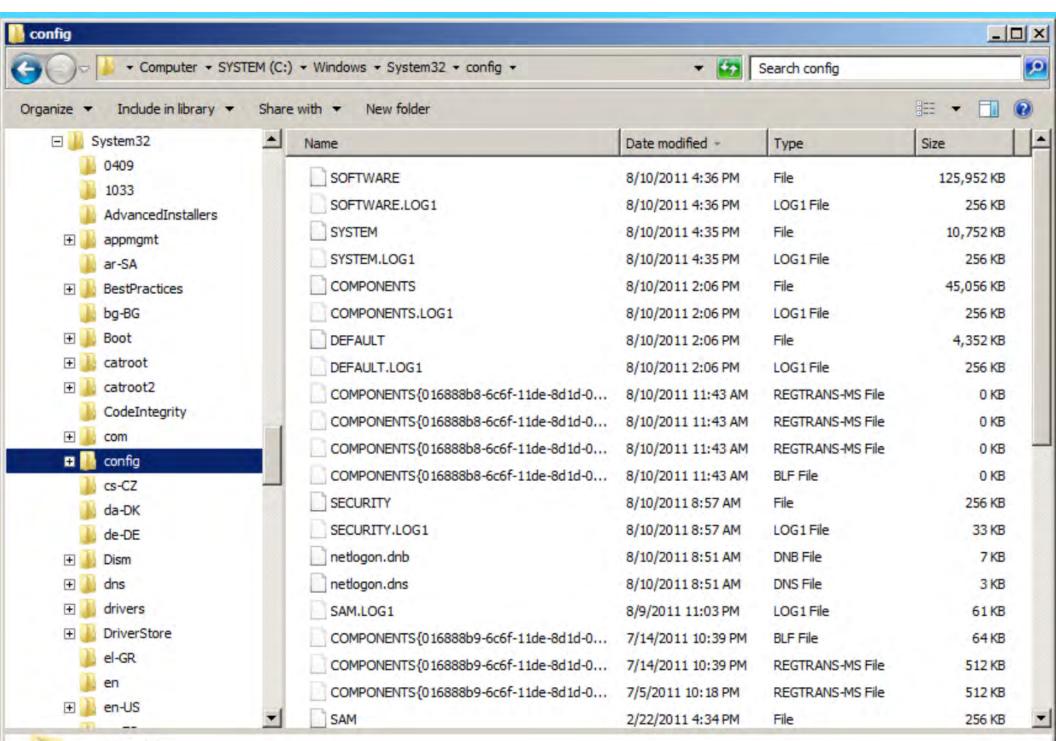


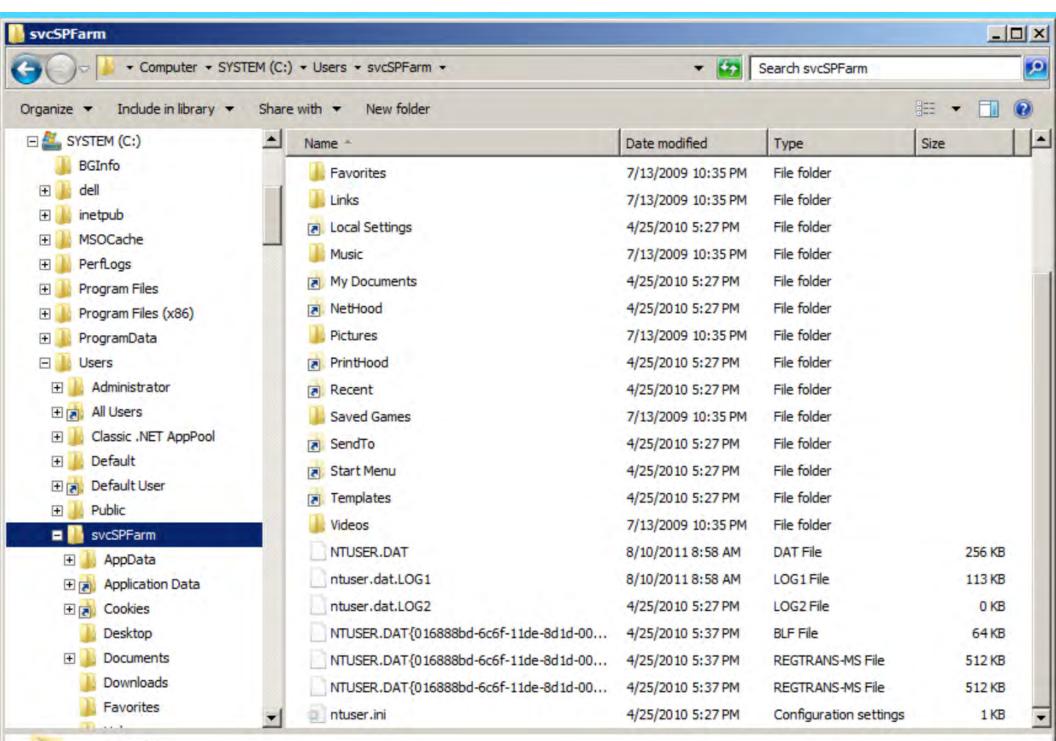














 Windows OS database for storage of system and program settings

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Regedit export, PowerShell, documentation



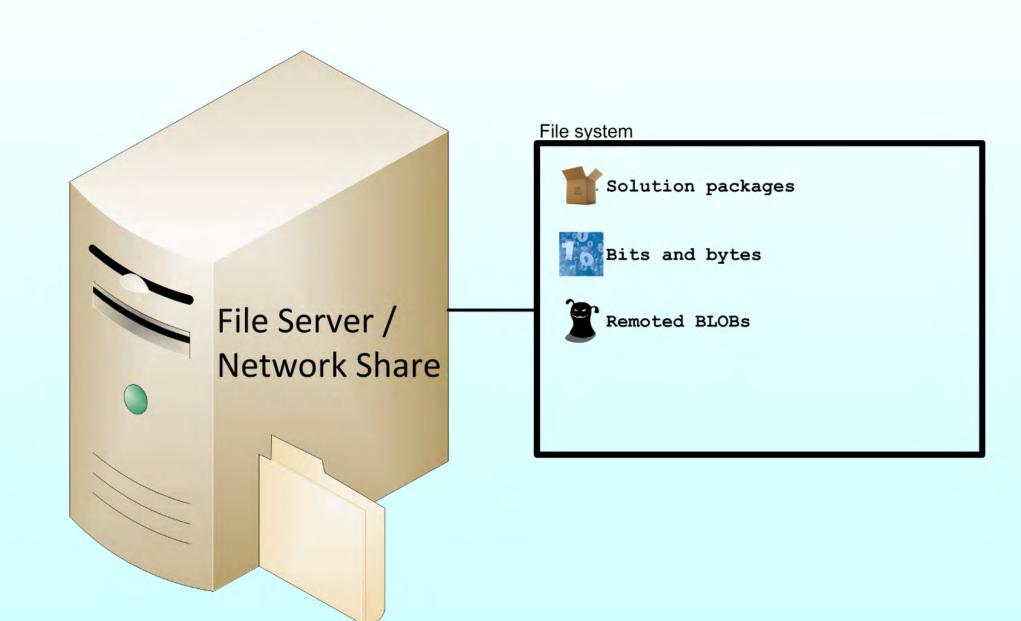
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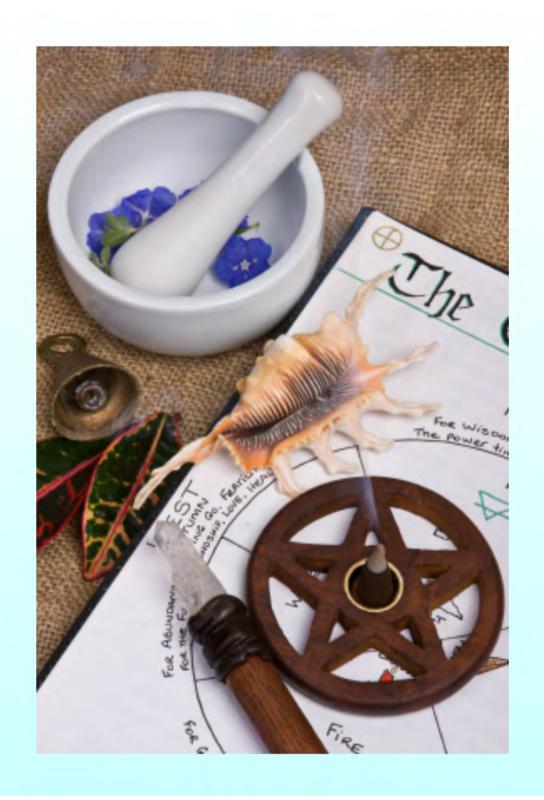
External media/disks, replicated storage



Related targets

"important to remember"

- Solution packages
- SharePoint Root
- IIS Configuration
- Certificates
- IIS web root
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- Registry
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Potential targets beyond the farm

sometimes confused with the dark arts ...

- .NET framework config folders
- Remote BLOB storage (RBS)
- SQL Server TDE
- External data sources



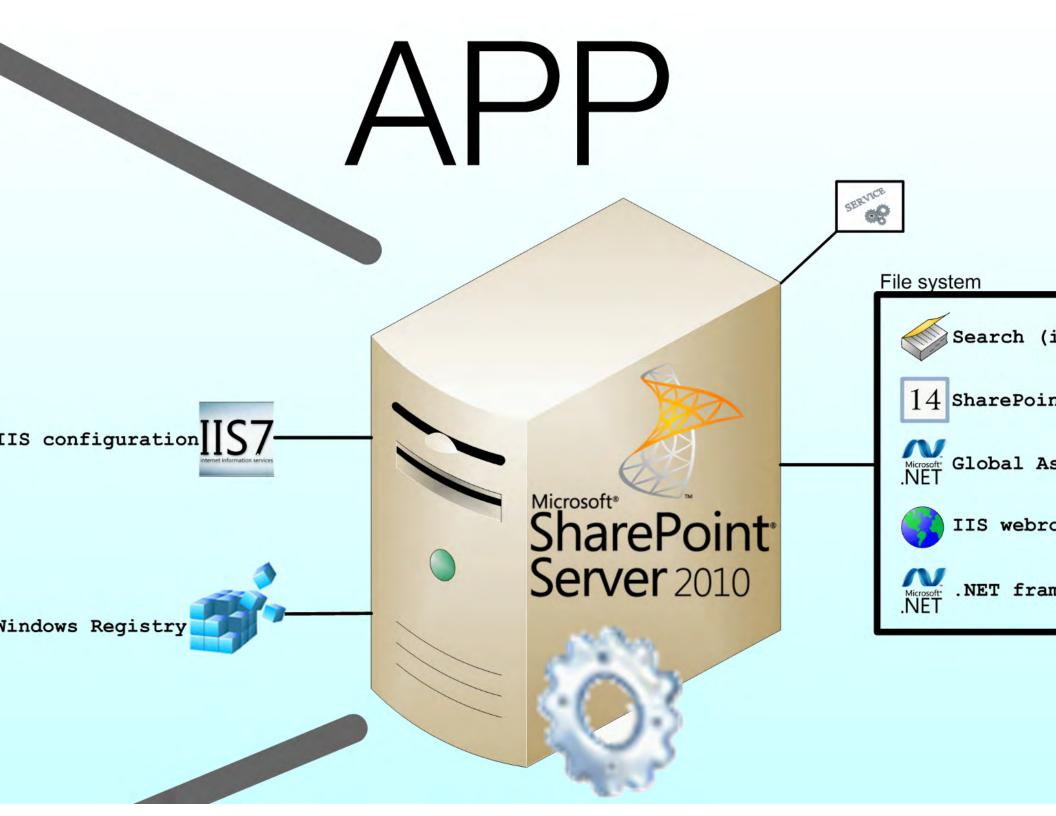
 System-wide configuration files and defaults for .NET applications

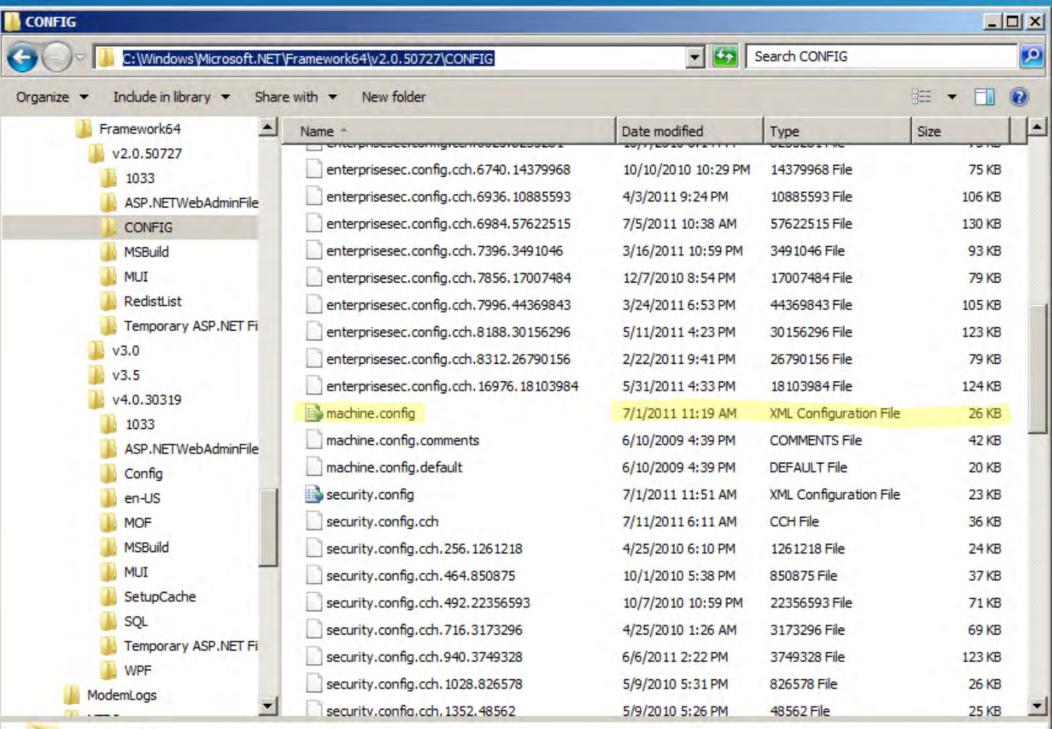


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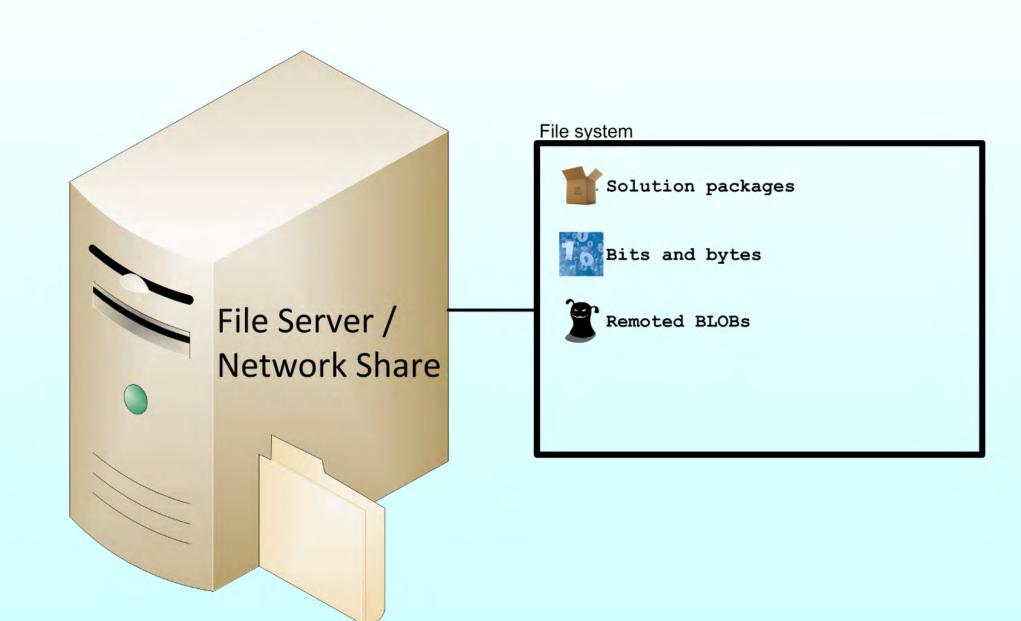
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Protection

- Check RBS provider guidance.
- For file share RBS storage, backup of RBS store commonly follows content DB backup



SQL Server TDE

- TDE = Transparent Data Encryption
- Real-time encryption/decryption of SQL Server data and log files

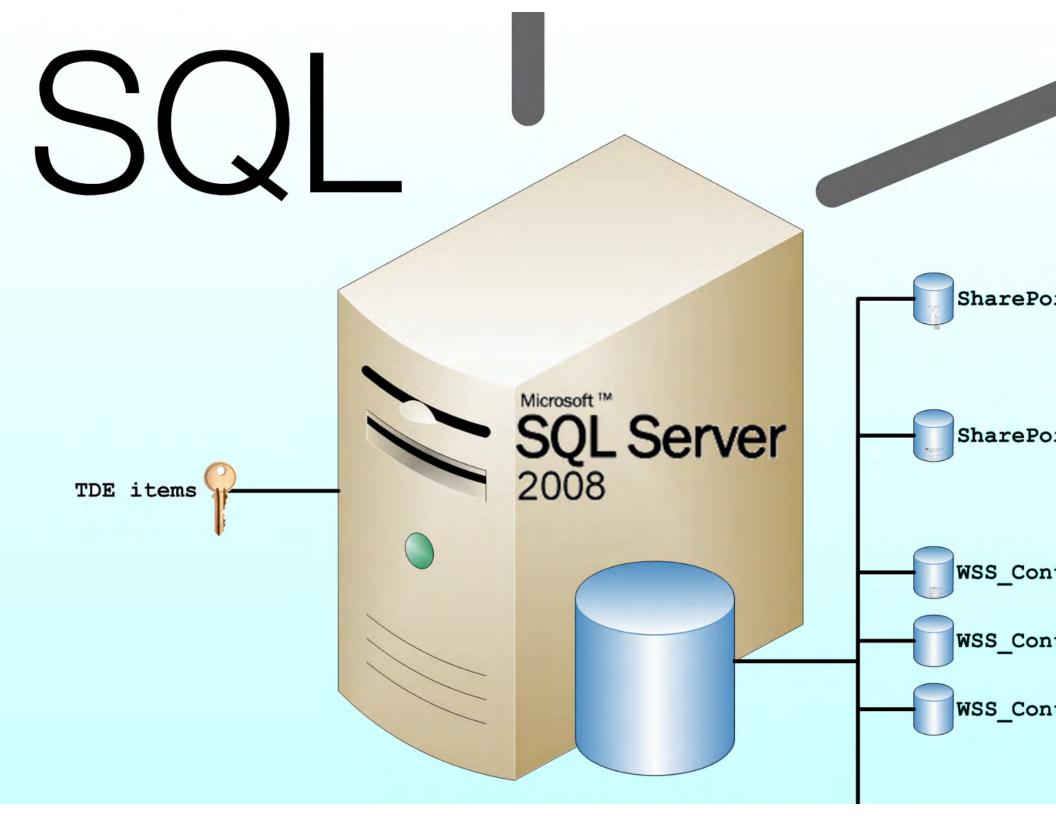


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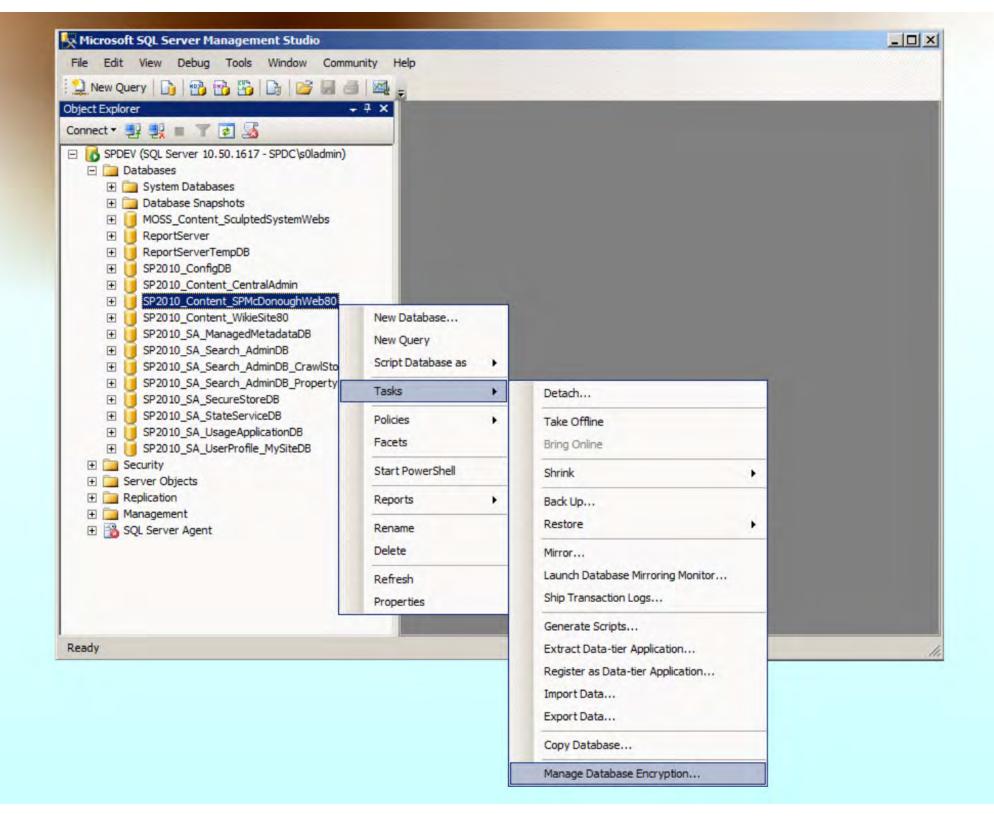
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TDE items







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Worth protecting?

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Protection

- Backup of certificate (from master DB) or asymmetric key (from EKM) yields 2 files
- Save files for later recovery or DB transport



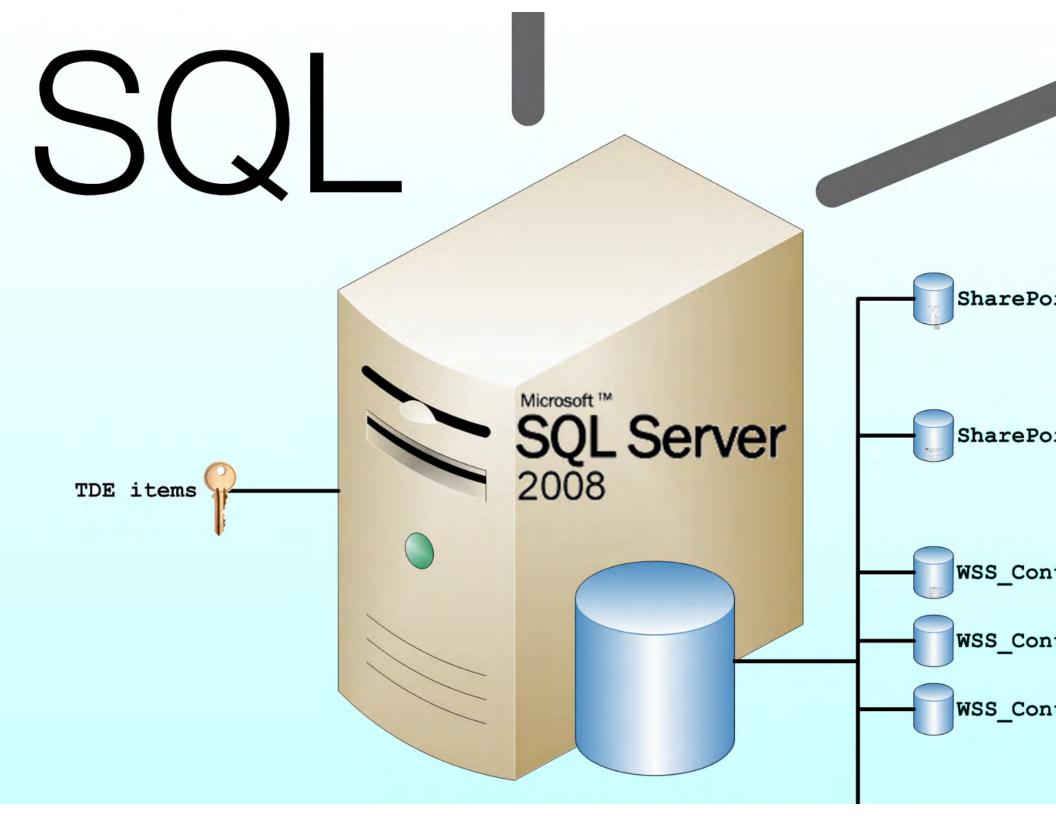
Data that is consumed (and presented)
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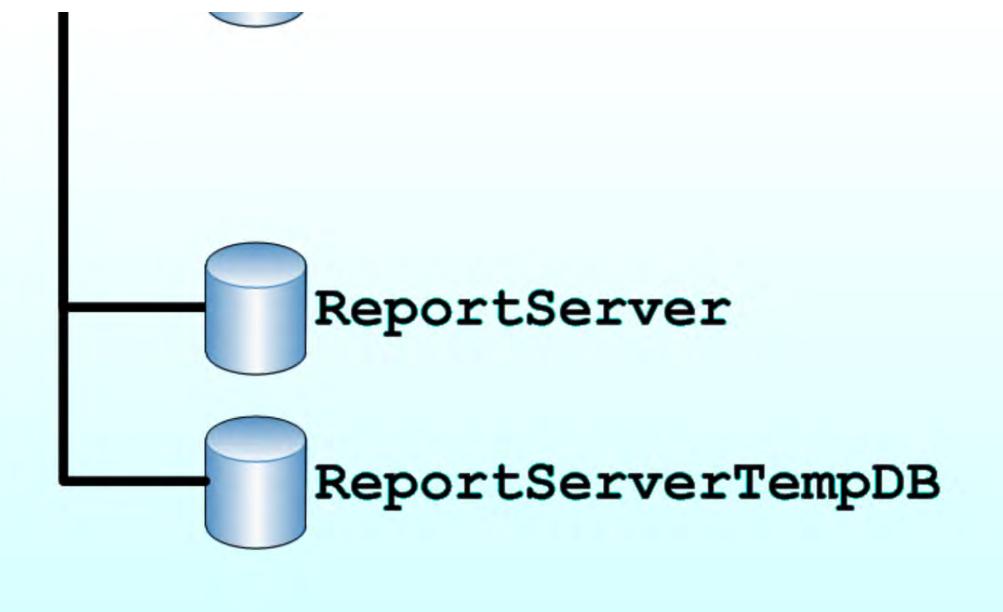


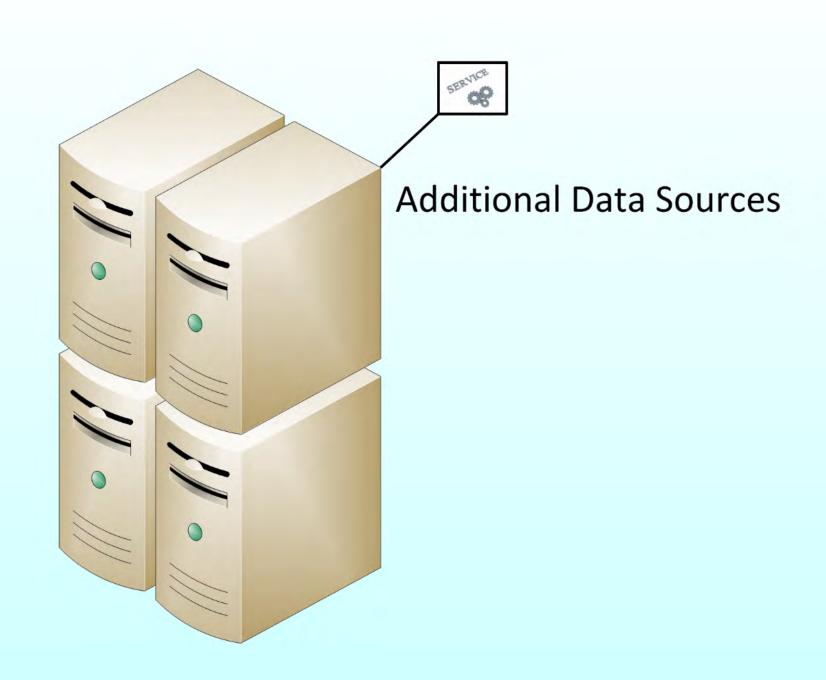
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Protection

Varies by data source and platform



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- Content databases
- · Central Admin (content) DB
- · Farm Configuration database
- Service Applications
- · Search



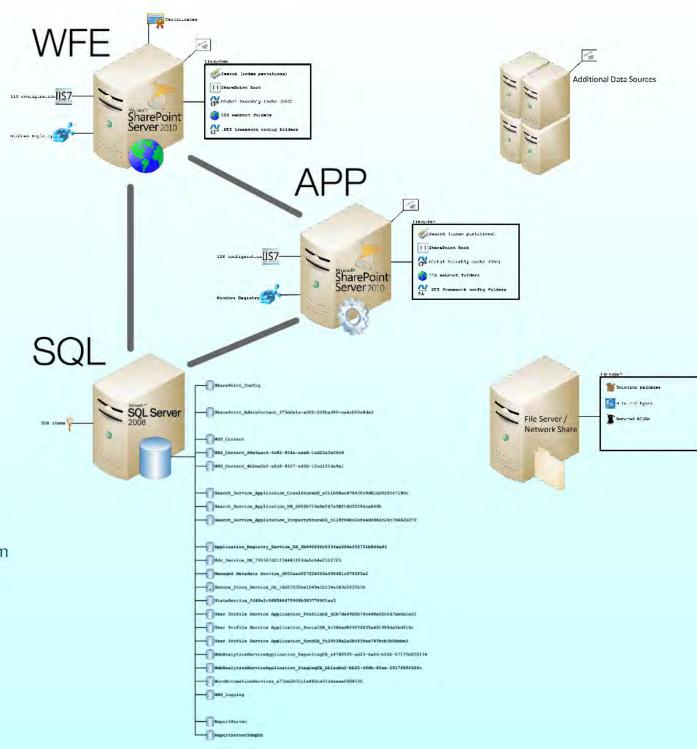
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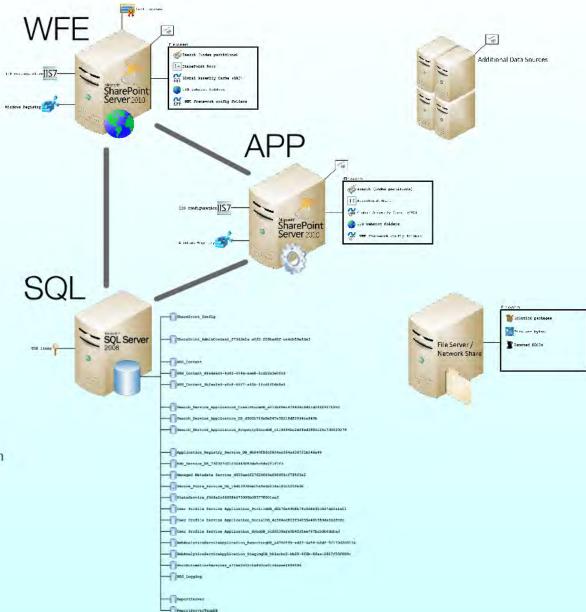
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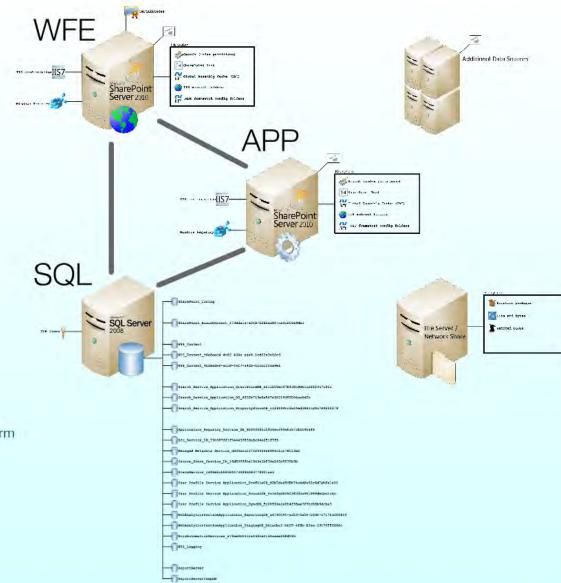
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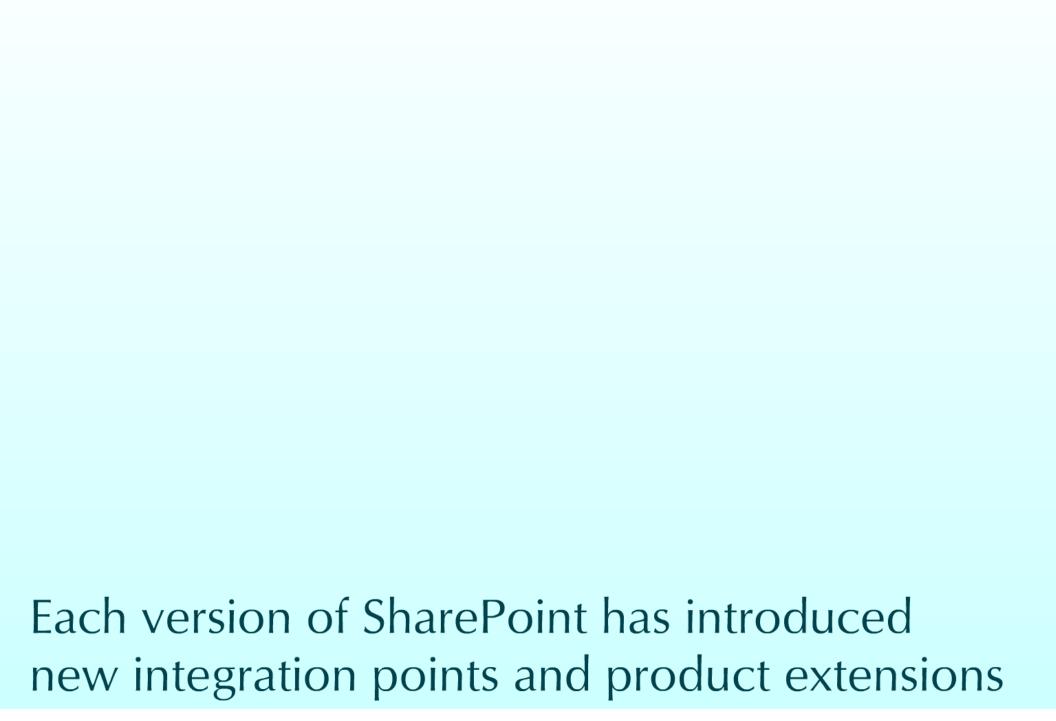


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So that's everything ... right? Ha! You knew it wouldn't be that simple.



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Trend: SharePoint is no longer the "one platform" but an integration point that exposes a set of services. This complicates backup and restore.

Your targets are unique like your farm

- Understand how your SharePoint environment is used
- Use cases are a good starting point for technical targets

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Dratage (gastast) databaga

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Protect your (content) databases!

- Most important targets in your farm
- Critical protection takes minutes. Just invest a little time.

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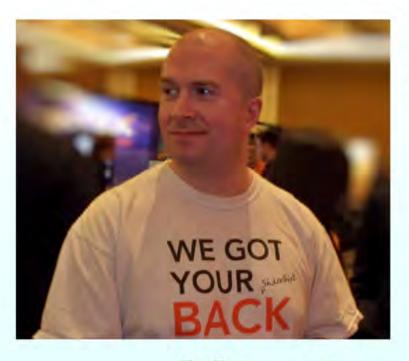
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