

# Gain Control of Space with Quest Capacity Manager for SQL Server

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*written by  
Thomas LaRock*



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# INTRODUCTION

Quest® Capacity Manager for SQL Server is a valuable tool for anyone involved with capacity planning, forecasting, and trend analysis. As a database administrator, I have those responsibilities for over one hundred instances in addition to other daily tasks. Quest Capacity Manager saves me time by allowing me to quickly see which servers need my immediate attention and enabling me to create jobs, shrink a database, and even relocate objects, all from a single, easy-to-use interface. Moreover, Quest Capacity Manager can forecast database growth and the effect of planned server consolidations, so I can manage my instances proactively. Let's look at some of the product's key functionality.

# SEEING A HIGH-LEVEL VIEW OF THE CURRENT STATE OF INSTANCES

Need to know where to start your day? The Group Dashboard Report provides a high-level view for the current state of a group of instances. You can quickly see which servers need immediate action, and even drill down to individual databases and filegroups.

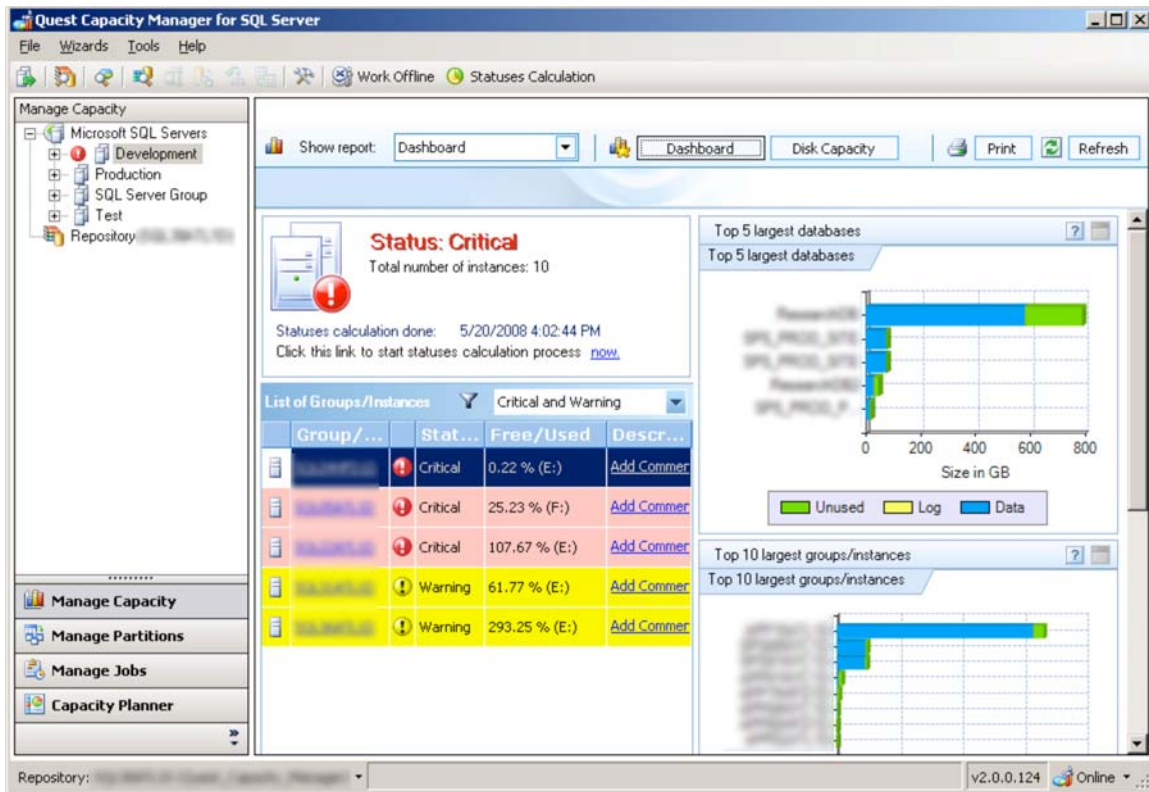
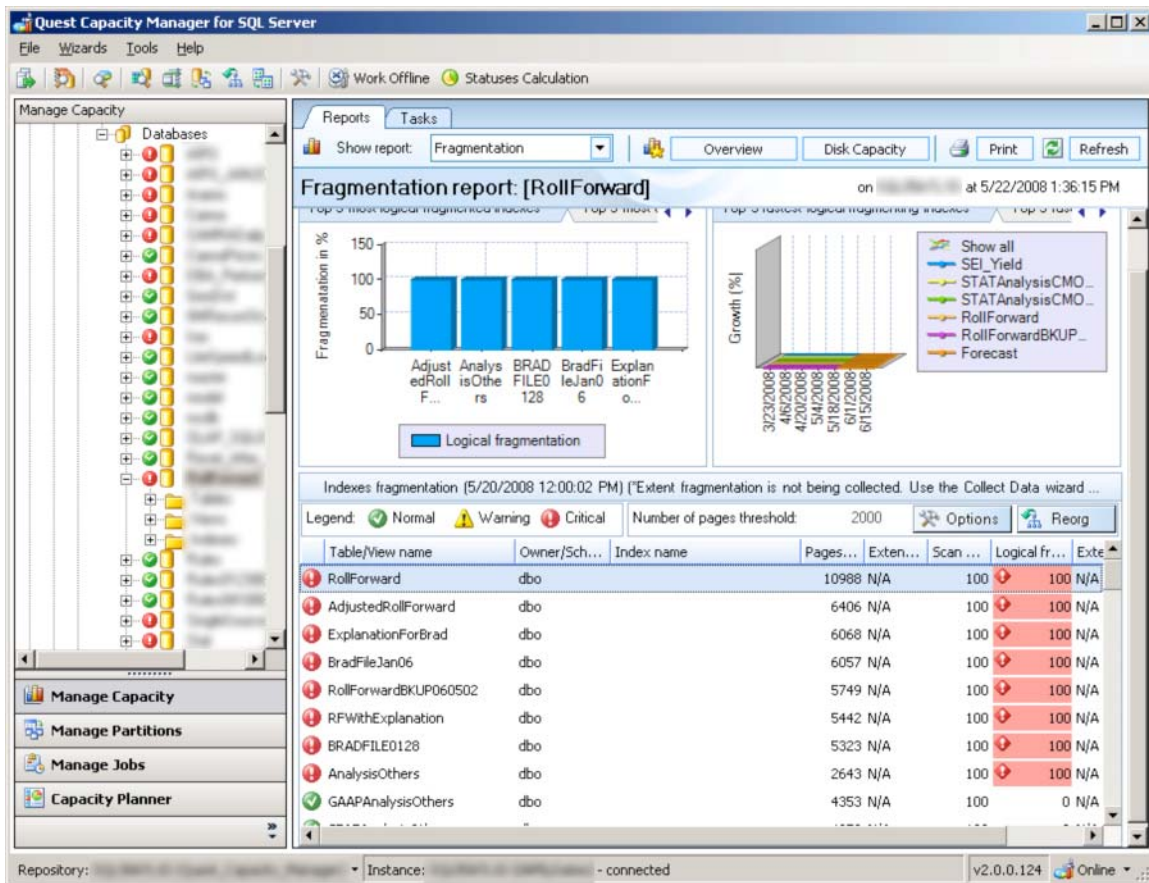


Figure 1: Group Dashboard Report

## DRILLING DOWN TO A PARTICULAR DATABASE

From the Group Dashboard Report, you can drill down to a particular database and quickly see its growth over time, as well as a forecast of future growth based upon past trends. You have five reports to choose from: Overview, Disk Capacity, Fragmentation, Filegroups, and Database Map. The Fragmentation report is shown below:



**Figure 2: Fragmentation Report**

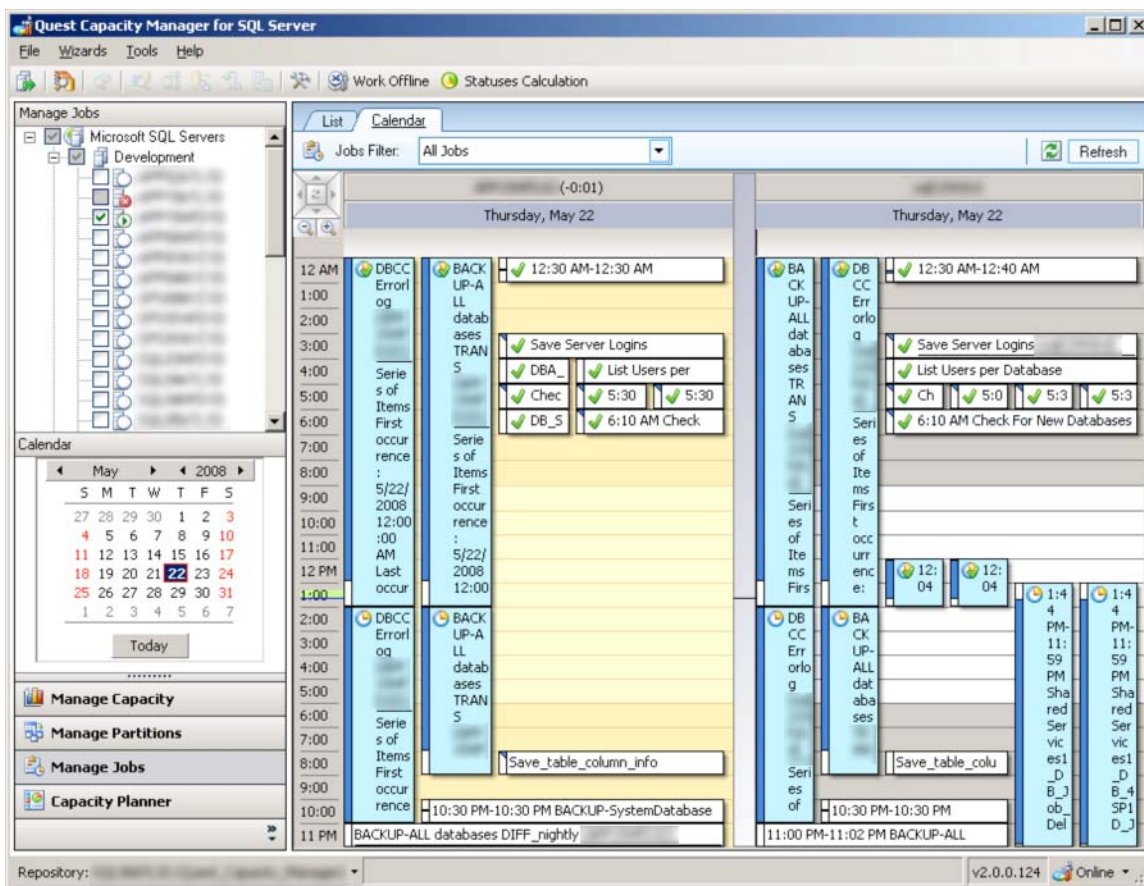
If you find that you need to shrink a database, reorganize indexes, or relocate objects, simply go to the Tasks tab; all these options are available right from Quest Capacity Manager.

## VIEWING QUEST CAPACITY MANAGER JOBS

Information is collected from each remote instance by a SQL Agent job that is created on that instance. The job calls a stored procedure installed in the local msdb database; that procedure gathers the information and sends it back to the central repository, which stores information from all remote instances.

You can easily view the SQL Agent jobs configured by Quest Capacity Manager for one or more instances: simply navigate to the Manage Jobs tab and select the instances you're interested in.

One of the most pleasant features of Quest Capacity Manager has to be the calendar view for these jobs, seen below:



**Figure 3: Calendar view**

This view shows each job configured for the SQL Agent, the frequency at which it is scheduled to run, the length of time it takes to execute, and whether its last run was successful. And with the right-click of the mouse, you can create and deploy a new SQL Agent job.

## REBUILDING OR REORGANIZING INDEXES

Do you have indexes that need to be rebuilt or reorganized? Quest Capacity Manager provides a wizard that not only reorganizes your indexes but schedules a job in the SQL Agent to maintain them on a recurring basis. You can also choose to run the reorganization immediately, without creating a job, or simply examine the script that is generated.

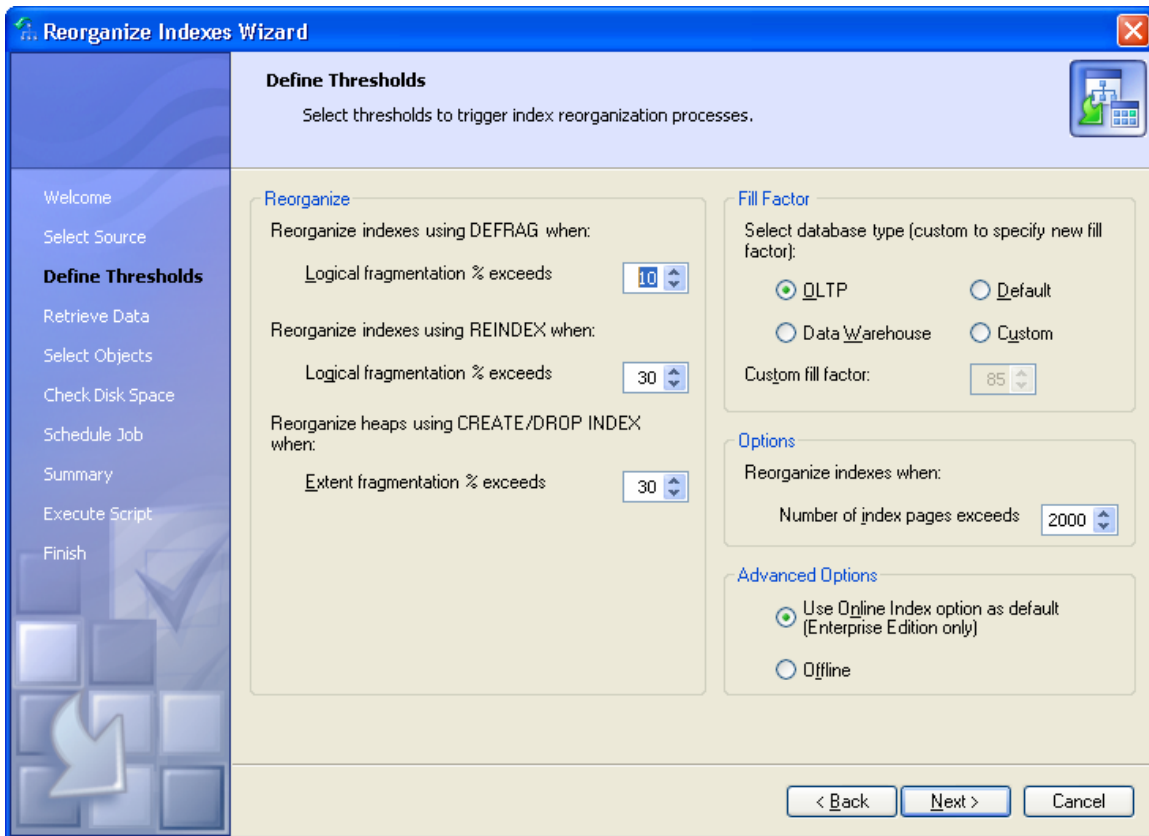


Figure 4: Reorganize Indexes Wizard

# CONSOLIDATING SERVERS

Need to consolidate servers? Quest Capacity Manager's Consolidation Manager feature will quickly evaluate whether your target server will have enough capacity for the databases being migrated. It generates a Consolidation Summary Report, shown in Figure 5 which you can easily print or send as an e-mail attachment.

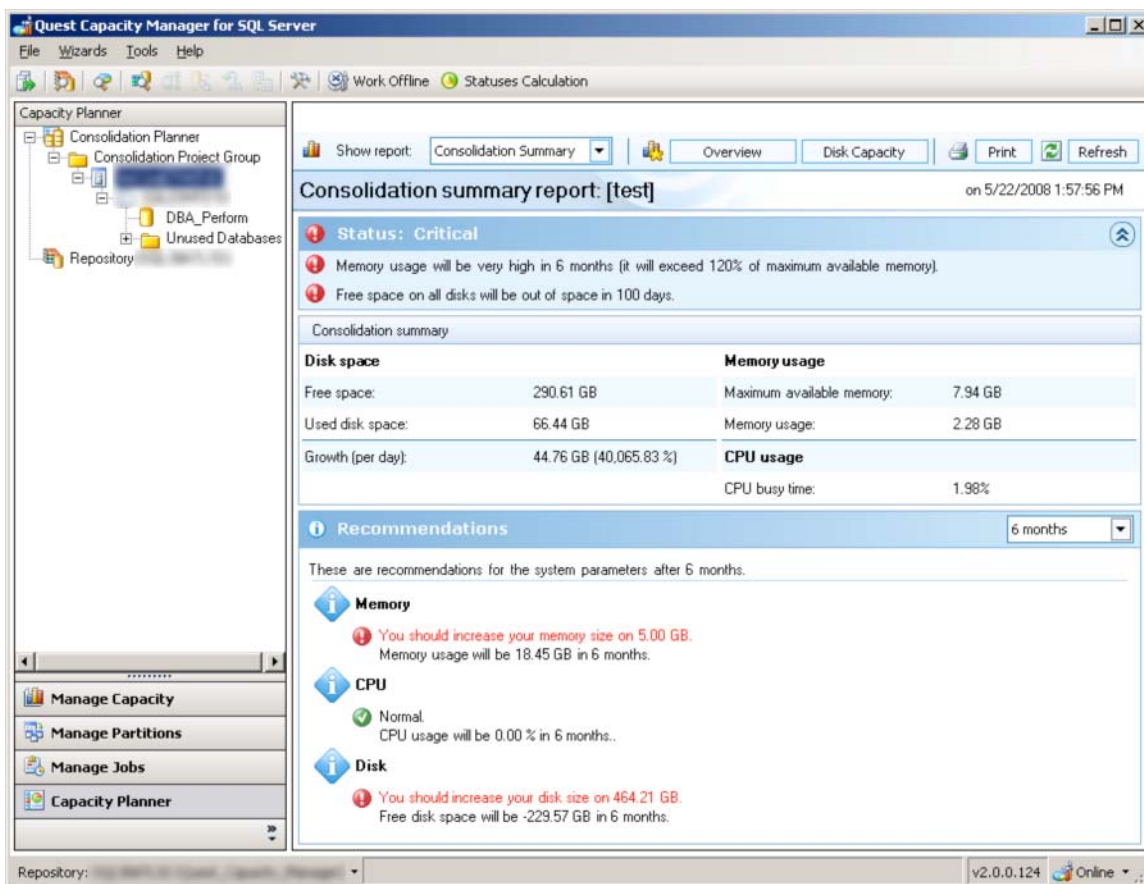


Figure 5: Consolidation Summary Report

## SUMMARY

Quest Capacity Manager for SQL Server helps administrators filter through the overwhelming amount of information available in today's environment. This robust solution quickly identifies the servers that need immediate attention, reducing administrative overhead and saving you time and money. Moreover, Quest Capacity Manager enables you to easily see detailed information about your environment, including the predicted growth of your databases and the impact of planned server consolidation, so you can proactively manage your servers to prevent problems.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Thomas LaRock** is a seasoned IT professional with almost a decade of technical and management experience. Currently a database engineering team lead with ING Investment Management, Thomas has progressed through several roles at ING, including programmer, analyst, and DBA. Prior to ING, he worked at several software and consulting companies, helping customers on-site in the United States and abroad. Thomas holds a master's degree in mathematics from Washington State University and is a member of PASS and the Usability Professional's Association. Thomas is also a member of Quest's Association of SQL Server Experts.

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