# MINION ENTERPRISE FEATURES LIST

Minion Enterprise is an automation and management tool for SQL Server. It provides you with the 10,000-foot view, detailed view, and fine-grained alerting and controls over *all* your database systems.

Minion Enterprise's native interface allows database administrators to tailor the reporting and configuration to the business' needs. And, as the system creates *no* objects or agents on managed servers, installation and upgrade have no effect on monitored servers.

When you add a new instance of SQL Server, Minion Enterprise will automatically begin pulling in a stunning array of data: service status, disk space, backups, database properties, logins and users, table sizes, and on and on. All this data from across the enterprise is now updated and available in one central repository, ready for alerts, and reporting, and planning for the future.

**This document gives you an in-depth view of Minion Enterprise features and data collections.**

# Minion Enterprise Features List

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## MINION ENTERPRISE FEATURES

**Minion Enterprise features** are grouped into seven areas:

- Setup
- Alerting
- Built-in reporting
- Security
- Backup and maintenance
- Operations
- Ease of use

## SETUP

- **Installation and initial configuration take five minutes**.
- **Install on a dedicated VM or server** (recommended), with no agents or objects created on managed servers.
- **Bulk-add servers to be managed.**
- **Classify servers by service level, application, application role, application contact, or environment**.

## ALERTING

### ALERT FEATURES

- **All alerts are consolidated**. Instead of receiving 120 emails for missing backups, you will receive one email listing 120 missing backups.
- **Alerts can be deferred** (delayed).
- **Alerts can be excepted** (turned off). For example, if you never want low space alerts on the C: drive for Server2, you can make an exception for that particular drive.
- **Alerts can be configured**. For example, you can specify global and specific thresholds to alert on for drive free space alerts.

- **Alerts sent at night have "night mode" coloring**, so a newly wakened DBA isn't blinded. Night mode times are configurable at a system level.
- **Alert history is logged**, so you can easily research how long an issue has been present, or what the biggest issues have been recently.

### SECURITY

- **Alert when any user is added to or dropped from a SQL Server administrative role** (such as sysadmin), whether the user is a SQL Login, a Windows login, or a Windows login in an Active Directory group.
- **Alert when a weak password is found**.

### BACKUP AND MAINTENANCE

- **Alert on missing backups.** This includes failed backups, as well as backups that never ran for any reason (e.g., backups they were never configured, or jobs are failing).

### OPERATIONS

- **Alert on new or dropped databases**.
- **Alert on low drive space**.
- **Alert for nonstandard sp_configure settings**. These can be configured specifically, and can be set for alerting, enforcement, or both.
- **Alert on high replication latency**.

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- **Alert on downed services**. If a service has stopped on a managed service, ME will send you an alert.
- **Configure error log searches** to be alerted on automatically. For example, an error log search on "Error 823" will alert when that error shows up on any managed server.

## BUILT-IN REPORTING

### REPORTING FEATURES
- **Reporting procedures apply to all instances**.
- **Some reporting procedures are specifically coded to apply to a range of options**: for example, to report by app, or server name, or service level.

### SECURITY
- **Sysadmin count per server.**
- **SQL logins without password policy enforcement.**
- **AD accounts to disable** (enabled AD accounts that have not logged in recently).
- **Last logon date.**
- **Expanded list of AD groups.**
- **User access to SQL Server** (via SQL login, Windows login, and/or AD groups).
- **Single user access:** to which servers, and via what AD groups.

### CAPACITY AND USAGE
- **Database growth history.**
- **Database growth projection.**
- **File growth prediction.**
- **Table growth prediction.**
- **Changes in drive *capacity*.**
- **Latest drive space.**
- **Drive space history.**
- **Drive space prediction.**

### INDEX ANALYSIS
- **Clustered UNIQUEIDENTIFIERs (GUIDs).**
- **Duplicate indexes.**

- **Index fragmentation.**
- **Heaps.**
- **Low use indexes.**
- **Missing indexes.**

### OTHER
- **SQL Server inventory**, which provides:
  - Name
  - SLA
  - SQL Version and Edition
  - Clustered (yes or no)
  - Operating system version and edition
  - Logical CPUs
  - RAM
  - Base build
  - Current patch, patch release date
  - Latest patch, patch release date, patch URL

## SECURITY

- **See a user's access across all instances of SQL Server**, and how the access is granted.
- **Completely script out a login's permissions**.
- **Completely clone a login** across any or all servers and databases to which it has rights.
- **Clone a login as a database role.**
- **Clone a login as either a SQL or a Windows login**, no matter the original login type.
- **Script all permissions on all servers**, or by SLA, or by a number of other filtering criteria.
- **Research what permissions have changed** for which users, and when the change happened.
- **Standardize login SIDs across all instances** with the SID Server utility, to prevent the common "orphaned users" issue.

## BACKUP AND MAINTENANCE

- **Central backup configuration and reporting** when you integrate with Minion Backup.

- **Central index maintenance configuration and reporting** when you integrate with Minion Reindex.
- **Central integrity check configuration and reporting** when you integrate with Minion CheckDB.

*Note*: Each of these products will have its own, separate feature list, and the features are too numerous to outline here.

## OPERATIONS

- **Automatically script out all objects**. (This is informally known as the *OH NO! Module*.)
- **Automatically script out all jobs**, and collects information on jobs, steps, history, schedules, and more.
- **Configure sp_configure settings centrally**. When a setting is changed on a server, ME will alert you, change the setting back, or both (according to your preferences).
- **Configurable data retention**. Minion Enterprise automatically archives old data. You can configure the retention duration and the delete batch size, and see a log of archival operations.

## EASE OF USE

- **Server lookup procedures** allow you to find servers by application, environment, ID, name, cluster node name, or service level.
- **Current and Previous views for each collection** provide the most recent, and next-to-most-recent, data collections.
- **Global defaults** (InstanceID = 0, and DBName='MinionDefault') allow you to configure default settings for all instances, all databases, or both, in configuration tables. You can then insert an override row to configure different values for an individual instance or database.
- **Server collection exceptions allow you to turn off a specific collection for a particular instance.**
- **The Archive.Servers table saves a copy of the dbo.Servers table regularly**, to provide easy recovery if someone accidentally alters or truncates dbo.Servers.

# MINION ENTERPRISE DATA COLLECTIONS

**Minion Enterprise collects a truly unprecedented range of data**, so database administrators and others can research and report on any aspect of system health and operations possible.

Collections are grouped into modules:

- Server Environment Data
- SQL Server Environment Data
- Database Information
- Maintenance and Backups
- Security and Encryption
- Replication Latency
- Availability Groups

## Server Environment Data

- **OS Details collection includes information about each server,** including memory, OS version, install date, and more.
- **Drive Space collection includes information about disk space capacity and usage.**
- **Service Properties collection includes information about service properties**, including the service account, the status, and the start mode. You can use this information to see the impact of an account password change, and to alert on stopped services.

## SQL Server Environment Data

- **Instance Config collection includes information about sp_configure settings**.
- **Error Log Searches collection includes any errors found in SQL Server logs,** according to your configured error log search terms.
- **Wait Statistics collection provides wait stats data,** including the percentage of the WaitType for each collection period.
- **Jobs collection includes** information on jobs, steps, history, schedules, and more.

- Database Mail collection includes data on all aspects of DBmail, including accounts, items, attachments, configuration, profiles, and more.

## Database Information

- **Database Properties collection includes information about databases, including** the database name, id, and owner; last full, log, or diff backup; which databases have auto-shrink enabled; database collations; case sensitivity; database size on disk; and more.
- **Database Files collection includes information about database file properties and growth rates**.
- **Script Schemas collection scripts out all objects for included servers**. By default, scripts are saved to table, though you have the option to save to files.
- **Objects collection includes information about sys.objects data from each database.** This is extremely useful for determining when objects come and go from databases, and to investigate when an object might be missing from certain servers.
- **Tables collection includes information about data space used, index space used, row counts, and much more** for every table, in every database, in every managed instance.

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- **Columns collection includes information about table column data**. You use this data to, for example, detect changes to tables over time, compare the data types for similarly named columns across your enterprise, or search for common issues (such as VARCHAR(1), or deprecated data types).
- **Index Stats collection includes detailed index information**. This allows you to perform detailed, enterprise-wide index analysis.

## Maintenance and Backups

- Backups **collection includes** the latest backup times (whether they're performed by Minion Backup, or by another solution).
- **Index Maintenance collection pulls index maintenance records from managed servers where Minion Reindex is installed** (and integrated with Minion Enterprise).
- **CheckDB collection pulls integrity check records from managed servers where Minion CheckDB is installed** (and integrated with Minion Enterprise).

## Security and Encryption

- **Logins collection includes information about logins** across all servers.
- **Server Role Members collection includes information about logins, by server role.**
- **AD Group Members collection expands the latest collection of Active Directory groups** into their constituent members (AD logins and sub-groups).
- **Database Users collection includes information about database users**. Use it to discover when users are added and deleted from specific databases.
- **Clone Users collection allows you to completely script and clone logins**, with associated users and permissions, to one or more servers in the environment.

## Replication Latency

- **Replication collection gathers replication latency data** for all subscriptions.

## Availability Group

- **Availability Groups collections include information on replicas, listeners, groups, status, and read-only routing lists.**