

Protecting Restored Files in an OMCS Database from Space Reclaim**Background**

The OMCS Database Space Reclaim process, implemented in OMCS Version 2 by the utility program OMCSDBSR, initially regards all database files that have been backed up since they were last modified as eligible for deletion. This eligibility is typically modified via a file of control statements that specify weighting factors to apply according to jobname, age of the file, size of the file, et cetera.

When a file that was created, say, 3 months ago is restored into the database none of its attributes change, it still looks like a 3 month old file unchanged since it was last backed up. Thus it is likely to be a prime candidate for immediate deletion by the space reclaim process, much to the chagrin of the user who requested the restore. The original design of OMCS included a mechanism to provide a 24 hour "protection period" for restored job output files. This protection period (sometimes less than 24 hours, see APAR ASZ3218) satisfied most users' requirements, but not all.

To meet user requests for longer protection periods in specific cases (see suggestion APAR ASZ3217) ASE have made it possible for an installation to specify an alternative protection period via Job Processing Rules. This means that an overall default can be specified for all jobs (using the "*" or "Global" rule) and where appropriate different values can be specified for particular job names or generic jobname groups. Of course, if inappropriately large values are selected that affect too large a percentage of the jobs in the database then the space reclaim process will become increasingly ineffective and be unable to meet its objectives. In some cases you may need to consider increasing the size of the primary database or adding a secondary database to accommodate the additional data residency requirements.

This new function is delivered by PTF ASP0909. It has since been enhanced by PTF ASP0954 to allow the protection period to be specified in hours.

Specifying the new protection period

The new space reclaim protection period is controlled by a Job Processing Rule (JPR) variable named **JPVAKRJR** (Keep Restored Job Resident). You must add this variable to each rule where you wish to have restored jobs protected for a period different to 24 hours. Of course, by adding this variable to the global * rule, you can set a default value for all jobs. If you make no JPR changes the protection period will continue to be 24 hours.

When the value of JPVAKRJR is a number, it is interpreted as a number of days. To specify a number of hours, the value must end with **HR** eg. **36HR** for 36 hours.

To protect restored job output files from deletion by space reclaim for 5 days, say, create the JPVAKRJR variable and give it a value of **5**. This would mean that a file restored at 10:30am on the 21st June would be protected from space reclaim until approximately 10:30am on the 26th June.

Creating the JPVAKRJR variable in a Job Processing Rule

On the OMCS Job Selection Criteria display, enter the **JPR** command. Then select the job processing rule you wish to update. It makes sense to start with the "*" or "global" rule first and repeat the process with any other rules as necessary.

The following figure contains an example of the screen you should see when you select a particular rule. Use an **i** line command on any line to request the insertion of a new variable. (The new variable will be inserted in variable name sequence so it doesn't matter which line you put the **i** line command on).

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```
OMCS/V2 JOB PROCESSING RULE VARIABLE SELECTION LIST - PETERECP -----
COMMAND ===>                                SCROLL ===> CSR
PLEASE MAKE A SELECTION                        LINE 1     OF 34
LC VARIABLE T DESCRIPTION AND VALUE
i_ JPVAACCT A BLANK    ACCOUNT STRING FOR MISCELLANEOUS SUBMITTED JOBS
===>
JPVAARGE A BLANK     RUN GLOBAL ECP (Y/BLANK)
===>
JPVAARRP A 100      ARCHIVE RETENTION PERIOD IN DAYS
===>
JPVAARVC A 0        ARCHIVE VERSION COUNT
===>
JPVABCLL A 100     BASIC CHECKING LOG LINE LIMIT
===>
```

The next screen allows you to provide a name, description and value for the new variable. Enter the details exactly as shown. It's your responsibility to ensure that the value entered here is either a decimal number in the range **0** to **366** or a decimal number followed by **HR** in the range **0HR** to **8784HR** (366 days in hours). This display does not validate the value you enter. An invalid value will be ignored by OMCS restore processing and you'll just get the default of **1** day. Values greater than **366** or greater than **8784HR** will be treated as **366** days.

```
OMCS/V2 JOB PROCESSING RULE VARIABLE DEFINITION DISPLAY - PETERECP -----
COMMAND ===>

JOB PROCESSING RULE VARIABLE DEFINITION

NAME    ===> JPVAKRJR
DESCR   ===> KEEP RESTORED JOB RESIDENT
VALUE   ===> 36HR_

                                <- (MAX. 255 CHARACTERS)

NO EXTENDED HELP AVAILABLE FOR THIS VARIABLE
===>
```

Press the enter key to save the variable. At this point you are given the opportunity to add another variable. Press the END key to return to the job processing rule variable selection list. The new variable will now appear in sequence in that selection list. (The "U" after the variable name indicates a "user defined" variable.)

```
JPVAKRJR U KEEP RESTORED JOB RESIDENT
===> 36HR
```

Press the END key to save the changes to the job processing rule. Repeat the process with other rules if necessary.

For further details regarding Job Processing Rule maintenance see the manual OM88-1022 *OMCS/MVS General Operations Guide*.

Usage Notes

- Although you can set the JPR variable JPVAKRJR at any time, it will not become effective until PTF ASP0909 or ASP0954 is applied.
- You can minimise the number of Job Processing Rule changes by setting the most commonly required JPVAKRJR value in the "*" or "global" rule and omitting the variable definition from more specific rules, or leaving its value blank in more specific rules. Whenever a particular variable is undefined or its value is blank in a more specific rule then the value defined in the "*" or "global" rule is used instead. If variable JPVAKRJR is absent from the global rule then its value will be assumed to be 1.
- Authorised users may explicitly purge restored files when users have finished with them by using the **p** line command against the relevant entry on the Job Selection List display.

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