

Site Delete Capture - Recycle Bin for deleted sites

In SharePoint 2007, we finally have the Recycle Bin that was surely missing in SharePoint 2003. So, when you delete an item in a list, in a library, when you delete a list or library itself, all those things end up in a Recycle Bin and furthermore if you delete something from that Recycle Bin, it actually goes into a second stage Recycle Bin and so on. One thing that is still missing right now out of the box is, when you delete a site that does not go into a new Recycle Bin, that just gets permanently deleted and it is not recoverable unless you have a backup in a database somewhere of that site where you can go and take the backup of that site from a older version and then go ahead and restore it manually in your new production system. So, to work a new Recycle Bin into SharePoint 2007, to create a new SharePoint 2007 Recycle Bin for sites, the Microsoft IT team actually went ahead and produced a codeplex project that lets you implement this Recycle Bin. What I am going to do first is show you where the Recycle Bin is, where the project for this Recycle Bin is, so you can download it from there, and then I will show you step by step as to how to implement it into a site deployment.

The site Recycle Bin is actually part of the SharePoint Governance and Manageability project in codeplex, so you need to go to www.codeplex.com/governance and then down below you need to go to click on the Microsoft IT Site Delete Capture 1.0. From here, you would download this package as a zip file and follow the installation procedures, which are within that zip file.

Okay, so in my example, I have already downloaded the zip file, extracted all the files, and here they are. First thing you want to do is go to the Site Delete Capture Feature.docx file, the word file to see exactly how to install it. It talks about what the Recycle Bin is all about, what it does, it is actually event receiver, it mentions here exactly what it does, it takes the event of the deletion of a site and at that point in time, it takes the site that is being deleted, makes a backup of it and puts it into a folder that you have defined on your file share. So, for example, it could be in the C → Backup folder, or it could be a UNC path, wherever it is, it would dump the actual .bak file, which is the backup file of that site in that folder and then it would go ahead and delete the site.

Down here in the installation section, it tells you how you can deploy this site Recycle Bin. So the first step is, take the folder MSITSiteFeature, MSITDeleteFeature, MSITSiteFeatureStapling and MSITDeleteFeatureStapling, take these four folders and put them into a Features folder. So I will do that first. Here are my folders, all four of these, I am going to take them and put them into the Features folder in SharePoint.

Also, this has to be done for all the web servers that you have out there running SharePoint, so you go to C:\Program files\Common files\Microsoft shared\web server extensions\12\Template\Features. These are all the different other box features I have out there. I am going to go ahead and drag these Feature folders now into this location. Perfect!

Next thing it is asking me to do is take the .dll and put that in the Global Assembly Cache. The Global Assembly Cache, you can get to by typing in C:\Windows\Assembly and now you can drag your .dll file, which is right here into the C:\Windows\Assembly Cache just like that. And we can verify that by going to this location, let us see, here we go MS.IT.SiteDeleteCapture version 1.0.0.0. Alright.

The step after that is to simply run the Install.bat file. Let me show you exactly what is contained in Install.bat file, so you know what is happening. Okay, so the install file just sets the path to the bin folder, which has the STSADM utility and then runs the STSADM utility with the install feature command for all four Feature folders that I put out there, and I could do that separately as well as. I can just go to the STSADM → Prompt and execute those commands separately, but it is easier to double click on the install and let it do its magic, alright, all done here.

Now next thing to do one thing that I skipped over here is putting the Messages.xml file into the 12\Template\Layouts\1033 folder. Messages.xml file has the actual messages that are relayed to the Administrator once the site is deleted. This Messages.xml file could be replicated, could have a different copy of the Messages.xml file for different languages. As you would probably know that 1033 is the English language designation, so let us do that. 12\Template\Layouts\1033, this is where I want the Messages.xml file to go, so I will take that from my folder and drag it here, let us take a quick look at what it contains, so here is all the different messages that an Administrator would see in a log file once the process has been run and site has been backed up when a deletion of site event has occurred. I will keep these the same way the way it is. Do not need to change here. Alright, so after that once Install is run, the Messages.xml file has been moved, the MSITSiteDeleteCapture.dll has been put into the GAC. Then I need to specify the backup folder, specify the backup folder where the backup of the sites are going to reside. Now this, you want this place to have a large capacity because you might end up deleting lots of sites and all the backups of all the sites will end up at this location. This could definitely be a UNC path as well so it could be \\yourserver\filesharename\your folder there. In my

case, I am just going to put it into C:\BackupFolder, so let me go ahead and make that first, I will make a new Backup folder here and you just want to take this path C:\Backup, copy to the clipboard and as seen in instructions you want to put that path into the ConfigurationForReceiverDLL.xml file, which is in the MSITDeleteFeature folder. Let us find that. So you want to go to Features folders first, which is right here, look for the MSITDeleteFeature, here is my xml file, simply open it up in notepad and here currently it says D:\Backup, I want to make it C:\Backup, Save → Close.

So, once all the installation has happened, now I also need to do some configuration. So, now the installation is completed, I need to actually configure this Site Delete Capture facility. And to do that, it is telling me that I need to actually make a new Site Collection. I need to make a Site Collection that is going to be called CaptureConfiguration. Here is the suggested URL, you can do that at Sites/CaptureConfiguration, so that is what I am going to use, and also as I was saying here you want to have at least the authenticated users to have access rights, just read rights to this Site Collection in order for this to work.

Here is the STSADM command to make this site. Now you can use this command or you can also go to Site Administration and create a new Site Collection directly from there. Let me just go ahead into Run user STSADM for this, so I will go to Command prompt, and I will open up the location to the STSADM utility. Here is the good way to do that.

I am just going to go cd, and I will take the URL upto 12, copy it to the clipboard, come back to the Command prompt, put quotation mark here and then right click here and say 'paste', I am also want to add 'bin' at the end. Now I am at the Bin folder where the STSADM utility resides, I will type in STSADM, createsite and the location of the site is sites/CaptureConfiguration, and then I need to provide the owner login and also the owner email. Now that should do it.

So, at this point in time it is making the Site, Site Collection I should say, and it is assigning the email, the owner login to the Administrator. Let us go ahead and first look at this site. Alright, so the site is there, but the template has not been chosen for the site. It does not really matter for this purpose which site template we choose, I am going to choose the Team Site template, click OK. It is going to go ahead and make the Site Collection right before it is done, creating the whole Site Collection here. It needs to know exactly who the visitors, members and owners are going to be for this particular top site. I am going to say that the Team Site Visitors are going to be the authenticated users, okay so this is a requirement for this to work. No other members are necessary in this case. Just click

OK. Here we go so here is my site collection that has been made for me.

Now the next step in this document says to Configure a List Template. To upload a list template that has been provided called AppConfig.stp, and then make a new list using this list template. Also the name for that list is going to be AppConfig and it has to be AppConfig and it cannot be anything different. Once that is done then there are some columns that are already in this list. I need to modify the settings for those for the record in that in those columns. Okay, so I am going to go, first of all look at my list template, here we go AppConfig.stp. In my Capture Configuration Site Collection, the top site I am looking at right now, I am going to go Site Actions → Site Settings → List Templates → Upload, and then point to that AppConfig.stp file provided to me, Upload it → OK. So, I need to use this List Template now to make a new list. So Site Actions → Create, here it is my List Template appears in this Custom Lists section, and very important I need to name it exactly like this AppConfig.

Alright let us change the configuration of this record that has been provided. This is also very important to edit this item, leave the first Title as it is, change the NetworkShare to be the location that you want the Backup to reside in, SMTPServer should be the SMTP server that it is in your environment, for me it is going to be litwaredemo, and then who the NotificationMail should come from, what should it state when the notification email is sent to a person whose site has been deleted, so in here I will put in, it is going to be litwareinc.com and it is coming from, let us just say, admin. Okay, so now the last thing that needs to happen is you need to go to Central Administration, in Central Administration go to Application Management tab, then go to Manage Web Application Features, here is where you will see the Microsoft IT Site Delete Capture Feature 1.1, you need to activate this for the web application that you had installed this feature into. Okay, once this is activated, everything should work automatically now. Your whole Site Collection at this point in time has been, a new Site Capture feature has been implemented in here.

Let us go and test it out. I will go to a site that I had created earlier called HR site and I am going to go and click on Site Actions → Site Settings and → Delete This Site, and let us see what happens. Clicking on Delete, it tells me that 'Are you sure you want to permanently delete this web site and all of its contents?', which is the default feature, that is how it is supposed to work by default. But when I click OK, and if everything goes right, it should capture a backup of this site, back it up in my specified UNC path or just a local file share

and then it should go and delete this site. So, the site has been deleted, let us go and verify that first. Now, just back up to the Site Directory and my HR site is no longer there, there is just Sales. Let us go to my Backup folder which I had made at C:\Backup, here we go, it is telling me that it has made a new folder for the Site Directory, which was my parent site for my HR. Within Site Directory there is the hr.bak, which is the backup file for Human Resources site. And it is a very small site, it is only 104 KB. There is also a Log folder in the Backup folder and this Log tells me exactly what has happened. Here is the site, the way it existed before, the SiteDirectory/hr, the backup file path of where the site backup now exists and an email should have been sent to administrator@litwareinc.com who is actually the owner of hr.bak, telling him or her that your site has been deleted and it has been archived. So, let us check the email. There is a new email right here. An email has been sent from admin@litwareinc.com to administrator@litwareinc.com who is the owner of this site HR site telling him or her that the HR site has been archived or deleted. So, as you can see that even though out the box, you do not have a Recycle Bin for sites, but using this feature that has been put out there in codeplex by the Microsoft ITT you can put in this functionality in multiple Site Collections.