Plan CoreProtect retention without losing evidence needed for recovery

Older audit records consume storage but may be the only evidence for a delayed grief report. Decide a retention policy from actual recovery needs before scheduling any irreversible purge.

Follow the procedure

1. Measure the current database size and growth over several normal days. Record the existing retention policy, backup coverage and the oldest report staff are expected to investigate.
2. Check which logging categories account for growth and which are needed for your moderation workflow. Do not disable essential logging merely to make a storage graph smaller.
3. Read the installed purge documentation carefully. Time cutoffs remove records older than the chosen age, and database optimization behaviour differs between storage backends.
4. Agree a retention period that covers your published support and appeal expectations. Keep a consistent archived database copy if older records must remain available outside the live server.
5. Rehearse the proposed purge on an isolated restored database and compare record availability before and after. Measure actual reclaimed space rather than assuming row deletion immediately shrinks every database file.
6. Only schedule a separately approved production purge after backup recovery has been checked. Restrict purge access to administrators and record the cutoff, scope and completion result.

Check the result

The retention plan should state what remains searchable live, what can be recovered from archives and what will be permanently unavailable. Its storage estimate should come from a rehearsal on the same backend. A purge is a data-loss decision, not a routine fix for an unexplained full disk.

If the result is wrong

If the rehearsal removes records you still need, increase the retention period and keep production unchanged. Restore the isolated test from its backup when comparing alternatives. Do not run a shorter production purge first and expect a later setting change to recover deleted history.

References and related help

- CoreProtect maintainer reference
- CoreProtect maintainer reference
- Inspect block changes and preview a CoreProtect rollback
- Recover a Minecraft server after griefing

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