

Basit's SQL Server Tips

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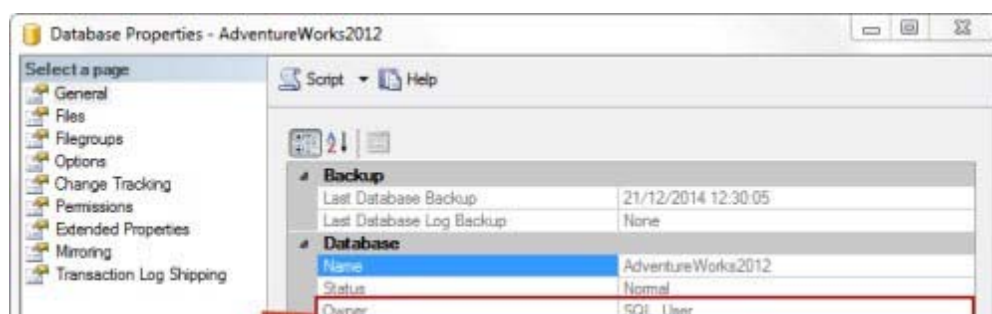
SQL Server 2014 Best Practice: Set built-in Sysadmin(sa) account as an default owner of all databases on SQL Server instance

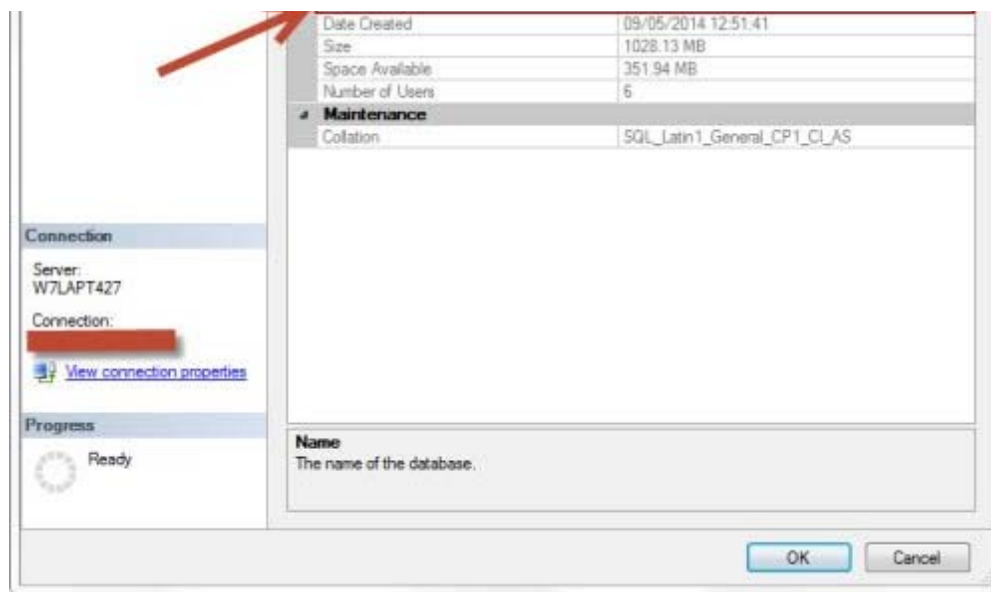
As we know, when we create database on SQL Server instance, SQL Server engine sets the login that created the database as the default database owner. This gives the user full control on the database, meaning he/she can do whatever they like on that particular database. According to the SQL Server security best practice document, we should grant login with the least amount of privileges. Therefore, it is recommended to set built-in sa account as an owner of all databases on SQL Server instance. This will make database and server more secure.

How to identify the ownership of the system and user databases on SQL Server instance?

You can use SQL Server Management Studio to view the database owner. Follow these steps to view the database owner using SQL Server 2014 Management Studio:

- In SQL Server Management Studio, connect to an instance of the SQL Server Database Engine with Object Explorer.
- In Object Explorer, right-click the database for which you want to check the database ownership, and then click Properties.
- This opens the database property window, showing you the general database information and ownership details.





Alternatively, you can query `sys.databases` (<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms178534.aspx>), as follows, to view the system and user databases on SQL Server instance:

```

1 USE [master];
2 GO
3
4 SELECT [name] AS [DBName],
5        SUSER_SNAME([owner_sid]) AS [DBOwner]
6 FROM [sys].[databases];
7 GO

```

As you can see, it is the quickest way to find the database owner.

How to change ownership of the user databases to sa?

To change the ownership of the user databases, you can use `ALTER AUTHORIZATION` (<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187359.aspx>) Transact DCL command. The following example shows how you can change the ownership of AdventureWorks2012 database:

```

1 USE [master];
2 GO
3
4 ALTER AUTHORIZATION ON DATABASE::[AdventureWorks2012]
5 TO [SQL_User];
6 GO

```

Note: Ownership of the system databases cannot be changed.

Below is the quick script I wrote, which can be used to identify the user database where the owner is not sa. This script also gives you `ALTER AUTHORIZATION` (<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187359.aspx>) Transact DCL command for each database to transfer its ownership to sa account:

```

1 USE [master];
2 GO
3
4 SELECT [name] AS [DBName] ,
5        SUSER_SNAME([owner_sid]) AS [ExistingOwner] ,
6        N'ALTER AUTHORIZATION ON DATABASE::'

```

```
7 | + QUOTENAME([name]) + ' TO '  
8 | + QUOTENAME(( SELECT [name]  
9 |                FROM [sys].[sql_logins]  
10 |                WHERE [sid] = 0x01  
11 |                )) AS [ScriptToChangeDBOwner]  
12 | FROM [sys].[databases]  
13 | WHERE [database_id] > 4  
14 | AND [owner_sid] <> 0x01  
15 | AND [state_desc] = 'ONLINE';  
16 | GO
```

For more information, review [SQL Server Security Best Practice \(http://download.microsoft.com/download/8/F/A/8FABACD7-803E-40FC-ADF8-355E7D218F4C/SQL_Server_2012_Security_Best_Practice_Whitepaper_Apr2012.docx\)](http://download.microsoft.com/download/8/F/A/8FABACD7-803E-40FC-ADF8-355E7D218F4C/SQL_Server_2012_Security_Best_Practice_Whitepaper_Apr2012.docx) white paper.

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