Summary

This article provides a summary on how to reset sa password if system administrator losses the password or access to SQL.

Applies To

This article applies to MachPanel all versions.

Symptoms

A system administrator can lose access to an instance of SQL Server because of one of the following reasons:

- 1. All logins that are members of the sysadmin fixed server role have been removed by mistake.
- 2. All Windows Groups that are members of the sysadmin fixed server role have been removed by mistake.
- 3. The logins that are members of the sysadmin fixed server role are for individuals who have left the company or who are not available.
- 4. The sa account is disabled or no one knows the password

Resolution

Start the instance of SQL Server in single-user mode by using the **-m** option. Any member of the computer's local Administrators group can then connect to the instance of SQL Server as a member of the sysadmin fixed server role.

Steps:

- Start SQL Server Management Studio. On the View menu, select Registered Servers. (If your server is not already registered, right-click Local Server Groups, point to Tasks, and then click Register Local Servers.)
- In the Registered Servers area, right-click your server, and then click **SQL Server Configuration Manager**.
- Close Management Studio.

- In SQL Server Configuration Manager, in the left pane, select **SQL Server Services**. In the right-pane, find your instance of SQL Server. (The default instance of SQL Server includes (**MSSQLSERVER**) after the computer name. Named instances appear in upper case with the same name that they have in Registered Servers.) Right-click the instance of SQL Server, and then click **Properties**.
- On the **Startup Parameters** tab, in the **Specify a startup parameter** box, type **-m** and then click **Add**. (That's a dash then lower case letter m.)

Note: For earlier versions of SQL Server there is no **Startup Parameters** tab. In that case, on the **Advanced** tab, double-click **Startup Parameters**. The parameters open up in a very small window. Be careful not to change any of the existing parameters. At the very end, add a new parameter ;-**m** as shown in snapshot below and then click **Apply**.

Name					State	S	tart Mode
🐌 SQI	L Se	rve	r (MACHPANELSQL08R2)		Running	A	utomatic
🔁 SQI	L Se	rve	r Agent (MACHPANELSQL08R2)	Stopped	C)ther (Boot,
ର୍ତ୍ତି ସେ	_	sq	L Server (MACHPANELSO	L08R2)	Properties ?	x	omatic
	ļ	Log	g On Service FILESTREAM	Advanced]		,
			Advanced			~	
			Clustered	No			
			Customer Feedback Reporting	No			
			Data Path	C:\Progra	m Files (x86)\Microsof	ft	
			Dump Directory	C:\Progra	m Files (x86)\Microsof	ft	
			Error Reporting	No			
			File Version	2009.100.	2500.0		
			Install Path	C:\Progra	m Files (x86)\Microsof	ft	
			Instance ID	MSSQL10	_50.MACHPANELSQL0	8	
			Language	1033			
			Registry Root	Software	Wow6432Node\Micr	0	
			Running under 64 bit OS	Yes			
			Service Pack Level	1		- 1	
			SQL States	2053		1 I.	
			Startup Parameters	1337110/	ns		
				-1551150			
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		Pa	rameters used by SQL Server at s	ervice star	tup		
			OK Canc	el	Apply Hel	p	

• Click **OK**, and after the message to restart, right-click your SQL server name, and then click **Restart** as shown in snapshot below:

Name	State	
SQL Server (MACHPAN	Running	
🚡 SQL Server Agent (MA	Start	Stopped
🔊 SQL Server Browser	Stop	Running .
	Pause	
	Resume	
	Restart	
	Properties	
	Help	_
		-

- After SQL Server has restarted your server will be in single-user mode. Make sure that that SQL Server Agent is not running. If started, it will take your only connection.
- Now Run SQL Server Management Studio as Administrator. Multiple connections will fail because SQL Server is in single-user mode. You can select one of the following actions to reset sa password. Do one of the following.
 - To reset the password of the sa account, connect with a Query Window using
 Windows Authentication (which includes your Administrator credentials). Change
 the password of the sa account with the following syntax.

ALTER LOGIN sa WITH PASSWORD = 'Type Your Password Here';

 Connect with Object Explorer using Windows Authentication (which includes your Administrator credentials). Expand Security, expand Logins, and double-click on SA account and type the new password and click on save button as shown in snapshot below:

New Query 🖧 🖧 🛶 📾 📾		Login Prope	erties - sa		
Object Explorer	Selecta page	CT Course of STA Marks			
Connect	Later Accounted	and over a multimetry			
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in a Server Objects					
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	Heady	Default database:	master	~	
		Default language:	Erglish		
				OR Concel	

- Now change the SQL Server back to multi-user mode. The following steps now change SQL Server back to multi-user mode.
 - 1. Close SQL Server Management Studio.
 - In SQL Server Configuration Manager, in the left pane, select SQL Server Services. In the right-pane, right-click the instance of SQL Server, and then click Properties.
 - On the Startup Parameters tab, in the Existing parameters box, select
 -m and then click Remove.

Note: For earlier versions of SQL Server there is no **Startup Parameters** tab. In that case, on the **Advanced** tab, double-click **Startup Parameters**. The parameters open up in a very small window. Remove the ;-m which you added earlier, and then click **Apply**.

4. Right-click your server name, and then click **Restart**.

MachPanel Knowledgebase https://kb.machsol.com/Knowledgebase/54492/Reset-SA-password-in-SQL-for-Mac...