

Description: Guide to moving an SQL database from one computer to another using the new ICONICS database manager.
OS Requirement: Win 2000, XP Pro, Server 2003, Vista, Server 2008, Windows 7
General Requirement: Both source and destination machine must at least have SQL Server Management Studio Express installed.

Introduction

Sometimes it is necessary to move logging databases from one computer to another. With MSDE or SQL databases, you must first detach the database from the source machine and then attach it on the destination machine. This documentation will walk your through the process of moving such a database.

Source Machine

1. All connections to the database that will be moved must be disconnected.
2. Open the SQL Server Management Studio by going to Start → Programs → Microsoft SQL Server → SQL Server Management Studio.
3. On the Connect to Server Dialog, choose the SQL Server you want to connect to and provide the necessary credentials. Click on "Connect" when you are ready.



Figure 1 - Local Server

4. Once you are connected to your SQL Server, expand databases and locate the database you would like to move.
5. Right-click on the database and select Properties.
6. In the properties dialog, click on "Files" and take note of the file path in the Path column. This contains the location of the mdf and ldf database files.

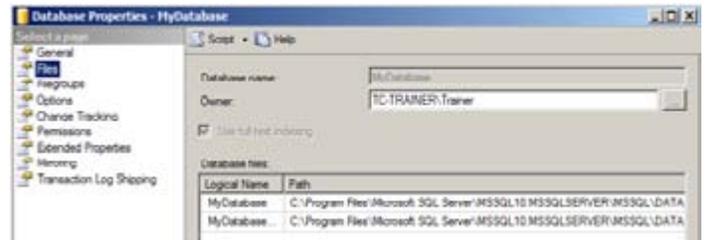


Figure 2 - Database File Location

7. Once you know how to find the mdf and ldf files, close the dialog.
8. Right-click on the database again and select Tasks → Detach...

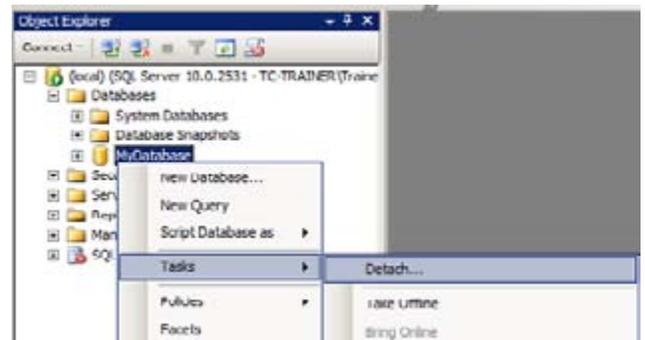


Figure 3 - Detach Database

NOTE: the menu item may have slightly different wording depending on the version of SQL Management Studio you are using.

9. In the Detach Database dialog, check the "Drop Connections" column and click on OK.

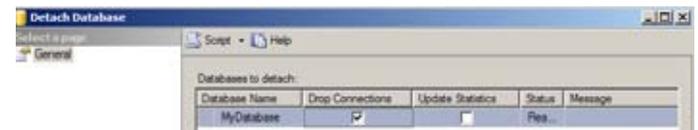


Figure 4 - Detach Database Dialog

10. When the dialog closes, you should no longer see the database in your list of databases.
11. Now manually copy the database file (*.mdf and *.ldf) from the source machine to the destination machine.

Destination machine

1. Place the database (.mdf and .ldf) file in the desired location
2. Open SQL Server Management Studio and connect to the local SQL server (this is the same as steps 2 – 3 from the Source Machine).
3. Once you are connected to the desired SQL Server, right-click on Databases and select Attach...

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Figure 5 - Attach Database

4. In the Attach Database dialog click on the "Add" button and browse for the mdf file. You can repeat this step and keep adding mdf files if you have other databases that needs to be attached.
5. Notice that if there is a corresponding ldf in the same directory, it will be listed in the database detail section at the bottom.

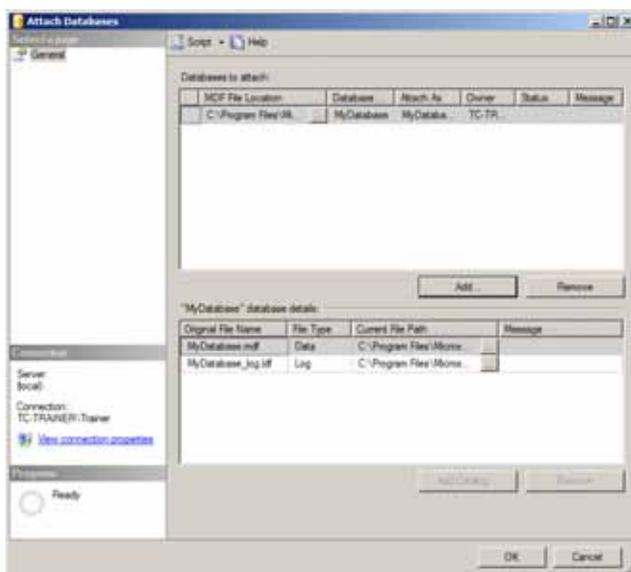


Figure 6 - Attaching SQL Database

6. When you are done adding the database files, click on "OK" to start the database attaching process.
7. When it's done, you should see your databases in the tree control on the left-hand side.
8. The database should now be attached to the destination machine and ready for use.