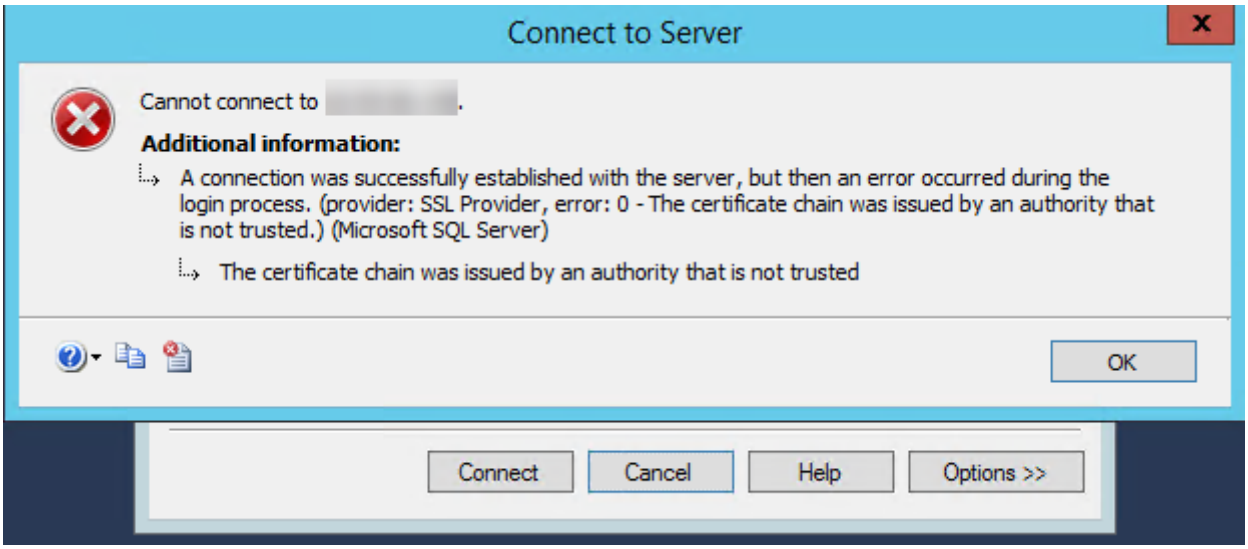
The Bit Bucket

Thoughts from Data Platform MVP and Microsoft RD – Dr Greg Low

SQL: (SQL Server) The certificate chain was issued by an authority that is not trusted



Are you trying to connect to a SQL Server instance and ending up with the error:

The certificate chain was issued by an authority that is not trusted

You aren't alone.

SQL Server 2005 introduced authentication encryption (by default) in the SQL Native Access Client (SNAC). SQL Server will self-generate a certificate that's then used unless you replace it with your own certificate.

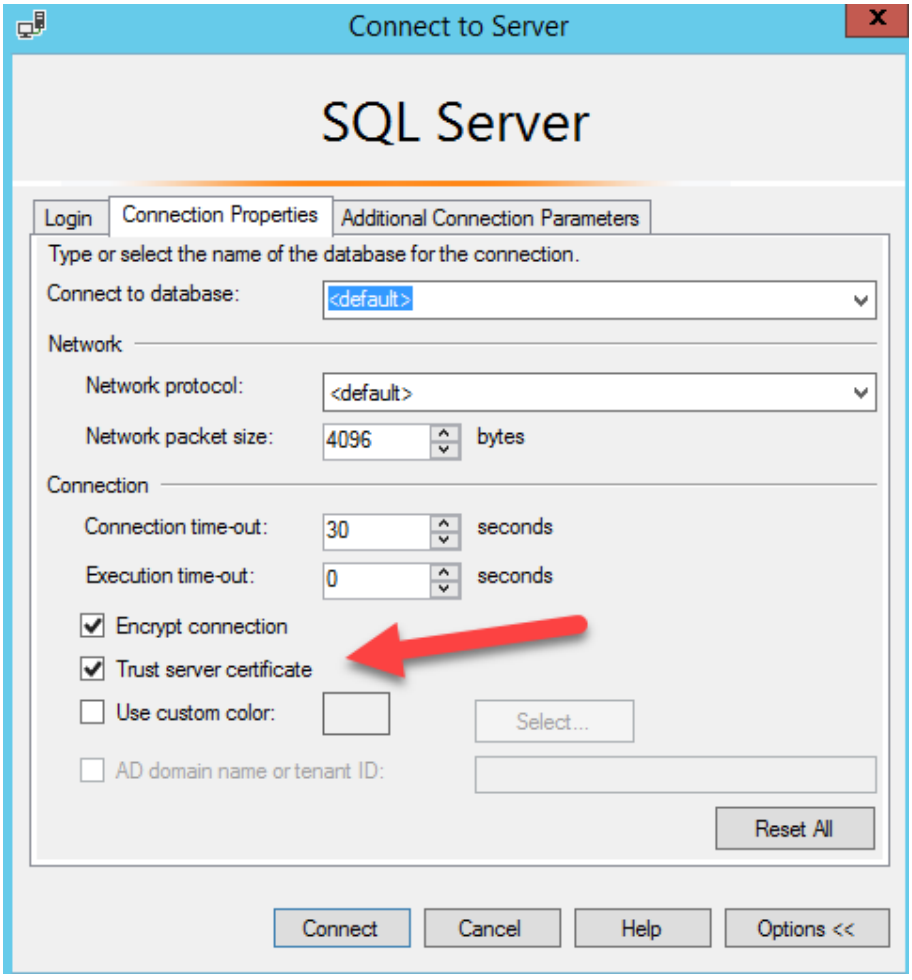
If you do use your own SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) certificate for SQL Server, unless it's a publicly trusted certificate, your client system will need to trust that certificate. Generally that means that you'll need to list your own certificate

authority (CA) as a trusted publisher on each of your client systems. Then that would work well.

And that's often the problem that causes the above issue.

Trusting the Server

But what if you just want to trust the certificate that was self-signed by the server? Well there's an option for that (**Trust server certificate**), in the **Options** section of the connection dialog:



Chances are that if you just check that box, you'll then be fine.

Note that there's also an option to turn off encryption (by unchecking **Encrypt connection**). While it would also "fix" the issue, that's not the best option to choose here.

And I'm posting this so that one day in the future when I forget what this was about, I'll find this post.

 greglowblog / January 16, 2020 / SQL Server

12 thoughts on “SQL: (SQL Server) The certificate chain was issued by an authority that is not trusted”

 **Celso Coutinho**

February 24, 2020 at 1:45 am

I keep reading that this isn't a good idea on a production server, but if the connection is encrypted anyway... What could be the problem with ticking that box?

 **greglowblog** ▲

February 25, 2020 at 11:36 am

Hi Celso, totally depends upon your level of concern. If all you want is to ensure the authentication is encrypted, then it's just fine. If you want to guarantee you're talking to the server you think you're talking to, you need to install a real SSL certificate that's already trusted.

Regards,

Greg

 **steven**

July 30, 2020 at 5:36 am

how do you get to that " connect to server" page to check that box?

greglowblog

July 30, 2020 at 8:30 am

Hi Celso, when you are about to connect (Connect to Server dialog from Object Explorer > Connect or from the New Database Query icon in the toolbar), there is an Options button near the bottom right hand side. It opens these options up, and this is the second tab.

Lok

August 5, 2020 at 2:07 am

Working from the morning to resolve and your tip helps in finding the solution.

greglowblog

August 5, 2020 at 8:11 am

Hi Lok, glad to hear it helped.

Ed Ferron

August 7, 2020 at 11:44 pm

Nice! This helped me..

greglowblog

August 8, 2020 at 10:07 am

Glad to hear it helped Ed.

Lebron James

August 25, 2020 at 3:24 pm

Thank You

greglowblog

August 25, 2020 at 3:52 pm

You are most welcome

Mike Coop

October 21, 2020 at 2:22 am

Thank you! This works for me, since I'm already using SQL Server Authentication.

greglowblog

October 21, 2020 at 8:09 am

You are most welcome !