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# Recovering MSSQL database from .mdf file only





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Here's a technique to recover databases that were not detached cleanly and have no log file. However, it is not supported - if you want a fully supported resoloution you need to contact Microsoft PSS.

This situation can arise when someone needs to create a valid database if provided an .mdf file.

You will need to modify it to use your mdf filename and folder paths.

- Make sure you have a copy of Trouble\_database.MDF
- 2. Create a new database called "fake" (default file locations)
- 3. Stop SQL Service
- 4. Delete the fake\_Data.MDF and copy Trouble\_database.MDF to where fake\_Data.MDF used to be and rename the file to fake\_Data.MDF
- 5. Start SQL Service
- 6. Database "fake" will appear as suspect in Enterprise Manager
- 7. Open Query Analyzer and in master database run the following:

```
sp_configure 'allow updates',1
reconfigure with override
update sysdatabases set
  status=-32768 where dbid=DB_ID('fake')
sp_configure 'allow updates',0
reconfigure with override
```

This will put the database in emergency recovery mode

- 8. Stop SQL Service
- 9. Delete the fake\_Log.LDF file
- 10. Restart SQL Service
- 11. In QA run the following (with correct path for log)

### Code:

```
dbcc rebuild_log('fake','h:\fake_log.ldf')
go

dbcc checkdb('fake') -- to check for errors
go
```

12. Now we need to rename the files; run the following (make sure there are no connections to it) in Query Analyzer (At this stage you can actually access the database so you could use DTS or bcp to move the data to another database .)

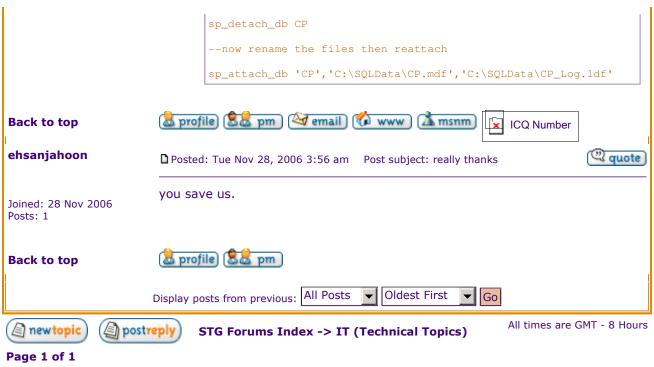
### Code:

```
use master
sp_helpdb 'cp'
/* Make a note of the names of the files , you will need them in
the next bit of the script to replace datafilename and
logfilename - it might be that they have the right names */
sp_renamedb 'fake','CP'
alter database fake
MODIFY FILE(NAME='fake', NEWNAME = 'CP')
alter database CP
MODIFY FILE(NAME='fake_log', NEWNAME = 'CP_Log')
dbcc checkdb('CP')
sp_dboption 'CP','dbo use only','false'
ao
use CP
qo
sp_updatestats
qo
```

- 13. You should now have a working database. However the log file will be small so it will be worth increasing its size Unfortunately your files will be called fake\_Data.MDF and fake\_Log.LDF but you can get round this by detaching the database properly and then renaming the files and reattaching it
- 14. Run the following in QA

### Code:

Go



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