Error: A network-related or instance-specific error occurred while establishing a connection to SQL Server

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A network-related or instance-specific error occurred while establishing a connection to SQL Server. The server was not found or was not accessible. Verify that the instance name is correct and that SQL Server is configured to allow remote connections. (provider: TCP Provider, error: 0 – Access is denied.)

When you enabled the SQL Auditing option you need to know that the connection will go instead of through to the endpoint datacenter.control.database.windows.net ⬈ will go through another endpoint called datasec-xxxxxx.cloudapp.net ⬈ (where xxxxxx is special format), see this example, taken using netsh.

Direct connection to the database.

Connection using the SQL Auditing Endpoint

- If you have defined a restrictive firewall setting, you need to configure from your local applications to be able to connect to these endpoints could find the information in this URL ↗.

- If you don't have enabled this firewall rule, you could receive at the connection attempt the following error message trying to connect to your Azure SQL Database: A network-related or instance-specific error occurred while establishing a connection to SQL Server. The server was not found or was not accessible. Verify that the instance name is correct and that SQL Server is configured to allow remote connections. (provider: TCP Provider, error: 0 – Access is denied.)

From <https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/azuresqlemea/?p=545&preview=true ↗>

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