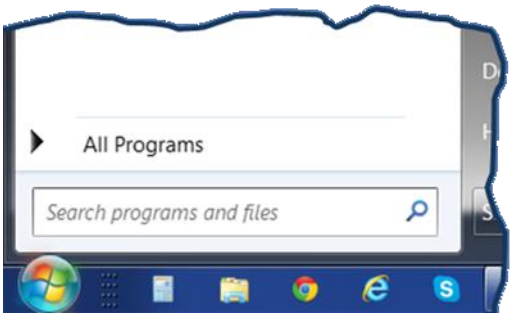
Starting SSMS and Connecting to a Server

Demo Overview

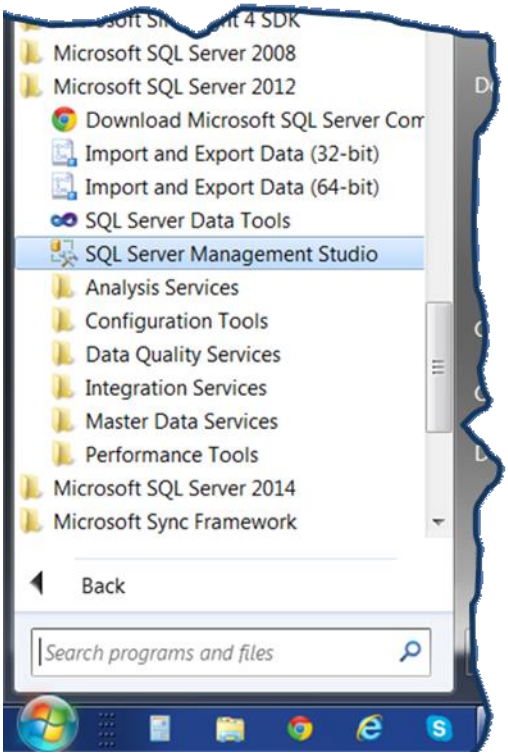
A. Start SSMS
B. Connect to a Server

A. Start SSMS

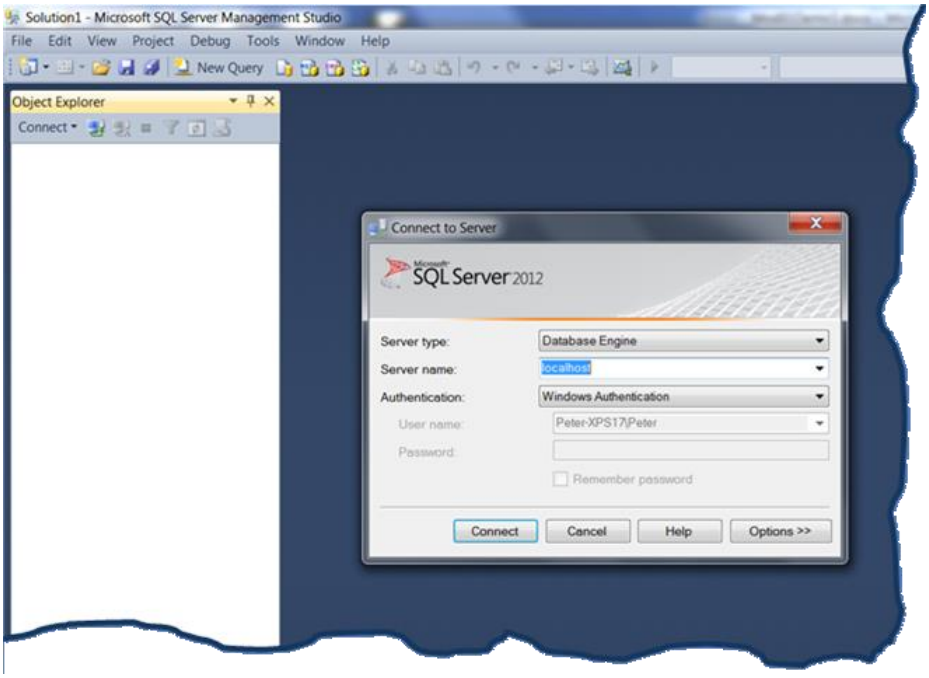
1. From the **Start Menu**, select **All Programs**.



2. Select the folder for the version of SQL Server that you use and then click on **SQL Server Management Studio**.



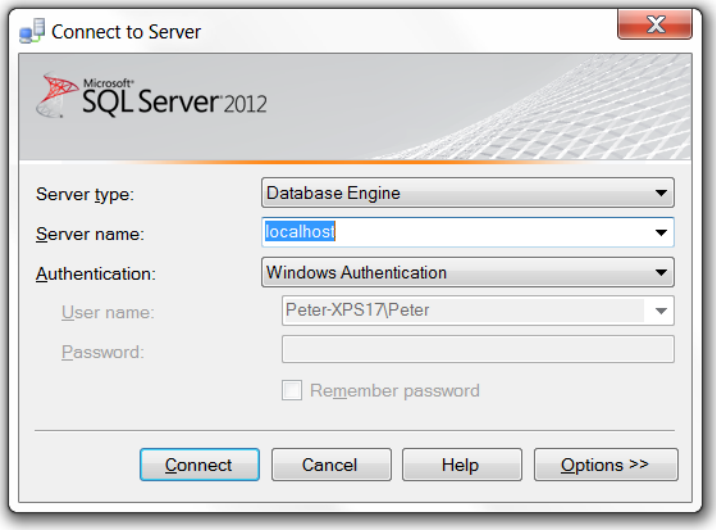
3. Observe the SSMS window. Notice the **Connect to Server** window and the **Object Explorer** panel on the left side. Right now, the **Object Explorer** panel is empty.



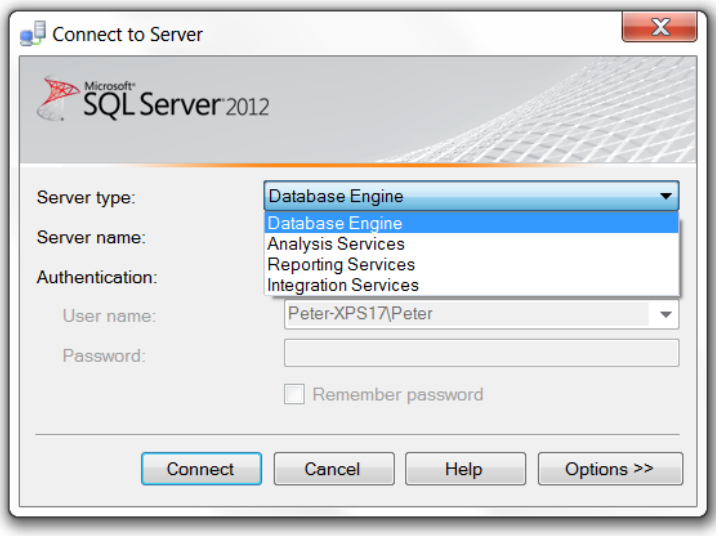
B. Connect to a Server

SSMS is a GUI that allows us to interface with SQL Server servers. In order to do that, SSMS needs to be connected to a server. (SSMS can be connected to multiple servers at the same time.)

1. Observe the Connect to Server window. There are three fields: **Server type**, **Server name**, and **Authentication**.

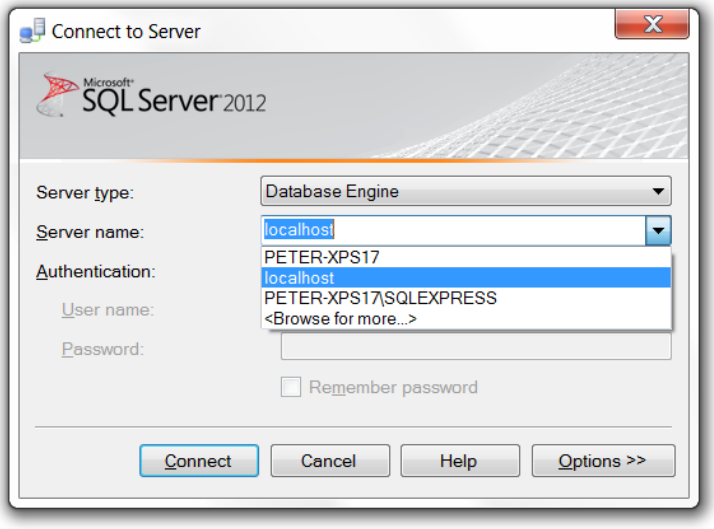


2. Click the dropdown of the Server type field and notice that there are different types of servers to which SSMS can connect. Most of them are servers for the BI services that are a part of SQL Server. For SQL Server 2012 or higher, they are all BI services servers.



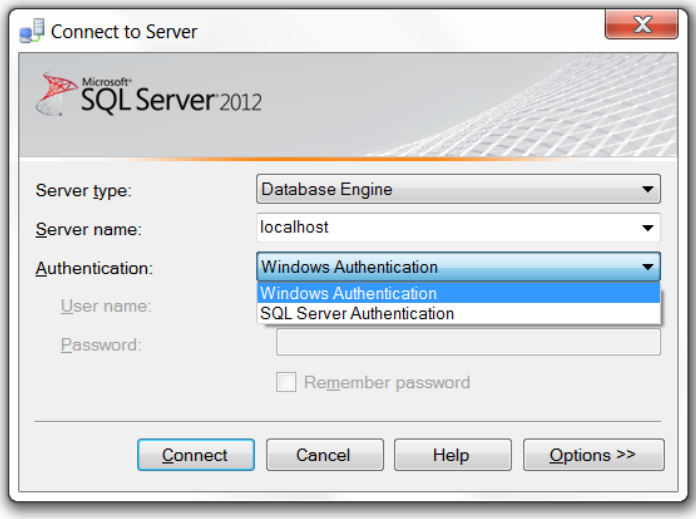
3. Select **Database Engine** to connect to the core service for SQL Server where the databases we will be using are stored.

4. Click the dropdown for the **Server name** field and notice that **localhost** appears in the dropdown, but that other servers that do not appear can also be selected using the option to **Browse for more** (to show other servers in the dropdown, use the **Registered Servers** panel in the **View** menu to register other servers).



5. Select **localhost**. Localhost refers to the default instance of SQL Server on the local machine. When you are back at work, the server to which you connect is not likely to be on your local machine, so you will probably not be able to use localhost and will have to select the server by its name. You can also just type the name of the server into this field.

6. Click the dropdown for Authentication and notice that there are two types of authentication methods supported by SQL Server, **Windows Authentication** and **SQL Server Authentication**.



7. Select **Windows Authentication** to use the authentication method for which our installation of SQL Server has been configured. Windows authentication means that SQL Server will use the credentials you supplied when you logged into Windows as opposed to SQL Server authentication which uses credentials stored in SQL Server.

8. Click **Connect** and observe that the **Object Explorer** panel has been populated with the contents of the server to which we just connected.