I'm developing a Web site with VS 2005 on a machine under Windows Vista Home Premium. I also have SQL Server 2005 Standard Edition installed on the same machine, using Windows authentication.

When I try to access the Security tab in the Web Site Administration Tool, it fails with a message "Unable to connect to SQL Server database"

The database aspnetdb is attached, and my user login, which is in a sysadmin server role, is mapped to that database, as well as the application database.

Database roles selected are: aspnet\_Roles\_BasicAccess, aspnet\_Roles\_FullAccess, and aspnet\_Roles\_ReportingAccess,

The application's web.config file has the following code:

  <connectionStrings>

    <add name="appname" connectionString="Server=serverName;Integrated Security=True;Database=appName" providerName="System.Data.SqlClient"/>

    <add name="SqlRoleManagerConnection" connectionString="Data Source=serverName;Integrated Security=True;Database=aspnetdb"

providerName="System.Data.SqlClient" />

  </connectionStrings>

and

    <roleManager enabled="true" defaultProvider="SqlRoleManager">

      <providers>

        <add name="SqlRoleManager" type="System.Web.Security.SqlRoleProvider" connectionStringName="SqlRoleManagerConnection"

applicationName="appName" />

      </providers>

    </roleManager>

 Also, on the Provider tab, there is only one provider: AspNetSqlProvider. When I click the Test link, I get a message "Could not establish a connection to the database" with the admonitions about creating the database, etc. The connection works fine from within my application to the corresponding database; retrieves data, etc.

Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Hi CarterMitchell,

From your description, I understand your issue with the following scenarios:

    1. Your development environment is: Windows Vista Home Premium; Visual Studio 2005; SQL Server 2005 Standard.   
    2. Your Web project connects to SQL Server with Windows Authentication and works well. The connect string of your web project is " Data Source=serverName;Integrated Security=True;Database=aspnetdb"  
    3. The aspnetdb database has already been attached to the SQL Server instance. However, the Web Site Administration Tool cannot connect to the SQL Server with the “Unable to connect to SQL Server database" error message.

If there has been any misunderstanding, please let me know. In my opinion, the root cause of this issue can be the connection string defined in machine.config (C:\WINDOWS\Microsoft.NET\Framework\v2.0.50727\CONFIG).

The Web Site Administration Tool is also a web project which by default uses the “LocalSqlServer” as its connection string. It is independent of the connection string defined in your developing web project. “LocalSqlServer” by default uses SQL Server Express User instance connection string so that it always fails on the machine which doesn’t installed SQL Server 2005 Express Edition.

Hence, please overwrite the connection string of “LocalSqlServer” in machine.config. For example:

  <connectionStrings>  
    ~~<add name="LocalSqlServer" connectionString="data source=.\SQLEXPRESS;Integrated Security=SSPI;AttachDBFilename=|DataDirectory|aspnetdb.mdf;User Instance=false" providerName="System.Data.SqlClient" />~~    <add name="LocalSqlServer" connectionString=" Data Source=serverName;Integrated Security=True;Database=aspnetdb" providerName="System.Data.SqlClient" />  
  </connectionStrings>

Hi,

As you have Visual Studio on your machine, I think we can also use the Visual Database Tools of Visual Studio to generate the connection string.

Please:

1. Create a new data connection to the SQL Server database in the **Server Explorer** of Visual Studio

2. After the connection is established, right-click on the connection name and select **Properties**. There is an item called **Connection String** in the **Properties** window.

Reference:

How to: Add New Data Connections in Server Explorer/Database Explorer    
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/3d1wkhas.aspx>