



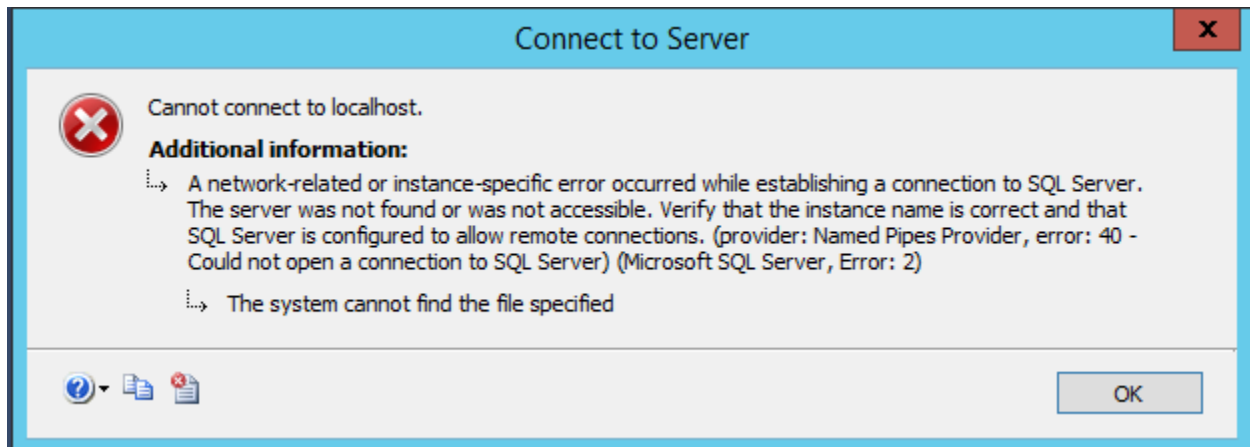
TROUBLESHOOT “CAN’T CONNECT TO SQL SERVER”

For CoderGirl

Prepared by Kathi Kellenberger
July 15, 2017

Issue: Can't connect to SQL Server

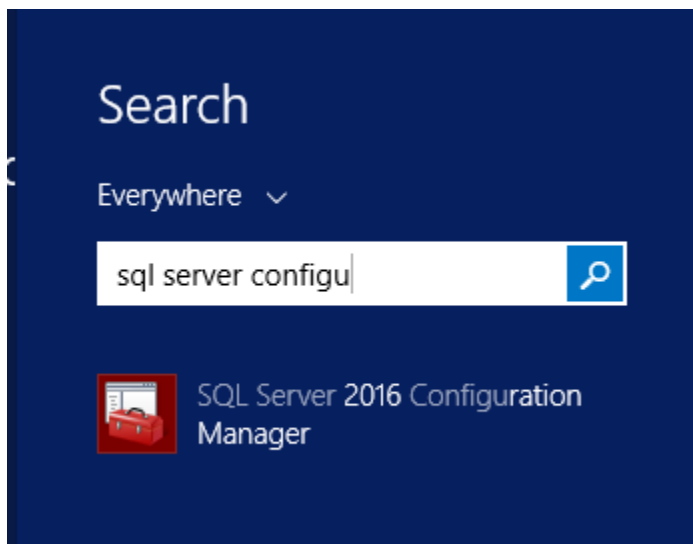
You fire up your laptop and get ready to write some queries. Unfortunately, it seems to take a long time to connect to SQL Server and eventually, you see this message:



Follow these troubleshooting steps to get working!

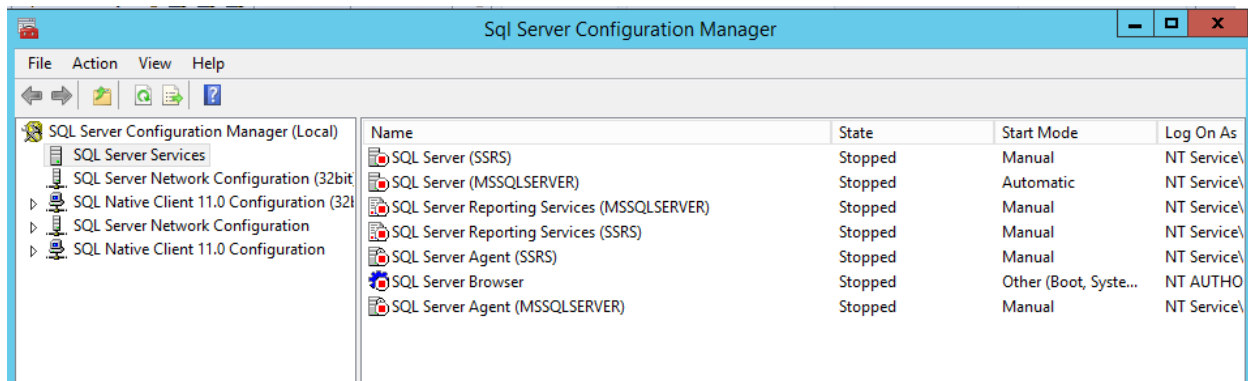
Review Configuration Properties

Search for a program called **SQL Server 2016 Configuration Manager**. You may want to pin this program to your taskbar.

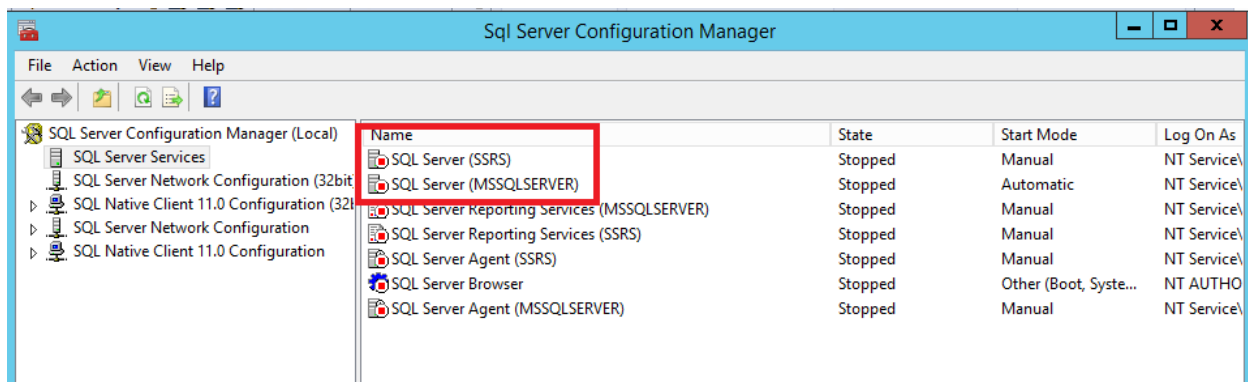


If you are asked if it is OK for this program to change settings on your computer, say OK.

Click **SQL Server Services** to view the services installed. In my case, they are all shut down.



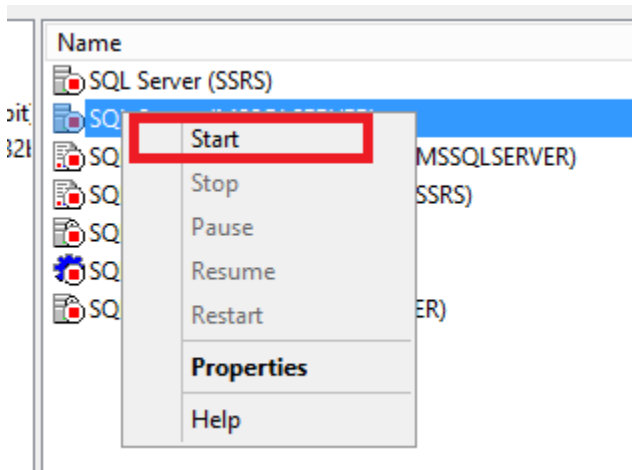
Find the service called **SQL Server (*instance name*)** in the list. I have two SQL Server instances. You will probably have just one.



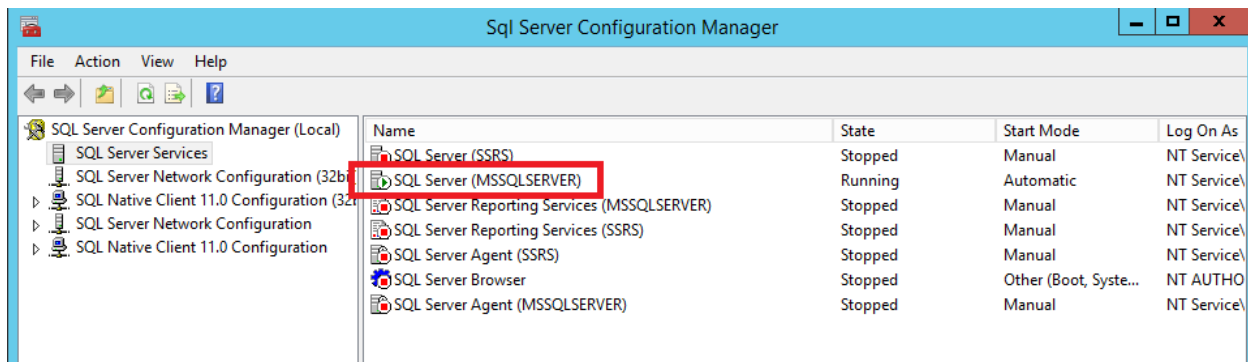
Notice the names in the parentheses. These are the instance names. When you see MSSQLSERVER, that means the default instance. Anything else is a named instance. If you have a named instance, you will need that information when you connect.

Start the Service

Right-click on the service and select **Start**.



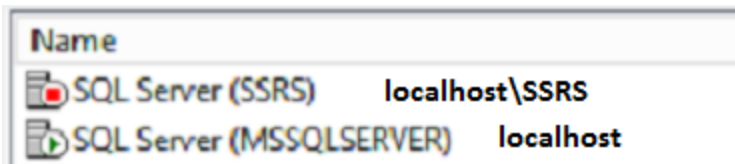
Once the SQL Server starts up, you should see the red square turn into a green arrow.



Determine the connection name

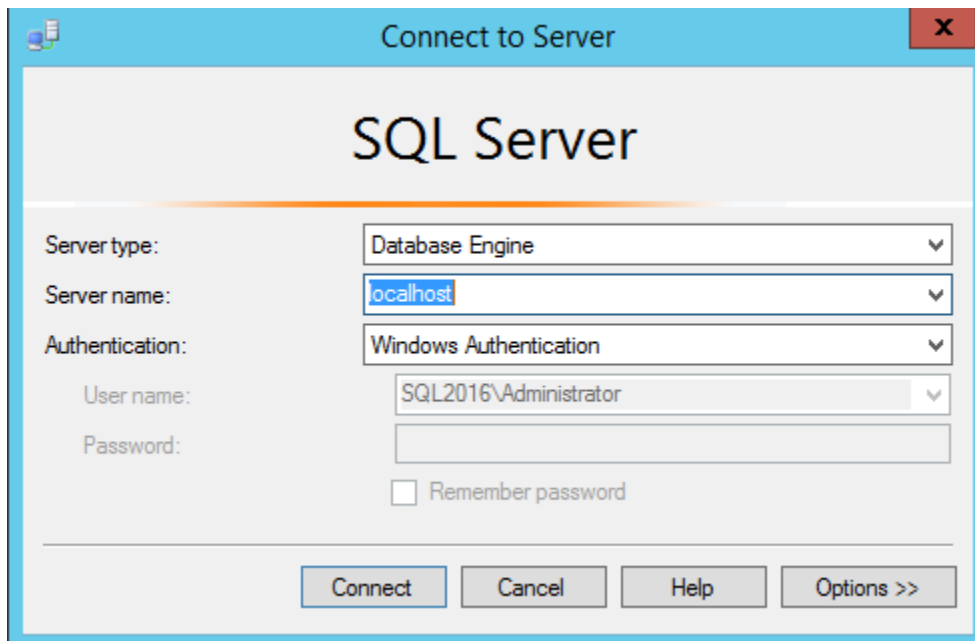
To connect to your SQL Server, you need to know the name. For a locally installed instance, you can use one of these instead of the computer name: **localhost**, **(local)**, or **.**

If you have a named instance, you will need to follow the computer name with a backslash and the instance name.



Try connecting again

To connect to SQL Server, launch **SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS)**. Make sure that **Database Engine** and **Windows Authentication** are selected.



Connect to Server

SQL Server

Server type: Database Engine

Server name: localhost\SSRS

Authentication: Windows Authentication

User name: SQL2016\Administrator

Password:

☐ Remember password

Connect Cancel Help Options >>

Don't click <Browse for more...>

Avoid clicking this option. It will try to browse for networks to find SQL Servers. It could take a long time.

Connect to Server

SQL Server

Server type: Database Engine

Server name: localhost\SSRS

Authentication: localhost

<Browse for more...>

User name: SQL2016\Administrator

Password:

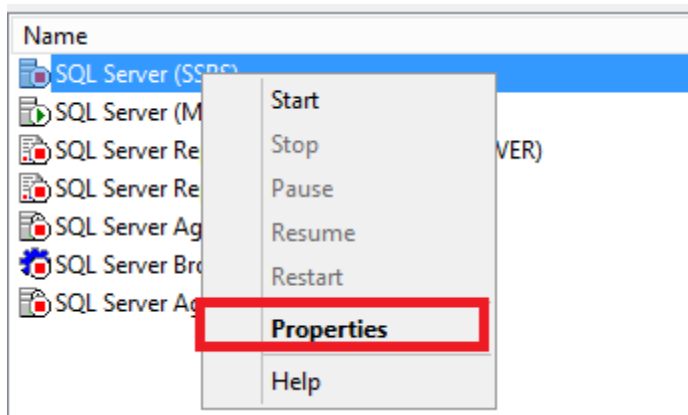
☐ Remember password

Connect Cancel Help Options >>

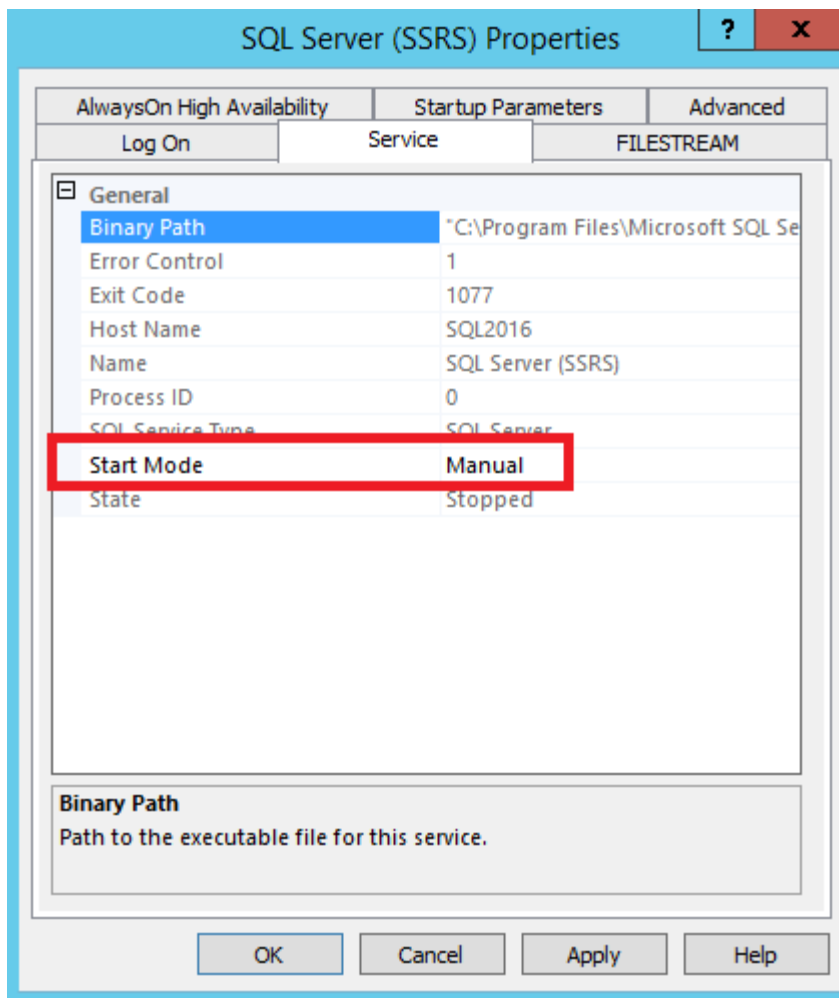
Change start up properties

If you are concerned that SQL Server takes too many resources when you don't need it, you can change the properties so that it just runs when you need it.

Open the **SQL Server Configuration Manager**. Right-click on the service that you don't want to start up automatically and select **Properties**.



On the **Service tab**, change the **Start Mode** to **Manual**.



When you want to run SQL Server, you'll have to launch **Configuration Manager** to start up the service.