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Project: hMailServer — Full Step-by-Step Installation & SQL Setup

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Description: Complete setup guide for hMailServer using Microsoft SQL Server.

Includes installation, SQL setup, external DB configuration,
and administrator login.

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hMailServer — Overall Step-by-Step Setup Guide

This README walks you through the complete, ordered steps to install and configure hMailServer using an external Microsoft SQL Server (MSSQL) database. Follow each step closely.

0) Downloads

- Download hMailServer installer from: <https://www.hmailserver.com/download>
 - You will also need SQL Server (Express is fine) and SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) if you plan to use MSSQL.
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1) Prepare the Database (Run SQL scripts)

Open SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) and run the SQL scripts in this exact order.

Important: Steps 1 and 2 are optional cleanup steps only if you already had a previous hMailServer installation.

1. `1_Main_Script_Prerequisites.sql` (*optional cleanup*)
 - Preview mode by default. Change `@ConfirmDrop = 1` inside the script to actually drop existing hMailServer objects and the database.
 2. `2_Main_find_and_delete_that_SQL_login.sql` (*optional cleanup*)
 - Finds and safely deletes old SQL logins related to hMailServer (e.g., `hmailuser`). Run this only if you removed an old DB and wish to remove its leftover login.
 3. `3_Main_Create_Login_Database.sql`
 - Creates a SQL Server LOGIN (e.g., `hmailuser`) with the password you specify.
 - Creates the database (e.g., `hMailServerDB`).
 - Creates the database user and assigns `db_owner` role.
 4. `4_Main_Create_Table.sql`
 - Create required tables, constraints and indexes. Run while connected to the newly created database (or the script will switch context to it).
 5. Optional administrative scripts (use as needed):
 - `5_Alter_Role_Sysadmin.sql` — add/remove server-level roles (e.g., `sysadmin`).
 - `6_Change_Password.sql` — change SQL login password.
 - `7_Alter_Name_on_different_levels.sql` — rename login or database user and remap if needed.
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2) Run hMailServer Installer

1. Run the downloaded installer (hMailServer-*****.exe).
 2. During installation you will be prompted for basic options — install the hMailServer service and administration tools.
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3) First-run Configuration (hMailServer Administrator)

1. Run hMailServer Administrator (or hMailAdmin.exe).
 2. The installer will ask you to create an **Administrator password** — set a strong password and remember it.
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4) Choose Database Type in Installer / Setup

1. Select **External database engine (MSSQL)**.
 - We used **Microsoft SQL Server (MSSQL)** in this guide.
 - If you choose a different DB engine (MySQL/PostgreSQL), the installer includes scripts for those engines at: C:\Program Files (x86)\hMailServer\DBScripts — use the appropriate script for that engine.
 2. Enter the database connection details:
 - **Server**: the SQL Server instance (e.g., localhost\SQLEXPRESS or localhost).
 - **Database name**: the DB you created (e.g., hMailServerDB).
 - **Username**: the SQL LOGIN you created earlier (e.g., hmailuser).
 - **Password**: the password you specified in 3_Main_Create_Login_Database.sql.
 3. Continue; the installer will validate the connection and create or use the existing schema as required.
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5) Final Steps — Connect to hMailServer Administrator

1. After installation completes, open **hMailServer Administrator**.
 2. Click **Add** (to add a host connection):
 - **Host name**: localhost (or the server where hMailServer is installed)
 - **Username**: the administrator account name (commonly hmailuser or administrator depending on your setup)
 - Click **Save**.
 3. Click **Connect** to connect to the local hMailServer service.
 4. When prompted, enter the **Administrator password** you created earlier during installer setup.
 5. If connection succeeds, your hMailServer is installed and configured to use MSSQL.
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6) Post-install Checks and Tips

- Verify the database connection under **Settings → Advanced → Maintenance → Database**. It should show Type: MSSQL and your server/database name.
 - Create a domain and account to test mail sending/receiving:
 - Domains → Add → test.local (or your domain)
 - Accounts → Add → admin@test.local, set a password
 - Use **Utilities → Diagnostics** to run quick connectivity checks.
 - Keep hMailServer.ini and any secrets out of version control. Use config-examples/hmailserver.ini.example in the repo instead.
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7) Troubleshooting

- **Cannot connect to SQL Server:** Ensure SQL Server service is running and TCP/IP is enabled in SQL Server Configuration Manager.
 - **Login failed:** Confirm SQL login and password and that login has database access and proper permissions (db_owner recommended for setup).
 - **Installer cannot create schema:** Confirm the SQL login has CREATE DATABASE or sufficient rights, or create the DB manually and re-run.
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8) Useful Commands (SSMS)

- Create login and user (example snippet):

```
CREATE LOGIN [hmailuser] WITH PASSWORD = 'MyStrongPass!23';
CREATE DATABASE [hMailServerDB];
USE [hMailServerDB];
CREATE USER [hmailuser] FOR LOGIN [hmailuser];
EXEC sp_addrolemember N'db_owner', N'hmailuser';
```

9) Security reminders

- Do not commit plaintext passwords into git. Use config-examples/ for placeholders and .gitignore to exclude real configs.
 - Use strong, unique passwords for SQL logins.
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If you want, I can now: - Export this README as README.md into the repo canvas, or - Create a short QuickStart.md with screenshots and exact example values filled in.

Which would you like next?