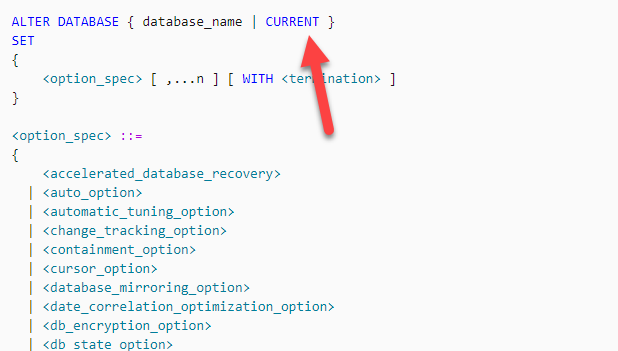
**SQL: When working with ALTER DATABASE, don't forget CURRENT**

**FROM:** [**https://blog.greglow.com/2020/04/09/sql-when-working-with-alter-database-dont-forget-current/?utm\_source=ssc&utm\_medium=pubemail**](https://blog.greglow.com/2020/04/09/sql-when-working-with-alter-database-dont-forget-current/?utm_source=ssc&utm_medium=pubemail)



I've been seeing quite a lot of unnecessary dynamic SQL code lately, that's related to [ALTER DATABASE](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/t-sql/statements/alter-database-transact-sql?WT.mc_id=DP-MVP-7914) statements.  It was part of code that was being scripted.

Generally, the code looks something like this:



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7 | DECLARE @SQL nvarchar(max);    SET @SQL = N'ALTER DATABASE '             + DB\_NAME()             + ' SET COMPATIBILITY\_LEVEL = 150;';    EXEC (@SQL); |

(I've used setting a db\_compat level as an example)

Or if it's slightly more reliable code, it says this:



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7 | DECLARE @SQL nvarchar(max);    SET @SQL = N'ALTER DATABASE '             + QUOTENAME(DB\_NAME())             + ' SET COMPATIBILITY\_LEVEL = 150;';    EXEC (@SQL); |

If you are going to be concatenating things like database or column names, make sure you use QUOTENAME to avoid issues with object names that aren't valid SQL Server object names when they aren't quoted.

But in so many cases, there's no need to have this code as dynamic at all. The ALTER DATABASE statement can take the word CURRENT to refer to the current database instead. So you could write just:



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 | ALTER DATABASE CURRENT SET COMPATIBILITY\_LEVEL = 150; |

https://secure.gravatar.com/avatar/5804600a24fc99c3dee574feba102fc6?s=49&d=mm&r=gAuthor [greglowblog](https://blog.greglow.com/author/greglowblog/)Posted on [April 9, 2020April 19, 2020](https://blog.greglow.com/2020/04/09/sql-when-working-with-alter-database-dont-forget-current/)Categories [SQL Server](https://blog.greglow.com/category/sql-server/)

**2 thoughts on “SQL: When working with ALTER DATABASE, don't forget CURRENT”**

1. https://secure.gravatar.com/avatar/bf491c31ba2b4018e150397ba2e4f80b?s=42&d=mm&r=g[**Mitchell Wheat**](https://mitchwheat.com/) says:

[April 19, 2020 at 5:01 pm](https://blog.greglow.com/2020/04/09/sql-when-working-with-alter-database-dont-forget-current/#comment-7767)

Nice one! I must have missed the CURRENT keyword.

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* 1. https://secure.gravatar.com/avatar/5804600a24fc99c3dee574feba102fc6?s=42&d=mm&r=g**greglowblog** says:

[April 19, 2020 at 5:13 pm](https://blog.greglow.com/2020/04/09/sql-when-working-with-alter-database-dont-forget-current/#comment-7770)

Hi Mitch, yep, many people have.