**SQL SERVER – Attach mdf file without ldf file in Database**

April 26, 2010[Pinal Dave](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/author/pinaldave/)[SQL](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/category/sql/), [SQL Server](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/category/sql-server/), [SQL Tips and Tricks](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/category/sql-tips-and-tricks/)[119 comments](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comments)

FROM: <http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/>

**Background Story:**  
One of my friends recently called up and asked me if I had spare time to look at his database and give him a performance tuning advice. Because I had some free time to help him out, I said yes. I asked him to send me the details of his database structure and sample data. He said that since his database is in a very early stage and is small as of the moment, so he told me that he would like me to have a complete database. My response to him was “Sure! In that case, take a backup of the database and send it to me. I will restore it into my computer and play with it.”

He did send me his database; however, his method made me write this quick note here. Instead of taking a full backup of the database and sending it to me, he sent me only the .mdf (primary database file). In fact, I asked for a complete backup (I wanted to review file groups, files, as well as few other details).  Upon calling my friend,  I found that he was not available. Now,  he left me with only a .mdf file. As I had some extra time, I decided to checkout his database structure and get back to him regarding the full backup, whenever I can get in touch with him again.

**Technical Talk:**   
If the database is shutdown gracefully and there was no abrupt shutdown (power outrages, pulling plugs to machines, machine crashes or any other reasons), it is *possible* (there’s no guarantee) to attach .mdf file only to the server. Please note that there can be many more reasons for a database that is not getting attached or restored. In my case, the database had a clean shutdown and there were no complex issues. I was able to recreate a transaction log file and attached the received .mdf file.

There are multiple ways of doing this. I am listing all of them here. Before using any of them, please consult the Domain Expert in your company or industry. Also, never attempt this on live/production server without the presence of a Disaster Recovery expert.

USE [master] GO  
-- Method 1: I use this method  
EXEC sp\_attach\_single\_file\_db @dbname='TestDb',  
@physname=N'C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL10.MSSQLSERVER\MSSQL\DATA\TestDb.mdf'  
GO  
-- Method 2:  
CREATE DATABASE TestDb ON  
(FILENAME = N'C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL10.MSSQLSERVER\MSSQL\DATA\TestDb.mdf')  
FOR ATTACH\_REBUILD\_LOG  
GO

Method 2: If one or more log files are missing, they are recreated again.

There is one more method which I am demonstrating here but *I* *have not used myself before*. According to Book Online, it will work only if there is one log file that is missing. If there are more than one log files involved, all of them are required to undergo the same procedure.

-- Method 3:  
CREATE DATABASE TestDb ON  
( FILENAME = N'C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL10.MSSQLSERVER\MSSQL\DATA\TestDb.mdf')  
FOR ATTACH  
GO

Please read the [Book Online](http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms176061.aspx) in depth and consult DR experts before working on the production server. In my case, the above syntax just worked fine as the database was clean when it was detached. Feel free to write your opinions and experiences for it will help the IT community to learn more from your suggestions and skills.

PS: Do not try this on production server.

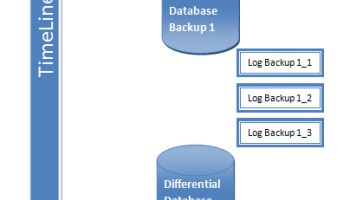
Reference: **Pinal Dave (**[**http://blog.SQLAuthority.com**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/)**)**

[**SQL SERVER - Unable to Restore From Backup After Detach Operation**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2014/11/04/sql-server-unable-to-restore-from-backup-after-detach-operation/)

While doing community work I travel a lot, speak at various conferences and get a chance to meet many new faces. The best part is that I get a chance to hear a variety of issues which people face while using SQL Server. This blog post is an outcome of…

November 4, 2014

In "SQL"

[](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2009/07/14/sql-server-backup-timeline-and-understanding-of-database-restore-process-in-full-recovery-model/)

[**SQL SERVER - Backup Timeline and Understanding of Database Restore Process in Full Recovery Model**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2009/07/14/sql-server-backup-timeline-and-understanding-of-database-restore-process-in-full-recovery-model/)

I assume you all know that there are three types of Database Backup Models, so we will not discuss on this commonly known topic today. In fact, we will just talk about how to restore database that is in full recovery model. In general, databases backup in full recovery mode…

July 14, 2009

In "SQL"

[](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2014/11/09/sql-server-fix-error-msg-3023-level-16-state-2-backup-file-manipulation-operations-such-as-alter-database-add-file-and-encryption-changes-on-a-database-must-be-serialized/)

[**SQL SERVER - FIX: ERROR : Msg 3023, Level 16, State 2 - Backup, file manipulation operations (such as ALTER DATABASE ADD FILE) and encryption changes on a database must be serialized**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2014/11/09/sql-server-fix-error-msg-3023-level-16-state-2-backup-file-manipulation-operations-such-as-alter-database-add-file-and-encryption-changes-on-a-database-must-be-serialized/)

Errors are the best way to learn how SQL Server works and as DBA’s we are bound to see many of them from time to time. One of the primary functions of a DBA would include creating backups and most importantly trying to automate the same using jobs and maintenance…

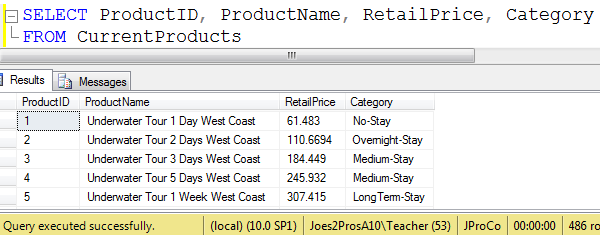
November 9, 2014

In "SQL"

Tags: [SQL Backup and Restore](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/tag/sql-backup-and-restore/), [SQL Data Storage](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/tag/sql-data-storage/), [SQL Scripts](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/tag/sql-scripts/)

[3](javascript:void(0))

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[**SQL SERVER – Table Valued Functions – Day 26 of 35**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2011/08/26/sql-server-tips-from-the-sql-joes-2-pros-development-series-table-valued-functions-day-26-of-35/)

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[**SQL SERVER – TRIM() Function – UDF TRIM()**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2007/04/24/sql-server-trim-function-udf-trim/)

April 24, 2007[Pinal Dave](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/author/pinaldave/)

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**Ben Howard**

[December 6, 2012 12:32 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-387537)

I had a server crash and the backups didn’t run for the database backup. I was able to recover the mdf files, but not the ldf files.

When attempting method 1 and method 2, I get the following errors.

Msg 1813, Level 16, State 2, Line 1  
Could not open new database ‘TestDb’. CREATE DATABASE is aborted.  
Msg 824, Level 24, State 2, Line 1  
SQL Server detected a logical consistency-based I/O error: incorrect pageid (expected 1:9; actual 0:8). It occurred during a read of page (1:9) in database ID 5 at offset 0x00000000012000 in file ‘D:\SQL Server Database Primary Data File (mdf)0000006.mdf’. Additional messages in the SQL Server error log or system event log may provide more detail. This is a severe error condition that threatens database integrity and must be corrected immediately. Complete a full database consistency check (DBCC CHECKDB). This error can be caused by many factors; for more information, see SQL Server Books Online.

I have used methods one and two before when restoring databases with no ldf files with no problems. I am not sure what I can do next.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-387537)

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**chandu**

[January 4, 2013 6:22 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-403603)

hi Pinal,  
master database is corrupted. I don’t have backup also. How to recover that database to start sql server instance? I tried to rebuild master database with no luck. got below error:  
Overall summary:  
Final result: Failed: see details below  
Exit code (Decimal): -2068643838  
Exit facility code: 1203  
Exit error code: 2  
How to start my instance in Local system? Please help

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-403603)

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**Palani Ramu**

[January 17, 2013 10:25 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-408787)

Thanks Pinal, I added Adventureworks2000DW database without log file.  
by  
Palani

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-408787)

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**shaik**

[February 10, 2013 8:16 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-420259)

is it possible to attach a AdventureWorksDW2008R2 into sql server 2008 ?

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-420259)

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**amir duhan**

[February 24, 2013 2:36 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-426774)

thanks for all of your articles and samples, i use them frequently.  
this time it didn’t help  
but it gave me some ideas for other problems.  
in the end what works for me was regular restore database.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-426774)

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**sidney**

[March 6, 2013 10:18 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-432966)

sp\_attach\_single\_file\_db (Transact-SQL)  
This feature will be removed in a future version of Microsoft SQL Server. Avoid using this feature in new development work, and plan to modify applications that currently use this feature. We recommend that you use CREATE DATABASE database\_name FOR ATTACH instead. For more information, see CREATE DATABASE (Transact-SQL). Do not use this procedure on a replicated database.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-432966)

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**ragu**

[April 7, 2013 6:02 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-451269)

Try to this way:

USE [master]  
GO  
CREATE DATABASE [YourDB] ON  
( FILENAME = N’C:\Data\yourdb.mdf’ )

FOR ATTACH  
GO

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-451269)

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**prabaht**

[April 19, 2013 8:57 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-459108)

hello,, can any one suggest me some solutions for the given scenario?  
i do have a database , i am taking regular back of the database  
the last log back up i have taken at 12. after that there are few changes on the database (some DML operation). next log back is scheduled at 2 . but at 1 o clock i deleted my MDF file(accidentally) deleted… but my ldf file is still intact

i want to restore my database till the point of failure without taking any tail log backup…

how can i do that?

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-459108)

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[**chapz**](http://gravatar.com/chapzdt)

[May 10, 2013 4:27 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-472593)

wow!!! it worked :)  
thanx a lot

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-472593)

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**Amit**

[May 28, 2013 4:55 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-484154)

Thanks Sir, for great work.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-484154)

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**Girish Ojha**

[July 24, 2013 1:25 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-534196)

how can i attached mdf files in my sal database

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**Girish Ojha**

[July 24, 2013 1:26 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-534199)

pls reply some one

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-534199)

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[**Vlad**](http://2words2u.wordpress.com/)

[October 23, 2013 5:47 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-628369)

thank you

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-628369)

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**Yesvir Singh**

[November 1, 2013 11:53 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-635920)

Hi everybody,  
im using the first method:  
USE [master]  
GO  
– Method 1: I use this method  
EXEC sp\_attach\_single\_file\_db @dbname=’TestDb’,  
@physname=N’C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL10\_50.SQLSERVER\MSSQL\DATA\Mydatabase.mdf’  
GO

but i have this error:  
Msg 5133, Level 16, State 1, Line 1  
Directory lookup for the file “C:\Exe & Database\RTO DataBase\Database.mdf” failed with the operating system error 3(The system cannot find the path specified.).

Solution Plz…

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-635920)

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[**Michael Oberhardt**](https://plus.google.com/+MichaelOberhardt)

[November 28, 2013 12:14 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-669251)

Great stuff as usual!

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-669251)

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**krunal**

[December 27, 2013 5:55 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-730065)

Attach database

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-730065)

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**krunal**

[December 27, 2013 5:57 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-730069)

How To Attch Database In SqlServer 2008

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-730069)

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**isaac**

[January 17, 2014 11:28 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-789644)

Hi, I have a big porblem, I delete one data base from sql server I dont know haow to recover it, please SOME ONE THAT CAN HELP ME HOW..! THANK YOU SO MUCH.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-789644)

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[**chuchau**](http://gravatar.com/chuchau)

[March 14, 2014 8:44 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-916839)

thanks, worked.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-916839)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/cac7d05288a4ae53b415c6f43a4544f5?s=50&d=blank

**saqib nazir**

[April 29, 2014 2:39 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1019909)

HI!  
i have downloaded a project from internet.. i got to play with it… it need microsoft sql server for db connection…the folder i have downloaded is having 2 db files….one is .mdf and other is .bkp (m sure its for backup).  
the problem is when i open my project in visual studio and try to run one of its form…it give me error of “no database connection”..  
can you help me where to place that .mdf file in sql server to make it work and only .mdf file would be enough.?

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1019909)

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**Manikandan**

[June 5, 2014 1:09 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1085652)

thanks its worked and you saved my day sir :)

Regards,  
Manikandan.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1085652)

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**Prateek Singhal**

[August 19, 2014 12:09 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1250173)

Thanks for the post, it is helpful. I tried using all three methods but each method gave me an error which looked like:

The log cannot be rebuilt because there were open transactions/users when the database was shutdown, no checkpoint occurred to the database, or the database was read-only. This error could occur if the transaction log file was manually deleted or lost due to a hardware or environment failure.

Any pointers?

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1250173)

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**Amrut kumbar**

[September 22, 2014 8:30 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1346652)

Hi,

I have deleted a database which i don’t need any more. but .mdf and .ldf files are still present in …….\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL10\_50.MSSQLSERVER\MSSQL\DATA folder. these are of huge size. So how can i delete those files. If i delete is there any bad effect to database..?

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1346652)

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**Jóni Araújo**

[November 4, 2014 10:23 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1470065)

This solution worked for me  
USE [master]  
GO  
CREATE DATABASE [Supervisor] ON  
( FILENAME = N’C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL12.MSSQLSERVER\MSSQL\DATA\DataBase.mdf’ )  
FOR ATTACH\_FORCE\_REBUILD\_LOG  
GO

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1470065)

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**Aarthi**

[November 18, 2014 2:52 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1509141)

can i delete the ldf and mdf file directly from the hard disks?  
will this affect any of the MySQL functions? please let me know.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1509141)

http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/5103638331ffee7537a9d24b7aa817a5?s=50&d=blank

**GollyRojer**

[January 3, 2015 10:34 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1611772)

Method 1 worked. Just what I needed to know. Five years later your article is still helping people. Thanks!

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1611772)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3ad80e5cd80033c4b574b34cc8ffe419?s=50&d=blank

[**Pinal Dave**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/)

[January 10, 2015 4:12 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1627604)

Glad that it helped you GollyRojer!

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1627604)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/6c28aedc522548ead4b0799b7a21da19?s=50&d=blank

**sangi**

[February 4, 2015 2:56 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1664469)

i used this method but the result is  
Unable to open the physical file “C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL10.SQLEXPRESS\MSSQL\DATA\TestDb.mdf”. Operating system error 2: “2(The system cannot find the file specified.)”.  
How can i do?

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1664469)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3ad80e5cd80033c4b574b34cc8ffe419?s=50&d=blank

[**Pinal Dave**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/)

[February 10, 2015 9:55 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1672042)

OS Error 2 means the file specified is missing. Are you using SSMS which is connected to remote machine? the method would look at the file on that location on the server.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1672042)

http://1.gravatar.com/avatar/dea7b14d1906d0395678acd469662252?s=50&d=blank

**Samiullah A**

[February 12, 2015 3:45 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1674551)

Thanks for saving my data….Sami

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1674551)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3ad80e5cd80033c4b574b34cc8ffe419?s=50&d=blank

[**Pinal Dave**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/)

[February 13, 2015 8:49 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1675196)

Sure, most welcome. Thanks.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1675196)

http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/824bbd2212f510f52d63b54b676f919f?s=50&d=blank

**Chaz**

[April 7, 2015 1:55 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1714399)

Worked for my situation too! Thank you.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1714399)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3ad80e5cd80033c4b574b34cc8ffe419?s=50&d=blank

[**Pinal Dave**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/)

[April 7, 2015 3:22 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1714774)

Thanks for letting me know Chaz.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1714774)

http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/8bd853187418be5250bd10fe591a6f73?s=50&d=blank

**sheeja**

[March 13, 2016 1:15 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1947145)

Hello ,  
I tried all methods but it says, the following message. can you please help?

Could not open new database ‘testdb’. CREATE DATABASE is aborted.  
Device activation error. The physical file name ‘C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL\Data\test\_log.LDF’ may be incorrect.

http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/8bd38970ffafcc4d0621f34106349023?s=50&d=blank

**Ram**

[April 10, 2015 10:27 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1716776)

Hi Pinal,

When ever we create new data base it will create 2 files (Like mdf and ldf file) by default how much size it requires and if we want how can we increase size of mdf and ldf files .

Please advice.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1716776)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3ad80e5cd80033c4b574b34cc8ffe419?s=50&d=blank

[**Pinal Dave**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/)

[April 14, 2015 7:21 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1719358)

1. it would be same as model database MDF and LDF size.  
2. You need to use ALTER DATABASE …. FILE…. command

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1719358)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/fe5a84c26531f02b5599833652125e66?s=50&d=blank

**Yonatan**

[April 29, 2015 6:01 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1730131)

File activation failure. The physical file name “G:\DMarkosHLDB\PharmInventory\_log.ldf” may be incorrect.  
The log cannot be rebuilt because there were open transactions/users when the database was shutdown, no checkpoint occurred to the database, or the database was read-only. This error could occur if the transaction log file was manually deleted or lost due to a hardware or environment failure.  
Msg 1813, Level 16, State 2, Line 1  
Could not open new database ‘TestDb’. CREATE DATABASE is aborted.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1730131)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/6bee5320878e643ff14f981ccaf0c1f1?s=50&d=blank

**josh**

[May 3, 2015 7:30 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1732747)

Hi Pinal,  
Here is my situation. I would like to distribute(or call it send across…. though not to you :-)) the mdf file of my 800GB database without the log file, so that the user (the person who has received my mdf file could attach this mdf to his instance without a log file). Currently the database has both the mdf and ldf file and transactions only happen once in a while perhaps 2 transactions in a day. What do I need to do or the steps need to be taken to distribute such mdf file of a database. Thanks. Josh

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1732747)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/6bee5320878e643ff14f981ccaf0c1f1?s=50&d=blank

**josh**

[May 3, 2015 7:36 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1732751)

OK I re-read the Technical Talk section in the above post. And as it says the database needs to be cleanly shutdown. So my question re-phrased would be how to ensure that my 800GB database is cleanly shutdown and then how could I ensure I would be able to distribute my mdf file across. Thanks Josh

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1732751)

http://1.gravatar.com/avatar/abf3cfb0c22992ec8cd214a506ce4600?s=50&d=blank

**Rebecca**

[June 3, 2015 1:42 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1753829)

Thank you.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1753829)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/68da934f3ecc92e4cfbe96169a707927?s=50&d=blank

**Noah**

[June 13, 2015 12:37 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1760673)

Tried method 1:  
USE [master]  
GO  
— Method 1: I use this method  
EXEC sp\_attach\_single\_file\_db @dbname=’AD\_Report1′,  
@physname=N’C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL12.SQLEXPRESS\MSSQL\DATA’  
GO

with a .mdf and received a permissions issue.

Msg 5120, Level 16, State 101, Line 3  
Unable to open the physical file “C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL12.SQLEXPRESS\MSSQL\DATA”. Operating system error 5: “5(Access is denied.)”.

I checked the permissions of the file in question and all users/groups have full access to the file.

Any ideas?

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1760673)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3ad80e5cd80033c4b574b34cc8ffe419?s=50&d=blank

[**Pinal Dave**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/)

[June 29, 2015 1:11 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1770881)

Permission should be there for SQL Service Account. Use configuration manager to find the account. Worst case, you can add “everyone” user and give permission to whole world. (I know it’s a bad advice but can’t explain more in comment)

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1770881)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/c09d4ec6ce9fbb2207eb0e87a3baf71a?s=50&d=blank

[**Darrin Biller**](http://www.insightnetworks.com/)

[July 27, 2015 6:47 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1790084)

Hi  
I have a client who also needs to restore from an MDF file. I retrieved the files from an image backup that while not SQL aware , it does freeze the SQL I/O during backup ( as there are event logs that show this at the time of backup.) The concern is that the LDF file is over 2 months older than the MDF file. Should I recover just using the MDF file or use both LDF and MDF. I fear that the old LDF would just corrupt or cause instability in the database  
Thanks

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1790084)

http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/e765a662b5e11b9f87cd14179f739ceb?s=50&d=blank

**Adeel**

[July 29, 2015 3:07 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1791708)

i am taking backup Remotely but below error is occurred..i have tried different ways to take like i have tried to move into other Directory but mdf file error occur, i have try to run script but same error occur . please tell me if you are familiar with such issue  
“System.Data.SqlClient.SqlError: Read on “D:databases/XYZ.mdf” failed: 23(Data error (cyclic redundancy check).) (Microsoft.SqlServer.Smo) “

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1791708)

http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/814be6bae62f01ee113a0022f880b7ad?s=50&d=blank

**Sammy Machethe**

[August 11, 2015 7:41 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1803070)

Thanks Dave, this article saved my soul big time. We had an issue where one of the SQL Log (BIG LOG)files filled the entire Log Drives. This caused SQL to fail! I would be able to restart the SQL Services, but the corresponding Database for the “BIG LOG” could not reload… It was forever in “In Recovery” status forever. FYI – the “BIG LOG” was taking up 98.6GB of the total 100GB Log Drives… I tried all possible SQL Log Truncate statements to no avail…

Eventually I visited Dave’s site and found this script to Restore a Database without Log file…  
USE [master]  
GO  
EXEC sp\_attach\_single\_file\_db @dbname=’TestDb’,  
@physname=N’C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL10.MSSQLSERVER\MSSQL\DATA\TestDb.mdf’  
GO

So I renamed my “BIG LOG” file to simulate the missing Log file problem, so this time a created new problem for myself… Now I was solving a missing Log issue… I ran the above script and new script was created… I performed few tests to ensure that everything runs fine… After I was happy with my test results I deleted the “BI LOG” and recovered 98.6GB.

Thanks, I hope this might be useful to someone as well.

Regards,  
Sammy Machethe

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1803070)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3b77ee5937db4a1e283cc1684040830e?s=50&d=blank

**KHADIJA BAHA**

[December 26, 2015 5:16 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1905979)

I tried it gd script tnx a lot for ur article

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1905979)

http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/2ad973cd215495ac0ab5bb317e1dc9a0?s=50&d=blank

**Angelillo**

[March 2, 2016 2:47 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1938182)

Great¡¡¡¡¡¡¡¡¡

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1938182)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/3ad80e5cd80033c4b574b34cc8ffe419?s=50&d=blank

**Pinal Dave**

[March 14, 2016 4:26 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1947877)

Angelillo – I am glad that it was helpful !

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1947877)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/04949fdbb5efece7792798c87253091b?s=50&d=blank

[**Amir Ansari**](http://kahlek.ir/)

[April 23, 2016 4:12 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1966882)

hi.  
thank you a lot.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1966882)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/6d5e7356ab38d06ea54b3d1bfa9350d3?s=50&d=blank

[**Carter Mitchell**](http://www.developerreinvented.com/)

[May 18, 2016 7:19 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1967161)

Although this post is over six years old, it worked perfectly in a similar situation: I was provided a .mdf file with no log file in a training course. Used method two and, presto! Perfect.

Thanks for being a great resource Dave!

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1967161)

http://i0.wp.com/graph.facebook.com/v2.2/246523299036366/picture?q=type%3Dlarge%26_md5%3D210e11783f0747bfdc7d479a751d1bd4&resize=50%2C50

[**João Lucca Nascimento**](https://www.facebook.com/app_scoped_user_id/246523299036366/)

[May 19, 2016 6:22 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1967175)

Excellent!!

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1967175)

http://2.gravatar.com/avatar/e473dfaccf2d58bf34e03f9f6bfd0557?s=50&d=blank

**Nimesh**

[May 31, 2016 12:19 pm](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1967377)

It was like life jacket, I accidentally deleted log file and was not able to restore it using management studio. But the very first command given above worked.

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1967377)

http://1.gravatar.com/avatar/1e2265f91ff13f34f9ea4b77f61dc5e9?s=50&d=blank

**SRINIVAS CHARI**

[July 20, 2016 1:48 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1968777)

thanks So much Pinal , saved me from a bunch of unneeded work

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1968777)

http://0.gravatar.com/avatar/9b90214f4b511a28e7dee04076c9bc2b?s=50&d=blank

**Xuan Madrid**

[August 9, 2016 9:06 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1969111)

Works so great for me!!!!! Many many thankz!!!!

[Reply](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1969111)

[**Restore or Attach Database Without Log File - SQL in Sixty Seconds #082 - Journey to SQL Authority with Pinal Dave**](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2016/08/26/restore-attach-database-without-log-file-sql-sixty-seconds-082/)

[August 26, 2016 7:00 am](http://blog.sqlauthority.com/2010/04/26/sql-server-attach-mdf-file-without-ldf-file-in-database/#comment-1969356)

[…] blog is – how do I attach database without log file. I have previously blogged about it over here. I request you to read this blog post if you want a solution where you can learn how to attach […]