**Auditing your SQL Server database and server permissions**

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FROM: <https://www.mssqltips.com/sqlservertip/1071/auditing-your-sql-server-database-and-server-permissions/?utm_source=dailynewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline&utm_campaign=20190712>

**Problem**

One of the things that DBAs need to be aware of is the permissions that are granted at the server level and at the database level.  Using Enterprise Manager or Management Studio it is pretty easy to look at one object at a time, but what if you want to look at permissions you have granted across the board.  Pointing and clicking is not so bad if you have a couple of objects to look at, but most instances of SQL Server have several layers of permissions that are granted.  So what is the best way to get an overall look at your permissions that have been set?

**Solution**

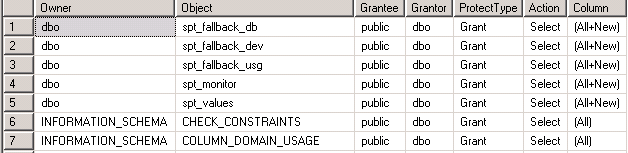
The simplest approach is to use the stored procedures that Microsoft has included with the database engine.  A lot of these same procedures are called when use the GUI, but instead of showing you data one object at a time you can take a look across your server or across your database.

Here is a list of some of these useful commands, what they do and sample output from each command.  You can just run the stored procedure without parameters to get the output.

SQL Server sp\_helprotect

This command will show you the permissions that have been granted or denied for all objects in a database. You can also specify the object name to see the permissions for that just that object. For more information: [sp\_helprotect](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/relational-databases/system-stored-procedures/sp-helprotect-transact-sql?view=sql-server-2017).

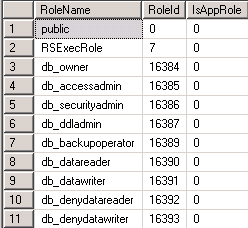
sp\_helprotect



SQL Server sp\_helprole

This command will show you a list of all the database roles  You can also specify the role name to see information about just that role. For more information: [sp\_helprole](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/relational-databases/system-stored-procedures/sp-helprole-transact-sql?view=sql-server-2017)

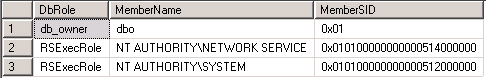
sp\_helprole



SQL Server sp\_helprolemember

This command will show you a list of all roles that have users in them as well as the user name.  You can also specify the role name to see the users for just that role. For more information: [sp\_helprolemember](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/relational-databases/system-stored-procedures/sp-helprolemember-transact-sql?view=sql-server-2017).

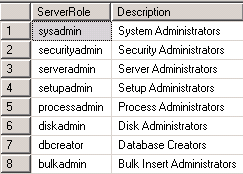
sp\_helprolemember



SQL Server sp\_helpsrvrole

This command will show you a list of all the server roles.  You can also specify the server role if you only want to see info about just that one server role. For more information: [sp\_helpsrvrole](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/relational-databases/system-stored-procedures/sp-helpsrvrole-transact-sql?view=sql-server-2017).

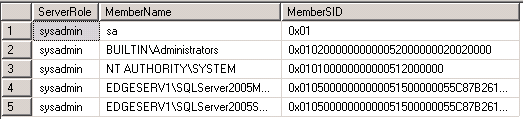
sp\_helpsrvrole



SQL Server sp\_helpsrvrolemember

This command shows you logins that have access to all server roles or you can specify just one server role to examine. For more information: [sp\_helpsrvrolemember](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/relational-databases/system-stored-procedures/sp-helpsrvrolemember-transact-sql?view=sql-server-2017).

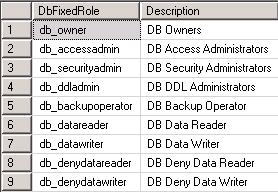
sp\_helpsrvrolemember



SQL Server sp\_helpdbfixedrole

This command shows a list of fixed database roles.  You can also specify just one role. For more information: [sp\_helpdbfixedrole](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/relational-databases/system-stored-procedures/sp-helpdbfixedrole-transact-sql?view=sql-server-2017).

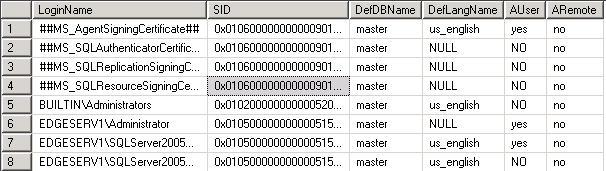
sp\_helpdbfixedrole

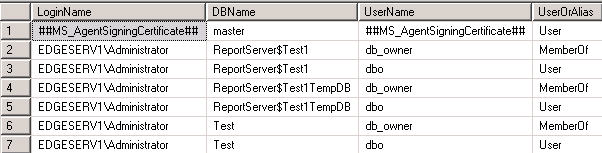


SQL Server sp\_helplogins

This command returns attributes about all of your logins or you can specify just one login. For more information: [sp\_helplogins](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/relational-databases/system-stored-procedures/sp-helplogins-transact-sql?view=sql-server-2017).

sp\_helplogins





SQL Server sp\_helpntgroup

This command shows you windows groups that have access to the current database. For more information: [sp\_helpntgroup](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/relational-databases/system-stored-procedures/sp-helpntgroup-transact-sql?view=sql-server-2017).

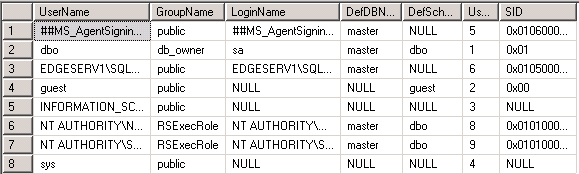
sp\_helpntgroup

group name

SQL Server sp\_helpuser

This command shows you information about users that have access to the current database. For more information: [sp\_helpuser](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/relational-databases/system-stored-procedures/sp-helpuser-transact-sql?view=sql-server-2017)

sp\_helpuser



**Next Steps**

* Add these commands to the list of tools that you use to manage your SQL Server.
* Use these commands to take a periodic audit of your server and database permissions.

Last Updated: 2018-06-02

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| **Wednesday, July 11, 2018 - 3:01:10 PM - Mike Schelstrate** | [Back To Top](https://www.mssqltips.com/sqlservertip/1071/auditing-your-sql-server-database-and-server-permissions/?utm_source=dailynewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline&utm_campaign=20190712#top) |
| Very helpful information about previously unknown security system stored procedures! | |

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| --- | --- |
| **Tuesday, October 09, 2012 - 2:56:28 PM - Matthew** | [Back To Top](https://www.mssqltips.com/sqlservertip/1071/auditing-your-sql-server-database-and-server-permissions/?utm_source=dailynewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=headline&utm_campaign=20190712#top) |
| Thank you Greg. This was a very helpful article; just what I needed. :) | |