**A fix to issues connecting to ASPNETDB database in VS 2015**

When trying to access ‘Security’ tab in ASP.net Web Site Administration Tool, an error might occur related to issues with DB connection. Here is a solution that I have found to work for me.

Solution involves changing the connection string for ASPNETDB.mdf database in the machine config file.

Steps:

-Open machine config file at:

C:\Windows\Microsoft.net\Framework\v4.0.30319\Config\machine.config

\*Note: the version of the framework may vary. For example it could be v4.0.30309, but make sure you select the 4.0.

1-In the machine.config file, find this tag:

<connectionStrings>

<add name="LocalSqlServer" connectionString="data source=.\SQLEXPRESS;Integrated Security=SSPI;AttachDBFilename=|DataDirectory|aspnetdb.mdf" providerName="System.Data.SqlClient"/>

</connectionStrings>

The connection string may also have this setting: **User Instance=true**. Before you try the steps below, try setting it to False, that might fix the issue (close and save the machine.config file before you test the change). If not, continue steps below.

2-Make a copy of connection string, just in case this is not the reason of your problem and you need to change to original connection string:

3-Modify connection string to:

<add name="LocalSqlServer" connectionString="data source=(LocalDB)\ MSSQLLocalDB;Integrated Security=True; AttachDBFilename=|DataDirectory|aspnetdb.mdf" providerName="System.Data.SqlClient"/>

Again, make sure to close and save machine config file before you test the change. To test it open or create an ASP.NET application that uses ASPNETDB.mdf database, go to Website/ASP.NET Configuration and then Security tab.