SQL SERVER – How to Change Server Name?

July 13, 2015 Pinal Dave SQL Tips and Tricks 10

In recent past, I have renamed my VM and wanted to make sure that everything is fine. This renaming process is also needed for changing the server names called inside of SQL Server too. So I searched to know various places from where we can get host name and SQL Server name. Let us learn in this table how to change server name? Finally, I formed this query which can gather same details from various sources:

```
SELECT  HOST_NAME() AS 'host_name()',
@@servername AS 'ServerName\InstanceName',
SERVERPROPERTY('servername') AS 'ServerName',
SERVERPROPERTY('machinename') AS 'Windows_Name',
SERVERPROPERTY('ComputerNamePhysicalNetBIOS') AS 'NetBIOS_Name',
SERVERPROPERTY('instanceName') AS 'InstanceName',
SERVERPROPERTY('IsClustered') AS 'IsClustered'
```

Most of these server properties have been there for a while and sometimes I think it requires a refresher like this to remember them again. When we run this query on the non-clustered machine, we should see only two distinguished names. Machine name and Instance name. If you have default instance, then Instance Name would be NULL in the query.

```
SELECT  host_name() AS 'host_name()',
        @@servername AS 'ServerName\InstanceName',
        SERVERPROPERTY('servername') AS 'ServerName',
        SERVERPROPERTY('machinename') AS 'Windows_Name',
        SERVERPROPERTY('ComputerNamePhysicalNetBIOS') AS 'NetBIOS_Name'
        SERVERPROPERTY('instanceName') AS 'InstanceName'
        SERVERPROPERTY('IsClustered') AS 'IsClustered'
```

Results

host_name()	ServerName\InstanceName	ServerName	Windows_Name	N		red
BIGPINAL	BIGPINAL	BIGPINAL	BIGPINAL	BIGPINAL	SQL2014	0

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If there was a rename of host, then you would see host_name would be different and that's not something which should exist.

Note that Instance Name rename is unsupported. In named instance the server name is in format of ServerName\InstanceName. So, you can change it to NewName\InstanceName but **NOT** to ServerName\ NewInstanceName. I am sure this is a fantastic trivia to know.

If you find any mismatch, then you need to follow below steps:

1. Execute below to drop the current server name

```
EXEC sp_DROPSERVER 'oldservername'
```

2. Execute below to add a new server name. Make sure local is specified.

```
EXEC sp_ADDSERVER 'newservername', 'local'
```

3. Restart SQL Services.
4. Verify the new name using:
    1. `SELECT @@SERVERNAME`
    2. `SELECT * FROM sys.servers WHERE server_id = 0`

I must point out that you should not perform rename if you are using:

1. SQL Server is clustered.
2. Using replication.
3. Reporting Service is installed.

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I would like to know if anyone has ever tried doing this in your environment? What is the typical reason for you doing the same? I hope this helps in case you get into a tangle like this. Let me know your thoughts via comments.

Reference: **Pinal Dave (https://blog.sqlauthority.com)**

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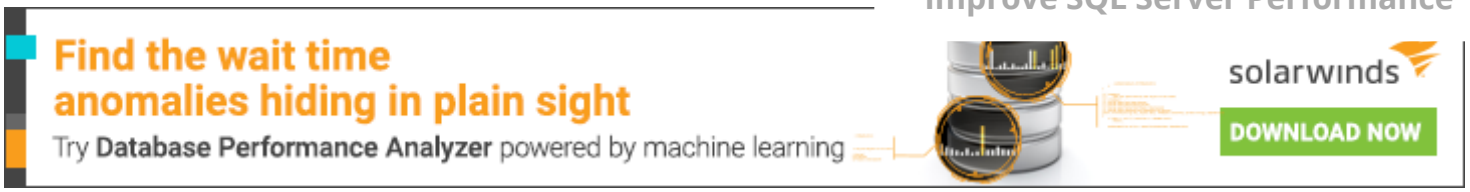
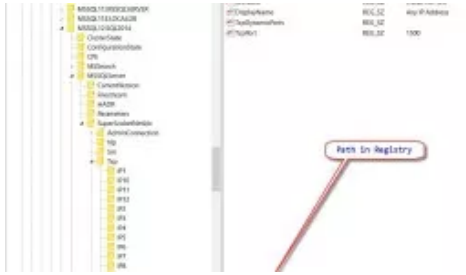


SQL SERVER - Introduction to SERVERPROPERTY and example
SERVERPROPERTY is very interesting system function. It returns many of the system values. I use it very frequently to get different server values like Server Collation, Server Name etc. Run following script to see all the properties of
June 16, 2008
In "SQL"



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SQL Server - Error While Enabling CDC on a Table - The specified '@server' is invalid (valid values are returned by sp_helpserver)
Every environment is different and it is no doubt some of these environment changes can give you results that are not expected. Recently one of my blog reader followed below blogs: SQL SERVER – Introduction to Change Data
April 24, 2015
In "SQL"

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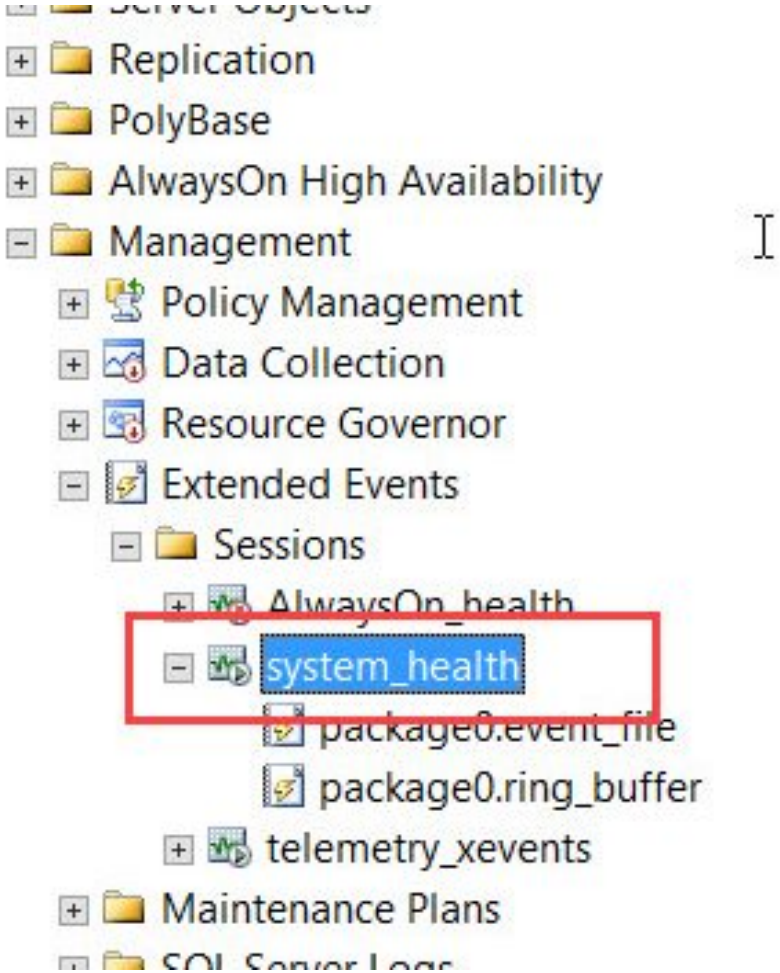

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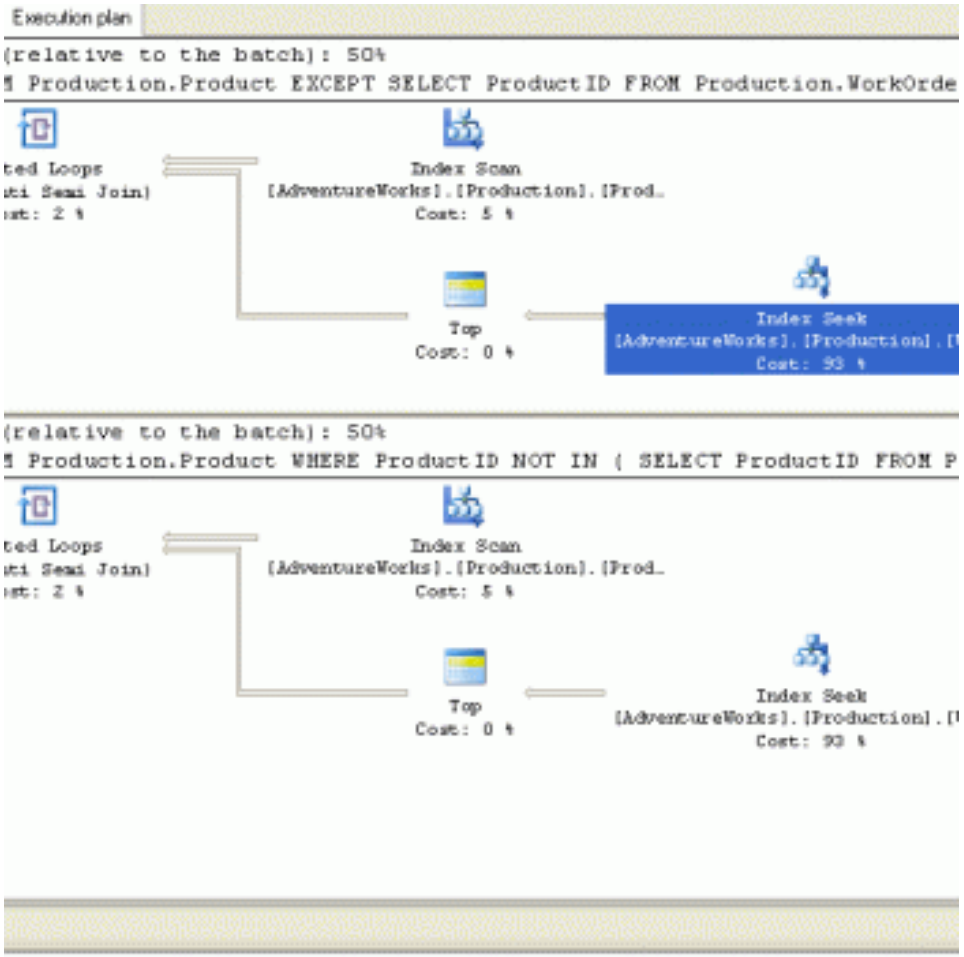

SQL SERVER – Video – Beginning Performance Tuning with SQL Server Execution Plan

June 13, 2012

10 . Leave new

Nelson

December 3, 2015 9:26 am

the reason for doing is to maintain consistency especially if the host name where the SQL server

Reply

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Chase Marler

February 18, 2016 2:06 am

You will run into issues with Database mirroring monitoring if the ServerName property doesn't match the hostname assigned to Windows.

I have this scenario happening right now:
– Vendor imaged servers and configured everything offsite, then shipped us the servers
– Infrastructure team deployed the servers and changed the hostnames to match our internal naming scheme
– The databases in the mirroring relationship say they're synchronized and appear to be working as expected, but I can't run any of the database mirroring monitoring tools to make sure mirroring isn't behind, etc…

In my case, I also have Report Services installed. I'm working through testing this now to see what it does to Reporting Services. Dave – what was the outcome for SSRS when you changed the ServerName property? Did it break entirely and was it unresolvable?

Reply

Nelson

December 3, 2015 9:28 am

if physical server name has changed

Reply

Ginger

March 22, 2016 9:29 pm

I changed SQL instance name and IP address in a SQL cluster with minimal issues. Name & IP address change occured in Failover Cluster Manager. Then the sp_dropserver/sp_addserver was issues with a sql restart, and all worked fine.

Reply

Dharmesh

May 10, 2016 11:32 pm

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Nice Post!!

in my scenario suppose I have taken .(dot) as server name in config file of application becaus(ng different server name like pc-name/sqlexpress so it will not work when i connect database wi.. application., to run application successfully I have to rename server name as pc-name or have to change config (.(dot)/sqlexpress) , so is there anyway to change this servername??

in above query its simply change @@servername not ServerPriority('servername')..

Reply

dev

December 6, 2016 8:14 pm

What about SSIS rename ?, will it be changed automatically or do we need to change it manually? how to change it?

Reply

gvkreddy1790

August 3, 2017 5:35 am

if the server is part of replication you will need to script out all the replication details and drop everything and then change the servername and restart the services for the changes to take affect and later recreate the replication

Reply

Praba

January 10, 2018 3:25 pm

Thanks, It's working perfectly

Reply

Pinal Dave

January 26, 2018 4:05 am

Cool. Thanks.

Reply

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Kumar

March 13, 2019 8:21 am

We have a 3 node cluster with Always ON configuration.

When I execute the below query on all three servers @@servername gives a different name.

SELECT SERVERPROPERTY('ServerName') as [InstanceName]
, SERVERPROPERTY('ComputerNamePhysicalNetBIOS') as[ComputerNamePhysicalNetBIOS]
, @@SERVERNAME as ServerName

Can I use below code from your post to rename to its correct server name?
EXEC sp_dropserver 'old_name';
GO
EXEC sp_addserver 'new_name', 'local';
GO
I have one database in always on configuration which is set to have backups to happen on the primary server, but for some reason the backups are not happening.

Digging deep into the issue, I figured out that the server name is wrong. This is lower environment but want transaction log backups to occur on the server which uses ola Hallengren.

Can I change the server names in AlwaysOn Failover Clustering Instances (FCI)?

Please advise.

Reply

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Pinal Dave is a SQL Server Performance Tuning Expert and an independent consultant. He has authored 11 SQL Server database books, 23 Pluralsight courses and has written over 4700 articles on the database technology on his blog at a https://blog.sqlauthority.com. Along with 16+ years of hands on experience he holds a Masters of Science degree and a number of database certifications.

For any **SQL Server Performance Tuning Issue** send an email at **pinal@sqlauthority.com** .

Pinal is also a CrossFit Level 1 Trainer (CF-L1) and CrossFit Level 2 Trainer (CF-L2).

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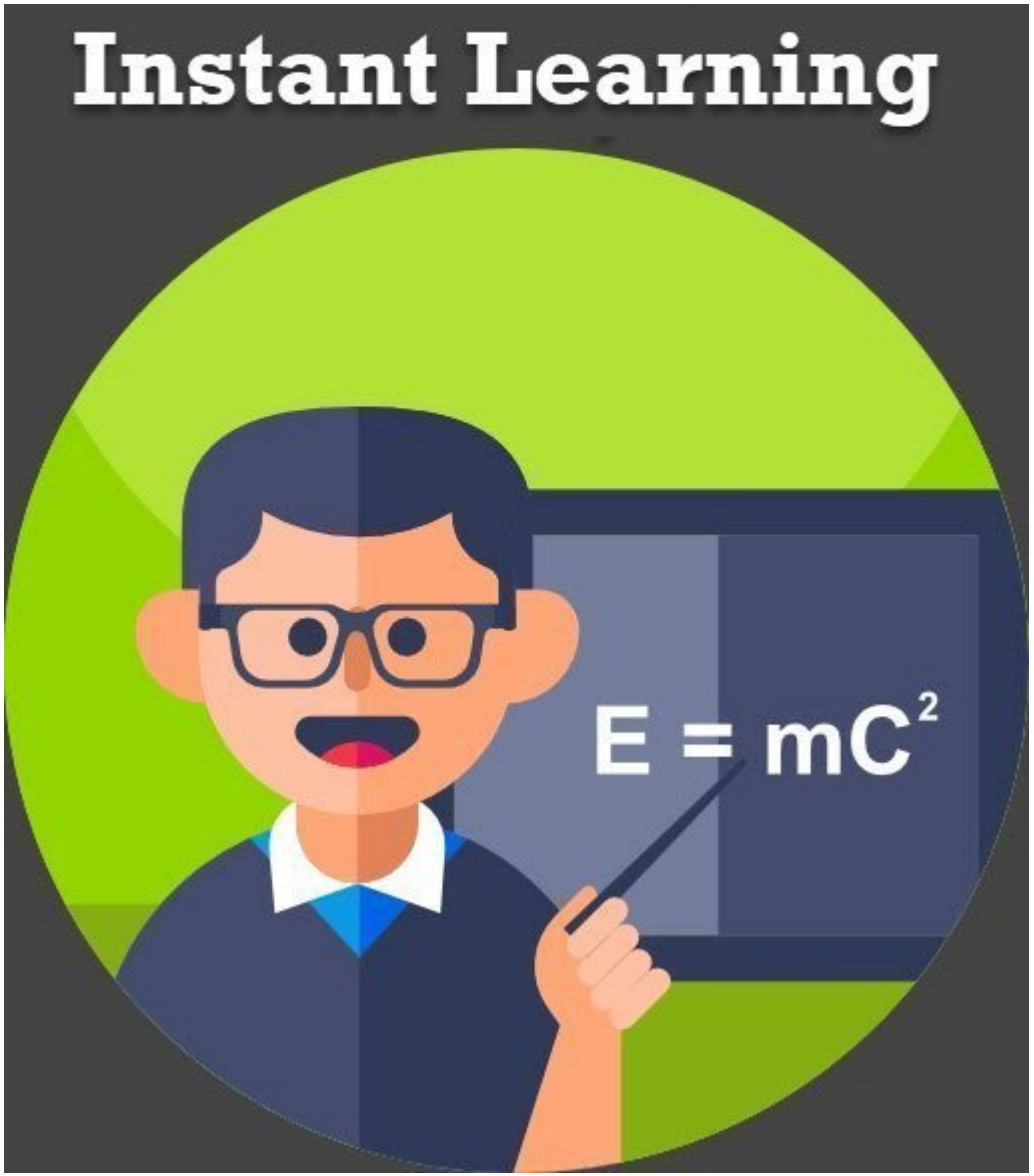
Nupur Dave is a social media enthusiast and an independent consultant.



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