

SQL Formatter for SQL Management Studio [closed]

Asked 10 years, 7 months ago Active 2 months ago Viewed 273k times



227



51

I was wondering if there is a plugin/tool for SQL Server Management Studio that will format your SQL?

I'm working with some large-ish stored procs that are a mangled mess of poorly formatted SQL and it'd be nice if I could just go "Select All -> Format SQL"

sql

formatting

ssms

asked Dec 31 '08 at 0:28



lomaxx

58.5k

55

133

172

closed as off-topic by [kleopatra](#), [Ben](#), [liyakat](#), [LSerni](#), [rcs](#) Oct 14 '13 at 7:08

This question appears to be off-topic. The users who voted to close gave this specific reason:

- "Questions asking us to **recommend or find a tool, library or favorite off-site resource** are off-topic for Stack Overflow as they tend to attract opinionated answers and spam. Instead, [describe the problem](#) and what has been done so far to solve it." – [kleopatra](#), [Ben](#), [liyakat](#), [LSerni](#), [rcs](#)

If this question can be reworded to fit the rules in the [help center](#), please [edit the question](#).

1 SQLinForm provides a Hotkey feature – [Guido](#) Sep 15 '15 at 21:48

1 it has now a free online formatter: sqlinform.com/sql_formatter_online.html – [Guido](#) Sep 26 '15 at 20:57

11 Answers



105

Today I discovered Apex SQL Refactor. It is a free plugin. Integrates with SSMS. Downside is that it is an all or nothing process. It does not refactor as you type.



MauMen

1,269 1 9 7

-
- 17 Perhaps things have changed again? [Apex SQL Refactor](#) looks like it has a Free and a Pro (\$299) version. – [Randy Levy](#) Sep 23 '11 at 17:07
-
- 4 +1 for the Apex SQL Refactor recommendation. Right now it is one of their free tools. – [Jon Jaussi](#) Nov 21 '13 at 16:20
-
- 3 Here is the download link: apexsql.com/zips/ApexSQLRefactor.exe – [Bhavin Shah](#) Dec 18 '14 at 6:26
-
- 3 I added this thing and it completely hijacked all my keyboard shortcuts even in regular Visual Studio...not just SSMS. I also got into a nice Visual Studio crash cycle and had to kill them using task manager... uninstalled and will try Poor Man's formatter. – [Brett Green](#) Jan 6 '17 at 16:55
-
- 1 Apex SQL Refactor is very good and its free tool – [Tejasvi Hegde](#) Mar 2 '17 at 6:29
-



250



Late answer, but hopefully worthwhile: The [Poor Man's T-SQL Formatter](#) is an open-source (free) T-SQL formatter with complete T-SQL batch/script support (any DDL, any DML), SSMS Plugin, command-line bulk formatter, and other options.

It's available for immediate/online use at <http://poorsql.com>, and just today graduated to "version 1.0" (it was in beta version for a few months), having just acquired support for `MERGE` statements, `OUTPUT` clauses, and other finicky stuff.

The SSMS Add-in allows you to set your own hotkey (default is `Ctrl` - `K`, `Ctrl` - `F`, to match Visual Studio), and formats the entire script or just the code you have selected/highlighted, if any. Output formatting is customizable.

In SSMS 2008 it combines nicely with the built-in intelli-sense, effectively providing more-or-less the same base functionality as Red Gate's SQL Prompt (SQL Prompt does, of course, have extra stuff, like snippets, quick object scripting, etc).

Feedback/feature requests are more than welcome, please give it a whirl if you get the chance!

Disclosure: This is probably obvious already but I wrote this library/tool/site, so this answer is also shameless self-promotion :)

edited May 12 at 16:11

Hp_issei



475 4 13

answered Aug 25 '11 at 21:36




Tao

10.6k 6 57 65

-
- 8 @tao, tried the n++ plugin. it is awesome – [psy](#) Jul 9 '12 at 9:34
-

- 2 On SQL server 2012 the default Ctrl+K, Ctrl+F shortcut doesn't work as it says it is already bound to *Format Selection*. It worked after changing it from DataWarehouse Designer::Ctrl+K Ctrl+F to Global::Ctrl+K Ctrl+F – [Marco Lackovic](#) Apr 27 '15 at 8:40
-




- 5 see hints for SSMS 2014 instalations stackoverflow.com/questions/23303026/... – Alexander Sigachov May 14 '15 at 15:09
- 2 Great tool but not compatible with 2016 RTM – dmeglio Jun 15 '16 at 17:21
- 2 @Jordan: in Windows 10 the .Net Framework 3.5 SP1 (including .Net 2.0) is an optional feature of windows, that can be enabled in the "Turn Windows features on or off" screen/functionality. It's called ".NET Framework 3.5 (includes .NET 2.0 and 3.0)", and it's right at the top of the list of optional features - does this not work for you? (yes, sorry, requiring .Net 2.0 in this day & age is probably not reasonable... Created Issue github.com/TaoK/PoorMansTSqlFormatter/issues/199 to track) – Tao Jun 1 '18 at 7:51 



106



There is a special trick I discovered by accident.

1. Select the query you wish to format.
2.  +  +  (This will open your query in the query designer)
3. Then just go OK Voila! Query designer will format your query for you. Caveat is that you can only do this for statements and not procedural code, but its better than nothing.

edited Aug 1 '17 at 15:03



Cœur

21.5k

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answered May 16 '12 at 23:48



Justin

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- 7 Nice tip. Sadly, while this method does work, it does a fairly poor job imho. But at least there's something builtin. – [John Homer](#) Jul 12 '12 at 15:07
- it formatted but not the expected way. Anyway something is better than nothing :)..... Thanks for the tip. – [Jaini Naveen](#) Feb 26 '13 at 21:59
- 2 Well, as far as I can tell, although it does not really do the best job, it does something, and its out-of-the-box, and you don't have to pay for it. But only one person thought to tick it up as Useful. Im amazed really, I thought I had this one pegged ;-) – [Justin](#) Feb 27 '13 at 2:46
- 1 I discovered that, similarly, queries are formatted when pasted into a new View. But, this is much cleaner... +1. – [Feckmore](#) Mar 19 '14 at 18:20
- 15 this will work only if the contents of the query can able to represent graphically. – [kbvishnu](#) Dec 17 '14 at 13:12



23



Red-Gate makes a couple, either Sql Prompt Pro or Sql Refactor. There are a million others out there that do not plug into management studio, but Red-Gate makes the only plugin I know of and it works very well. They also provide intelli-sense and a few other useful features.

http://www.red-gate.com/products/SQL_Prompt/index.htm

answered Dec 31 '08 at 0:31



Shane Delmore

1,420 2 12 18

- 3 SLQ Refactor is pretty nice, altho \$295 is probably a little out of my price range for this particular project. I'll definately keep it in mind for next time tho – [lomaxx](#) Dec 31 '08 at 0:33

The Red Gate SQL Refactor/Prompt. Is quite nice and has handled all my wishes this far. – [bjorsig](#) Dec 31 '08 at 0:43

Anyone who uses SQL regularly will save lots of time with this. – [LeppyR64](#) Dec 31 '08 at 1:15

Redgate now provides SQL Prompt formatting online using a web form. format-sql.com It's not a SSMS plugin, but it's great for one-offs and if you don't have any privacy concerns. – [Michael J Swart](#) May 23 '12 at 18:34

This is a free, online one: <http://www.sqlinform.com/> (requires Java Runtime Environment)

edited Sep 29 '09 at 11:34

answered Dec 31 '08 at 0:54



Mitch Wheat

261k 36 411 504

- 1 This is a good one, based on a few simple queries. – [LeppyR64](#) Dec 31 '08 at 1:17

They also have a downloadable executable. – [GluedHands](#) Dec 31 '08 at 20:46

The downloadable version is only \$30, so much cheaper than RedGate – [Michael La Voie](#) Feb 9 '10 at 19:22

Actually \$50 now. Just tried it, and it works well and is customizable. – [thomaspaulb](#) Jun 18 '10 at 8:52

Today, they say "The free Notepad++ Plug-In is now available. Please click here" (didn't try. also don't know if it still requires Java) – [Daniel Alder](#) Apr 26 '17 at 11:36

It is not built in, but it's fast to use it. :) <http://www.dpriver.com/pp/sqlformat.htm>

answered Jun 21 '11 at 11:32



Julia Matolicz

91 1 1

7 Not a plugin for SSMS, but I find this handy to keep as a bookmark in my browser: <http://www.dpriver.com/pp/sqlformat.htm>

Edit: Oops - I just noticed they have versions for SSMS, Visual Studio, and a desktop version etc. Haven't tried them personally yet.

answered Feb 18 '10 at 2:03



[Phil Haselden](#)

2,126 3 23 23

Here is SQL formatter add-in for SQL Server Management studio: dpriver.com/products/sqlpp/ssms_index.php – James Jan 3 '11 at 10:12

5 [This one \(Gudu Software\)](#) is pretty good, works in Management Studio and is pretty cheap. It needs more options in my opinion but haven't used it for a few months, maybe they've added some new features. I was happy with it when I used it. Also has a free online version.

edited Jan 21 '10 at 13:26



[edosoft](#)

11.7k 24 71 106

answered Dec 31 '08 at 0:52



[jcollum](#)

20.4k 38 142 246

this one is more in my immediate price range... thanks – [lomaxx](#) Jan 5 '09 at 22:52

This add-in for SSMS(dpriver.com/products/sqlpp/ssms_index.php) has more than 80 format options now. – James Dec 29 '10 at 14:21

5 [SSMS Tools Pack](#) does a good job of formatting and the other tools in the pack come in quite handy

edited Dec 9 '11 at 18:11



[z-boss](#)

7,329 12 42 76

answered Jun 18 '10 at 14:42



[MG48](#)

68 1 5

3 As far as I can tell it just makes all keywords upper or lower case, pretty rudimentary. – [Nathan Baulch](#) Sep 10 '10 at 2:42

1 The version for Management Studio 2012 requires purchasing a license starting on 25€. – [Álvaro González](#) Jun 21 '13 at 9:05



2



This web site here does basic SQL keyword capitalisation:

<http://www.ascdesc.com>

answered Oct 6 '10 at 0:17



[gb2d](#)

3,465

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86



1



Or you could try my formatter. It is not free. it is a command line tool and it can be integrated with SSMS as an external tool.... [Tidycode T-Sql Formatter](#)

answered Sep 7 '10 at 7:57



[Aftershock](#)

3,364

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