

# Working with Traces

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## Step-by-Step Guide

1. Launch SQL Server Profiler
  - Open SSMS 2022.
  - Go to Tools > SQL Server Profiler.
2. Connect to SQL Server
  - In SQL Server Profiler, click File > New Trace.
  - Enter the server name and authentication details, then click Connect.
3. Configure Trace Properties
  - In the Trace Properties window:
    - Enter a name for your trace in the Trace name box.
    - Choose a template from the Use the template list (e.g., Standard, TSQL, or Blank for custom settings).
    - Select Save to file and browse to choose a location for your trace file. Optionally, select Save to table to store results in a database table.
4. Set Trace Options
  - Optionally, set a maximum file size or number of rows.
  - You can specify a stop time for the trace under Enable trace stop time.
5. Select Events and Columns
  - Go to the Events Selection tab.
  - Check the events you want to monitor (e.g., SQL:BatchCompleted, RPC:Completed, etc.).
  - You can filter events by database, login, or other criteria.
  - Click Show all events and Show all columns for more options.
6. Start the Trace
  - Click Run to start the trace.
  - SQL Server Profiler will begin capturing events according to your settings.

## 7. Stop the Trace

- When you have collected enough data, click the Stop Selected Trace button (red square icon) to stop the trace.

## 8. Save and Analyze

- If you saved the trace to a file, you can open it later in SQL Server Profiler or analyze it using T-SQL functions like `fn_trace_gettable`. (optional)
- If you saved to a table, you can query the table directly for analysis. (Recommended)