

Creating Audits in Sql Server

Step-by-step guide to configure SQL Server Audit in SQL Server 2022:

Step 1: Create a Server Audit

- Open SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) and connect to your instance.
- Expand Security > Audits.
- Right-click Audits and select New Audit.
- In the Create Audit dialog:
 - Provide a name for the audit.
 - Specify the audit destination: file, Application Log, or Security Log.
 - If using a file, specify the file path and other options like max file size.
- Click OK to create the audit.

Step 2: Enable the Server Audit

- Right-click your created audit under Audits and click Enable Audit.

Step 3: Create a Server Audit Specification

- Expand Security > Server Audit Specifications.
- Right-click and select New Server Audit Specification.
- In the dialog:
 - Name the specification.
 - Choose the audit you created in Step 1.
 - Select server-level audit actions like AUDIT_LOGIN, FAILED_LOGIN_GROUP, SERVER_ROLE_MEMBER_CHANGE_GROUP.
- Click OK.

Step 4: Enable the Server Audit Specification

- Right-click the server audit specification you created and click Enable Server Audit Specification.

Step 5: Create a Database Audit Specification (Optional)

- For database-level auditing, expand the specific database > Security > Database Audit Specifications.
- Right-click and select New Database Audit Specification.
- Provide a name and select the audit created in Step 1.
- Select database-level audit actions such as SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE on specific objects or schemas.
- Click OK.

Step 6: Enable the Database Audit Specification

- Right-click the database audit specification and click Enable Database Audit Specification.

Step 7: Review Audit Logs

- Audit logs are stored based on the destination specified (file, Application Log, or Security Log).
- Use SSMS or built-in functions like `fn_get_audit_file()` to read audit logs.

Notes:

- Auditing can impact performance; scope your audit actions carefully.
- You can create filters and conditions for fine-grained auditing.
- SQL Server Audit helps with compliance and security monitoring.

This is the foundational process for setting up and managing SQL Server Audit in SSMS 2022.