

# Recover SQL Server Instance if failed to start

---

Here we will take the case, where the ALTER command used to manage storage configuration for system dbs fail. The same could occur for any of the configurations.

At such times, we force start the sql server instance in single user mode and correct the commands from the sqlcmd terminal.

CASE: To execute the ALTER DATABASE command in sqlcmd to change the tempdb file paths when the SQL Server default instance has stopped and can only start in single-user mode, follow these steps:

1. Start SQL Server in single-user mode with the **sqlcmd** application as the single user:  
Start -> sqlcmd

```
> net start MSSQLServer /f /T3608
```

2. Connect to the SQL Server instance using sqlcmd:

```
> sqlcmd -S <server_name> -E
```

Use -S for your SQL Server instance name and -E for integrated Windows authentication.

3. Once connected, switch to the master database and run the ALTER DATABASE commands to modify the tempdb files' paths: **Copy one line at a time, in sql cmd**

```
USE master;  
GO  
ALTER DATABASE tempdb MODIFY FILE (NAME = templog, FILENAME = C:\TempDb_Log\templog.ldf);  
GO
```

4. After running these commands, stop the SQL Server, move the physical tempdb files to the new location matching the paths specified, and then restart the SQL Server normally from *SQL Server Configuration Manager -> SqlServices -> MSSQLServer* (Right-click on it, and click start)

This should help you work with a crashed sql server instance. In place of alter command used above, you can any other command also, and revert to the original configurations. Then restart the server normally.