

# Re: How do i move an SQLDatabase to another location?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.adonet/2007-03/msg00342.html>

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- *From:* "RobinS" <[RobinS@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:RobinS@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 20 Mar 2007 22:52:42 -0700
- 

And no, the SQLServer forum does not answer the kinds of questions you are asking. This is the appropriate place to ask them.

Robin S.

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"Tony Girgenti" <[tony\(nospam\)@lakesideos.com](mailto:tony(nospam)@lakesideos.com)> wrote in message  
[news:ukYnstopaHHA.5044@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:ukYnstopaHHA.5044@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Hello Earl.

I'm new at all this and i might have more "luck" if someone wouldn't mine telling me what kinds of subjects to research so that i can figure this stuff out myself.

I'm not looking to the forums to give me the exact details of how to code this project, i provide the details to people like Bill so that they can use those details to point me in the right direction. I'm not asking for anybody to navigate through any scenarios. I can do that. Just tell me where to go.

I'm sure that Bill really knows what he is talking about because i see a lot of his replies in these forums and i'm sure he knows a heck of a lot more than i do. It seems the people in this forum hold him in high regard. However, i don't like Bill pointing me to his website for answers.

Does the SQL forum answer questions about windows forms/database projects and how to deploy them?

Thanks,  
Tony

"Earl" <[brikshoe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:brikshoe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:OBVQ1RpaHHA.1220@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:OBVQ1RpaHHA.1220@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Re: How do i move an SQLDatabase to another location?

That's funny. Almost. Very gracious too. Bill answers a ton of technical questions that could make up many books if you took the time to algamate the answers. Frankly I've found that without some books to put all the pieces together, you are just floundering in the forums. There is simply no way you can navigate through all of the different scenarios without a comprehensive view of the problem and the various solutions. In your case, good luck figuring out how to deal with the various idiosyncracies of an SQL installation, or as you say, "take a finished project with an empty database to a client location, install it and have it run using the database without having connection string, security, SQL error message and program bombing issues." That is a book all unto itself, encompassing ADO.Net, SQLEXPRESS, deployment, scripting, exception handling, and persistence of settings. You might get some of those answers over in the SQL forums, but bring your heat shields, as they are not generally as diplomatic.

"Tony Girgenti" <tony(nospam)@lakesideos.com> wrote in message [news:%23mFqdVoaHHA.808@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23mFqdVoaHHA.808@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Hello Bill.

I'm just looking for an answer to where i can look to learn how to do what i want to do.

These forums are not a place for you to sell your book.

Thanks,  
Tony

"William (Bill) Vaughn" <billvaRemoveThis@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:e4hwgenaHHA.4716@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:e4hwgenaHHA.4716@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Well, yes. SQL Server is not a "file-based" database like JET or SQL Server Express Edition. It requires that the SQL Server service be installed and configured (somewhere). This "somewhere" can be on the client system for a single-user application or on a LAN/WAN share that's properly exposed by the server and the service. This means that when you design your application, you should have one of these scenarios in mind. It also means you'll typically need to take steps to either ensure that the SQLEXPRESS instance of SQL Server is running "somewhere" visible or install it yourself

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during application setup.

The new UserInstance approach can get you very close to this scenario, but again, it requires SQL Server Express (and only Express) be installed on the client system (along with your application). To that you would copy your .MDF file which would be attached automatically the first time it was opened.

Another approach you might consider is the SQL Server Compact Edition which is NOT a service-type DBMS engine—it can be installed with or without admin rights along with the single-file .SDF database.

I expect you would benefit a great deal from my new book that walks through all of these issues from your point of view.

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William (Bill) Vaughn  
Author, Mentor, Consultant  
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[www.betav.com](http://www.betav.com)

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Visit [www.hitchhikerguides.net](http://www.hitchhikerguides.net) to get more information on my latest book:  
Hitchhiker's Guide to Visual Studio and SQL Server (7th Edition)  
and Hitchhiker's Guide to SQL Server 2005 Compact Edition (EBook)

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"Tony Girgenti"

<[tony\(nospam\)@lakesideos.com](mailto:tony(nospam)@lakesideos.com)> wrote in message

Re: How do i move an SQLDatabase to another location?

news:ePe\$dFnHHA.1240@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hello Bill.

From your reply, i thought you were trying to give me a hint as to where to look to figure out what i want to do. I read some of the SQL Server Management Studio Express documentation and it does not seem to contain info about what i want to do.

I guess i should have been more specific in explaining what i ultimately want to do.

I want to be able to take a finished project with an empty database to a client location, install it and have it run using the database without having connection string, security, SQL error message and program bombing issues.

I figured this could be done inside the program by creating some kind of dynamic connection string, but i just don't know where to look to find out how to do it.

Do i need to bring SQL Server Express with me to the clients?

Do i need to know what the connection string will look like before i go there?

How do i determine if i

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want to have a shared  
server-based database  
or do i want to have one that  
installed independently on  
the client?

I don't even know what  
these terms mean. I just  
want to be able to  
take my stuff somewhere  
and have it work without  
getting a bunch of  
error messages.

Thanks,  
Tony

"William (Bill) Vaughn"  
<billvaRemoveThis@xxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in  
message

[news:uB1YefmaHHA.808@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uB1YefmaHHA.808@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Where you place your  
database (.mdf and .ldf)  
file(s) is up to you.

If you use the VS UI tools,  
there are a number of  
defaults that kick  
in and (as you found) SQL  
Server uses it's own  
"favorite" place to  
keep databases--you aren't  
given a choice to pick your  
own location.

SQL Server Express Edition  
adds even more options (and  
complexity) as  
it permits you to have a  
user-instance of SQL server  
with its own  
(another) copy of the  
database. Yes, you can  
choose to put your  
database in the project as  
well. As I illustrate in the  
book, you can  
end up with 6 or more  
versions of the database in  
minutes. While each  
of these database instances  
can be updated, it might

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appear that they  
are not due to the

I'm of the opinion, that one  
needs to decide on a  
deployment strategy  
before clicking through the  
defaults. You need to decide  
if you want  
to have a shared  
server-based database, one  
that's installed  
independently on the client  
or one that's associated with  
your  
project. How you manage  
these SQL Server servers  
and instances and  
the databases you create is  
really up to you. Do the VS  
IDE tools  
help? Yes, but not very  
much. SQL Server  
Management Studio gives  
you  
a lot more options and (thus)  
control over what gets built  
where and  
when.

hth

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William (Bill) Vaughn  
Author, Mentor, Consultant  
Microsoft MVP  
INETA Speaker  
[www.betav.com/blog/billva](http://www.betav.com/blog/billva)  
[www.betav.com](http://www.betav.com)  
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[www.hitchhikerguides.net](http://www.hitchhikerguides.net)  
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my latest  
book:  
Hitchhiker's Guide to Visual  
Studio and SQL Server (7th  
Edition)  
and Hitchhiker's Guide to  
SQL Server 2005 Compact  
Edition (EBook)

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"Tony Girgenti"  
<tony(nospam)@lakesideos.com>  
wrote in message  
[news:OOf5a%23laHHA.4788@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:OOf5a%23laHHA.4788@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Hello.

I realize my  
other post  
was a bit  
lengthy, so  
i'd like to  
repost  
this  
question.

Developing  
VS2005,  
SP1, .NET  
2.0, VB  
Windows  
form  
program on  
WIN XP  
Pro,  
SP2. It has  
a Dataset  
with two  
tables using  
an SQL 9.0  
Server  
Express.

After  
creating a  
new  
database  
from the VS  
server  
explorer, it  
seems

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that the  
new  
database  
always  
resides in  
\\C:\Program  
Files\Microsoft  
SQL  
Server\MSSQL.1\MSSQL\Data.

When i  
create the  
datasource,  
it asks if i  
want to  
copy it to  
my  
project.  
If i answer  
yes, i  
cannot  
update the  
database.

How do i  
move the  
database to  
another  
location?

Any help  
would be  
gratefully  
appreciated.

Thanks,  
Tony

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