

# List SQL servers in a network

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.general/2005-08/msg01354.html>

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  - *Date:* Fri, 26 Aug 2005 09:28:37 +0200
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I know this is a very common issue and I found a lot of hints on this topic in www but I did not find a very good solution for this task.

Most of the solutions use SQLDMO to list all sql servers in the network like this C# code:

```
public static string[] GetAvailableSQLServers()
{
// declare arraylist to hold results
ArrayList servers = new ArrayList();

// create and initialize necessary SQL access objects (see SQLDMO.dll)
SQLDMO.ApplicationClass sqlApp = new SQLDMO.ApplicationClass();
SQLDMO.NameList sqlServers = sqlApp.ListAvailableSQLServers();
for(int i=0;i<sqlServers.Count;i++)
{
object srv = sqlServers.Item(i + 1);
if(srv != null)
{
servers.Add(srv.ToString());
}
}
// convert arraylist to string array and return it
return servers.ToArray(Type.GetType("System.String")) as string[];
}
```

But there are two main problems:

- this does not work with Windows XP (see SQLDMO documentation: it works only with Windows NT 4.0 and 2000)
- it does not work on a local PC that is not connected to the network (it does not show any instance that is available)

Does anybody have a better solution for this task?

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## List SQL servers in a network

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