

## Re: Losing connections with SQL 2005

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.connect/2007-03/msg00143.html>

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- *From:* "Jeremy" <[jeremy-nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jeremy-nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 24 Mar 2007 18:32:35 -0700
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Bill, I do appreciate your detailed and thoughtful response. However, our application did not experience dropped connections under sql 2k (or they were so insignificant no one bothered me about it), whereas despite our best efforts, I see many error reports every day with sql 2k5. Seems quite clear that the problem is dramatically worse with the new version.

Jeremy

"William (Bill) Vaughn" <[billvaRemoveThis@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:billvaRemoveThis@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:OaM5uelbHHA.4808@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:OaM5uelbHHA.4808@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Ahem... the ability to stay connected once connected has been a perennial issue. I can remember back to the earliest versions of SQL Server when connections "aged" out for some unknown reason. No, I don't know the actual reason, but symptoms lead me to believe that there is an ack/nak protocol in the TDS that basically pings the application at the driver level to see if the server or client is still there. This makes sense as SQL Server automatically detects if the client falls into the sea or gets disconnected for some reason. This polling has to be done on the server as it scans the current connections to see if there is activity (work to be done) or if there is still a client (albeit inactive) attached. I suspect that if the client is busy (running Age of Empires or Windows OneCare) and can't respond in time or the event is simply lost (as can happen in Windows message-loop-based applications) the server thinks the client has dropped off. My solution to this is to keep polling the server (once every 30 seconds or so seems to be more than enough) to keep the connection alive. Does the Connection pooling mechanism do this on its own? BHOM, but I would not be surprised. I have not seen evidence of this in the Profiler logs though. I suspect it's done at the TDS provider level. Since we don't have access to those APIs, one can constantly close and reopen the connection (use the Connection pool) or poll (which is pretty easy and faster as it does not require reauthentication, resetting the connection and loss of the server state). To poll you can execute any SQL like "USE <initial catalog>" or "DECLARE i as INT".

I'm not sure I said that keeping a connection open is a "preferred" method, just a perfectly viable method--assuming you know the costs.

Re: Losing connections with SQL 2005

hth

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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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"Jeremy" <jeremy-nospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:uAzf37ibHHA.2088@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uAzf37ibHHA.2088@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Darrel, we have exactly this issue, but with a different front end language. We converted in Nov 06 and immediately our remote clients began having serious issues just as you describe. We reduced that somewhat by implementing an ado connection object that "pings" periodically to keep the connection alive, but in recent weeks the problem has gotten worse again.

I ran into Bill Vaughn at a user group meeting late last year and picked his brain (or should I say "opened the tap"). The bottom line seemed to be: the most effective solution is to upgrade the app to dotnet; changing to sql native client can help somewhat; "pinging" can also help. Upgrading our app is a really big task, and we haven't done it. We did the ping thing and the native client thing, but as I said, those things alone are not the solution. We opened a ticket with MS and spend hours in emails and on the phone with overseas MS support people on this issue. They really didn't have a clue.

By the way, look at Bill's posting on 3/2/07 in which he says unequivocally that for a win app, connecting and staying connected is a preferred practice. Obviously Sue Hoegemeier does not agree.

My view is that MS is either unaware of, in denial about, or unwilling to acknowledge and correct this issue.

Jeremy

"Darrel Miller" <DarrelMiller@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in

Re: Losing connections with SQL 2005

message

[news:46643664-0C8E-4C94-8DE4-4704518EAE8A@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:46643664-0C8E-4C94-8DE4-4704518EAE8A@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

We have a VB6 application that I recently converted over from SQL Server 2000 to SQL Server 2005. At numerous customer locations I am now experiencing occasional "lost connection" problems. This never happened with SQL 2000. Our client app does not use pooled connections and I have not been able to find a clean way to recover from the broken connection problem. If I check the status of the Connection it claims that it is open, it is only if I try to make a database request that I get the error back. Re-opening the connection solves the problem.

Is anyone aware of SQL Server 2005 doing anything different with respect to keeping database connections open?

Thanks,