











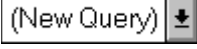


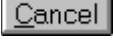


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Overview of ISQL/w

The ISQL/w utility provides a graphical way to query SQL Server, analyze the execution plan of a query, and view statistics information about an executed query. You can execute multiple queries simultaneously with ISQL/w.

Navigation in ISQL/w can be done using the menus, the keyboard, and the buttons illustrated below.

Use this button	To
	Connect to and disconnect from SQL Servers.
	Show query results in multiple query result windows.
	Show query results in the bottom half of the Query window.
	Open a new Query window.
	Open a saved query.
	Save a query to a file.
	Set query options.
	Turn NO EXEC (compile a query without executing it) on or off.
	Turn graphical Showplan on or off.
	Turn graphical Statistics I/O on or off.
	Select between available queries.
	Remove an executed query/result set from the Queries box.
	Execute a query.
	Cancel the execution of a query.

Starting a New Query

When you open ISQL/w and connect to a SQL Server, the Query window is available for typing queries. Once you execute a query, you can start a new query. The queries you have executed are listed in the Queries box, and you can switch between the queries at any time. Before you can start a new query, you must execute the query that you typed in the Query window.

To start a new query

1. From the File menu, choose New.
2. In the Queries box, select New Query, or choose the New button (shown above).

Related Topics

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Saving a Query

You can save a query to a file for later use. Before you save the query, be sure that the insertion point is in the Query window, not in a query results window.

To save a query

1. Type the query in the Query window.
2. From the File menu, choose Save As, or choose the Save button (shown above).

The Save File dialog box appears.

3. Type a name for the file.
4. Choose the OK button.

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Saving Query Results

You can save the results from a query to a file. You can edit the text first, if necessary. Before you save query results, be sure that the insertion point is in the appropriate results window, not the Query window.

To save query results

1. Type the query in the Query window.
2. Choose the Execute button, or press ALT+X or CTRL+E.
The query results appear. Edit the information, if necessary.
3. From the File menu, choose Save As, or choose the Save button (shown above).
The Save File dialog box appears.
4. Type a name for the File.
5. Choose the OK button.

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Printing Query Results

You can print query results. You can edit the information first, if necessary. Be sure the insertion point is in the query results window.

To print query results

1. Type the query in the Query window.
2. Choose the Execute button, or press ALT+X or CTRL+E.
The query results appear. Edit the information, if necessary.
3. From the File menu, choose Print.

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Configuring ISQL/w

You can change configuration options that set timeouts for login attempts and for retrieving query results. You can also set automatic ANSI to OEM character conversion and set how often the ISQL/w result scheduler is called.

To configure ISQL/w

1. From the File menu, choose Configure.

The Configure ISQL/w dialog box appears.

2. Set the appropriate configuration preferences:

- In the Login timeout box, type the amount of time, in seconds, that the server should wait before terminating a login attempt.
- In the Query timeout box, type the amount of time, in seconds, to wait while retrieving query results. If you exceed the timeout, you will be prompted to wait for another period
- In the Multitask Granularity box, type the time, in milliseconds, that the result scheduler is called.

This is used for scheduling how fast query results return to ISQL/w. The lower the value, the faster the query results are returned; however, other Windows-based applications' response times will decline. The higher the value, the slower the results are returned to ISQL/w; however, cooperation between ISQL/w and other Windows-based applications will increase.

- To activate character conversion, select the ANSI -> OEM box. This corrects problems with extended characters displaying incorrectly as graphics instead of as letters with diacritical marks when SQL Server is not using the ANSI (ISO) character set.

To set all options to their default values

- Choose the Defaults button.

Editing Queries and Query Results

You can cut, copy, paste, and delete the text in the Query or query results windows.

To edit the query or query results

1. Type a query in the Query window. Edit the query, if necessary.
2. Choose the Execute button.
The query results appear.
3. Place the insertion point in the results window and then, from the Edit menu, choose the appropriate editing task.

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Displaying Query Results

You can display query results in a separate window or in the bottom half of the Query window.

To change the way query results are displayed

- From the View menu, choose Multiple MDI to display query results in multiple results windows. Or choose Single MDI to display query results in the bottom half of the Query window. You can also choose the Multiple MDI or Single MDI buttons (shown above).

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Removing a Query

If you no longer need a query and its results that are listed in the Queries box, you can remove it. You can also clear the existing query from the Query window by choosing Clear Window from the Query menu. The query you type will replace the previous query in the Queries box when you re-execute the query.

To remove a query and its results

1. In the Queries box, select the query.
2. From the Query menu, choose Remove. Or choose the Remove button (shown above).

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Executing a Query

After you have typed a query in the Query window, you can execute the query. Once you have executed the query, it is listed in the Queries box. To replace that query, you can type over it in the Query window. Once you have started executing a query, you can start a new query by choosing File New or, in the Queries box, selecting New Query.

To execute a query

1. Type a query in the Query window.
2. Choose the Execute button, or press ALT+X or CTRL+E.

The query results appear.

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Using Graphical Showplan

Graphical Showplan shows the query execution plan for a query. You can generate the query plan without executing the query by choosing the NO EXEC option. You can also generate a textual execution plan of the query by setting Show Query Plan in the Query Options dialog box.

To use graphical showplan

1. Type a query in the Query window.
2. Choose the Showplan button (shown above).

To generate Showplan results without executing the query, choose the NO EXEC button.

3. Choose the Execute button, or press ALT+X or CTRL+E.

The Query Plan window appears. You can change the font of the query plan text, zoom out to view an overview of the query execution plan, zoom in to view the detailed query execution plan, and display the steps of the query plan.

[Details About the Query Chart](#)

[Details About the Query Plan Steps](#)

Related Topics




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Details About the Query Chart

The Query Plan chart shows the name of the table(s) used, the method used to access the table(s), and the join path between tables. SQL Server uses one of three methods to access the table(s):

-  Using the clustered index (indicated by a green border)
-  Using a specified index (indicated by a yellow border)
-  Using a table scan, in which no indexes are used and the table is scanned sequentially (indicated by a red border)

Details About the Query Plan Steps

The query plan steps contain three parts: the result number, the steps that indicate subprocesses that occur during the query execution, and the action. The steps indicate the path that the optimizer chose to most efficiently process the query. Multistep processes usually occur when data must first be gathered and then sorted in a worktable. The action indicates the processing occurring on the tables listed in the chart.

Action	Result
SELECT	The query will retrieve data from the tables listed.
SELECT (into worktable)	The query will retrieve data from the tables listed and put the data into a worktable for further processing.
INSERT	The query is inserting data into the listed tables.
DELETE	The query is deleting data from the listed tables.
UPDATE	The query is updating data in the listed tables.
/Sorting	The query will sort the data in the listed tables.

Using Graphical Statistics I/O

Graphical Statistics I/O depicts the amount of disk I/O required to access data for a query. You must execute the query in order to get Statistics I/O information, so the NO EXEC option must be turned off. You can also generate a textual description of the Statistics I/O by choosing Show Stats I/O in the Query Options dialog box. There are three I/O statistics: Scan Count, Logical Reads, and Physical Reads.

To use graphical Statistics I/O

1. Type a query in the Query window.
2. Choose the Statistics I/O button.
3. Choose the Execute button, or press ALT+X or CTRL+E.

The Statistics I/O window appears. You can change the colors of the bar chart, change the text font, and display a legend for the chart.

Related Topics

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Scan Count

Indicates the number of times the query engine "visited" the table during the process of retrieving the data. Generally, for single table queries, the table is scanned once. For "lookup tables" (tables that are joined during processing in order to get more information), the scan count indicates the number of times the table was accessed.

Logical Reads

Indicates the number of index and data pages that were required to get the data needed for the query. This does not equal to the number of rows retrieved for a table, because a page of data can contain many rows.

Physical Reads

Indicates the number of logical reads that actually resulted in data access on the disk. The difference between logical and physical reads indicates the amount of data that was cached. Tables and worktables can appear multiple times in order to process all the data required for the query.

Changing Databases

You can change databases to execute queries on different databases. You must be a user of that database and have appropriate permissions.

To change databases

1. From the Query menu, choose Change Database.
The Change Database dialog box appears.
2. In the Databases box, select the database.
3. Choose the OK button.

Setting Query Options

You can set the options for how a query is processed each time you execute the query.

To set query options

1. From the Query menu, choose Set Options, or choose the Options button.
The Query Options dialog box appears.
2. Under Query Options, select the appropriate options.
3. In the Row Count box, type the number of rows the server should return before ending a query.
The default (0) returns all rows.
4. In the Result Output Format box, select the type of format to display the results in.
5. Select the Verbose Prints box to display the PRINT statements output in the results window.
This option is useful if you are executing the graphical Showplan and/or Statistics I/O.
6. Clear the Print Headers check box if you do not want column headers to appear in the query results.
7. Choose the OK button.

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To log in to a SQL Server

1. In the Server box, select or type the name of a server.

The Server box contains a list of the last 5 servers logged in to . To get a list of servers on the network, choose the List Servers button.

2. In the Login ID box, type your login identification.

If you selected one of the servers listed in the Server box, the last login ID you used to log in to that server is automatically supplied.

3. In the Password box, type your password.
4. Choose the Connect button.

To disconnect from a SQL Server

1. In the Server box, select the server.
2. Choose the Disconnect button.

Password

A confidential word the user supplies to gain access to a SQL Server. Because a password is confidential, it does not appear on the screen when typed. With integrated security for Windows NT, you do not need to provide a password.

Login ID

The unique name a user uses when logging in to a SQL Server. With integrated security for Windows NT, you do not need to provide a login ID.

To connect to a server

1. In the Active Servers box, select the server.

The Active Servers box lists the servers on the network. You can refresh the list by choosing the Refresh button.

2. Choose the OK button.

To configure ISQL/w

1. Set the appropriate configuration preferences.

☐ In the Login timeout box, type the amount of time, in seconds, that the server should wait before terminating a login attempt.

☐ In the Query timeout box, type the amount of time, in seconds, to wait while retrieving query results. If you exceed the timeout, you will be prompted to wait for another period

☐ In the Multitask Granularity box, type the time, in milliseconds, that the result scheduler is called.

☐ Select the ANSI -> OEM box to activate the automatic ANSI to OEM conversion.

This activates character conversion to correct problems with extended characters displaying as graphics instead of letters with diacritical marks on Windows NT-based computers if SQL Server is not using the ANSI (ISO) character set. You must disconnect from SQL Server and reconnect for the selection to take effect. Be aware that this option affects all Windows- and Windows NT-based applications using the DB-Library API, not just ISQL/w (unless the DB-Library application explicitly overrides this setting).

☐ Select the Prompt before Exiting check box to be prompted before you close ISQL/w.

2. Choose the OK button.

To change databases

1. In the Databases box, select the database.
2. Choose the OK button.

To set query options

1. Under Query Options:

Select	To
Abort on Arithmetic Error	End a query when an overflow or divide-by-zero error occurs during a query. You cannot set both Abort on Arithmetic Error and Ignore Arithmetic Error.
Ignore Arithmetic Error	Return NULL when an overflow or divide-by-zero error occurs during a query. You cannot set both Abort on Arithmetic Error and Ignore Arithmetic Error.
No Count Display	Turn off the message returned at the end of each query result that tells how many rows were affected by the query statement.
No Execute	Compile a query but not execute it.
Parse Query Only	Check the syntax of each query and return any error messages without executing the query.
Show Query Plan	Generate a text description of the processing plan for the query as the query is processed. (To generate a graphical description of the processing plan, select the Showplan button on the Query window toolbar. If both the Showplan check box and button are selected, both a text and graphic description of the processing plan are generated.)
Show Stats Time	Display the time it took to parse and compile each query statement and the time it takes to execute each step of the query statement.
Show Stats I/O	Display the number of scans, logical reads, and physical reads for each table referenced in a query statement. (To generate a graphical description of the processing plan, select the Statistics I/O button on the Query window toolbar. If both the Statistics I/O button and check box are selected, both a text and graphical description are generated.)

2. In the Row Count box, type the number of rows the server should return before ending a query. The default (0) returns all rows.
3. In the Result Output Format box, select the type of format to display the results in. The choices are Column Aligned, Comma Separated (CSV), Tab Delimited, and Other Delimiter. If you select Other Delimiter, in the Delimiter box type the delimiter. The default is Column Aligned.

4. Select the Verbose Prints check box to display the PRINT statements output in the results window.
This option is useful if you are executing the graphical Showplan and/or Statistics I/O.
5. Clear the Print Headers check box if you do not want column headers to appear in the query results.
6. Choose the OK button.

ISQL/w Keyboard Help

Choose from the following list to get information about the keys used in ISQL/w:

[Cursor Movement Keys](#)

[Dialog Box Keys](#)

[Menu Keys](#)

[Editing Keys](#)

[Help Keys](#)

[System Keys](#)

[Text Selection Keys](#)

[Windows Keys](#)

[ISQL/w Keys](#)

Editing Keys

Use the following keys to edit text:

Key(s)	Function
BACKSPACE	Deletes the character to the left of the insertion point, or deletes the selected text.
DEL	Deletes the character to the right of the insertion point, or deletes the selected text.
SHIFT+DEL	Deletes the selected text and places it on the Clipboard.
SHIFT+INS	Inserts text from the Clipboard to the active window.
CTRL+INS	Makes a copy of the selected text and places it on the Clipboard.

Help Keys

Use the following keys to get Help information:

Key	Function
F1	Within a dialog box, pressing F1 displays the dialog box Help information. If the Help window is already open, pressing F1 displays information about how to use Help. Within the Query window, if you select Transact-SQL syntax and press F1, help on the Transact-SQL statement is displayed.
ALT+F1	Displays object help (sp_help) for the selected object.

System Keys

The following keys can be used from any window:

Key(s)	Function
CTRL+ESC	Switches to the Task List.
ALT+ESC	Switches to the next application or minimized icon, including full-screen programs.
ALT+TAB	Cycles through running applications.
PRTSC	Copies an image of the entire screen contents onto the Clipboard.
ALT+PRTSC	Copies an image of the ISQL/w window onto the Clipboard.
ALT+F4	Closes the application.
CTRL+F4	Closes the active window.

Dialog Box Keys

Use the following keys within dialog boxes:

Key(s)	Function
TAB	Moves from option to option (left to right and top to bottom).
SHIFT+TAB	Moves from option to option in reverse order.
ALT+letter	Moves to the option or group whose underlined letter matches the one you press.
Arrow keys	Moves the selection cursor from option to option within a group of options. Or moves the cursor left, right, up, or down within a list or text box.
HOME	Moves to the first item or character in a list or text box.
END	Moves to the last item or character in a list or text box.
PAGE UP or PAGE DOWN	Scrolls up or down in a list box, one window at a time.
ALT+Up or Down arrow	Opens a drop-down list box and selects an item within a drop-down list box.
SPACEBAR	Selects or clears a check box.
SHIFT+Arrow key	Selects text in a text box.
SHIFT+HOME	Selects text from the cursor point to the first character in a text box.
SHIFT+END	Selects text from the cursor point to the last character in a text box.
ENTER	Executes a command button, or chooses the selected item in a list box and executes the command.
ESC or ALT+F4	Closes a dialog box without completing the command (same as the Cancel button).

Cursor Movement Keys

Use the following keys to move the insertion point in the Query window and other places where you can type text:

Key(s)	Moves the insertion point
Up arrow	Up one line.
Down arrow	Down one line.
Right arrow	Right one character.
Left arrow	Left one character.
CTRL+Right arrow	Right one word.
CTRL+Left arrow	Left one word.
HOME	To the beginning of the line.
END	To the end of the line.
PAGE UP	Up one window.
PAGE DOWN	Down one window.
CTRL+HOME	To the beginning of the window or text area.
CTRL+END	To the end of the window or text area.

Text Selection Keys

Use the following keys to select text:

Key(s)	Function
SHIFT+Left or Right arrow	Selects text one character at a time to the left or right, or, if the character is already selected, cancels the selection.
SHIFT+Down or Up arrow	Selects one line of text up or down, or, if the line is already selected, cancels the selection.
SHIFT+PAGE UP	Selects text up one window, or, if the previous window is already selected, cancels the selection.
SHIFT+PAGE DOWN	Selects text down one window, or, if the next window is already selected, cancels the selection.
SHIFT+HOME	Selects text to the beginning of the line.
SHIFT+END	Selects text to the end of the line.
CTRL+SHIFT+ Left arrow	Selects the previous word.
CTRL+SHIFT+ Right arrow	Selects the next word.
CTRL+SHIFT+HOM E	Selects text to the beginning of the document.
CTRL+SHIFT+END	Selects text to the end of the document.

Menu Keys

Use the following keys to select menus and choose commands:

Key(s)	Function
ALT or F10	Selects the leftmost menu on the menu bar.
ALT+letter	Chooses the menu or menu item whose underlined letter matches the one you press.
Left or Right arrow	Moves among menus.
Up or Down arrow	Moves among menu items.
ENTER	Chooses the selected menu item.
ESC	Cancels the selected menu.

Windows Keys

Use the following keys to navigate in the Microsoft Windows or Windows NT operating systems:

Key(s)	Function
ALT+SPACEBAR	Opens the System menu for an application.
ALT+- (Hyphen)	Opens the System menu for a document window.
ALT+F4	Closes an application.
ALT+ESC	Switches to the next application or minimized icon, including full-screen programs.
ALT+TAB	Cycles through running applications.
ALT+ENTER	Switches an application for an operating system other than Windows between running in a window and running full screen.
Direction keys	Moves a window when you have chosen Move from the System menu, or changes the size of a window when you have chosen Size from the System menu.

ISQL/w

The following keys are specific to ISQL/w:

Key(s)	Function
CTRL+N	Opens a new query window.
CTRL+O	Displays the Connect Server dialog box.
CTRL+E or ALT+X	Executes a query.
CTRL+Z	Clears the query window.
CTRL+C	Cancels the query.
CTRL+S	Activates the resizing mode for the splitter bar. Use the Up and Down Arrow keys to resize the windows and then press ENTER to set the new size.
F1	Displays Transact-SQL Help information for the selected syntax.
ALT+F1	Displays Help (sp_help) information for the selected object.
F6	Moves between the Query and result windows.

