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Querying a linked sql server

```
36 if (dev.isBored() || job.sucks()) {
37     searchJobs({flexibleHours: true, companyCulture: 100});
38 }
39 // A career site that's by developers, for developers.
```

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I added a linked server, which is showing in the linked server list, but when I query it, it throws an error with the db server name.

```
EXEC sp_helpserver
EXEC sp_addlinkedserver 'aa-db-dev01'
Select * from openquery('aa-db-dev01','Select * from TestDB.dbo.users')
```

Msg 102, Level 15, State 1, Line 1
Incorrect syntax near 'aa-db-dev01'.

[sql-server](#) [linked-server](#)

edited Nov 5 '15 at 21:54

Michael
2,546 1 24 48

asked Jan 30 '09 at 14:42

Renju

5 Answers

```
SELECT * FROM [server].[database].[schema].[table]
```

This works for me. SSMS intellisense may still underline this as a syntax error, but it should work if your linked server is configured and your query is otherwise correct.

edited Aug 10 at 15:55

joelmdev
6,461 5 38 68

answered Jan 30 '09 at 14:47

Andreas Niedermair
14.4k 5 54 103

From the testing I've done, while 4part naming does work, it ends up being slower than using openquery. – [Nick Haslam](#) Jun 19 '12 at 15:13

Also this approach won't work if your table definition contains xml column types. – [Lankymart](#) Jan 15 '14 at 14:07

@Hack-R is the server registered as a linked one?

@AndreasNiedermair It was... now that you mention it, yes. I was wrong. I was thinking of linked servers for .NET applications and bicycles- those are what I know about.

1 @AndreasNiedermair A) SQL Server is only half of the story. The other half is the way to reference it. The 'other' linked server may or may not be SQL Server, and to announce that the 4-dotted-part is the way to reference it will leave those who are linking non-SQL Server scratching their heads wondering why it's not working for them B) I don't understand what non-relational context you are talking about. A linked server can still be relational; it's just that processing a query may not be done completely at the Linked Server location – [brewmanz](#) Jan 14 at 20:58

```
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You need to remove the quote marks from around the name of the linked server. It should be like this:

```
Select * from openquery(aa-db-dev01,'Select * from TestDB.dbo.users')
```

answered Feb 6 '09 at 13:14



BTB

1,168 3 14 22

You lose intellisense this way so go the other way if you can from a development standpoint but you have to use this way if the provider doesn't expose the catalog or schema. – [Tony L.](#) Aug 8 at 15:17

With this option, there's an 8000 character limit for the query. Still trying to find a workaround for that. `exec (@Query) at LinkedServerName` seems like a work around for that but I cannot join the result with other tables. Tried using temp tables without luck. – [Barry Guvenkaya](#) Aug 23 at 3:37

You can use:

```
SELECT * FROM [aa-db-dev01].[TestDB].[dbo].[users];
```

edited Apr 6 '16 at 14:37



GibraltarTop

1,081 6 26

answered Sep 14 '12 at 6:11



Guoliang

586 2 6 16

This DOES NOT WORK non some -SQL-Server linked servers, resulting in ... An invalid schema or catalog was specified for the provider "MSDASQL" for linked server "MyLinkedServer". – [brewmanz](#) Jan 13 at 0:03

try `Select * from openquery("aa-db-dev01",'Select * from users')` ,the database connection should be defined in he linked server configuration

answered Nov 11 '13 at 5:50



UV.

277 4 8

I use open query to perform this task like so:

```
select top 1 *
into [DATABASE_TO_INSERT_INTO].[dbo].[TABLE_TO_SELECT_INTO]
from openquery(
    [LINKED_SERVER_NAME],
    'select * from [DATABASE_ON_LINKED_SERVER].[dbo].[TABLE_TO_SELECT_FROM]'
)
```

The example above uses open query to select data from a database on a linked server into a database of your choosing.

Note: For completeness of reference, you may perform a simple select like so:

```
select top 1 * from openquery(
    [LINKED_SERVER_NAME],
    'select * from [DATABASE_ON_LINKED_SERVER].[dbo].[TABLE_TO_SELECT_FROM]'
)
```

answered May 11 at 14:09



user1477388

10.9k 16 81 170