View a SQL Server Audit Log

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This topic describes how to view a SQL Server audit log in SQL Server 2017 by using SQL Server Management Studio.

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  Security

- **To view a SQL Server audit log, using:**

  SQL Server Management Studio

Before You Begin

Security

Permissions

Requires the **CONTROL SERVER** permission.

Using SQL Server Management Studio

FEEDBACK

To view a SQL Server audit log

1. In Object Explorer, expand the **Security** folder.
2. Expand the **Audits** folder.
3. Right-click the audit log that you want to view and select **View Audit Logs**. This opens the **Log File Viewer –***server_name* dialog box. For more information, see Log File Viewer F1 Help.
4. When finished, click **Close**.

   Microsoft recommends viewing the audit log by using the Log File Viewer. However, if you are creating an automated monitoring system, the information in the audit file can be read directly by using the sys.fn_get_audit_file (Transact-SQL) function. Reading the file directly returns data in a slightly different (unprocessed) format. See **sys.fn_get_audit_file** for more information.

See Also

SQL Server Audit (Database Engine)
Write SQL Server Audit Events to the Security Log

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