

## Manual Settings to Allow Multi-User Connections to a SQL Express Instance

When you install SQL Express, the default settings will allow only programs running on the same computer as the SQL Express instance to connect. There are several things to check/enable in order to allow someone on another computer on your network to connect:

- **Allow Remote Connections via TCP/IP and Named Pipes**
  1. On the machine running the SQL Express instance, start the *SQL Server Surface Area Configuration* (Start -> All Programs -> Microsoft SQL Server 2005 -> Configuration Tools -> SQL Server Surface Area Configuration)
  2. Click the *Surface Area Configuration for Services and Connections* link.
  3. In the tree view on the left side, navigate to the -> Database Engine -> Remote Connections node.
  4. Select the *Local and remote connections* radio button.
  5. Select the *Using both TCP/IP and named pipes* radio button.
  6. Click the *OK* button.
  
- **Turn on the SQL Server Browser**
  1. On the machine running the SQL Express instance, start the *SQL Server Surface Area Configuration* (Start -> All Programs -> Microsoft SQL Server 2005 -> Configuration Tools -> SQL Server Surface Area Configuration)
  2. Click the *Surface Area Configuration for Services and Connections* link.
  3. In the tree view on the left side, select the *SQL Server Browser* node.
  4. In the *Startup type* drop-down, select Automatic.
  5. Click the *Start* button.
  6. Click the *OK* button.
  
- **Allow SQL Server through the Windows Firewall**
  1. From the Start -> Run, enter *firewall.cpl* and click the *Run* button.
  2. Go to the *Exceptions* tab. (Note: Vista users click the *Allow a program through Windows Firewall* link).
  3. Click the *Add Program* button.
  4. Browse to the *sqlservr.exe* executable. Note: The location of this file depends on the version of SQL Express on your machine. For SQL 2005, it is most likely located in *C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL.1\MSSQL\Binn*. For SQL 2008, it is most likely located in *C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL10.TDG2008\MSSQL\Binn*.

- **Allow SQL Browser through the Windows Firewall**
  1. From the Start -> Run, enter *firewall.cpl* and click the *Run* button.
  2. Go to the *Exceptions* tab. (Note: Vista users click the *Allow a program through Windows Firewall* link).
  3. Click the *Add Program* button.
  4. Browse to the *sqlbrowser.exe* executable. This file is most likely located in *C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\90\Shared*.