

# SSMS Shortcuts & Secrets

Configure SQL Server Management Studio		
Shortcut	What it does	How I think of it
Download the latest version of SSMS for free from Microsoft: <a href="https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/ssms/download-sql-server-management-studio-ssms">https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/ssms/download-sql-server-management-studio-ssms</a>		
Tools -> Options Environment -> Tabs and Windows	Configure pinned tabs to be kept in a separate row	Pinterest for SSMS (except it forgets 'em when you close it)
Tools -> Options Environment -> Keyboard -> Query Shortcuts	Set favorite procedures to be run by keyboard shortcuts	I like to configure Adam Machanic's sp_WhoIsActive to be run from CTRL + 0 ( <a href="http://whoisactive.com">whoisactive.com</a> )
Tools -> Options Text Editor -> All Languages Enable line numbers	Shows line numbers in session windows	CTRL + G makes going to line numbers easy (example: line 1 for top of script)
Tools -> Options Text Editor -> Transact-SQL Toggle 'Insert spaces'	Inserts spaces when you hit the TAB key.	If your team prefers tabs, stick with the default. I'm not here to judge.
Tools -> Options Object Explorer -> Scripting Toggle "Script Data Compression Options" and "Script Partition Schemes" to true	When you script indexes from Object Explorer or Object Explorer Details, they will include data compression options and partition schemes	Check for other scripting options you'd like to tweak as well! You can control a lot.
Move Properties Pane to dock on left side of screen	Docks the properties window in the same region as Object Explorer	I find this much easier to use for execution plan properties.
Install SSMS Extension for Diagnostics	Allows you to upload stack dumps for analysis	<a href="https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=55516">https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=55516</a>
Presenters: Check out the section at the end of this doc for configuration for demos!		



# SSMS Shortcuts & Secrets

Manage Sessions		
Shortcut	What it does	How I remember it
CTRL + N	New Session	"Control Newness"
CTRL + U	Use Database	"Control USE"
CTRL + E	Execute Query	"Control Execution"
CTRL + R	Show/Hide Results Pane	"Control Results"
F6	<p>Toggle between the Query Pane and Results Pane.</p> <p>If you have multiple tabs in the Results pane (Results, Messages, Execution plan), F6 will toggle between them (after going through the result sets).</p>	
CTRL + TAB OR ALT + F7	<p>Brings up a list of all sessions and lets you cycle through them.</p> <p>ALT+F7 lets you also choose active tool windows if you hold down ALT and hit arrow keys.</p>	

**SQL Query | .s**  
EXEC dbo.Somethin;  
GO

**F6**  
switch panes

**RESULT | MESSAGES | PLAN**

**CTRL TAB**  
switch sessions

**Filename.sql me (spid)**

Active Tool Windows

- Object Explorer
- Properties
- Object Explorer Docs

Active Files

- Another file.sql
- filename.sql
- Yet another file.sql

Z:\...\Path\Filename.sql



# SSMS Shortcuts & Secrets

Intellisense		
Shortcut	What it does	How I remember it
CTRL + B , CTRL + I <i>Note: this changed in SSMS 17.2 in August 2017. This used to be CTRL + Q, CTRL + I</i>	Enable / disable intellisense	“Control Baffling Intellisense”
CTRL + ALT + Spacebar	Toggle intellisense suggestion/ completion mode	“Control how that spacebar completes things!”
CTRL + SHIFT + R	Refresh intellisense cache	“Control REFRESH”
Intellisense uses a separate thread, which will throw an error if you connect to the Dedicated Admin Connection (DAC)		

Write and Edit TSQL		
Shortcut	What it does	How I remember it
Block Select + TAB	Indent the block	
Block Select + SHIFT + TAB	Un-indent the block	
CTRL + K , CTRL + C	Comment out the block	“Control Kansas City”
CTRL + K , CTRL + U	Un-comment out the block	“Un-control Kansas City”
CTRL + K, CTRL + I	Quick Info: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• When on the name of a stored procedure, shows a tooltip listing parameters and types</li><li>• When before the * in “SELECT * FROM dbo.Tablename”, shows a tooltip with columns in the table with data types</li></ul>	“Control Komplete Info”
Drag table name from Object Explorer into session	Auto-types the table name and schema name	
Drag column folder from Object Explorer into session	Auto-types all the column names in a list	
Splitter bar at top right of screen	Divides window into multiple panes. You can edit in each. When closing, click the location you'd like to be at before dragging up the divider bar.	It looks like two lines with arrows.
CTRL + I	Quick find in session. Press CTRL+I again to get to the next instance of the world.	“Control Iterate”

# SSMS Shortcuts & Secrets



## Write and Edit TSQL

Shortcut	What it does	How I remember it
ALT + drag up/down with mouse	Select a column in SSMS. Most common use is to type on multiple lines.	"Alternative drag columns"

## Read Execution Plans

Shortcut	What it does	How I remember it
CTRL + L	Show an estimated execution plan right away	"Control Lookforward"
CTRL + M	Enable actual execution plans, will be shown on queries executed in future	"Control Magic Actuals"
CTRL + F	When your focus is in an execution plan, brings up a "Find" window that searches plan properties. <i>Added to SSMS 17.2, Aug 2017</i>	

## Work with Object Explorer Details

Shortcut	What it does	How I remember it
F7	Opens Object Explorer Details	
Use SHIFT to select a range of indexes, then right click OR Select all indexes with CTRL+A, then right click	Gives you options to script multiple indexes out	
Right click and "Synchronize"	Synchronizes Object Explorer and Object Explorer details	

I am wary of using the "find" and synchronize features in production environments.

# SSMS Shortcuts & Secrets

## Use Regular Expressions for find & replace

Shortcut	What it does	How I remember it
CTRL + H	Opens Find & Replace dialogue. To use Regular Expressions, make sure the .* button is enabled.	
\t	tab characters	
\n	new line	

## Secrets for the Extended Events wizard

Shortcut	What it does	How I remember it
Right click + “New session”	Opens the BETTER wizard	I want a wizard who doesn't call itself a wizard
SHIFT + highlight multiple events on the “Filter (predicate)” tab	Allows you to set a single filter on multiple events at the same time	
When adding events, if you can't find an event: Check the hidden down carat to the right of “Channel” and check off “Debug” events	Shows you some events which are hidden by default	
<code>ALTER EVENT SESSION [sessionname] ON SERVER STATE = START;</code>	Starts a trace	I can never remember this syntax properly. Replace “Start” with “Stop” to stop it.
<code>DROP EVENT SESSION [sessionname] ON SERVER;</code>	Drops a trace	I can't remember this either. Always think I should put “ON SERVER” in it.

# SSMS Shortcuts & Secrets

## Configuration for presentations and demos

Shortcut	What it does	How I remember it
Tools -> Options Environment -> Fonts and Colors Text Editor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size: 14</li> <li>• Selected Text Background Color - Yellow</li> <li>• Inactive Selected Text Background Color - Yellow</li> </ul> Execution Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size: 12</li> </ul> Grid Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size: 14</li> </ul> Text Results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Size: 14</li> </ul>	Easier to read highlight color on projectors  Sets fonts to more readable sizes  Requires restarting SSMS to take effect	
Install ZoomIt from Microsoft (sysinternals)	Lets you easily zoom into a screen region and draw on the screen	<a href="https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/zoomit.aspx">https://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/zoomit.aspx</a>

I have had mixed results with the new “Presenter Fonts” settings in SSMS 2017, but you can get to all the options for it by typing “font” in the Quick Launch bar in the top right corner of SSMS. When you type this, you should see:

- PresentEdit (Allows editing of presenter mode fonts)
- RestoreDefaultFonts (Restores fonts to default values)
- PresentOn (Adjusts fonts for code presentations)

I have found that this makes some dialogue boxes hard to fit on the screen, and that enabling/disabling it resets some of my preferences in SSMS, such as selected text background color. If you do want to use it, practice a lot to make sure you like it.

[Get the desktop wallpaper at SQLWorkbooks.com/wall](http://SQLWorkbooks.com/wall)

