Tech Note 742
Renaming a Computer that Hosts a Stand-Alone SQL Server Instance

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Introduction

When you change the name of the computer that is running SQL Server, the new name is recognized during SQL Server startup. You do not have to run Setup again to reset the computer name.

Instead, use the following steps to update system metadata that is stored in **sys.servers** and reported by the system function **@@SERVERNAME**.

Application Versions

- Windows Server 2008 R2

- Microsoft SQL Server 2008 SP1

Updating System Metadata

Update system metadata to reflect computer name changes for remote connections and applications that use @@SERVERNAME, or that query the server name from sys.servers.

> **Note:** The following steps cannot be used to rename **an instance of SQL Server**. They can be used only to rename the part of the instance name that corresponds to the computer name.

For example, you can change a computer named **VMK6432** that hosts an instance of SQL Server named Instance1 to another name, such as **VMK6432New**. However, the SQL Server instance part of the name (**Instance1**), will remain unchanged. In this example, the **\\ComputerName\InstanceName** will be changed from **\\VMK6432\Instance1** to **\\VMK6432New\Instance1**.

Before you begin the renaming process, review the following information:

- When an instance of SQL Server is part of a SQL Server failover cluster, the computer renaming process differs from a computer that hosts a stand-alone instance.

- SQL Server does not support renaming computers that are involved in replication, except when you use log shipping with replication. The secondary computer in log shipping can be renamed if the primary computer is permanently lost. For more information, see Replication and Log Shipping in SQL Books online.

- When you rename a computer that is configured to use database mirroring, you must turn off database mirroring before the renaming operation. Then, re-establish database mirroring with the new computer name. Metadata for database mirroring will not be updated automatically to reflect the new computer name. Use the following steps to update system metadata.

- Users who connect to SQL Server through a Windows group that uses a hard-coded reference to the computer name might not be able to connect to SQL Server. This can occur after the rename if the Windows group specifies the old computer name. To ensure that such Windows groups have SQL Server connectivity following the renaming operation, update the Windows group to specify the new computer name.

Assumptions

This *Tech Note* assumes the following:

- SQL Server is installed locally as the default instance.

- The SQL Server database Engine has accepted the new name.

- SQL Server 2008 x86 is locally installed.

- Windows 2008 R2 is locally installed.

Renaming a SQL Server Database Engine

You can connect to SQL Server by using the new computer name after you have restarted SQL Server. To ensure that @@SERVERNAME returns the updated name of the local server instance, you should complete either of the following procedures. The procedure you use depends on whether you are updating a computer that hosts a default or named instance of SQL Server.

Figure 1 (below) shows that the Host name is correct, but running **SELECT @@SERVERNAME AS 'Server Name'** returns the old server name. The New Server Name should return **VMK6432New**.
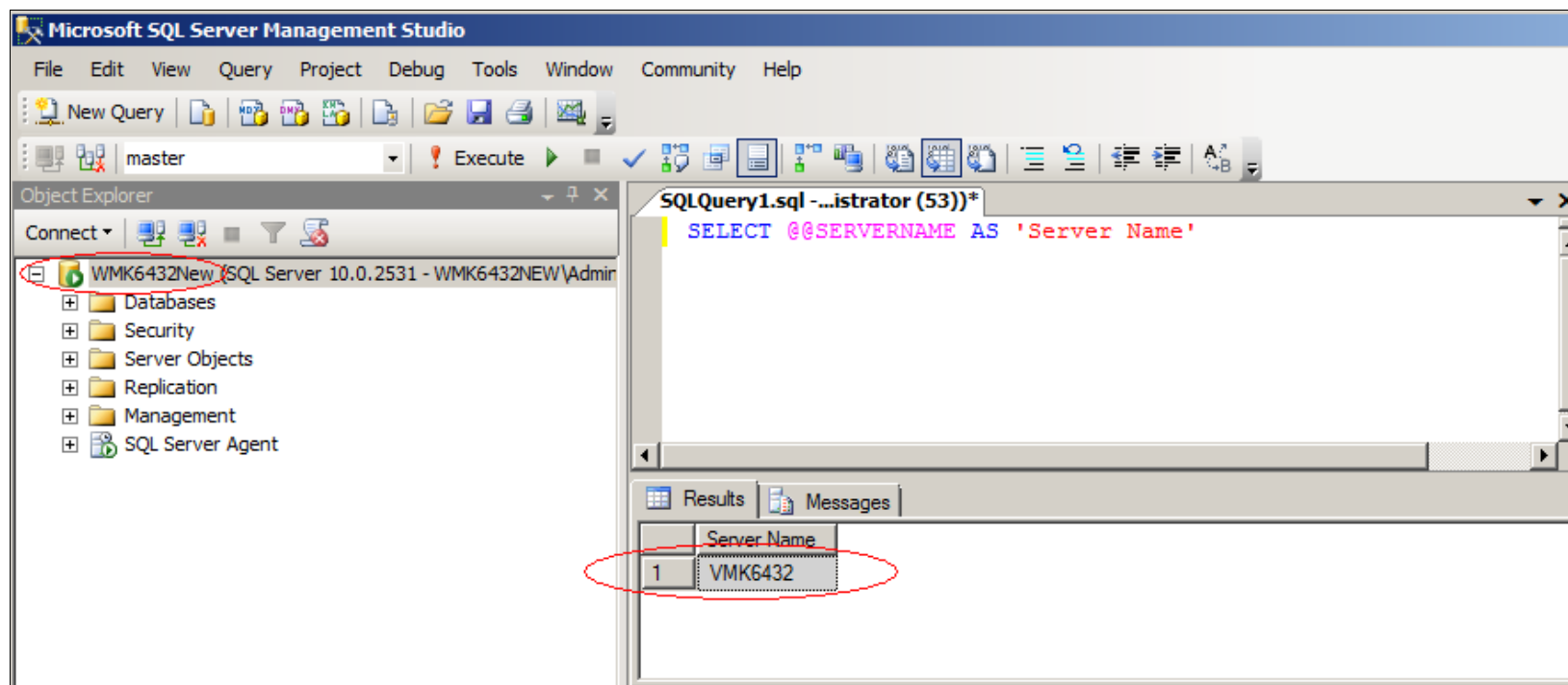

FIGURE 1: MICROSOFT SQL SERVER MANAGEMENT STUDIO QUERY

To rename a computer that hosts a stand-alone instance of SQL Server

Run the following Stored Procedures:

```
sp_dropserver <old_name>
GO
sp_addserver <new_name>, local
GO
```

To rename a computer that hosts a named instance of SQL Server,

Run the following Stored Procedures:

```
sp_dropserver <'old_name\instancename'>
GO
sp_addserver <'new_name\instancename'>, local
GO
```

Example

To rename a computer that hosts a default instance of SQL Server

Run the following Stored Procedures (Figure 2 below).

```
sp_dropserver VMK6432New
GO
sp_addserver VMK6432New, local
GO
```
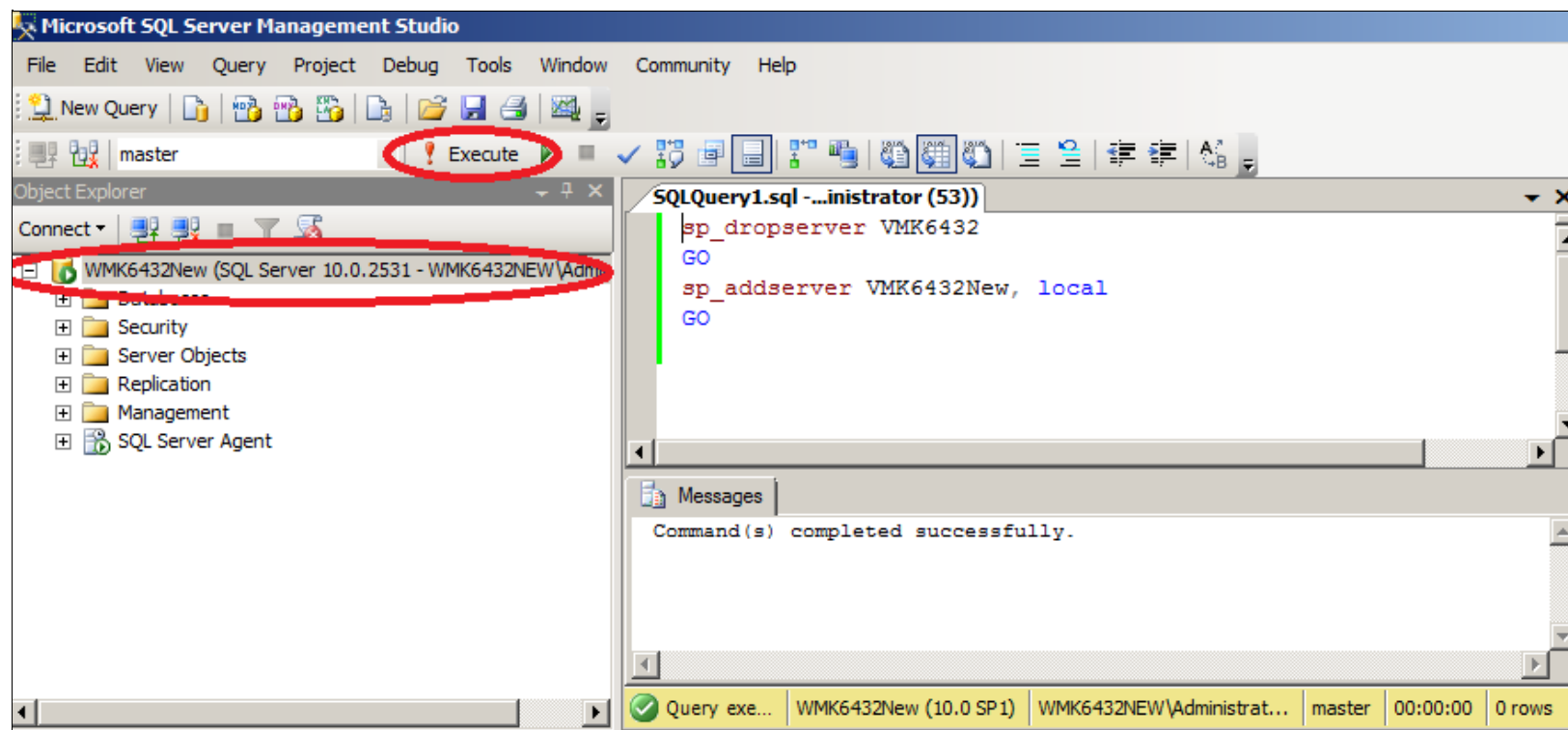

FIGURE 2: MICROSOFT SQL SERVER MANAGEMENT STUDIO QUERY

Restart the SQL Server (MSSQLSERVER) service (Figure 3 below).
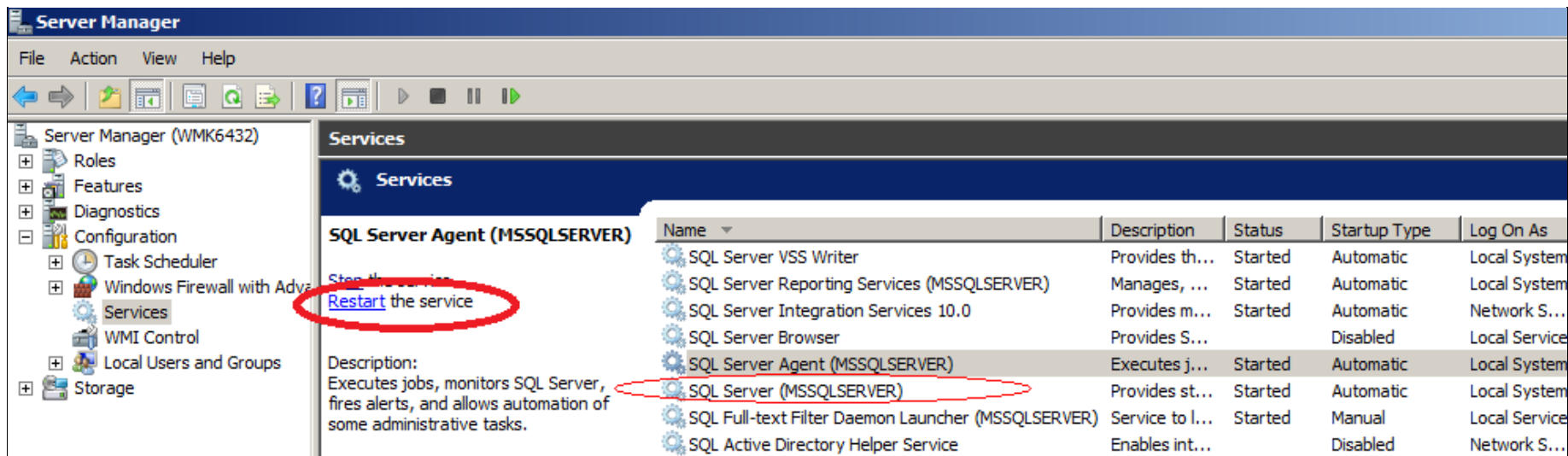
FIGURE 3: SERVER MANAGER SERVICES

As a result of the Host running **SELECT @@SERVERNAME AS 'Server Name'** statement the current server name is returned (Figure 4 below).
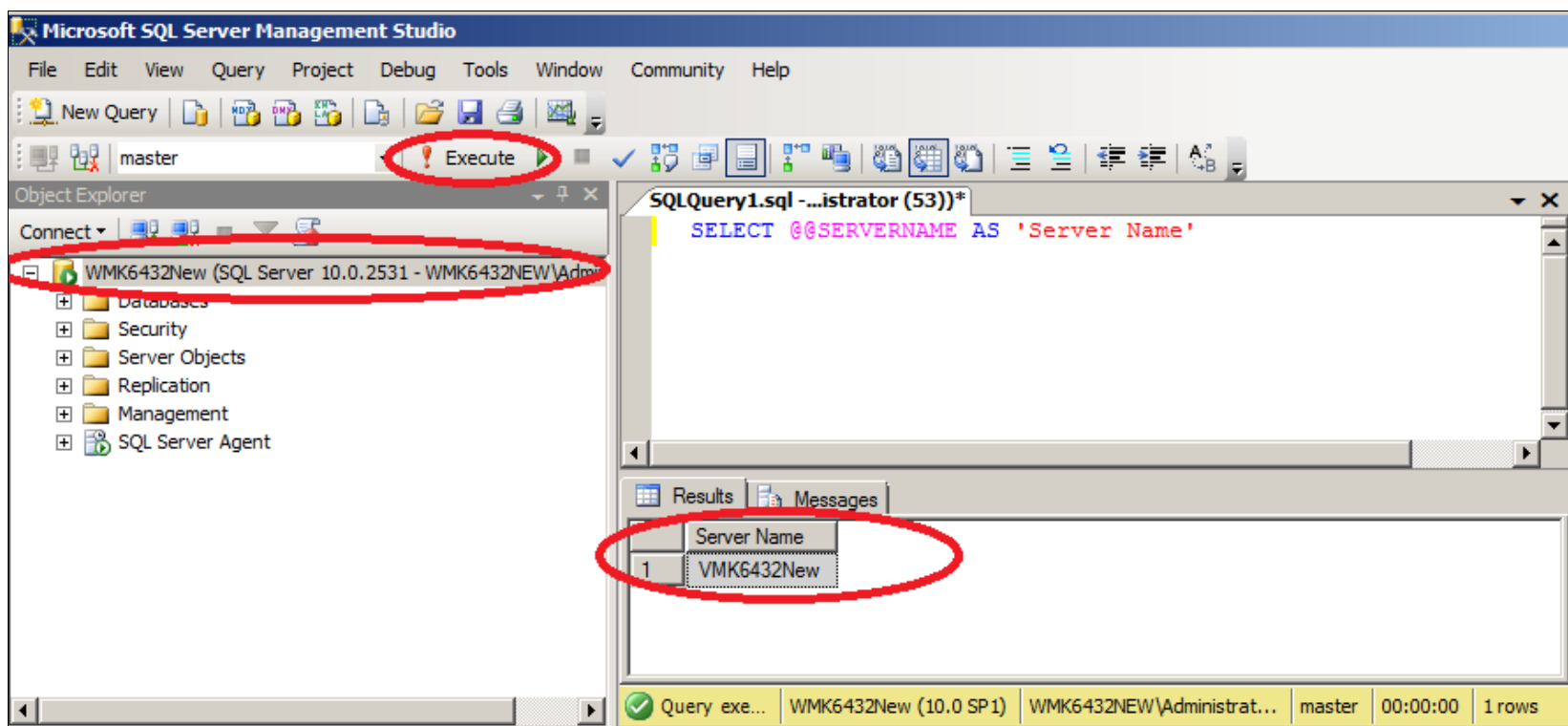

FIGURE 4: MICROSOFT SQL SERVER MANAGEMENT STUDIO QUERY

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Back to top