

## Auditing changes made to table design (syscolumns table)

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*From:* Sean Aitken ([seandotaitken@tekelec.com](mailto:seandotaitken@tekelec.com))

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From: "Sean Aitken" <[seandotaitken@tekelec.com](mailto:seandotaitken@tekelec.com)>

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Hello all,

We recently had a problem arise where a user managed to change the security settings for a particular ClearQuest table which managed to cause problems for other certain users. I researched various transaction log analysis tools, which proved to be a fruitless effort as the only thing that seemed capable of reasonably searching and filtering the data would cost us a few hundred dollars. I continued to dig and found the 'undocumented' "DBCC LOG (...)" command. This seemed promising, except there were 2 variations on the parameters, and using SQL 7 seems to supply me with the LESS flexible ( dbName, ReportingLevel ) parameters. This was a decent start I thought. Keep in mind I know the database and the tables I would like to see transactions against, so already I could eliminate 95% of the returned data. After running the command with a detail level 2, I was able to see some slightly useful information, among the 420,000 returned rows. I ran again with level 3, and it never finished. Managed to build a 1.5 Gig file in my temp directory (after setting output of Query analyzer to 'file') The first few rows returned showed dates from 11/01. This seemed futile.

So, since the action log couldn't be recovered without unnecessary expenditures, I began to implement a trigger-based audit solution. First step, I attempted to write a trigger to log when a change was made to the syscolumns table in that database. This seemed pretty cool, cuz I could then log the workstation and the user that performed the change. So my bubble was busted after reading that you can't create triggers against system tables. Back to the drawing board. I then considered the profiler, which was not really an option since it has to intercept and look for certain criteria against every transaction. (this would include extended stored proc to do the same)

So, as I sit scratching my brain, can anyone help me find an easy way to capture who makes changes to table structures, or any other system table for that matter.

Any help is GREATLY appreciated!

Sean Aitken  
Tekelec

microsoft.public.sqlserver.security: Auditing changes made to table design (syscolumns table)

Morrisville, NC

(Please reply to the news group, as I have been unable to find postings with a viable solution that's geared toward my specific problem, and I'm sure others could benefit)