

microsoft.public.sqlserver.security: RE: Ad hoc updates to system catalogs are not enabled

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Hi Peter,

Thank you for choosing Microsoft! Michael is on holiday and I'm his backup. My name is Billy and it's my pleasure to further assist you with this issue.

I believe Machael has pointed out the root cause of your issue and his solution is accurate and workable on your side. For your benefits, here I'd like to follow up with something important you should pay more attention to, as the system catalogs are very critical to the operation of SQL Server.

Please keep in mind that updating fields in system tables can prevent an instance of SQL Server from running or can cause data loss. If you create stored procedures while the allow updates option is enabled, those stored procedures always have the ability to update system tables even after you disable allow updates. On production systems, you should not enable allow updates except under the direction of Microsoft Product Support Services.

It is stongly recommend that you enable allow updates only in tightly controlled situations. Prevent other users from accessing SQL Server while you are directly updating system tables by restarting an instance of SQL Server from the command prompt with `sqlservr -m`. This command starts an instance of SQL Server in single-user mode and enables allow updates.

After successfully updating the system catalogs, please remember changing the allow updates back to 0 AT ONCE, and then restart the instance services.

For more information on how to operate it in minimal configuration mode, please see the following topic in Books Online:

"Starting SQL Server with Minimal Configuration"

Thanks for choosing Microsoft.

Billy Yao
Microsoft Online Support

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