# Setting user permissions to access Microsoft SQL Server folders

As the agencies have stepped up computer security they have limited the access you have to the *C:\Programs Files* folder when not logged in as an administrator. The *Program Files* folder is where your databases and backups are stored so for you to be able to access them when logged in using your Windows login account (not the administrator account you have when granted Administrative Privileges) you need to set the permissions for your user name to access the subfolders in the *C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server* folder. Open Windows Explorer or My Computer and navigate to the SQL Server programs location. The location will be generally found at *C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server*

1. Login to Windows as an administrator (i.e. with administrative privileges).
2. In Windows Explorer or My Computer, navigate to the folder *C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL.1\MSSQL*
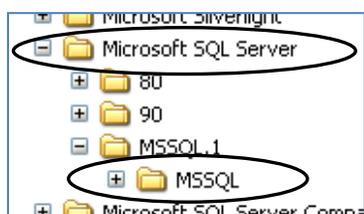
3. You need to set permissions for the MSSQL folder for your username so you can access the sub-folders.
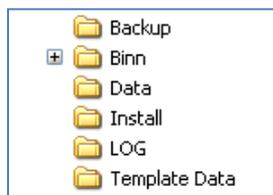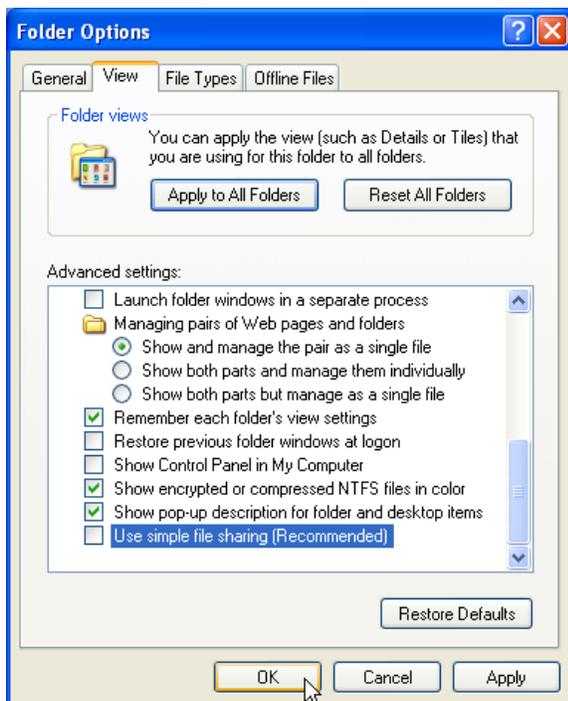

4. Right-click the *MSSQL* folder and select *Properties.* Look for the *Security* tab. If you see the *Security* tab, select it and proceeded to step 5.
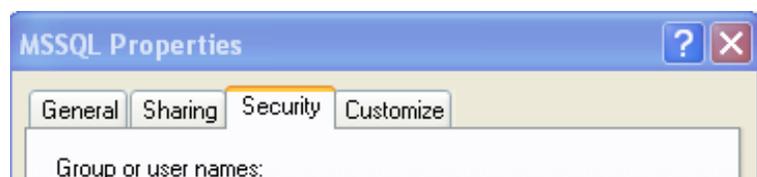
   a. If you do not see the *Security* tab, you will need to turn off "Simple Sharing". In Windows Explorer, highlight the FFI folder and select *Tools > Folder Options.*

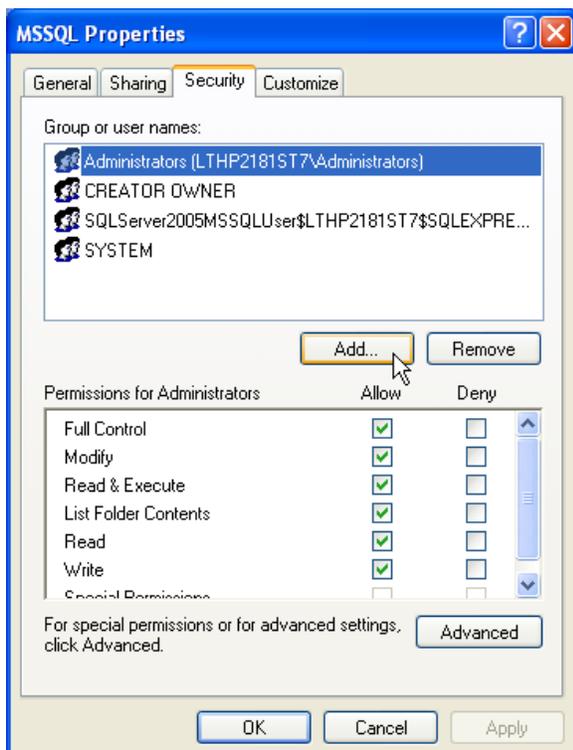b. In the *Folder Options* dialog, switch to the *View* tab.

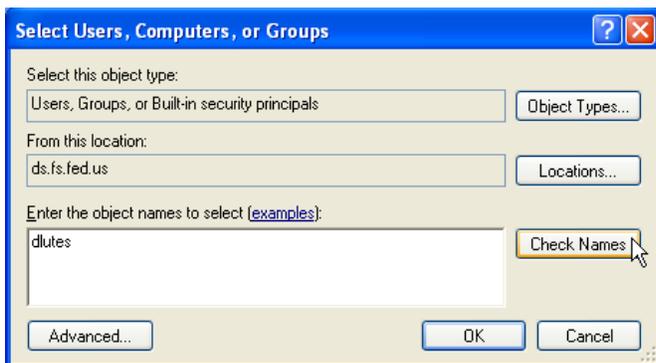c. Scroll down the list of *Advanced Settings* and uncheck "Use simple file sharing"
d. Click *OK.*
e. Return to the Properties dialog for the folder as described above.

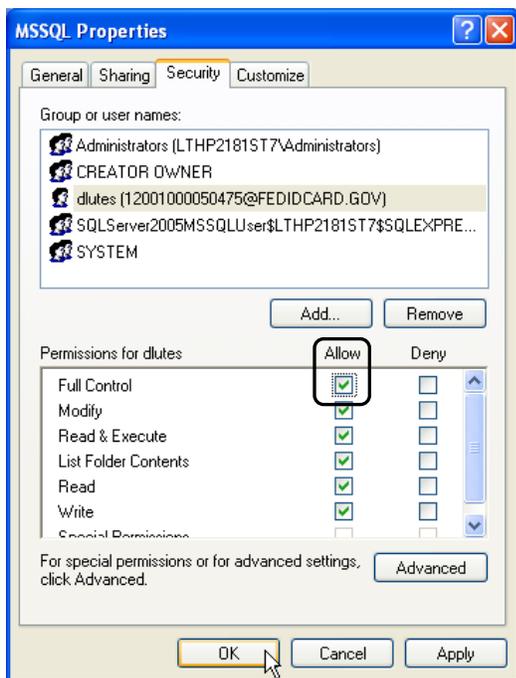5. Click *Add…* on the *Security* tab.

6. In the *Select Users, Computers or Groups* window, type your Windows username in the window entitled "Enter the object names to select" and click *Check Names*.


7. If you entered a valid username the format will change. Click *OK*.

8. On the *Security* tab, highlight your user name in the list, check to *Allow*, *Full Control*. Click *OK.*

9. In most cases this permission setting will automatically cascade down to the subfolders but you should check to make sure your user name has Full Control to the *Backup*, *Data* and *Log* folders. For each of those three folders right-click the folder name, select *Properties*, click the *Security* tab and, if not checked, check the *Full Control* box.

10. Now, check to be sure SQL Server has *Full Control* of the *Backup*, *Data* and *Log* folders:
   a. Right click the folder
   b. Click *Properties*
   c. Select the *Security* tab
   d. Click the *SQLServer2005MSSQLUser* instance group
   e. Click the allow *Full Control* checkbox
   f. Click *OK*.
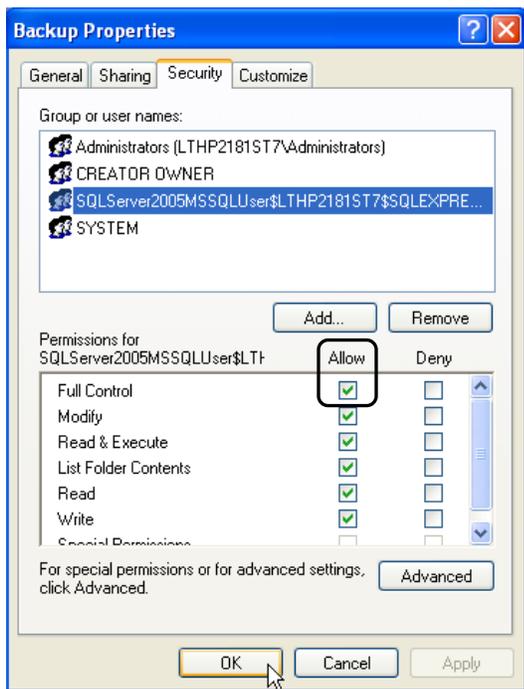
NOTE: When trouble shooting SQL Server, you may want to refer to the online articles published by Microsoft including *Setting Up Windows Service Accounts* found at: http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms143504.aspx. If this link doesn't work search msdn.microsoft.com for "SQL Setting Up Windows Service Accounts".