SQL Boost

Version 2.9

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SQL Boost (Formerly SQL Traffic Accelerator) Home

SQL Boost

SQL Boost, formerly SQL Traffic Accelerator, is a utility that installs on SQL Server and its clients that compresses and optimizes the SQL Server TDS protocol by as much as 90%. This process greatly reduces bandwidth requirements and significantly improves performance.

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SQL Boost Release Notes

Idera SQL Boost delivers enhanced performance and data security for SQL Server applications and replication. Through advanced compression of both the transportation and application layers, it improves data transfer performance and reduces the amount of network bandwidth you need to get the job done. Smart compression adapts to the application and data being transferred to reduce latency and improve throughout while optimizing CPU utilization. Data is secured using end-to-end data encryption.

To get a quick glimpse into the newest features, fixed issues, and known issues in this release of SQL Boost, review the following sections of the Release Notes:

- New features and fixed issues
- Known issues

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New features and fixed issues

SQL Boost provides the following new features and fixed issues.

2.9 New features

Easily collect compression statistics for reporting

You now can collect compression and bandwidth statistics to more easily build a report showing the value SQL Boost provides to your organization. This feature also allows you to track network usage for your SQL data traffic, which can aid in current and future bandwidth planning.

2.9 Fixed issues

There are no fixed issues in this release.

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Known issues

Idera strives to ensure our products provide quality solutions for your SQL Server needs. The following known issues are described in this section. If you need further assistance with any issue, please contact Support (www.idera.com/support).

- There are no known issues in this release.

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Welcome to SQL Boost

The SQL Boost is an innovative technology that compresses network traffic for SQL Server 2000, 2005, 2008, 2012, and 2014. By optimizing the Tabular Data Stream (TDS) protocol, SQL Boost allows for better data transfer performance while reducing bandwidth utilization.

This wiki helps you understand SQL Boost characteristics and provides step-by-step help on how to use all its features.

Need help using SQL Boost? See the following sections:

- How to install SQL Boost
- Start or stop SQL Boost
- Encrypt returned SQL Server instance data
- Manage SQL Boost on your instances

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What is SQL Boost?

Idera SQL Boost sits between SQL Server and its clients and turns the normally inefficient SQL Server TDS protocol into a tight, highly compressed, and optimized protocol. The following image shows the native TDS protocol versus the SQL Boost protocol.
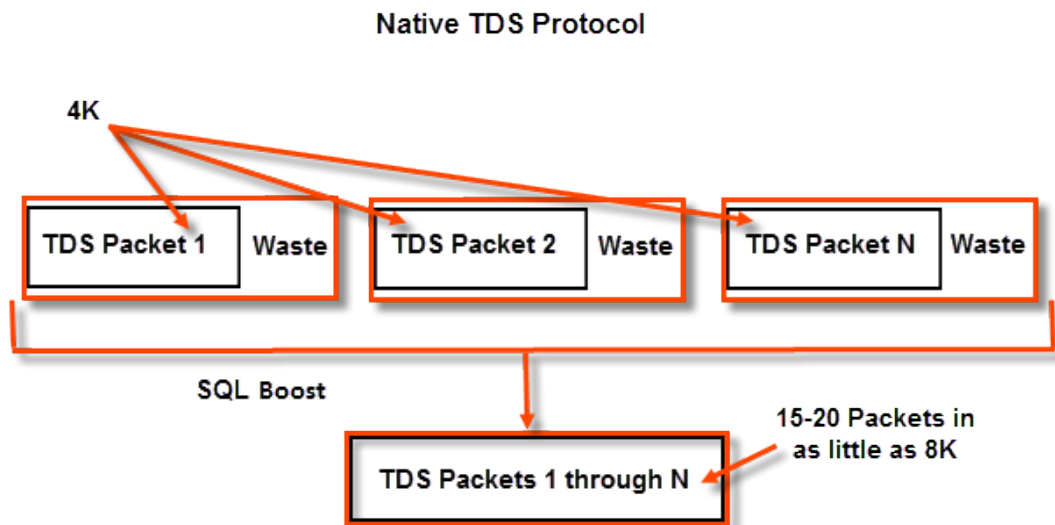

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How SQL Boost helps

SQL Boost provides:

- **Efficient use of TCP/IP protocol**. Not only is bandwidth and performance improved through compression, but the TCP/IP protocol is also more efficiently used by turning TDS into a variable length protocol. Whereas the native protocol would transfer one packet of 4096 bytes into a single TCP buffer, SQL Boost packs 15 or more packets into a single buffer. It is not uncommon for a 4K packet to be reduced to a mere 300 or 400 bytes.
- **Improved performance**. Because SQL Boost is specifically developed to optimize the TDS protocol, it has a far greater impact on bandwidth and performance than hardware compression technologies. Additionally, SQL Boost uses adaptive compression technology that automatically detects when uncompressible data is encountered, so SQL Boost never has a negative impact on performance.
- **Simplified networks**. This compression and optimization takes low-speed WAN connections and makes them perform nearly on par with 100 BASE-T connections, and 100 BASE-T connections perform on par with 1000 BASE-T connections or better. Additionally, SQL Boost can be used to free up bandwidth on congested networks, regardless of speed.

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Find answers

This documentation set includes a comprehensive online Help system as well as additional resources that support you as you install and use the product. You can also search the Idera Solutions knowledge base, available at the Idera Customer Service Portal (http://www.idera.com /support/faq).

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For a complete list of our partners, please visit our Idera website.

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	1.877.GO.IDERA (464.3372)
	(only in the United States and Canada)
Sales Email	sales@idera.com
Support	713.533.5144
	1.877.GO.IDERA (464.3372)
	(only in the United States and Canada)
	www.idera.com/support
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Using Help

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Additionally, Idera helps you by providing:

- 24/7 technical support for critical issues.
- Availability to report cases and access a web-based customer portal for update status.
- Access to our Knowledge center where you can find FAQs, How To's, Best Practices, and Webcasts.

This wiki includes the following Web browser minimum requirements:

- Internet Explorer 8.0
- Mozilla Firefox 4
- Google Chrome 6

You can access the Idera Help system through the **Help** icon on the top right section of your window or by pressing F1 on the section where you need more information.

You can print a help topic from the wiki using the Print function in your browser.

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Document conventions

Idera documentation uses consistent conventions to help you identify items throughout the library.

Convention	Specifying
Bold	Window items
Italics	Book and CD titles Variable names New terms
Fixed Font	File and directory names Commands and code examples Text typed by you
Straight brackets, as in [value]	Optional command parameters
Curly braces, as in {value}	Required command parameters
Logical OR, as in value 1 | value 2	Exclusively command parameters where only one of the options can be specified

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Our tools are engineered to scale from managing a single server to enterprise deployments with thousands of servers. Idera products combine ease of use with a design that installs in minutes, configures in hours, and deploys worldwide in days. To learn more about Idera products, visit the Idera Web site at www.idera.com.

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Get started

Idera SQL Boost helps you accelerate and secure your SQL Server applications. SQL Boost is a utility that installs on SQL Server and its clients that will compress and optimize the SQL Server TDS protocol by as much as 90%. This greatly reduces bandwidth requirements and significantly improves performance.

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Product requirements

You can easily and quickly install SQL Boost on any computer that meets or exceeds the following hardware, software, and permissions requirements. Consider the following requirements when installing SQL Boost in a typical environment.

Type	Requirement
Disk Space	3 MB
32-bit Operating System (Server)	- Windows 2000 - Windows 2003 - Windows 2008 - Windows 2008 R2
64-bit Operating System (Server)	- Windows 2003 - Windows 2008 - Windows 2008 R2 - Windows 2012 - Windows 2012 R2
32-bit Operating System (Client)	- Windows XP - Windows Vista - Windows 7
64-bit Operating System (Client)	- Windows Vista - Windows 7 - Windows 8 and 8.1
Microsoft SQL Server Standard or Enterprise Edition 32- or 64-bit	- SQL Server 2000 - SQL Server 2005 - SQL Server 2008 - SQL Server 2008 R2 - SQL Server 2012 - SQL Server 2014
SQL Server Client 32- or 64-bit	- MDAC - Windows DAC - SQL Native Client (ADO, ADO.NET OLE DB, and ODBC)

SQL Boost permission requirements

To install SQL Boost, you must have administrative privileges on the target computer. If you receive an access error, check whether your currently logged on Windows account includes administrator privileges.

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How to install SQL Boost

You do not have to install SQL Boost on all clients, but only clients that have SQL Boost installed experience a performance improvement. Note that clients with SQL Boost can connect to non-SQL Boost servers.

Install SQL Boost on your computer or workstation. The installation steps are the same for both server and client.

To install SQL Boost:

1. Review the product requirements.
2. Log in to the target computer using an account that has administrator permissions.
3. Download SQL Boost.
4. Run the **SQLBoost.msi** file. The system displays the SQL Boost wizard.
5. Complete the installation wizard. The package installs the following files on the system:
   - **IderaBoost.exe** (on 32-bit) or **IderaBoost64.exe** (on 64-bit)
   - **IderaBoost.exe** (on 32-bit) or **IderaBoost64.exe** (on 64-bit)
   - **SQLBoost.sys** (on 32-bit) or **SQLBoost64.sys** (on 64-bit)
   - **SQLBoostClient.dll** (on 32-bit) or **SQLBoostClient64.dll** (on 64-bit)
   - **SQLBoostPerformance.h**
   - **SQLBoostPerformance.ini**
   - **SQLBoostPrfInfo.dll** (on 32-bit) or **SQLBoostPrfInfo64.dll** (on 64-bit)
   - **Idera license agreements**
6. Once the wizard is complete, you must restart your SQL Server and client applications.

To manually deploy SQL Boost:

1. Copy the previously-mentioned files to the target server and clients.
2. Use the following commands to manually register and then start the SQL Boost Service:

   - on 32-bit: `ideraboostwatch -i`
     or on 64-bit: `ideraboostwatch64 -i`
   - on 32-bit: `ideraboostwatch -s`
     or on 64-bit: `ideraboostwatch64 -s`

Silent install

Alternatively, you can use the Microsoft Installer in silent or quiet mode to simplify deployment. For more information about performing a silent installation, run `msiexec -?` to access the Microsoft installer command line documentation.

Terminal services install

When installing under terminal services it is important to ensure that you:

- Connect under administration mode
- Connect to the Console (session 0). To do this use the following command line:
  `mstsc -v:servername /F -console`

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Configure your deployment

SQL Boost is designed to work seamlessly in the client-server model. Any application that is using MDAC or the SQL Native Client to connect to a SQL Server, such as SharePoint or SQL Management Studio, can use SQL Boost to compress and optimize the traffic. SQL Boost also supports server-to-server connections, such as Linked Servers, SSIS, Replication, or Analysis Services.

> ⓘ All clients and servers are *not* required to have SQL Boost installed, but only connections that have SQL Boost on both ends will see a performance improvement.

After initially installing SQL Boost, there are a few tasks you might want to do to further customize and streamline your deployment including:

- Access the SQL Boost Control Console
- Manage license
- Start or stop SQL Boost
- Encrypt returned SQL Server instance data

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Access the SQL Boost Control Console

After installing SQL Boost, you can launch the SQL Boost Control Console by double-clicking the icon in the system tray or by right-clicking the icon, and then selecting **Open SQL Boost Control Console**. The Console appears and shown in the following image.
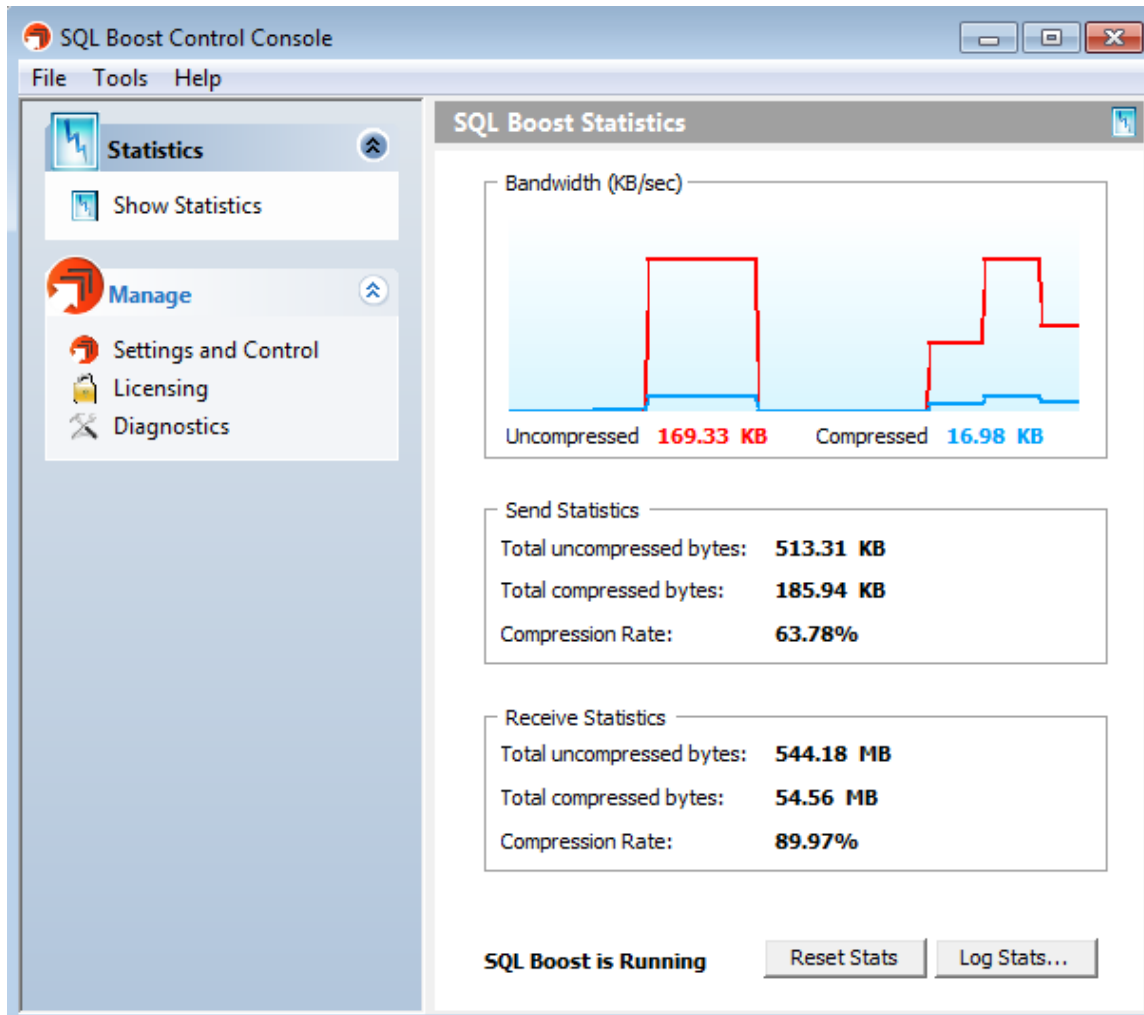
Automatically start SQL Boost

By default, the **Auto start SQL Boost at system startup** box is checked to make sure you collect statistics while your system is in use. You can disable this feature in the SQL Boost Settings and Control window by clearing the checkbox.

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Manage license

Idera requires a license for all server configurations, but client installations do not need a license to operate. You can use the same SQL Boost installer for both server and client installations. Note that on the client side, once the trial license expires, you can continue to use the product without a permanent license.

SQL Boost provides a licensing window for you to enter any new license key you may receive. To access this window from the SQL Boost Control Console, click **Licensing**. SQL Boost displays the SQL Boost Licensing window as shown in the following image.
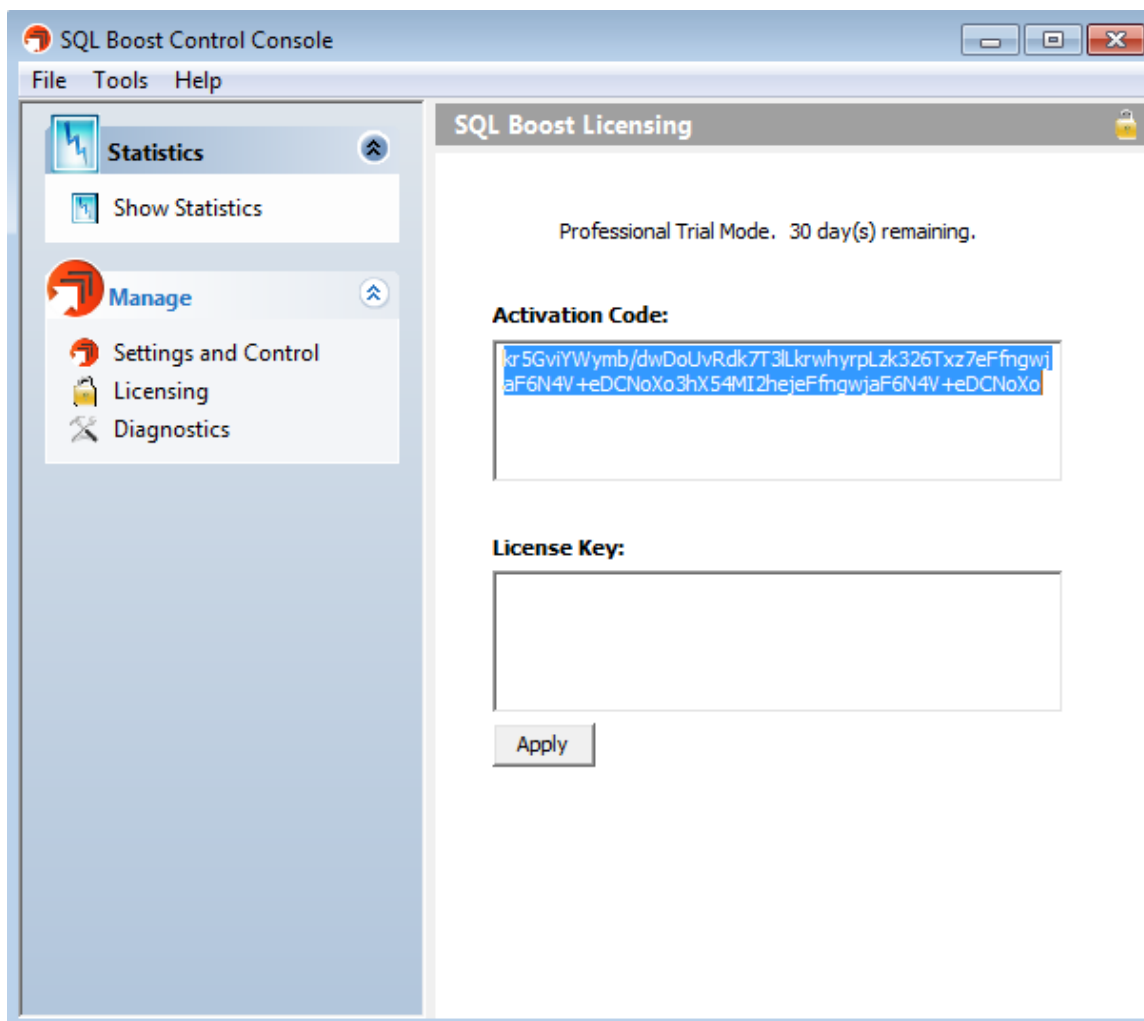
**To update your license key**, enter the key in the **License Key** field, and then click **Apply**.

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Start or stop SQL Boost

You can stop or start the SQL Boost service from the System tray icon by right-clicking the icon, and then selecting **Start SQL Boost** or **Stop SQL Boost**.

You can also access this functionality through the SQL Boost Control Console window by clicking **Settings and Control**. SQL Boost displays the SQL Boost Settings and Control window as shown in the following image.
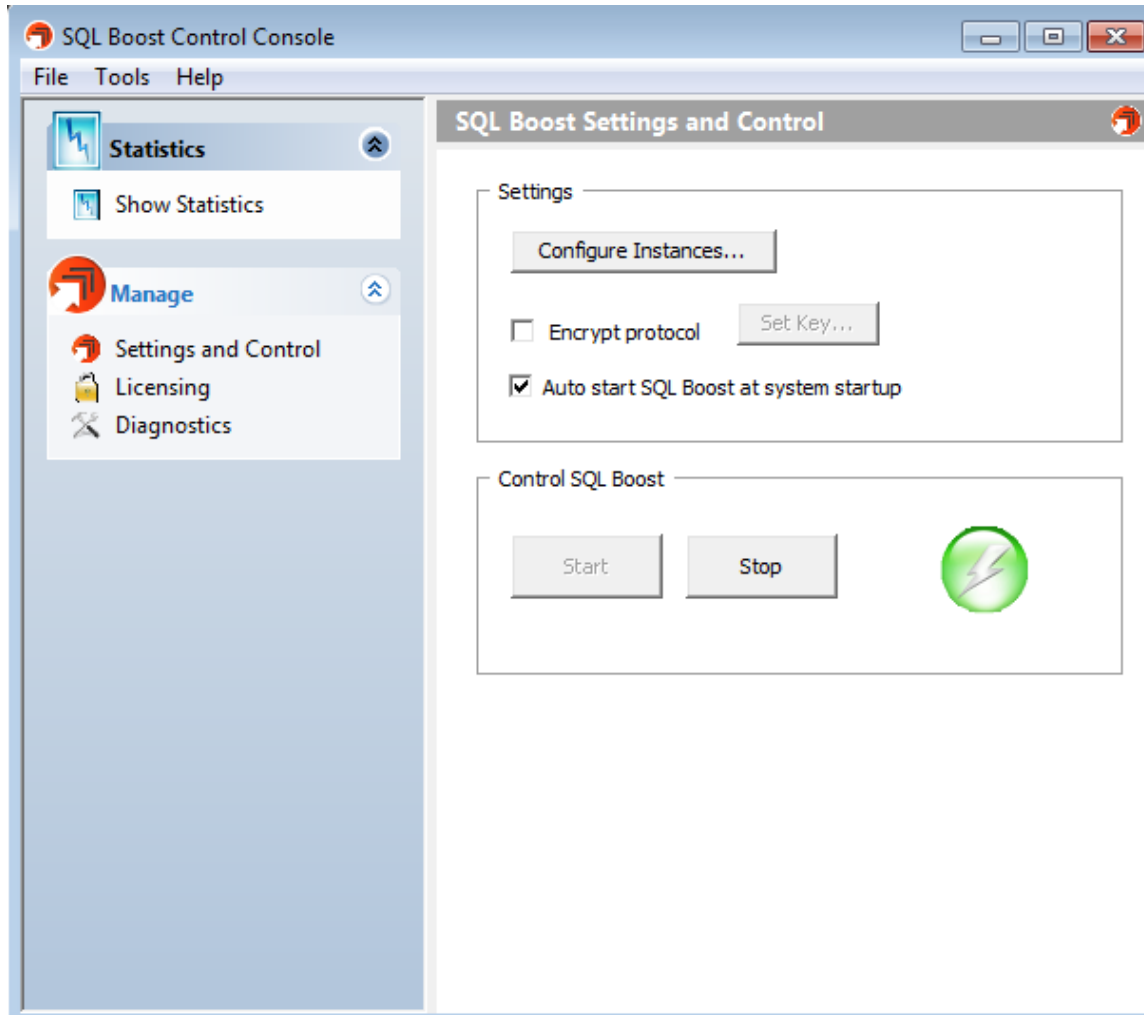
To start SQL Boost, click **Start**. Note that the icon in the **Control SQL Boost** box changes from red to green.

To stop SQL Boost, click **Stop**. The system displays a confirmation message to make sure you want to stop the service. Click **Yes** to continue. Note that the icon in the **Control SQL Boost** box changes from green to red.

ⓘ
Available options

Note that the **Start** button is available only when SQL Boost service is stopped, and the **Stop** button is available only when SQL Boost service is started.

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Encrypt returned SQL Server instance data

SQL Boost allows you to enable a high-speed, 128-bit encryption algorithm to encrypt the data returned from the server. Note that you need to enable this option only for the server-side installation.

To enable encryption:

1. Open the SQL Boost Control Console, and then click **Settings and Control**. The system displays the SQL Boost Settings and Control window.
Check the **Encrypt protocol** box. The system enables the **Set Key** button. *If you want to use the default encryption key*, you are done. *If you want to specify a custom encryption key*, continue with the next step.

   > ⓘ You must restart SQL Boost after setting a custom encryption key for the key to become active.

2. Click **Set Key**. The Set Encryption Key dialog box appears as shown in the following image.
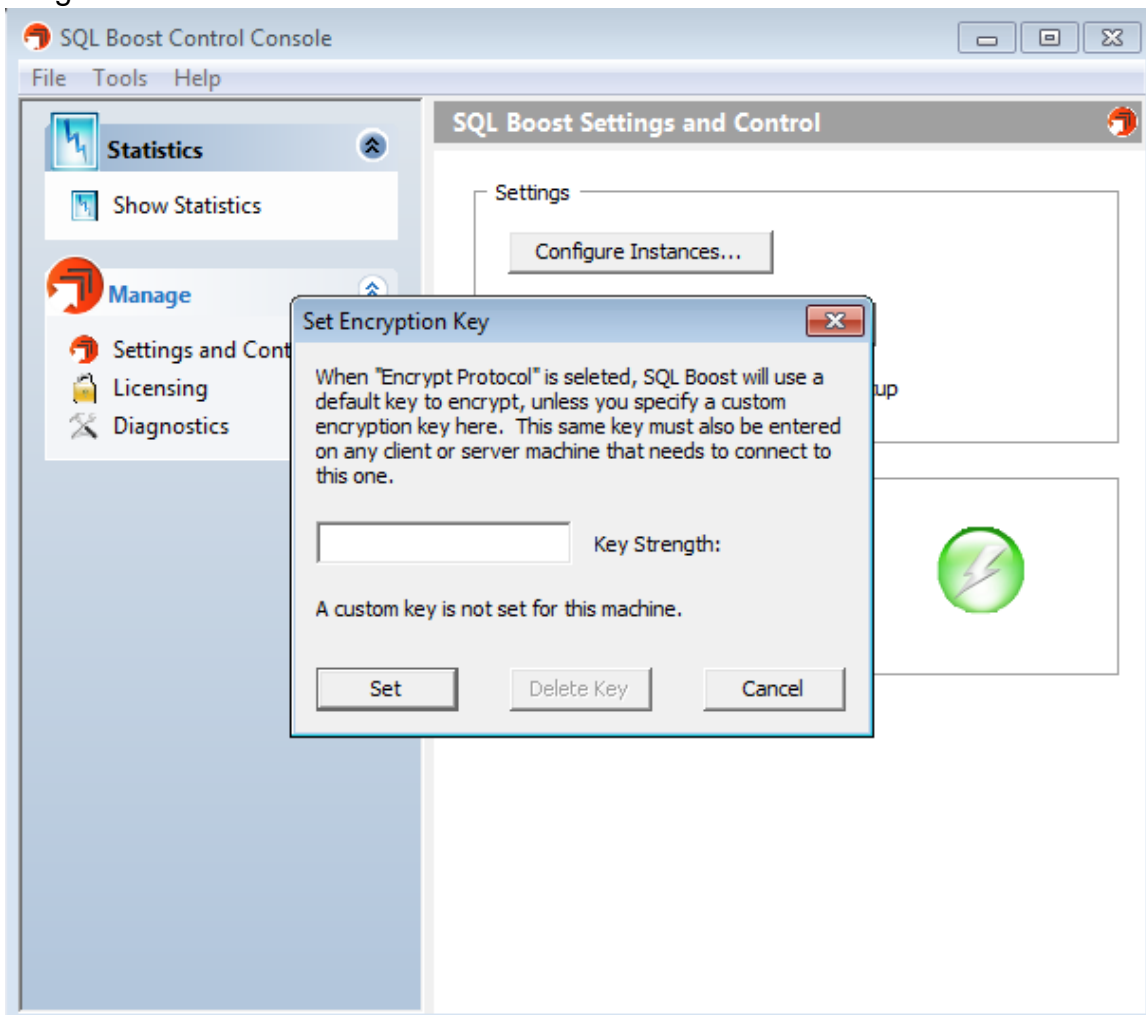
3. Type a custom encryption key in the available field, and then click **Set**. SQL Boost displays a confirmation message to remind you that you must restart the program before you can being using the key.
4. Click **OK** to close the message.

To delete a custom key, simply open the Set Encryption Key dialog box, and then click **Delete Key**. SQL Boost displays a confirmation message to inform you that the key is deleted. Click **OK** to close the message.

To disable encryption:

1. Open the SQL Boost Control Console, and then click **Settings and Control**. The system displays the SQL Boost Settings and Control window.
2. Clear the **Encrypt protocol** box. The system disables the encryption protocol.

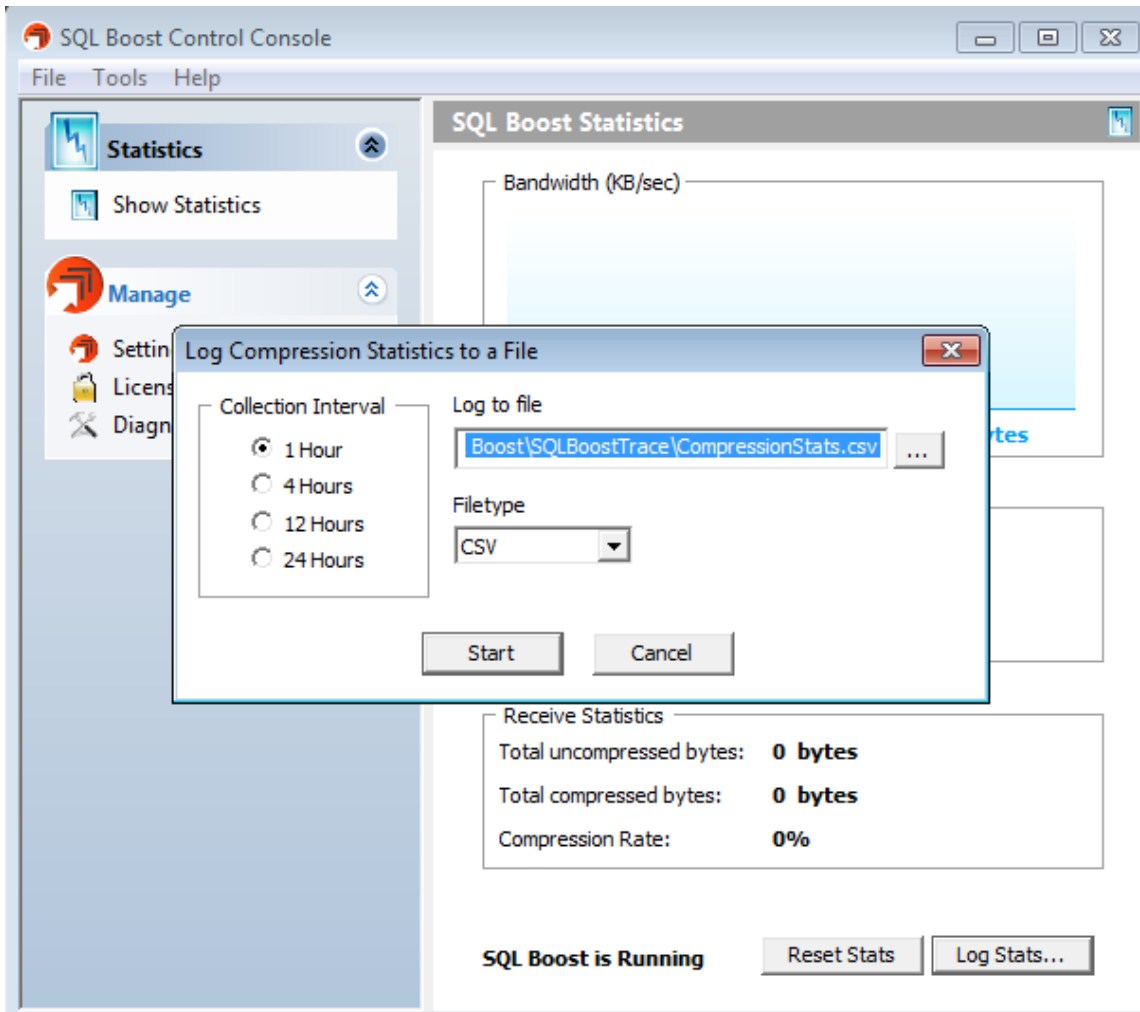Need more help? Search the Idera Customer Support Portal

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Configure compression statistics collection

SQL Boost allows you to set the collection interval and file location for your statistics. This information allows you to easily build a report showing the value SQL Boost provides to your organization. This feature also allows you to track network usage for your SQL data traffic, which can aid in current and future bandwidth planning.

Collection intervals range from one hour to 24 hours. You can store the file in CSV, XML, or JSON format and specify a location where you want the file to reside.

To access this feature, on the SQL Boost Statistics dialog box, click **Log Stats ...**. SQL Boost displays the Log Compression Statistics to a File dialog box as shown in the following image.

Click **Reset Stats** to return the compression statistics to the default settings.

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Troubleshooting

If you are not seeing any compression statistics in the SQL Boost Control Console, ensure the following:

- SQL Boost was installed under an administrator account.
- Your SQL Server service was restarted after installation.
- You are connecting using the TCP/IP protocol. You may need to create an alias to do this, or simply disable the other protocols.
- If connecting locally, make sure that the shared memory protocol is disabled.
- If connecting from a client that was installed under terminal services, make sure the *Installing Under Terminal Services* section was followed.
- If you have reinstalled SQL Boost, that the machine has been rebooted.
- If you have restarted the SQL Boost Watch service, that your SQL client has been re-launched.
- All client applications that send traffic to SQL Server were re-launched. *Please note* that during testing, any time SQL Boost is started or stopped (via the SQL Boost Control Console or by starting/stopping the SQL Boost Watch service), your client applications must be closed and then re-launched.

SQL Boost also includes a diagnostic tool, which may be helpful in troubleshooting. You can access this tool via the help menu in the SQL Boost Control Console. This diagnostic output includes:

- Which SQL Servers are detected by SQL Boost and the protocols that are enabled for each.
- Whether SQL Boost's client-side functionality is currently enabled on the system, which usually indicates whether the SQL Boost Watch service is started or stopped.

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Manage SQL Boost on your instances

By default, SQL Boost is enabled on all SQL Server instances in your environment. You can also select an option that automatically enables SQL Boost on each newly-installed instance.

To select a SQL Server instance for acceleration:

1. Open the SQL Boost Control Console, and then click **Settings and Control**. The system displays the SQL Boost Settings and Control window.
2. Click **Configure Instances**. The system displays the Select SQL Boost Instances window as shown in the following image.
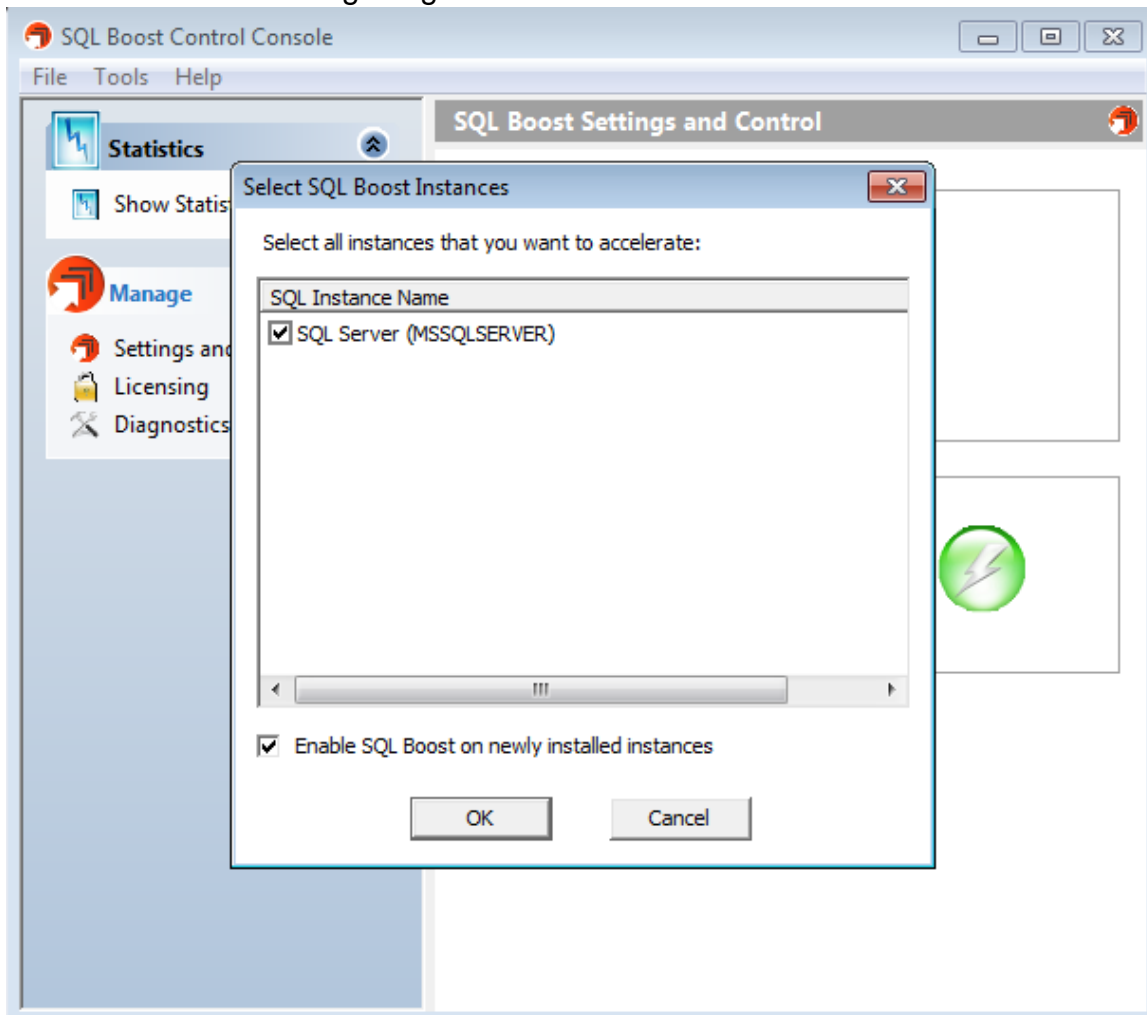
3. Check the box(es) of any SQL Server instance on which you want to enable SQL Boost, and then click **OK**.

Enable SQL Boost on new instances

You can avoid accidentally leaving off a SQL Server instance from the SQL Boost list by enabling the product on all newly-installed instances.

To enable this feature, open the Select SQL Boost Instances window, check **Enable SQL Boost on newly installed instances**, and then click **OK**.

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