**How to change database collation using SQLCMD**

Sometimes, it is discovered after installation, that an application database has been created with a wrong collation method, either through ignorance or inattention.

Re-installation may not be an option as it may be prohibitively expensive or impractical for other reasons. If you find yourself in this embarrassing situation, this article describes a method of addressing this situation and will save your reputation or from much worse.

1. **SCRIPT THE DATABASE and DATA**

Using SSMS, select the SEI database > Task > *Generate Scripts*,



Next



Script entire database and all database objects, Next



Click “Advanced”



• Change Script Collation: True.

• Change Type of data to script: Schema and data.

• OK to close window



Change File name: C:\TEMP\necscript.sql

Next



Next





1. **BACKUP AND REMOVE or RENAME the target database**

Backup the current target database.

Once completed, either completely delete the existing target database, or detach it and rename its .mdf and .ldf files.

1. **REPLACING THE COLLATION:**

Edit the script C:\Temp\ACNDBscript.sql

* Search and replace all collation occurrences with desired collation method. e.g. **Latin1\_General\_BIN**
* Save the script.



1. **EXECUTE THE SQL SCRIPT THROUGH COMMAND LINE (using SQLCMD)**

Why? Because when loading data, sqlcmd proves to be more reliable than executing the script directly in SSMS, which often times out, with an error.

* Start the command line in Administrator mode
* Go to the place you saved the script: CD C:\TEMP\ACNDBcript.sql
* Adjust the below command line to your own scenario and execute it:

[ sqlcmd -S X3V11TRN\X3V12 -U sa -P passw0rd -i C:\Temp\ACNDBscript.sql ]

**[ sqlcmd** -S *SQLSERVER*\*INSTANCE* -U *SQLUSER* -P *SQLPASSWORD* -i *C:\TEMP\ACNDBscript.sql* ]

* The script will create the database and load the records one by one.

If successful, it will normally end with:



I hope