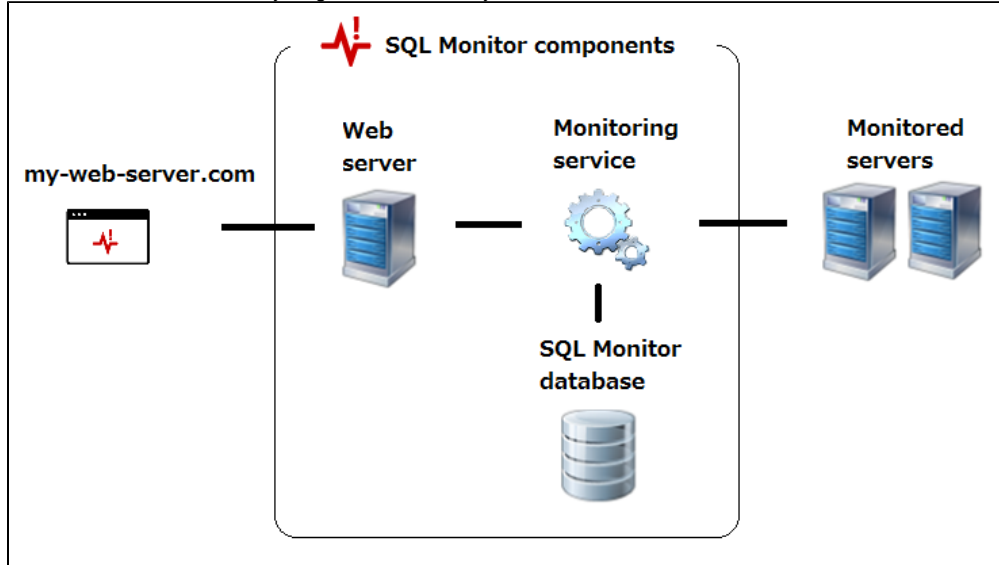# Installing

When you install SQL Monitor, you configure three components:

- the **web server**, which hosts the SQL Monitor web interface
- the **monitoring service** (also called the **base monitor**), a Windows service that collects data about your SQL Servers
- the **SQL Monitor database** (also called the **data repository**), a SQL Server database that stores data about your SQL Servers

SQL Monitor doesn't install anything on the instances you monitor.

> ⚠ You should install the SQL Monitor components on a different machine from the one that hosts the SQL Servers you want to monitor. Otherwise, if the SQL Server fails, you won't be able to access SQL Monitor.

Credentials

When you install and set up SQL Monitor, you need to provide credentials to connect:

- the monitoring service to the SQL Monitor database (if you use a Windows account, this account will also run the monitoring service)
- to the machine that hosts the SQL Server you want to monitor
- to every instance you want to monitor

After you install

To start using SQL Monitor, you need to create the Administrator role in the SQL Monitor UI.

To open SQL Monitor:

- If you installed the SQL Monitor web server, in the Start menu, select **Red Gate > SQL Monitor**.
- If you configured your own web server using IIS, open the SQL Monitor website you configured.