

# Installing a local instance of SQL Server Express

As mentioned [in this article on Continuous Integration](#), we recommend that you use a local instance of SQL Server with gated deployment. This ensures that there are no collisions between build agents (i.e. if you are running multiple simultaneous builds on different build agents).

Installing SQL Server can be quite a long and tedious task, so instead of doing this manually, an alternative is to use [Chocolatey](#). The package that is available from Chocolatey is pre-configured with a set of common default settings.

To install **SQL Server 2012 Express Edition** using Chocolatey, open a command prompt in administrator mode and run the following (not that this will also retrieve Chocolatey if you don't already have it installed):

```
@powershell -NoProfile -ExecutionPolicy unrestricted -Command "iex ((new-object net.webclient).DownloadString
('http://chocolatey.org/install.ps1'))" && SET PATH=%PATH%;%systemdrive%\chocolatey\bin

CALL cinst MsSqlServer2012Express

@ECHO Adding [BUILTIN\Users] to sysadmin role on local SQL instance

"%ProgramFiles%\Microsoft SQL Server\110\Tools\Binn\sqlcmd.exe" -S . -E -Q "ALTER SERVER ROLE [sysadmin] ADD
MEMBER [BUILTIN\Users];"
```

These commands will take a while to run, but you shouldn't have to intervene or confirm any dialog boxes, and a restart should not be required.



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## ALTER SERVER ROLE

Regarding the last command above: this ensures that your build agent can access the newly-installed SQLEXPRESS instance (which installs as the default SQL Server instance on the machine). You might choose to make this access more restrictive if you know which user your build agent will run-as.