

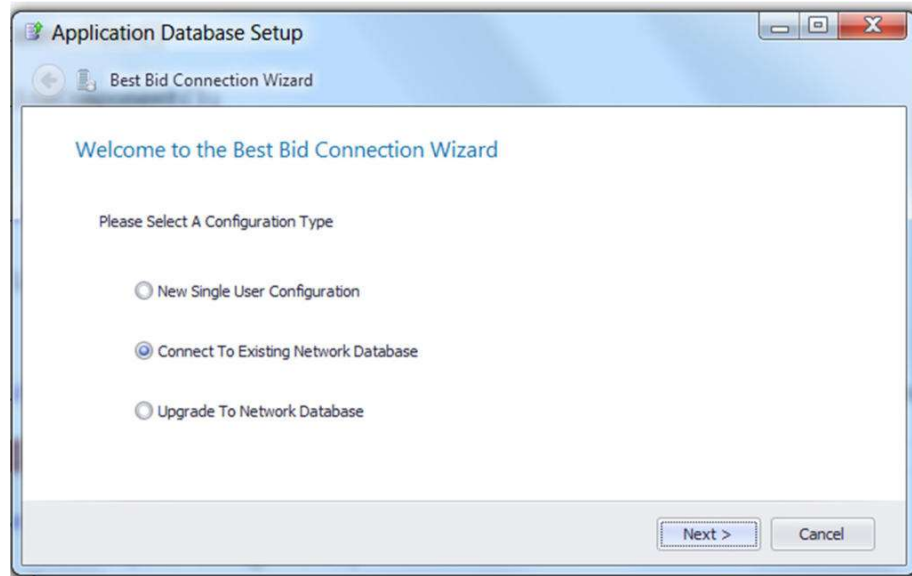
This document will show you how the 'Server Mode' works, steps to configure this mode, and some troubleshooting.

A. GENERAL

1. How I configured my database mode?

The system will ask for database mode when:

- o This is the first time the user installs the software
- o Or the User can run “**BestBidDatabase.exe**” to change or reconfigure the system. The user can find this file in the application folder.
- o To find the connection wizard>Right-Click on the Best Bid Icon>Open File Location> and select BestBidDatabase. This will show the Application Database Setup connection Wizard.



Please check the instructions below to see how to configure for each mode.

2. What is the 'Server' or 'Single' mode?

- **'Single'**: in this mode, the database file is stored in the client machine and isolated or used on this machine only. If you have many users, then each user will install their own database. Data cannot be shared.
- The database can be removed and shared with other users.
- **'Server'**: in this mode, a machine (only one machine) will play a 'server' role. The database file is placed on this machine. Many users or many machines will connect to this 'server' machine to use the same database. Data is shared for all users in this mode. Users will see THE same data.

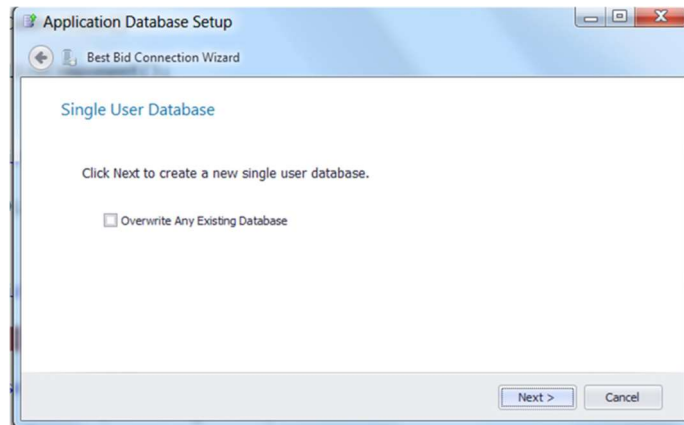
Note: all machines must be in the same LAN (local network). Network can be hard wired or wireless, the only requirement is that the connection should be stable.

B. SINGLE USER MODE

Use this mode when:

- When you first install the software
- Or when you want to reset your existing database to the default

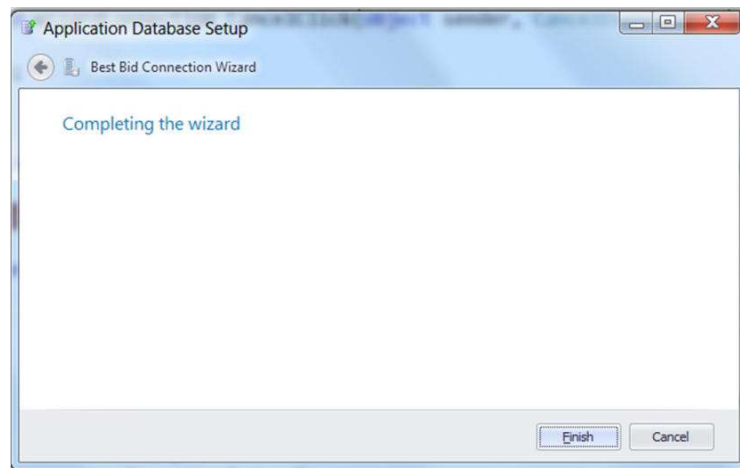
value. Select “**New Single User Configuration**” then clicks **Next**



Check on “**Overwrite Any Existing Database**” if you want to reset your current database or have ever had a Best Bid Product installed to upgrade from an older version.

Click **Next** to complete the process.

The system will execute and show the screen below when it finishes.



C. UPGRADE TO SERVER MODE

1. Install a machine that plays as ‘Server’

Note: You only need to install SQL Server if the machine you use intends to be used as ‘server’ has no SQL server installed. If it already has a SQL server, no need to install.

To install a Server mode, you must install a SQL Server Engine. This is a Microsoft product with some free Express versions. You can use any SQL version from 2008 that you like.

SQL Express is free. Other versions of SQL are paid and expensive. There is no requirement for a SQL version. Use any version you can.

You can download this setup file from the Microsoft website: the link below to help you to install a SQL Server.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5mvoKuV3xs>

Link to download SQL 2019 Express or the latest version.

[Download Microsoft® SQL Server® 2019 Express from Official Microsoft Download Center](#)

You will also need SSMS

Please read the links below to know how to install it.

Note:

- if the machine you will install already has this software installed then you don't need to install new SQL Server. You can skip this step.
- Be sure you turn on TCP/IP mode.
- Be sure you add port 1433 to the Firewall setting on the server
- The server's IP must be fixed. So you must use a fixed IP for the server. **Do not use a Dynamic IP**
- Use SQL Server Authentication, not Windows Authentication.
- Select mixed mode SQL Server Authentication.
- It is a good idea to ping all machines that will be used for connection.

After completing this installation, you must have the answers to these questions:

1. What is your database server name?

2. What is the account to log in to this database

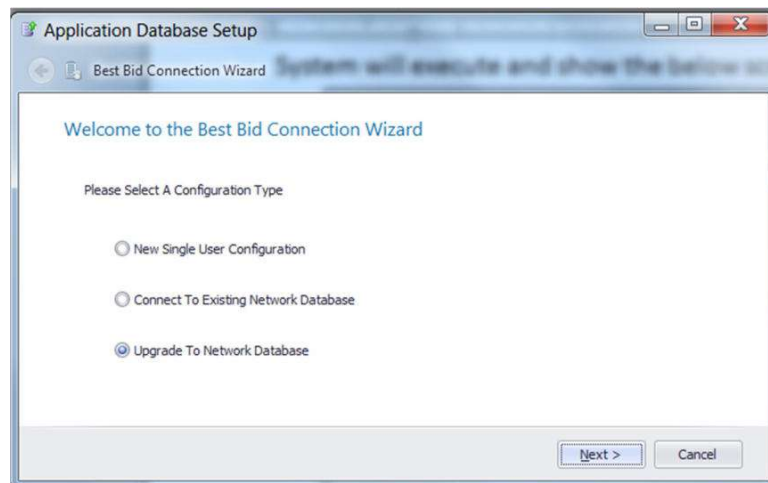
server? You can find these 2 answers when you install this software.

Note:

- Sometimes it is easier to use the Server's IP Address.
- Turn on SQL Browser Service

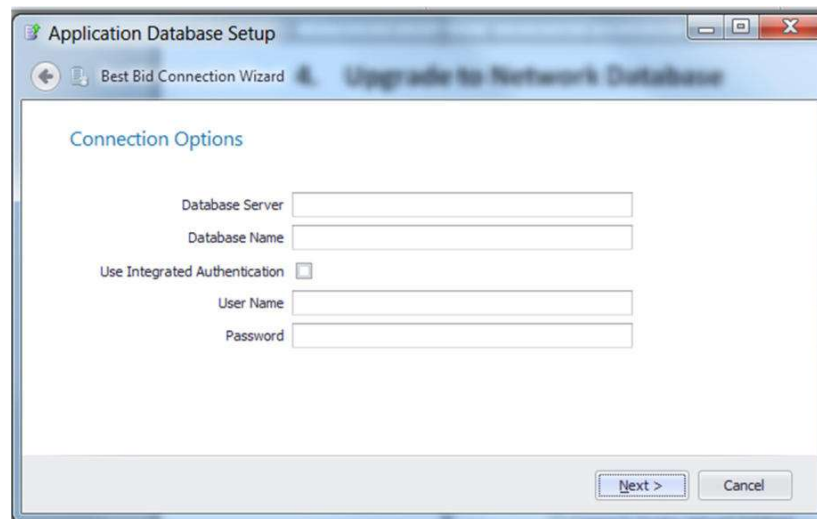
2. Upgrade to Network Database

- Ensure you have a valid silence to use this mode.
- Choose this mode when you are using 'Single User' mode and now you want to use 'Server' mode. Your old data will be moved to the server when upgrading. **But we recommend backup the current database before upgrading if you have existing estimates.**
- Select "Upgrade to Network Database" then click Next



- Enter server information: please check “Install a machine that plays as ‘Server’” for more details

- This function will install Best Bid’s database on the server.



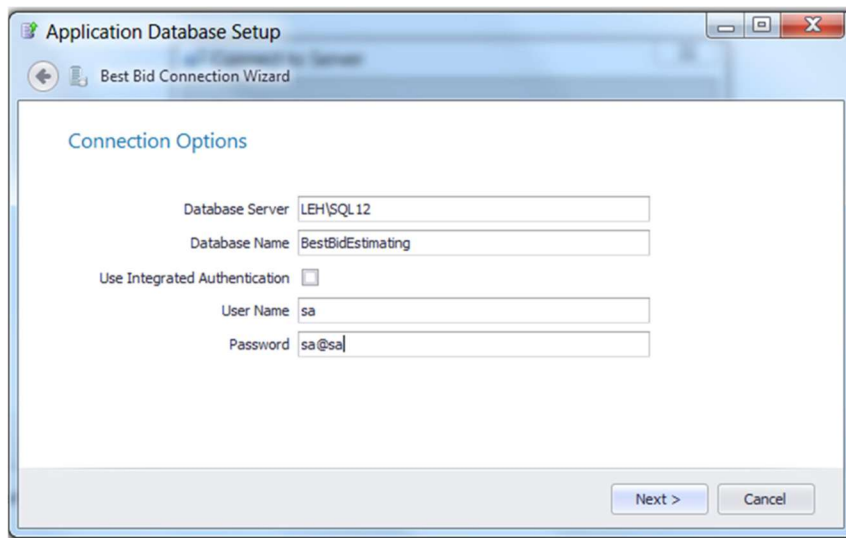
- o **Database Server:** this is the name of the database server or it’s IP. It is usually the machine name or the IP. For example, ‘DataServer’ or ‘192.168.1.100’
- o **Database name:** you can enter any name you like such as BestBidEstimation. But it has no space or special characters.
- o **“Use Integrated Authentication”:** to connect to the database from a remote machine, the machine needs a user name and password. This is the database user name & password, not the user name or pw to log into our software (our software does not require user name).
There are 2 ways to log into this database:
 1. Use the current window login account: this is the current account that you use to log into your Window OS. If you want to use this mode then check on “Use Integrated Authentication”. We use this mode only when your machine is joined in an Active Directory network. If your machine is not joined please keep this check OFF.
 2. Use a User Name or Password: This way will use the username and password you will enter in the next 2 fields below.
- o User Name/Password: these 2 fields are active only when “Use Integrated Authentication” is OFF.
 - User name: the database user name when you installed the Database Server
 - Password: database password.

I suggest not using **Integrated Authentication**.

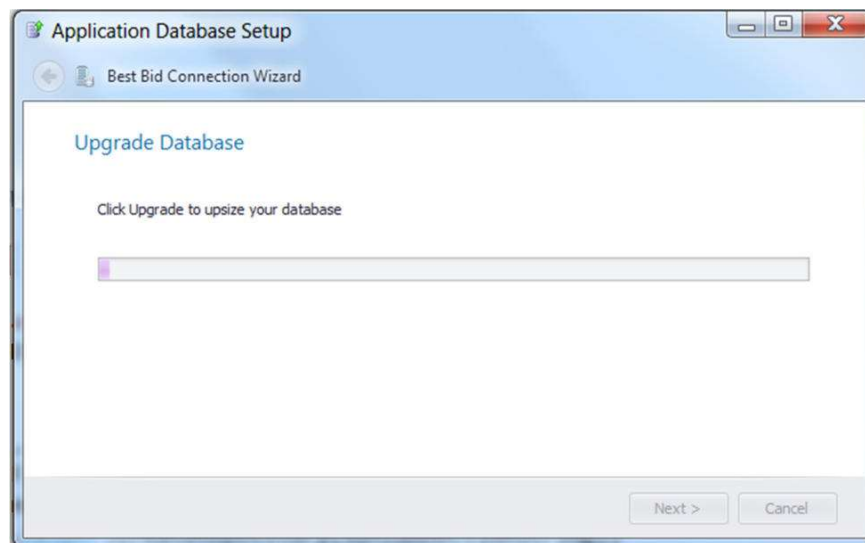
This is my test server information



Then what I need to enter into this screen are:

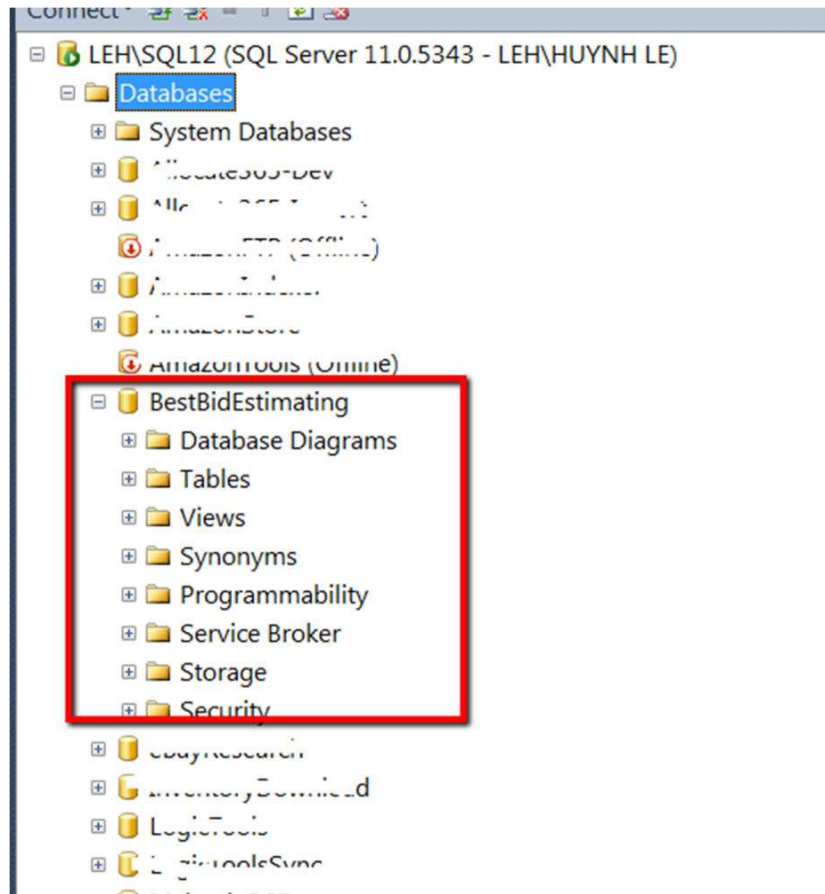


Click Next, then “Upgrade” to complete the process.



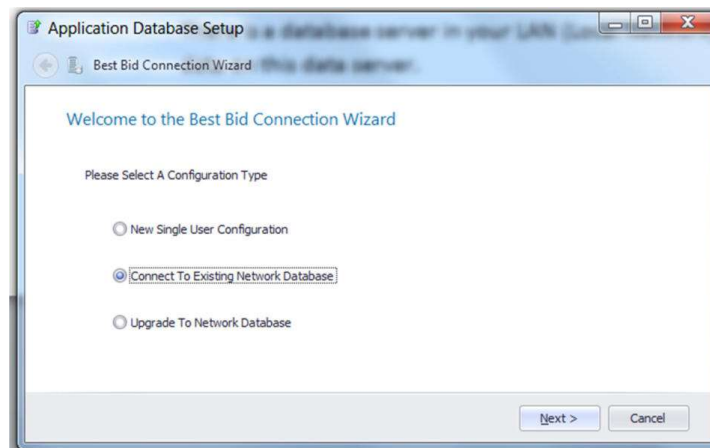
Note: You will not be given a notice that this has **been successfully completed**. When finished, select next.

If everything is correct, you will see the database on your server. This is my test server.

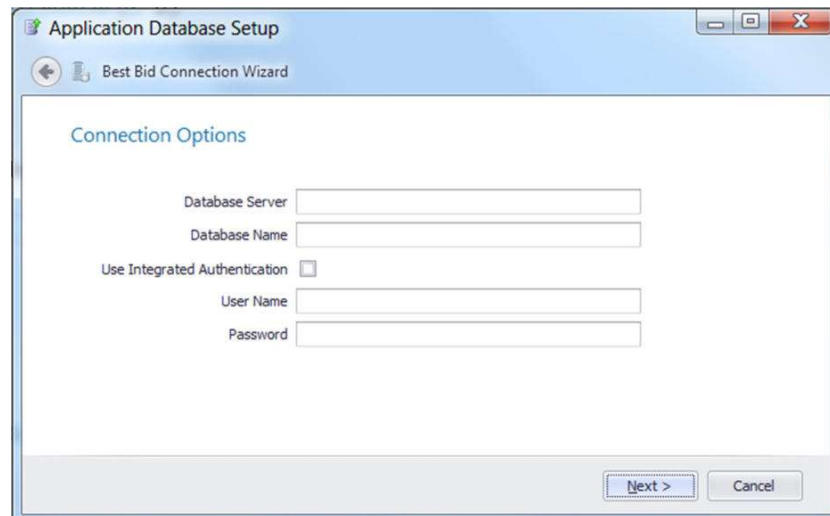


D. CONNECT TO EXISTING DATABASE

- There is a database server in your LAN (Local Network), now you want to connect your software to use data on this data server.
- This is not 100% necessary, but I suggest starting by installing Best Bid in Single User Configuration on all computers, including the server.
- When converting to Server Mode, open the Wizard.
- Select “Connect to Existing Network Database” then click Next
- To open the wizard on an existing single user: Right click on the Best Bid Icon>Select Open File Location>Select BestBidDatabase. The following screen will open.



The information you enter below is the same as session “C” above



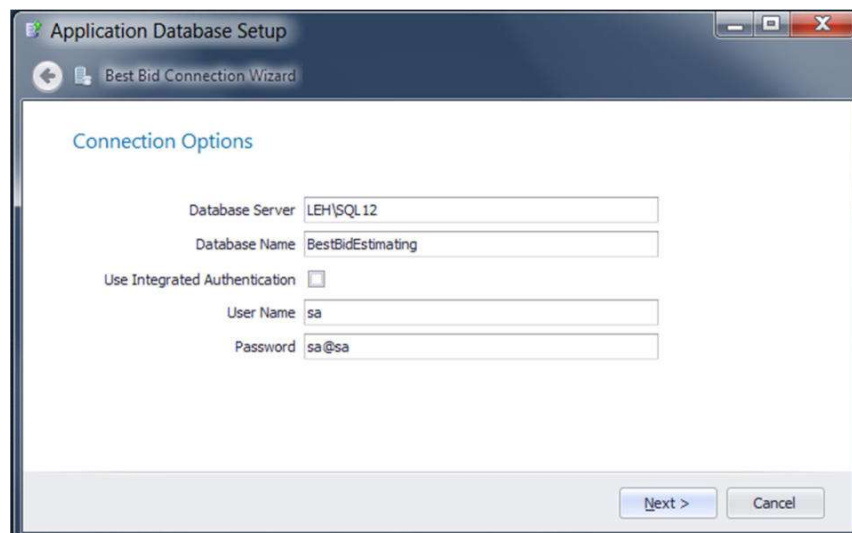
The screenshot shows a Windows-style dialog box titled "Application Database Setup" with a subtitle "Best Bid Connection Wizard". The "Connection Options" section contains the following fields:

- Database Server: [Empty text box]
- Database Name: [Empty text box]
- Use Integrated Authentication: ☐
- User Name: [Empty text box]
- Password: [Empty text box]

At the bottom right, there are "Next >" and "Cancel" buttons.

This is my test screen:

Note: Using sa as the User Name seems to work best. If you get an error, check to make sure sa is enabled.



The screenshot shows the same "Application Database Setup" dialog box, but with the following test data entered:

- Database Server: LEH\SQL12
- Database Name: BestBidEstimating
- Use Integrated Authentication: ☐
- User Name: sa
- Password: sa@sa

The "Next >" and "Cancel" buttons are still present at the bottom right.

E. TROUBLE SHOOTING

1. Your machine cannot connect to the database server:
 - a. Check if you enter the correct “Database Server”, “Database Name”, ”User Name”, “Password”
 - b. Check if your machine is on the same LAN as the server machine. You can use ‘ping’ function to

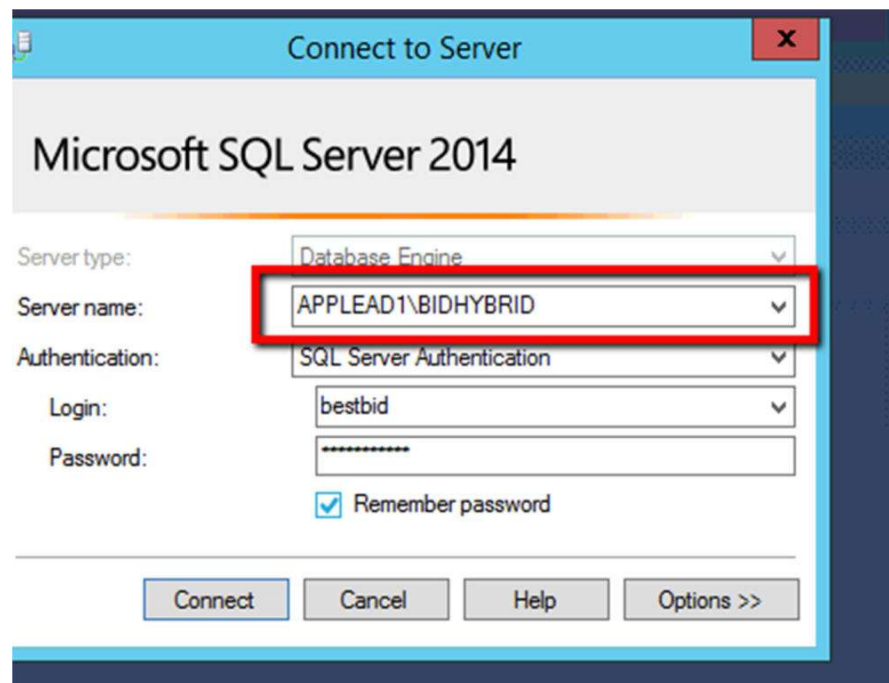
check if your machine can 'see' the server:

- i. Click on the Window icon
 - ii. Click run ->enter 'cmd' ->press enter
 - iii. Type: ping [server IP or name]. For example, ping LEH. If you see 'reply from ...' then your machine can see the server machine
- c. Check if both the server and client have the Firewall ON. If yes, you must enable the port 1433 (this is the SQL default port) to go through.

CASE STUDIES

1. I am setting up a brand new system using Network mode. What steps I must follow?

- **Step 1:** Install SQL server database on your server machine
 - o Check C.1 session above to understand installing SQL
 - o Remember these key points:
 - What is your database server name?. You can know the exact name by open the SQL Management Studio, you will see the name shown there at startup



- If you don't see the name here then you can click the arrow key to select
- Be sure you can login using SQL Server Authentication mode. If you forget to turn on this mode then you can login using the Window Authentication mode and turn on that option. If you forget to create the login UserName/PW then you can login using Window

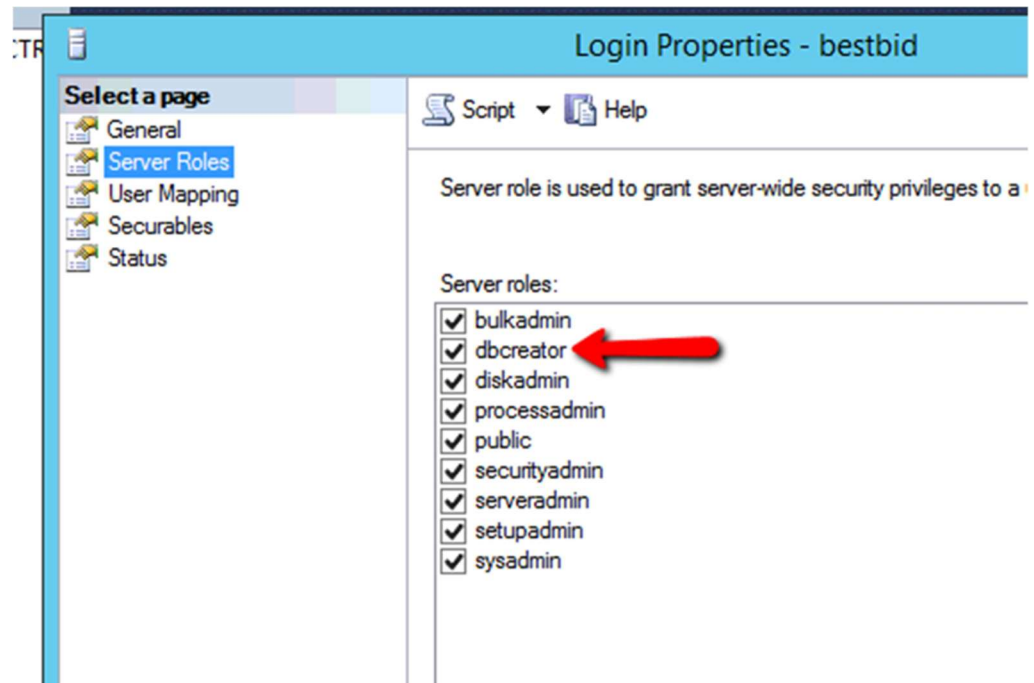
Authentication Mode and create this account. You will not receive the opportunity to enter a password under Window Authentication.

The screenshot shows the 'Login Properties - bestbid' dialog box. The left sidebar has 'Select a page' with options: General, Server Roles, User Mapping, Securables, and Status. Below this is the 'Connection' section showing 'Server: APPLEAD1\BIDHYBRID' and 'Connection: APPLLEELECTRIC\appleadmin', with a link to 'View connection properties'. The 'Progress' section shows a 'Ready' status. The main area has 'Script' and 'Help' buttons. The 'Login name' field contains 'bestbid'. The 'Authentication mode' section has 'Windows authentication' and 'SQL Server authentication' (selected). The 'Password' and 'Confirm password' fields are filled with dots. The 'Specify old password' checkbox is unchecked. The 'Enforce password policy' checkbox is checked. The 'Mapped to certificate', 'Mapped to asymmetric key', and 'Map to Credential' options are all unchecked. The 'Mapped Credentials' table is empty. The 'Default database' is 'BestBidEstimating' and the 'Default language' is 'English'. The 'OK' and 'Cancel' buttons are at the bottom right.

Credential	Provider
------------	----------

You must remember the password you set here

- When you create the login account, be sure this account has full permissions.



- **Step2:** This step is performed on the Server machine. Install bestBid on the server using Single Mode.
 - o Install the Best Bid Software on this server using Single Mode. Please notice we must install the bestbid using Single Mode first. This process will setup all built-in data
- **Step3:** this step is performed on the server machine
 - o Follow step “Upgrade to Network Database”
- **Step4:** perform this step on EVERY CLIENT MACHINE
 - o Follow steps in “Connect to Existing Database”

Backing up the database can be performed using the SSMM tool.

Setting up a Shared Folder

In addition, for the Server Version of the Best Bid Next Generation to function Properly, you must create a Shared Folder.

How to create a Shared Folder

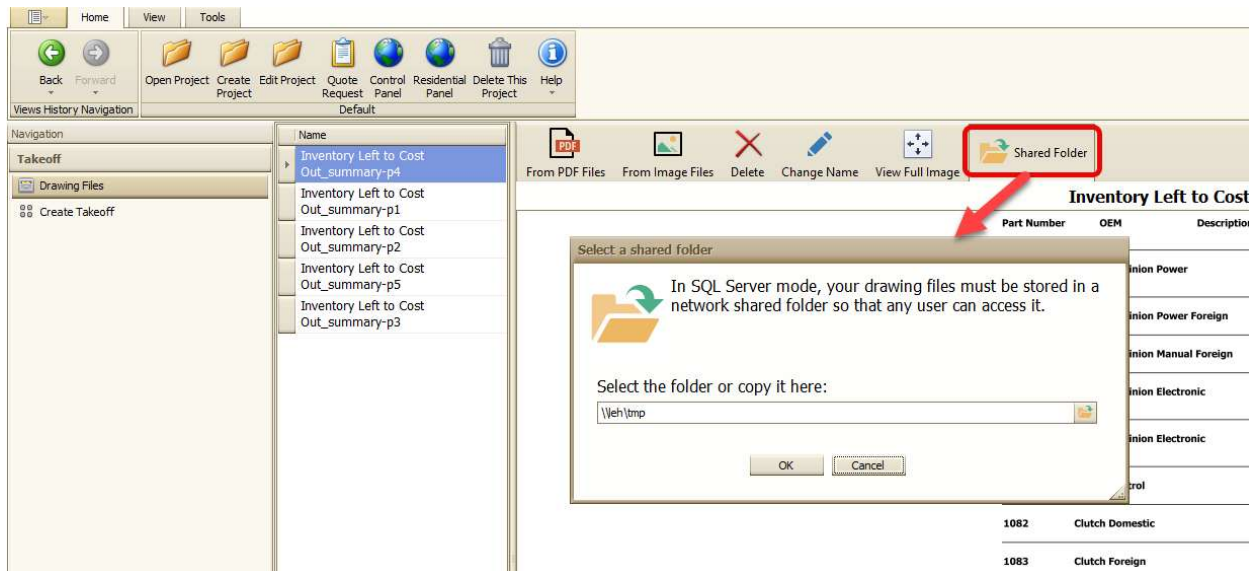
You must share a folder so that everyone can see that folder. When sharing a folder:

1. You should share full permission for 'everyone'
2. Ensure you turn off the password protection: Control Panel -> Network and Internet -> Network and Sharing Center -> Change advanced sharing settings -> Turn off password-protected sharing
3. Shared a folder IS NOT RELATED to SQL Server. It is a basic function of networking
4. Please check the following video:
5. <https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=How+to+share+a+folder+in+windows+11&qpv=How+to+share+a+folder+in+windows+11&mid=3EAE1E5E71919598BE723EAE1E5E71919598BE72&FORM=VCGVRP>
6. You must have a Fixed IP.
7. The Shared folder should be on the server and protected. Back up the Shared Folder when you back up the database.

The Shared folder will store the uploaded PDF drawings. **This is its only function, but it is necessary.**

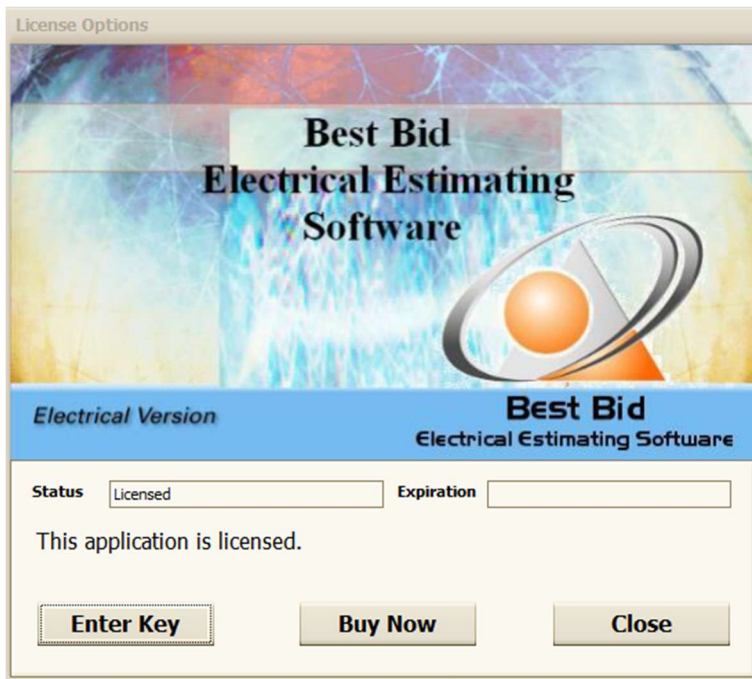
When you upload your first drawing while in the server mode, you will be prompted to select the Shared Folder.

Example: \\10.0.0.19\SharedFolder

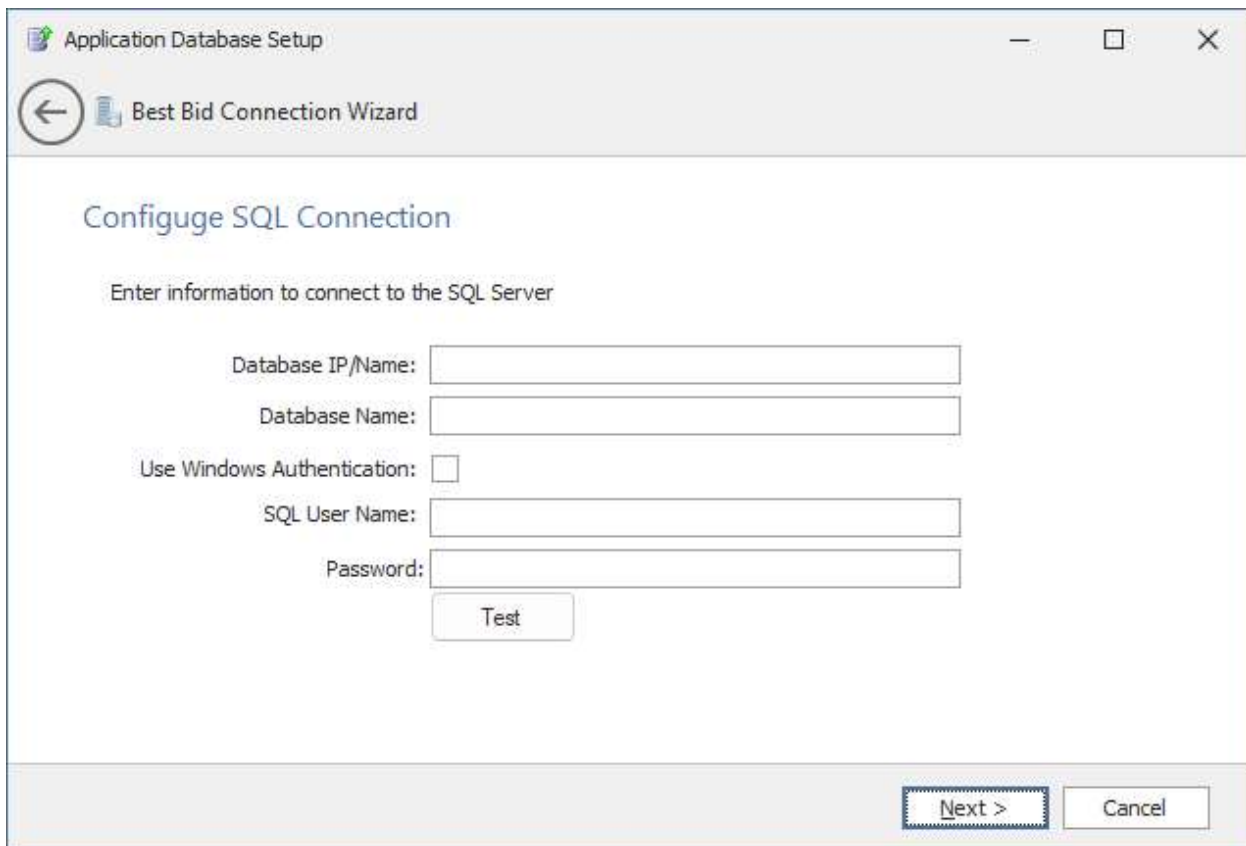


General repetitive notes:

- You must have a Server License to work. It will ask you at some point to install one.
- To install a new license, hold down the Shift Key and select the Best Bid Icon.
- Enter the Server License if you have not done so.



When installing the database, use the Test button until you receive OK.



To connect each client, you will select Connect to Existing SQL Server Database.
If you cannot find the Connection Wizard right right-click on the Best Bid Icon, select open file location.
Select BestBidDatabase as shown below.

 BestBidDatabase	8/2/2025 9:34 AM	Application
---	------------------	-------------

This will open the Connection Wizard.

Notes:

1. The Server must have a fixed IP address.
2. Ping client machines to the server to verify connection.
3. Turn on SQL Browser Server
4. Enable TCP/IP
5. Download Server Manager Studio
6. Use SQL Server Authentication not Windows Authentication
7. Select Mixed Mode SQL Server Authentication or Windows Authentication
8. Enable port 1433
9. Correct any Firewall issues on the server and client

Open Windows Defender Firewall.

Go to "Advanced settings".

Click "Inbound Rules".

Find "File and Printer Sharing" and "File and Printer Sharing (SMB-In)" rules.

Right-click and select "Enable Rule" for each.