

# "Cannot open backup device" message when trying to back up SQL database

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## Symptom

When running Database Backup in SQL Server the following error message appears:

```
"Backup failed for server "XXXXXX". (Microsoft.SqlServer.Express.Smo)"
```

Additional Information:

```
System.Data.SqlClient.SqlError: Cannot Open Backup Device "C:\...". Operating System Error 5(Access Denied).(Microsoft.SqlServer.Express.Smo)
```

Substitute your database server name for "XXXXXX".

## Resolution

- 1) In Control Panel, open Administrative Tools.
- 2) Open Services.
- 3) Right-click the SQL Server(MSSQLSERVER) service and select **Properties**.
- 6) Select the Log On tab.
- 7) Make sure that the **Local System Account** radio button is selected.
- 8) If necessary click [Apply] and then [OK].
- 9) Right-click the SQL Server(MSSQLSERVER) service and select **Restart**.

## Applies To

SQL Server 2005  
SQL Server 2005 Express

## Additional Information

This should only happen if the user is trying to back up the database to a folder other than the default SQL Backup folder.

**Note:** Make sure you have access to write to the folder where the database is being backed up.

