



Configuring CrimeLink™ to Use a Central Database

By default, CrimeLink installs a local copy of SQL Server Express and uses that local database to store and manage all cases. In some instances, it is more beneficial for customers with more than one copy of CrimeLink to utilize a central database in order to allow analysts to share cases and take full advantage of CrimeLink's ability to correlate entities, identify common elements between cases, and to merge cases. This configuration enables CrimeLink to assist analysts in identifying connections between seemingly unrelated investigations.

In order to utilize this feature, you must have purchased at least two copies of CrimeLink, installed them on separate computers, and have network connectivity between those machines.

It is recommended that the computer with the most robust set of resources (i.e. most memory, fastest CPU, largest hard drive, and most reliable network connection) be selected as the CrimeLink database server.

CrimeLink makes it very easy to select a remote machine to host its database. To do so, however, you must first select the model that you wish to use. Your choices are to enable the SQL Browser service on the machine that will act as the server or to specify the port number for SQL server when setting up the CrimeLink Client. The first option is simpler, however the latter is more secure if you are concerned about vulnerabilities from outside network attacks and you are not protected by an adequate firewall.

To set up CrimeLink to connect to a remote machine, perform the following steps:

Step 1: Determine if you wish to utilize the SQL Browser Service

Option 1 – Enabling SQL Server Browser Service

By default, the SQL Server Browser service is marked as disabled by the CrimeLink install. To enable it, perform the following actions:

1. Open a Windows® Command prompt (Select Start->Run, type *'cmd'*, click *OK*).
2. Type *'sc config SQLBrowser start= auto'*, hit *return*.
3. Type *'sc start SQLBrowser'*, hit *return*.

Option 2 – Using an explicit port number

On the machine identified as the 'server', perform the following actions:

1. Select Start->Run, type *'SQLServerManager.msc'*, click *OK*.
2. Expand the *'SQL Server 2005 Network Configuration'* node.
3. Under the *'SQL Server 2005 Network Configuration'* node, select the *'Protocols for CRIMELINKSQL:'* sub-node.
4. In the pane on the right, double-click the *'TCP/IP'* entry to display the *'TCP/IP Properties'* dialog box.
5. Select the *'IP Addresses'* tab.
6. Scroll down until you find the entry entitled *'IPALL'*.

7. Record the number in the 'TCP Dynamic Ports' entry.

Step 2: Configuring Windows® Firewall

If you have Windows® Firewall enabled, you will need to perform the actions outlined below. The instructions below are for Windows® XP® SP2, but also work for Windows® Vista®.

1. Launch the Windows® Firewall configuration tool from the control panel.
2. Click the 'Exceptions' Tab.
3. Click the 'Add Programs' button and select 'sqlservr.exe' from the location where you installed SQL Server Express (typically 'C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL.1\MSSQL\Binn\sqlservr.exe').

Note: If you chose to use the SQL Browser service, you must also add *sqlbrowser* service executable to the exception list as it listens on udp port 1434.

Step 3: Configure CrimeLink

To configure CrimeLink to point to a central database, CrimeLink must first be installed and registered. If you have not yet done so, install CrimeLink on all machines on which you intend to use it. After installation, activate the software using your provided Activation ID and desired activation method. Once CrimeLink initializes, perform the following actions:

Note: You must ensure that no cases are currently open or the following options will not be enabled.

1. Select 'Database Maintenance->Select Database' from the 'Tools' menu to display the 'CrimeLink Database Connection Wizard'.
2. The first step is to select the server name/address. Decide whether you wish to connect to the server machine by using its machine name or its IP address and choose the appropriate radio button. Enter either the machine name or IP depending upon your choice, and click the 'Next' button.
3. The next step is to select the security method and optionally identify the port. If you chose to enable the SQL Server Browser service in *Step 1*, you may simply accept the defaults, and click the 'Next' button. However, if you chose not to enable the SQL Server Browser service, you must explicitly specify the port name for SQL Server. To do so, modify the 'Database Instance' name to read 'CrimeLinkSQL,<port Num>', where <port num> is the port number recorded in *Step 1/Options 2/Action 7*. Click the 'Next' button.
4. If everything has been done correctly, the 'Available Databases:' drop down will show 'CrimeLinkSQL'. If it does, click the 'Next' button. If it does not, please verify that all actions have been performed correctly and correct any errors. If this does not solve the problem, please contact PCI support by email at support@pciusa.us.
5. Verify your connection settings and click 'Finish'.

At this point CrimeLink will now be utilizing the database on the selected server, and you may take full advantage of CrimeLink's advanced correlation and case management capabilities.