



QuickBooks Database Server Manager for Multi-User Mode: Complete Setup & Troubleshooting Guide

When QuickBooks hosting mode is off, multi-user access becomes impossible, leading to frustrating downtime and workflow delays. For businesses running QuickBooks in a collaborative environment, the **QuickBooks Database Server Manager (QBDSM)** is the backbone of seamless multi-user functionality. In this guide, we will walk you through **setup, configuration, and troubleshooting** steps to ensure your QuickBooks operates smoothly in multi-user mode



Understanding QuickBooks Hosting Mode and Database Server Manager

QuickBooks **Hosting Mode** enables multiple users to work on the same company file from different computers simultaneously. When hosting mode is off in quickbooks, it means QuickBooks Database Server Manager is either not installed, misconfigured, or blocked by security settings.

QuickBooks Database Server Manager plays a crucial role in:

- Storing and managing company files for multiple users.
- Scanning folders for QuickBooks files to ensure accessibility.
- Managing network data files (.ND) for connection stability.

Without a properly configured Database Server Manager, multi-user mode will not work — even if QuickBooks is installed on multiple devices.



Installing QuickBooks Database Server Manager

Follow these steps for a successful QBDSM installation:

1. Download the QuickBooks Tool Hub from Intuit's official website (if not already installed).
2. Run the QuickBooks installer on the host computer.
3. Select "Custom or Network install" when prompted.
4. Choose "I will NOT be using QuickBooks on this computer" if it's a dedicated server, or "I will be using QuickBooks on this computer" if you plan to run it locally.
5. Finish installation and restart the server.



Configuring Hosting Mode in QuickBooks

Once QBDSM is installed, enabling hosting mode is critical:

1. Open **QuickBooks** on the **server computer**.
2. Go to **File > Utilities > Host Multi-User Access**.
3. Confirm by clicking **Yes** when prompted.
4. Restart QuickBooks to apply the settings.

If **Hosting Mode is Off**, multi-user connections will fail. You must **repeat these steps on the host system** to enable it.



Scanning Folders with QuickBooks Database Server Manager

QuickBooks needs .ND (Network Data) files to allow multiple users to access company files. Here's how to scan and set it up:

1. Open QuickBooks Database Server Manager from the Start menu.
2. Click "Scan Folders".
3. Select "Add Folder" and browse to your company file location.
4. Click Scan.
5. Ensure that .ND files are created for each company file.



Setting Correct Windows Firewall & Network Permissions

Firewalls and security software often block QuickBooks network ports, leading to hosting mode errors. Configure your firewall to allow:

- QuickBooks ports (varies by version; e.g., 8019, 56728, 55378–55382).
- QuickBooks programs:
- QBDBMgrN.exe
- QBUpdate.exe
- QBW32.exe

Steps to allow QuickBooks through the firewall:

1. Open Windows Defender Firewall.
2. Go to Advanced Settings > Inbound Rules > New Rule.
3. Select Port and enter the version-specific QuickBooks ports.
4. Allow the connection and name the rule.
5. Repeat for Outbound Rules.



Final Thoughts

The **QuickBooks Database Server Manager** is the key to running QuickBooks in multi-user mode without interruptions. By correctly installing, configuring, and maintaining it, you can ensure a smooth accounting workflow. For businesses seeking hassle-free performance, **professional QuickBooks hosting** offers a more reliable solution