



MAIN FEATURE TAB

Investigate

An interactive dependency explorer — navigate foreign key relationships, view referencing and referenced objects, and trace data chains across tables and views.

Who

WHO IT IS FOR

Anyone about to rename, retype, or drop a column or table who needs to know exactly what depends on it first.

What

WHAT IT DOES

Investigate drills into a single column: where it is used, its discrete value distribution, and every view, procedure, function, and trigger that references it — in both directions across the database.

When

WHEN TO USE IT

Use it during impact analysis, before refactoring or deprecating schema objects, or when you simply need to understand how a piece of data flows through the database.

Where

WHERE TO FIND IT

The Investigate tab is on the main top tab bar (a Pro feature). Pick a column at the top; usages, distinct values, and SQL dependencies fill the panels below.

Why

WHY IT MATTERS

Seeing every dependency before you change anything prevents broken deployments and turns a risky guess into an informed decision.

SCREENSHOT

McSaver Search — Investigate

241 Discrete Columns: AddressID

Find...

2 Usages

Ord	Id	PK	FK	Idx	UI	Schema	Table	Column	Pos	DataType	Len	Sci	Null	RefInfo
1		P				Person	Address	AddressID	0	int	0	10:0		
1						Person	BusinessEntityAddress	AddressID	0	int	0	10:0		

Top 200 Discrete Values in [Person].[Address].[AddressID]

Disable over (0): 50

Count	Value
1	33
1	451
1	466
1	467
1	475
1	487
1	502
1	504
1	505
1	519
1	526
1	546
1	553
1	558
1	12827
1	13528

5 SQL Dependencies

Type	Name	Schema
View	vEmployee	HumanResource
View	vIndividualCustomer	Sales
View	vSalesPerson	Sales
View	vStoreWithAddresses	Sales
View	vVendorWithAddresses	Purchasing

71 Tables: Address (Person)

9 Columns in [Person].[Address]

#	Name	Type	Req	Default	CK	Id	PK	FK	Idx	Ux	EN
1	AddressID	int	✓			Id	P				
2	AddressLine	nvarchar(60)	✓						I	U	
3	AddressLine	nvarchar(60)	✓						I	U	
4	City	nvarchar(30)	✓						I	U	
5	StateProvince	int	✓					F	I	U	
6	PostalCode	nvarchar(15)	✓						I	U	
7	SpatialLocation	geography	✓						I	U	
8	rowguid	uniqueidentifier	✓	(newid)					I	U	
9	ModifiedDate	datetime	✓	(getdate)							Trg

Investigate as shown on mcsavertechnologies.com



Tip of the Day 31 tips

Every Tip of the Day for this tab — open them in the app from the lightbulb icon.

- VALUE

Before renaming or dropping a column, use Investigate to see every table, view, proc, function, and trigger that depends on it — preventing broken deployments and saving hours of impact analysis.
- OVERVIEW

The Investigate tab pairs a left-side column Usage explorer with a right-side Quick Nav table browser, so you can trace a column across the whole database and inspect any table's structure side by side.
- ACTION

Pick a column name from the Discrete Columns dropdown at the top left to load every table that uses that column into the Usage grid.
- COLUMN

The Usage grid's badge columns flag each occurrence as Identity (Id), Primary Key (PK), Foreign Key (FK), non-unique Index (Idx), or Unique Index (UI), with the role highlighted by its cell color.
- SELECTION

Click a Usage row to load that table-column's discrete values and SQL dependencies below, and to auto-select the matching column over in the Quick Nav panel.
- CLARIFICATION

The Inconsistent types warning (red) next to the Usage count appears when the same column name is defined with more than one data type across tables.

FEATURE	The Discrete Values panel lists every distinct value in the selected column alongside how many rows hold each value.
PERFORMANCE	Use the Disable over (K) box to set a row-count ceiling — tables larger than that skip the discrete-values query and show a Disabled message instead, keeping the UI responsive.
FEATURE	The SQL Dependencies panel lists every stored procedure, view, function, and trigger whose definition references the selected column, with a colored Type badge per row.
ACTION	Type a pattern into the Find box and click Find to pull every column whose name matches into the Usage grid across the entire database.
COLUMN	Tap any Usage, Discrete Values, SQL Dependencies, or Table Columns header to open a filter and sort popup for that column; an active filter or sort shows a marker on the header.
TECHNIQUE	Drag the handles between the Usage grid's Schema, Table, and Column headers to widen or narrow those columns.
NAVIGATION	Drag the three pane splitters — the main vertical bar, the bar above Discrete Values, and the bar between Discrete Values and SQL Dependencies — to rebalance the panels.
ACTION	Right-click a Usage row for View Table Rows, View SQL Dependencies, View SQL Source, and Copy to Clipboard.
ACTION	Right-click selected Discrete Values for View Rows, Delete Rows, or Copy to Clipboard — View Rows opens the matching rows, and Delete Rows builds the DELETE for review before you run it.
ACTION	Right-click a SQL Dependencies row for View Row(s) to open its SQL source, Delete Row(s) to script the DROP, or Copy to Clipboard.
SELECTION	The Discrete Values and SQL Dependencies grids support multi-select, so you can Copy or act on several values or dependencies at once, while the Usages grid is single-select.
NAVIGATION	On the right, the Tables dropdown loads any table's columns into the Quick Nav grid showing type, Required, Default, check, Identity, PK, FK, Idx, Ux, and Enum flags.
NAVIGATION	Hover the Quick Nav icon row — Reference Tables, Foreign Tables, Primary Key, Natural Keys, Indexes, Check Constraints, Triggers, and SQL Dependencies — to flow open a floating list of the matching objects, each row showing its icon and name; click an icon to pin the list open, then pick a row to jump to it.
ACTION	Right-click a Quick Nav column to Edit or Drop it, or to drop its PK, FK, index, unique index, or check constraint — each opens a SQL viewer so you can review the script first.
FEATURE	Use the vertical toolbar beside the Quick Nav grid to Add Table, Add Column, set a Primary Key, Add Foreign Key, Add Index, Add Trigger, or Add Check Constraint on the current table.
ACTION	Click Show Log on the right panel's toolbar to open the Investigate Change Log; right-click the button to copy the log file's path to the clipboard.
FEATURE	The change log records every schema action you run from Investigate — adding, editing, or dropping tables, columns, primary and foreign keys, indexes, triggers, and check constraints, plus Table Editor row saves and deletes, dropped SQL references, and deleted discrete values — capturing the executed SQL and whether it succeeded.

- WORKFLOW** Selecting a column in the Quick Nav grid investigates it on the left, so you can drill from a table's structure straight into where that column is used everywhere else.
- VISUAL** Row selection now shows as an accent-highlight row instead of WinUI checkboxes; the '#' column sits right of the accent so its number stays readable.
- CLARIFICATION** SQL NULL values now display as "(null)" in the Discrete Values list and in detail grids, rather than an empty cell.
- FEATURE** Detail row viewers opened from a right-click add a View SQL header icon that reopens the exact query in the SQL viewer, plus full-value tooltips so a wrapped or truncated cell reveals its complete value on hover.
- EXPORT** Click the camera icon to capture a screenshot of the current Investigate view and open its folder.
- PERFORMANCE** Clicking a column header now flashes a brief spinner while the values are grouped in the background, so the filter and sort popup opens without freezing the grid.
- PERFORMANCE** When a column has thousands of distinct values, the filter and sort popup lists only the top 120 for the current sort, while filtering, Select All, and the chart still act on every value.
- VISUAL** The popup's distribution chart plots the top 60 values by size to stay readable, showing a yellow "Showing top N of M values" notice with an info icon when it caps.