



MAIN FEATURE TAB

Investigate

A column-usage and table-structure explorer — trace a column across every table, see its distinct values and the SQL objects that reference it, and inspect or change any table's keys, indexes, and constraints.

Pro tier. The Investigate tab is a Pro feature; on Base it is replaced by the Pro tab, which describes it and how to unlock it.

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

On the left, pick a column name (or Find columns by pattern) to list every table that uses it, with badges for identity, primary key, foreign key, and index roles and a warning when the same name has inconsistent types. Selecting a usage shows that column's distinct values with row counts and every view, procedure, function, and trigger that references it. On the right, the Quick Nav panel shows any table's columns with their type, required, default, check, identity, key, index, and enum flags, plus hover lists of its reference and foreign tables, keys, indexes, check constraints, triggers, and SQL dependencies. A toolbar beside it adds tables, columns, primary and foreign keys, indexes, triggers, and check constraints, and right-click menus edit or drop them — every script opens for review first, and Show Log records what was run.

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.

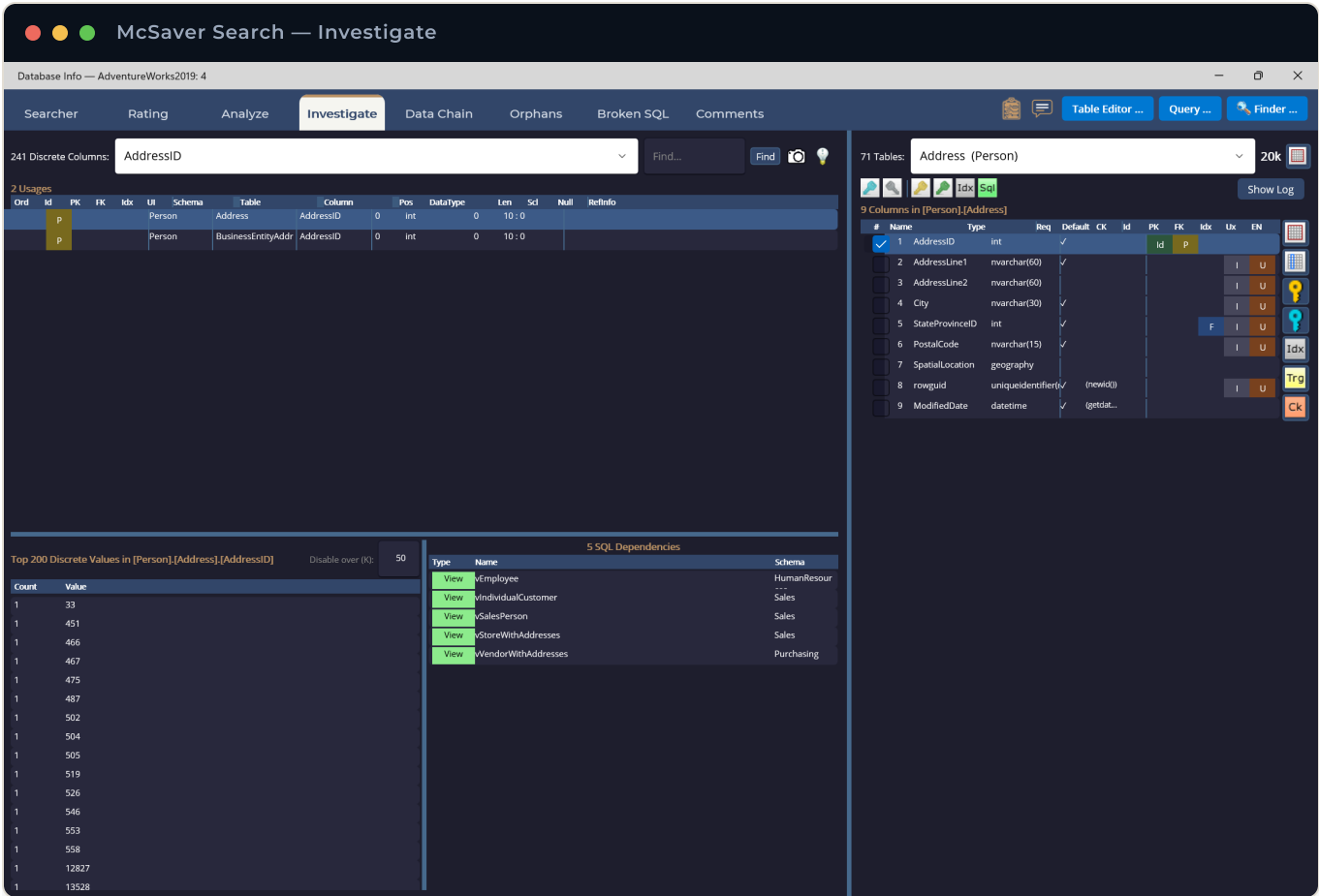
Where WHERE TO FIND IT

The Investigate tab is on the top tab bar of the database window; right-click it to open it in its own window, and Analyze can open separate Investigate windows positioned on a table. The column picker, Find box, and camera and tip icons are at the top left, with the Usage grid below and the Discrete Values (with its Disable over (K) row limit) and SQL Dependencies panels underneath. The Tables picker, Quick Nav icons, Show Log, and the column grid with its editing toolbar fill the right side; the splitters between panels can be dragged.

Why WHY IT MATTERS

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

SCREENSHOT



Investigate in McSaver Search



Tip of the Day 38 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 first 60 values in the list's current sort order to stay readable, showing a yellow "Showing first N of M values" notice with an info icon when it caps.
FEATURE	The Quick Nav grid is multi-select — select several columns, then click the Primary Key, Foreign Key, or Index toolbar icon to build a composite key or index over them in column order.
VALUE	A compact row count (for example "14m") sits beside the Tables dropdown; hover it for the full count, and a view shows "?" because counting it would mean running the view.

- FEATURE** Add Foreign Key pre-selects the Ref Table whose name best matches the FK column, so StockGroupId lands on StockGroup instead of the alphabetically first table.
- ACTION** If adding a foreign key fails because existing rows break the constraint, click "Show offending rows" in the error to open a Query window listing exactly the rows that block it.
- CLARIFICATION** Numeric columns in the Usage, Discrete Values, SQL Dependencies, and Quick Nav grids sort by value, so 10 follows 9 rather than 1.
- CLARIFICATION** Discrete Values shows dates with full precision, and View Rows and Delete Rows match the exact stored value, so two values a few milliseconds apart are never confused.
- NAVIGATION** In the Analyze tab, click a table name (or right-click the row and choose Investigate) to open a separate Investigate window already on that table.