



MAIN FEATURE TAB

Orphans

A scan of every foreign key for child rows whose parent is gone — with reviewable, transactional cleanup scripts.

Pro tier. The Orphans 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 responsible for data integrity who suspects broken relationships are hiding in the data.

What

WHAT IT DOES

Orphans checks each foreign-key constraint, including composite keys, for child rows that point at a missing parent and shows the count per constraint — yellow for problems, green for clean, and a red ERR (with the error in its tooltip) when a check fails. Before it starts it warns that the scan reads whole tables and asks for a per-check timeout. Ignore null orphans leaves rows with a NULL foreign key out of the count, and Show only problems hides clean constraints. Select rows to View Table, View Orphans, or Delete Orphans ...; the delete opens an editable review window with a transaction and row-count guard that rolls back on a mismatch, and nothing changes until you click Execute DELETE. Show Log records every delete actually run.

When

WHEN TO USE IT

Run it after bulk imports or migrations, when JOINS are dropping rows unexpectedly, or off-peak as a routine integrity check.

Where

WHERE TO FIND IT

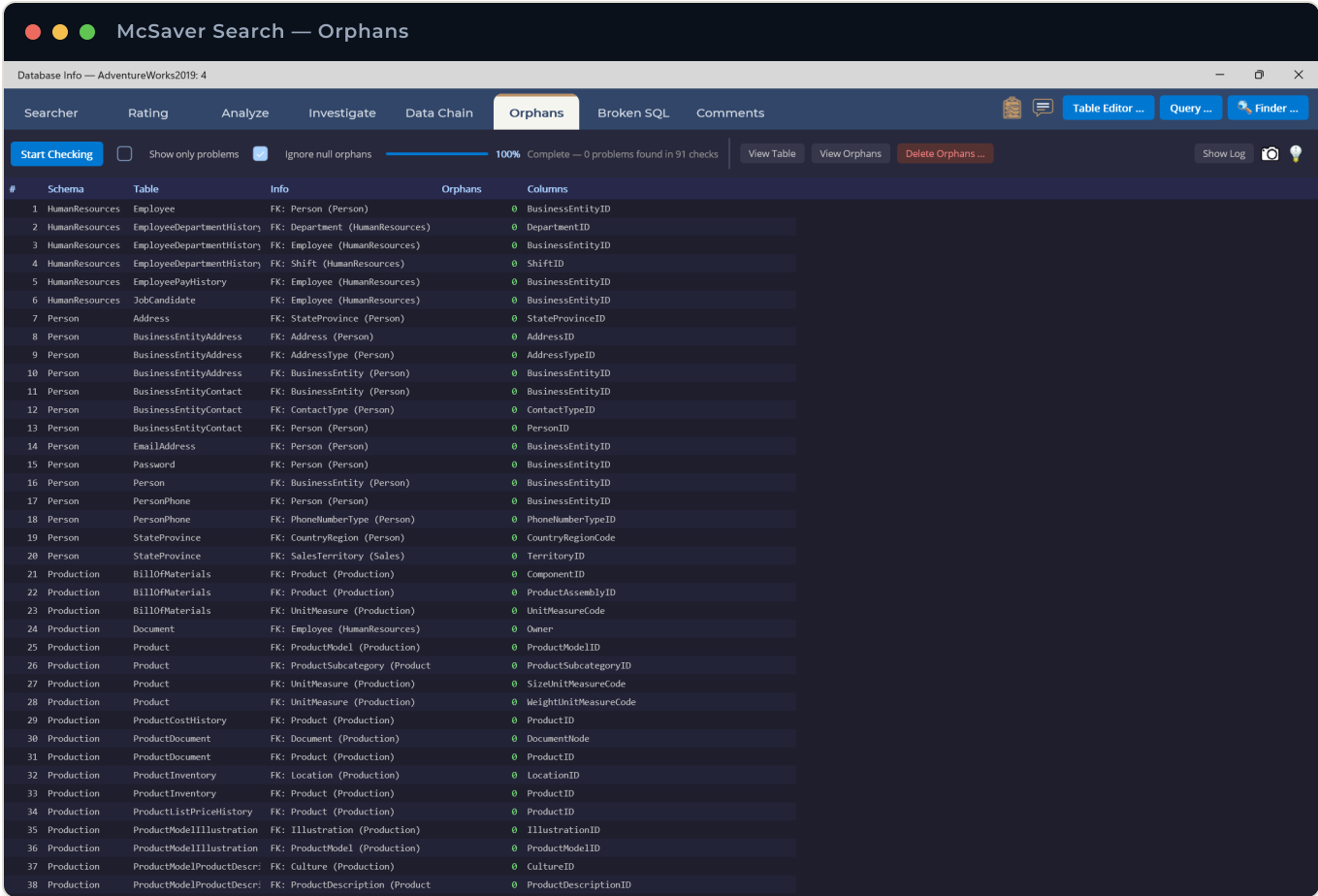
The Orphans tab is on the top tab bar of the database window; right-click it to open it in its own window. The toolbar holds Start Checking (which becomes Stop Checking while it runs), Show only problems, Ignore null orphans, View Table, View Orphans, Delete Orphans ..., Show Log, and the camera and tip icons, with the progress bar and selected count beside them. Click any results header to filter or sort, and right-click a row for its menu.

Why

WHY IT MATTERS

Orphaned rows silently corrupt reports, break JOINS, and produce mysterious NULLs. Finding and fixing them proactively saves the team from chasing phantom data bugs in production.

SCREENSHOT



Orphans in McSaver Search



Tip of the Day 40 tips

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

VALUE Orphan records silently corrupt reports, break JOIN queries, and cause mysterious NULLs — finding and fixing them proactively saves your team from chasing phantom data bugs in production.

OVERVIEW The Orphans tab scans every foreign key constraint in the database to find child rows whose parent record no longer exists in the referenced table.

TECHNIQUE Each orphan check runs a SELECT COUNT(*) with a NOT EXISTS subquery against the parent table to count child rows that have no matching parent.

ACTION	Click "Start Checking" to open a confirmation prompt first — it warns that scanning every FK for orphans reads whole tables and is disk- and time-intensive on a large database, best run off-peak; confirm to begin, and the button flips to "Stop Checking" so you can cancel mid-run.
FEATURE	The Start Checking prompt also takes a per-check timeout in seconds, pre-filled with the current value and clamped to 5–600; the ⓘ icon explains the cap keeps the Stop button responsive because a query already running is not interrupted until it returns.
PERFORMANCE	Checks run in batches of 20 SELECTs over one shared connection, and the progress bar plus the percentage and status text update live as each batch completes.
FILTER	Tick the "Show only problems" checkbox to hide every FK constraint with zero violations, leaving just the ones that actually have orphans.
FEATURE	Ticking "Show only problems" before you have run a check will kick off the scan automatically so there is something to filter.
FEATURE	The "Ignore null orphans" checkbox is on by default and adds "AND fk.[Col] IS NOT NULL" to each check so rows with NULL foreign keys are not counted as orphans.
CLARIFICATION	Toggling "Ignore null orphans" rebuilds the check SQL and resets every row to pending, so re-run "Start Checking" to get fresh counts.
COLUMN	The Orphans column shows the violation count per constraint, color-coded yellow for problems, green for clean (0), gray dots while pending, and red ERR if the query failed.
VALUE	A red ERR in the Orphans column means that constraint's check threw an error — hover the cell to read the SQL error message in the tooltip.
VALUE	When a run finishes, the status text summarizes how many problems were found and, if any checks errored, how many of them failed — so a red ERR is never hidden inside a "0 problems" count.
SELECTION	Single-click any row to toggle its selection, and click more rows to multi-select — the selected count shows at the right end of the toolbar.
NAVIGATION	Right-click any row to open a context menu that always offers View Table(s) and Copy to Clipboard, adding View Orphans and Delete Orphans when a selected row actually has orphans.
SELECTION	Right-clicking a row that is not already selected selects just that row first, so the menu acts on what you clicked.
CLIPBOARD	Pick "Copy to Clipboard" from the right-click menu to copy the selected rows as tab-separated text (Num, Schema, Table, Info, Orphans, Columns), ready to paste into Excel.
NAVIGATION	Double-click a cell in the Table column to open that table's data (TOP 100 rows) in the viewer window.
NAVIGATION	Double-click the Orphans cell of a row that has violations to open just the orphan records for that constraint.
ACTION	Select one or more rows and click "View Table" to open each selected table's data (TOP 100 rows) in the tabbed viewer.

ACTION	Select rows with orphans and click "View Orphans" to inspect only the child rows that have lost their parent.
NAVIGATION	The table and orphan viewers open as tabs in one shared window that is reused, so each new view adds a tab instead of spawning extra windows.
ACTION	Click "Delete Orphans ..." to open a review window pre-filled with the generated DELETE statements before anything is executed.
SAFETY	The Delete Orphans SQL is wrapped in BEGIN/COMMIT TRANSACTION with a per-constraint @@ROWCOUNT check that rolls everything back if the deleted count does not match the expected orphan count.
TECHNIQUE	The Delete Orphans review window is a live SQL editor — edit the statements if you need to before clicking "Execute DELETE".
WORKFLOW	After a successful delete the affected rows drop to a count of 0 automatically, so you can confirm the cleanup without re-running the whole scan.
FEATURE	Click "Show Log" on the toolbar to open the execution log — every orphan-delete T-SQL this tab actually ran against your database, newest first, with whether it succeeded and whether you edited the SQL before executing.
CLIPBOARD	Right-click the "Show Log" button to copy the log file's path to your clipboard instead of opening the viewer.
CONCEPT	Orphans typically appear when parent rows are deleted without cascading deletes, or when an FK constraint is added to a table that already held mismatched data.
WORKFLOW	Fix orphans before running data migrations so referential integrity holds across every table you move.
SAFETY	Scanning is read-only — it never locks or changes data; only the "Execute DELETE" button in the review window modifies the database.
EXPORT	Click the camera icon to capture a screenshot of the Orphans tab; it saves to your export folder, which then opens automatically.
FEATURE	Composite foreign keys are fully supported — the check joins on every column pair in the constraint, not just the first.
PERFORMANCE	The FK constraint list loads in the background the first time you open the tab, shown by an hourglass in the tab title so other tabs are not delayed.
LAYOUT	The results grid keeps its column header row pinned while you scroll, and the header shares the rows' horizontal scroll so the two stay aligned.
NAVIGATION	Click the tip icon to see another random tip about using the Orphans tab.
FILTER	Click any results header (#, Schema, Table, Info, Orphans, Columns) to open the filter/sort popup; the header shows a marker while a filter or sort is active, and your data is never changed.
FILTER	Sort the Orphans column descending to bring the worst constraints to the top — note that applying a filter or sort clears your current row selection.

ACTION

Right-click the # or Orphans header to pick a display format for its numbers; a $\frac{\pi}{4}$ marker on the header shows a format is applied, and pending or ERR cells keep their glyphs.

FILTER

In the table and orphan viewer tabs, click a column header to filter or sort the rows, or right-click it to choose a display format for a numeric or date column.