



DST DECISION
SUPPORT
TOOLS

Software Configuration
for IT Enterprise Administrators



The DST software can be configured for users in a configuration file (.config).

This configuration file is called “**DST Asset Strategy Evaluator.exe.Config**” and is installed with the software with default settings.

It may be useful for some organisations to further deploy a modified version of this configuration file for multiple users; e.g. the file can be replaced with a preconfigured organisation version. The configuration file is a standard Microsoft xml application configuration file.

Once installed, there is also a per-user user.config file containing several customisable settings which are set by the user.

This file is found in %AppData%\Local\Decision_Support_Tools_Li

1. Configuring the database – via the software

The same DST software is used by administrators to set up and configure databases.

- Launch the DST software
- Log off if needed (File menu -> Log off/change user)
- Click Change database to access the database configuration screen (this is the default view)

A screenshot of the 'Login' dialog box. It has a title bar 'Login'. Inside, there are two text input fields: 'Username' and 'Password'. Below the 'Password' field is a 'Login' button. At the bottom, there is a blue link labeled 'Change Database'.A screenshot of the 'Select a local or remote database' dialog box. It has a title bar 'Select a local or remote database' and a 'Cancel' button in the top right. The dialog is divided into several sections. The 'Current database' section shows 'Local database' and a 'Deploy Schema Changes' button. The 'Local database' section has a 'Select or Create Local Database' button. The 'Network database' section has 'Database Server' and 'Database' dropdown menus, a 'Use Windows Authentication' checkbox (which is checked), and a 'Select Database' button. The 'Options' section at the bottom has three checkboxes: 'Encrypt Configuration', 'Deploy Schema', and 'Set as default for new users'.

2. Configuration file overview

There are two sections which are of primary interest to organisation IT administrators:

1. **connectionStrings**
2. **applicationSettings**

2.1 connectionStrings Section

This contains the default connection for the DST software to the database. When a user selects a database configuration while the 'Set as default for new users' checkbox is checked, the configuration is set here (as well as in the user.config), provided the user has sufficient permissions. Note: the configuration in the user.config always overrides the configuration here, if it is present.

This section is documented in the Installation documentation (DST Asset Strategy Evaluator v3.3.2 - installation and support guidance).

Furthermore it is possible to store this data in an encrypted format. This is done from within the software only – see above.

applicationSettings Section

This section contains three settings for customising the DST software database configuration screen as shown above. The intent is to avoid user confusion by reducing the flexibility of what the database configuration screen shows.

By default this section is either absent (possibly due to upgrading previous versions of the software configuration file) or looks like this:

```
<applicationSettings>
  <DST.SALVO.APT.UI.CoreShell.Properties.Settings>
    <setting name="DBPref1" serializeAs="String">
      <value>True</value>
    </setting>
    <setting name="DBPref2" serializeAs="String">
      <value>True</value>
    </setting>
    <setting name="DBPref3" serializeAs="String">
      <value></value>
    </setting>
  </DST.SALVO.APT.UI.CoreShell.Properties.Settings>
</applicationSettings>
```

This section is typically found at the end of the file (just before the closing </configuration> tag).



- If there is a valid encrypted value in this setting for a user, then the “Select Enterprise Database” button will be shown.

3. User configuration file overview

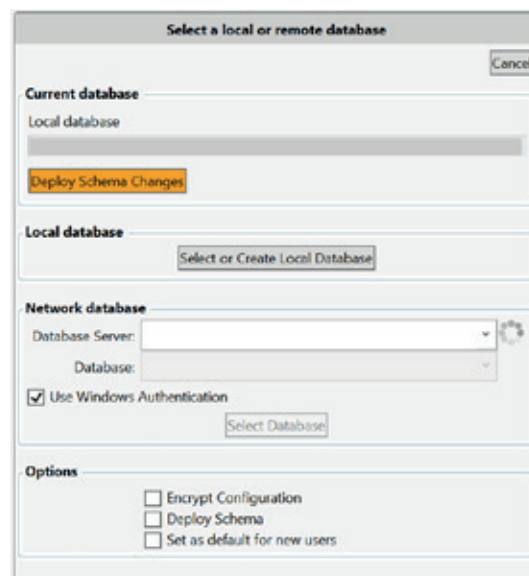
The user-customisable file `user.config` contains several user settings, the last two of which are “`DBConnectionString`” and “`DBConnectionProvider`”. These contain the user-selected database configuration and should not need to be altered manually. This will be encrypted if the user selected the ‘Encrypt Configuration’ checkbox when configuring. By default these two settings are either absent or look like this:

```
<setting name="DBConnectionString" serializeAs="String">
  <value></value>
</setting>
<setting name="DBConnectionProvider" serializeAs="String">
  <value></value>
</setting>
```

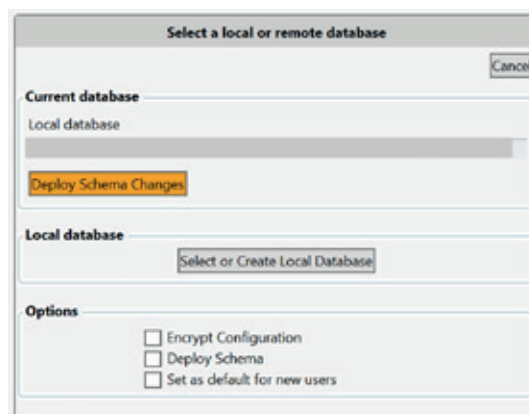
In this case the connection string setting from the `connectionStrings` section is used.

Example screenshots:

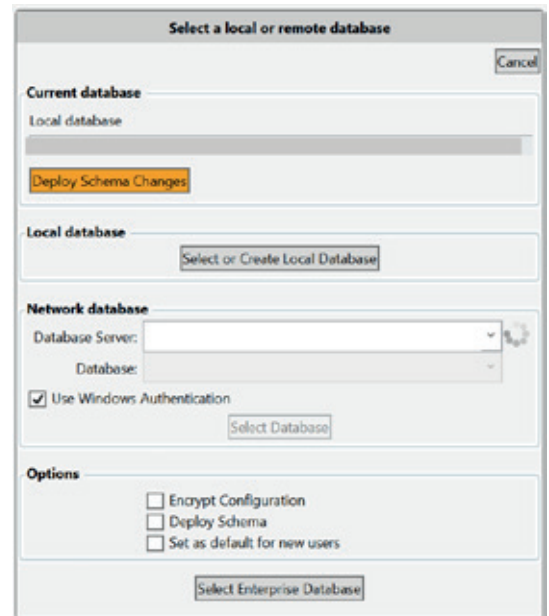
DBPref1 = True, DBPref2 = True, DBPref3 not configured (this is the default view)



DBPref1 = False, DBPref2 = True, DBPref3 not configured



DBPref1 = True, DBPref2 = False, DBPref3 configured, local database selected



DBPref1 = True, DBPref2 = False, DBPref3 configured; after clicking "Select Enterprise Database"

