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What is SQL Server?

- Originated as Sybase SQL Server
  - Acquired by Microsoft and named Microsoft SQL Server in 1989
- Recent Versions (2005, 2008, and 2008 R2)
- But what is it?
  - A system for managing large amounts of data
  - Provides a language TransactSQL (T-SQL) to access and manipulate data
  - A multi-user server based application
  - A relational database