



# Microsoft SQL Server 2019 Always Encrypted

nShield® HSM Integration Guide

01 Apr 2022

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# 1. Introduction

Always Encrypted is a feature in Windows SQL Server 2019 designed to protect sensitive data both at rest and in flight between an on-premises client application server and Azure or SQL Server database(s).

Data protected by Always Encrypted remains in an encrypted state until it has reached the on-premises client application server. This effectively mitigates man-in-the-middle attacks and provides assurances against unauthorized activity from rogue DBAs or admins with access to Azure or SQL server Databases.

The nShield HSM secures the key used to protect the Column Master Key, stored in an encrypted state on the on-premises client application server.

## 1.1. Product configurations

Entrust successfully tested nShield HSM integration with Windows SQL Server 2019 and the Always Encrypted feature in the following configurations:

### 1.1.1. Remote server

Product	Version
SQL Server	Microsoft SQL Server 2019
Base OS	Windows Server 2019 Datacenter

### 1.1.2. On-premises client

Product	Version
SQL Server GUI	Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio V18.8
Base OS	Windows 10 Enterprise

## 1.2. Supported nShield features

Entrust successfully tested nShield HSM integration with the following features:

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Support</b>
Module Only Key	Yes
OCS cards	Yes

## 1.3. Supported nShield hardware and software versions

Entrust successfully tested with the following nShield hardware and software versions:

### 1.3.1. Connect XC

<b>Security World Software</b>	<b>Firmware</b>	<b>Image</b>	<b>OCS</b>	<b>Module</b>
12.80.4	FIPS 12.50.11	12.60.10	✓	✓
12.80.4	CC 12.50.7	12.50.7	✓	✓

### 1.3.2. Connect +

<b>Security World Software</b>	<b>Firmware</b>	<b>Image</b>	<b>OCS</b>	<b>Module</b>
12.80.4	FIPS 12.50.8	12.60.10	✓	✓
12.40 Compatibility Package	CC 2.55.4	12.45.1	✓	✓

## 1.4. Role separation

The generation of keys, and the application of these keys for encryption or decryption are separate processes. The processes can be assigned to users with various access permissions, or Duty Roles. The table below shows the processes and duty roles with reference to the Security Administrator and the Database Administrator.

<b>Process</b>	<b>Duty Role</b>
Generating the Column Master Key (CMK) and Column Encryption Key (CEK)	Security Administrator

Process	Duty Role
Applying the CMK and CEK in the database	Database Administrator

Four database permissions are required for Always Encrypted.

Operation	Description
ALTER ANY COLUMN MASTER KEY	Required to generate and delete a column master key
ALTER ANY COLUMN ENCRYPTION KEY	Required to generate and delete a column encryption key
VIEW ANY COLUMN MASTER KEY	Required to access and read the metadata of the column master keys to manage keys or query encrypted columns
VIEW ANY COLUMN ENCRYPTION KEY	Required to access and read the metadata of the column encryption key to manage keys or query encrypted columns

## 1.5. Using multiple on-premises client servers

Each client server wanting access to the contents of data encrypted with a given CEK must have access to an HSM in the same Security World and have a copy of the CMK key token stored on its local drive.

## 1.6. Always Encrypted and TDE

The same Security World can be used for Always Encrypted and TDE.

## 2. Install and configure

This installation must be performed on the on-premises client computer.

The nShield Security World software will be installed on this computer. This computer will also be made a client of the HSM.

### 2.1. Install the Security World software and create a Security World

1. Install the Security World software. For instructions, see the *Installation Guide* and the *User Guide* for the HSM.
2. Add the Security World utilities path C:\Program Files\nCipher\nfast\bin to the Windows system path.
3. Open the firewall port 9004 for the HSM connections.
4. Install the nShield Connect HSM locally, remotely, or remotely via the serial console. See the following nShield Support articles, and the *Installation Guide* for the HSM:
  - <https://nshieldsupport.entrust.com/hc/en-us/articles/360021378272-How-To-Locally-Set-up-a-new-or-replacement-nShield-Connect>
  - <https://nshieldsupport.entrust.com/hc/en-us/articles/360014011798-How-To-Remotely-Setup-a-new-or-replacement-nShield-Connect>
  - <https://nshieldsupport.entrust.com/hc/en-us/articles/360013253417-How-To-Remotely-Setup-a-new-or-replacement-nShield-Connect-XC-Serial-Console-Model>
5. Open a command window and run the following to confirm that the HSM is **operational**.

```
C:\Users\dbuser>enquiry
Server:
enquiry reply flags  none
enquiry reply level Six
serial number        530E-02E0-D947 7724-8509-81E3 09AF-0BE9-53AA 9E10-03E0-D947
mode                 operational
...
Module #1:
enquiry reply flags  none
enquiry reply level Six
serial number        530E-02E0-D947
mode                 operational
...
```

6. Create your Security World if one does not already exist, or copy an existing one. Follow your organization's security policy for this.
7. Confirm that the Security World is **usable**.

```
C:\Users\dbuser>nfkminfo
World
generation 2
state      0x37270008 Initialised Usable ...
...
Module #1
generation 2
state      0x2 Usable
...
```

## 2.2. Install and register the CNG provider

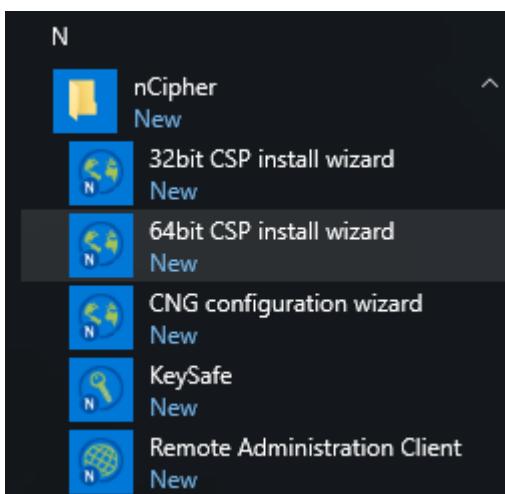
1. Open a command window as administrator and type the following to put the HSM in **pre-initialization** mode. This operation takes about a minute to complete.

```
C:\Windows\system32>enquiry -m 1
Module #1:
enquiry reply flags none
enquiry reply level Six
serial number      530E-02E0-D947
mode              operational
...

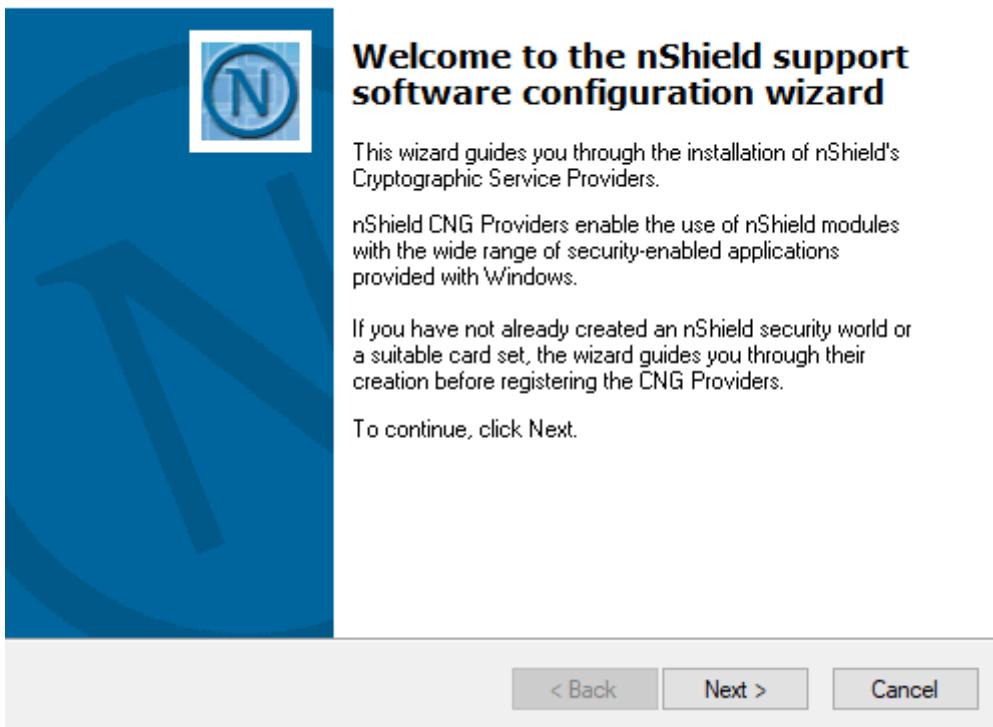
C:\Windows\system32>nopclearfail -I -m 1
Module 1, command ClearUnitEx: OK

C:\Windows\system32>enquiry -m 1
Module #1:
enquiry reply flags none
enquiry reply level Six
serial number      530E-02E0-D947
mode              pre-initialization
...
```

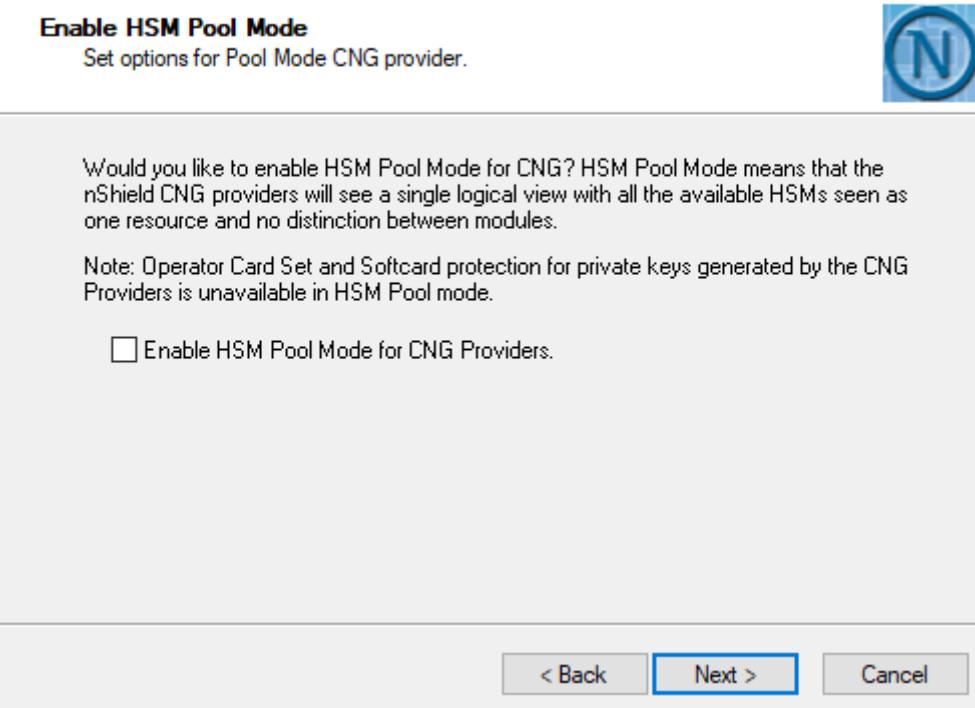
2. Select the **Start** button to access all applications. Look for the recently installed nShield utilities.
3. Double-click the CNG configuration wizard and run it as Administrator.



4. Select **Next** on the **CNG Install** welcome screen.



5. Select **Next** on the **Enable HSM Pool Mode** screen. Leave the **Enable HSM Pool Mode for CNG Providers** check box un-checked.



6. At the **Security World** screen, select:

- **Use the existing security world** if you already have a Security World that you intend to use for Always Encrypted. The corresponding `world` and `module_xxxx-`

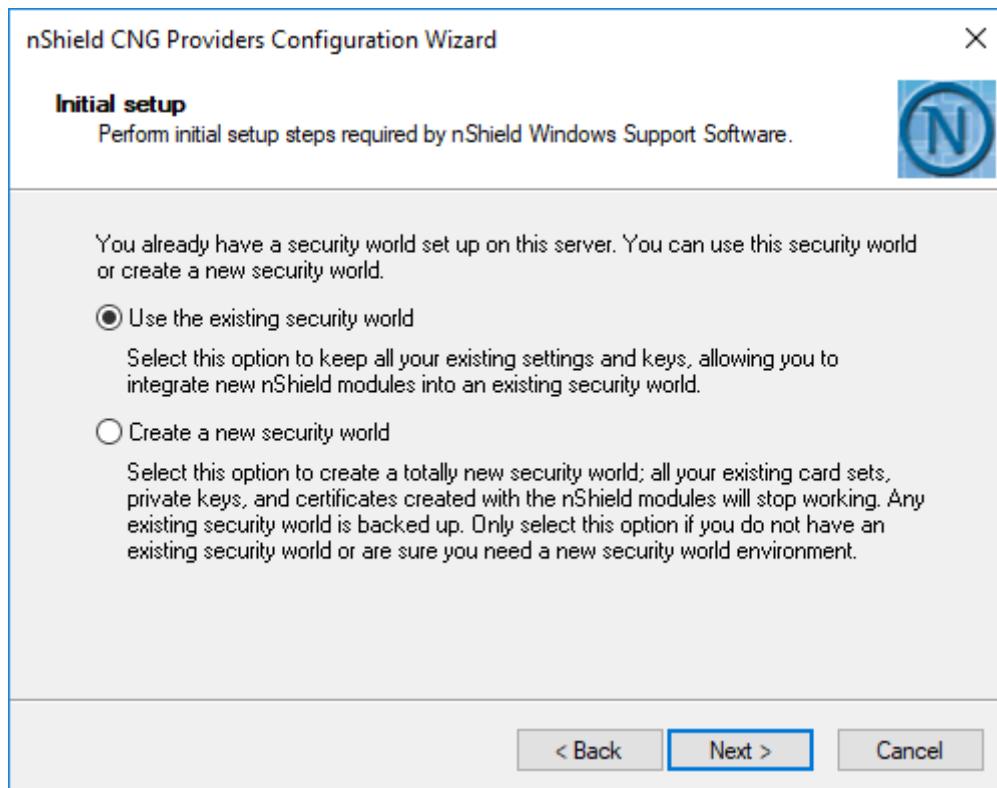
**XXXX-XXXX** files must be present in the **%NFAST\_KMDATA%\local** folder. Be prepared to present the quorum of Administrator cards.

- **Create a new Security World** if you do not currently have a Security World or would like to create a new Security World.



For the purposes of this integration guide we have chosen to use an existing Security World. For instructions on how to create and configure a new Security World, see the *Installation Guide* and *User Guide* for your HSM.

Select **Next**.



7. The **Set Module States** pop-up shows the available HSM(s). Select the desired HSM. The state of the selected HMS should be **(pre-)initialisation**. Select **Next**.

**Set Module States**

Ensure modules are in the correct state before you proceed.



The following modules are available in your system:

Module ID	Mode	State
1	initialization	(pre-)initialization
2	operational	foreign
3	operational	foreign

At least one module is usable in the current world. Click Next to continue with this world. Or reset modules 2, 3, and 4 to the initialization state to enable you to restore your security world to uninitialized nShield modules.

Refer to the user guide for details of how to put your nShield module in the initialization state. If you need to power down your computer, select the tickbox below and then restart the wizard on boot up to continue the installation.

The machine must be switched off to change the hardware state.

&lt; Back

Next &gt;

Cancel

8. At the **Module Programming Options** screen, clear **Enable this module as a remote target** and select **Next**. It will take about a minute before the screen changes.



Please be aware that this is not to be confused with the nShield Remote Administration utility.

**Module Programming Options**

Set options for programming the next module into your security world.



You are about to program module 1. Please choose the module programming parameters.

Enable this module as a remote share target.

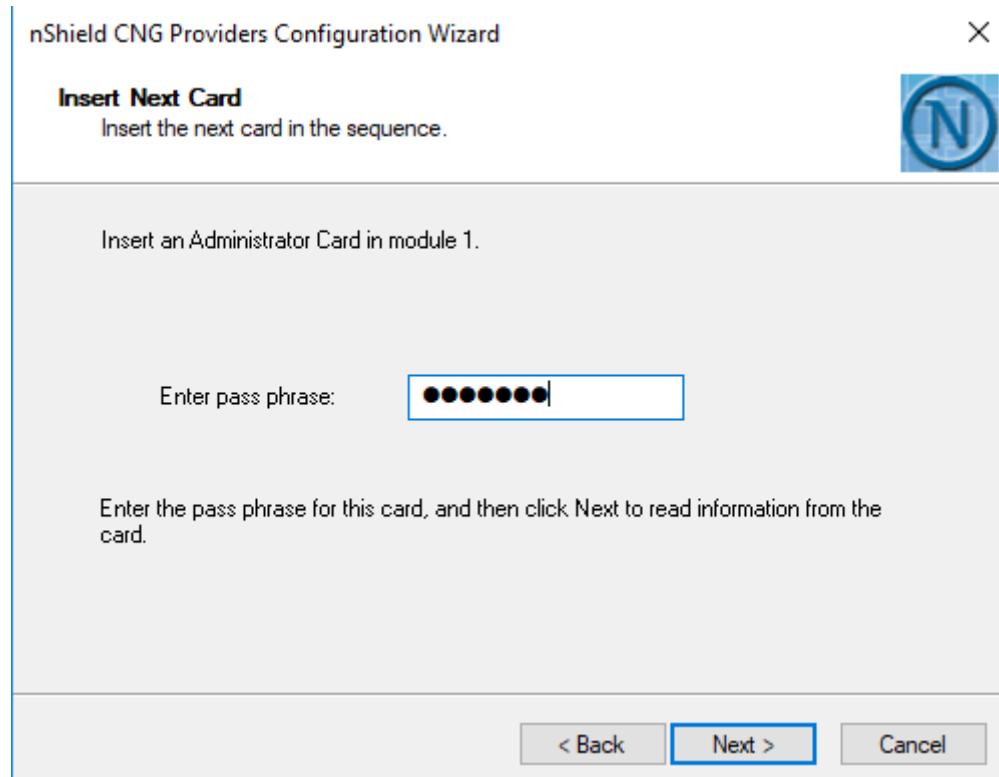
&lt; Back

Next &gt;

Cancel

9. Insert the first Administrator Card in the HSM, enter the passphrase and select **Next**. Repeat this step for the other Administrator Cards as required.

Loading or creating the Security World takes about a minute.



10. Return the HSM to **Operational** mode. This operation takes about a minute to complete.

```
C:\Windows\system32>enquiry -m 1
Module #1:
enquiry reply flags  none
enquiry reply level  Six
serial number        530E-02E0-D947
mode                 initialization
...
C:\Windows\system32>nopclearfail -0 -m 1
Module 1, command ClearUnitEx: OK

C:\Windows\system32>enquiry -m 1
Module #1:
enquiry reply flags  none
enquiry reply level  Six
serial number        530E-02E0-D947
mode                 operational
...
```

The module state will change to **Usable**.

**Set Module States**

Ensure modules are in the correct state before you proceed.



The following modules are available in your system:

Module ID	Mode	State
1	operational	usable
2	operational	foreign
3	operational	foreign

At least one module is usable to proceed. Click Next to continue, or reset remaining modules 2, 3, or 4 to the operational state.

Refer to the user guide for details of how to put your nShield module in the operational state. If you need to power down your computer, select the tickbox below and then restart the wizard on boot up to continue the installation.

The machine must be switched off to change the hardware state.

&lt; Back

Next &gt;

Cancel

Select **Next**.

11. Select **Operator Card Set** in the **Key Protection Setup**. Select **Next**.

**Key Protection Setup**

Set up the private key-protection method.



Select the default method that will be used to protect private keys generated by the CNG Key Storage Provider.

If softcard or OCS protection is selected, the choice will be offered on the next page whether to use an existing token or create a new one.

- Module protection (requires no extra cards but is less secure).
- Softcard protection (unavailable in HSM Pool Mode).
- Operator Card Set protection (unavailable in HSM Pool Mode).
- Allow any protection method to be selected in the GUI when generating.

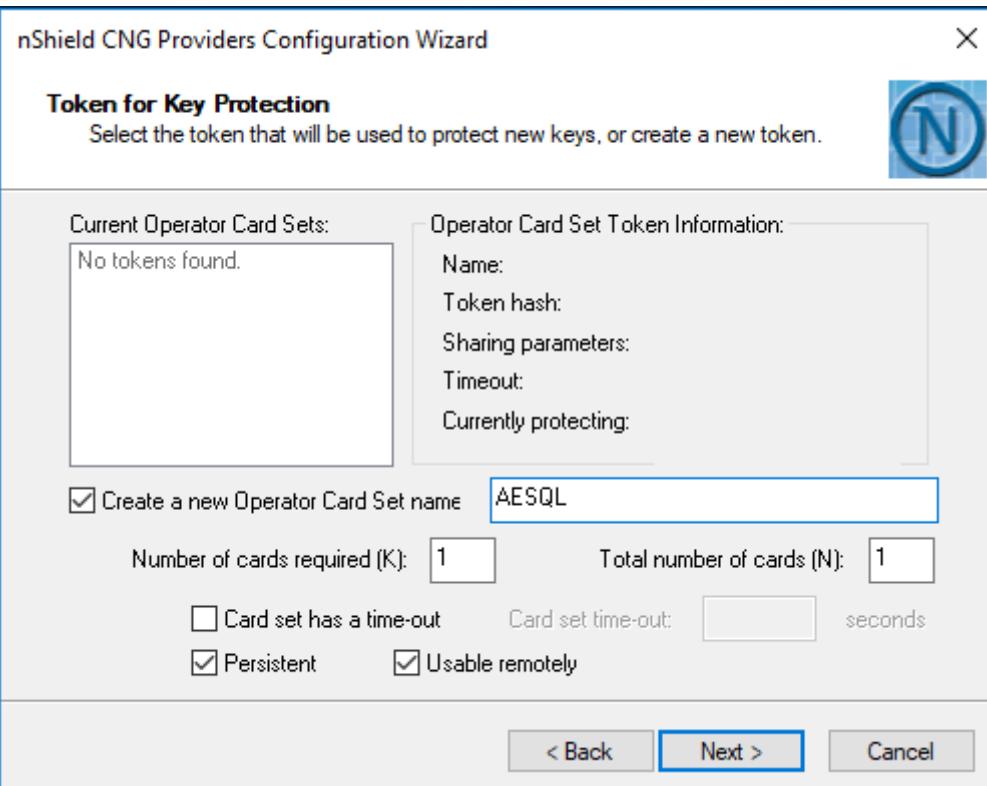
&lt; Back

Next &gt;

Cancel

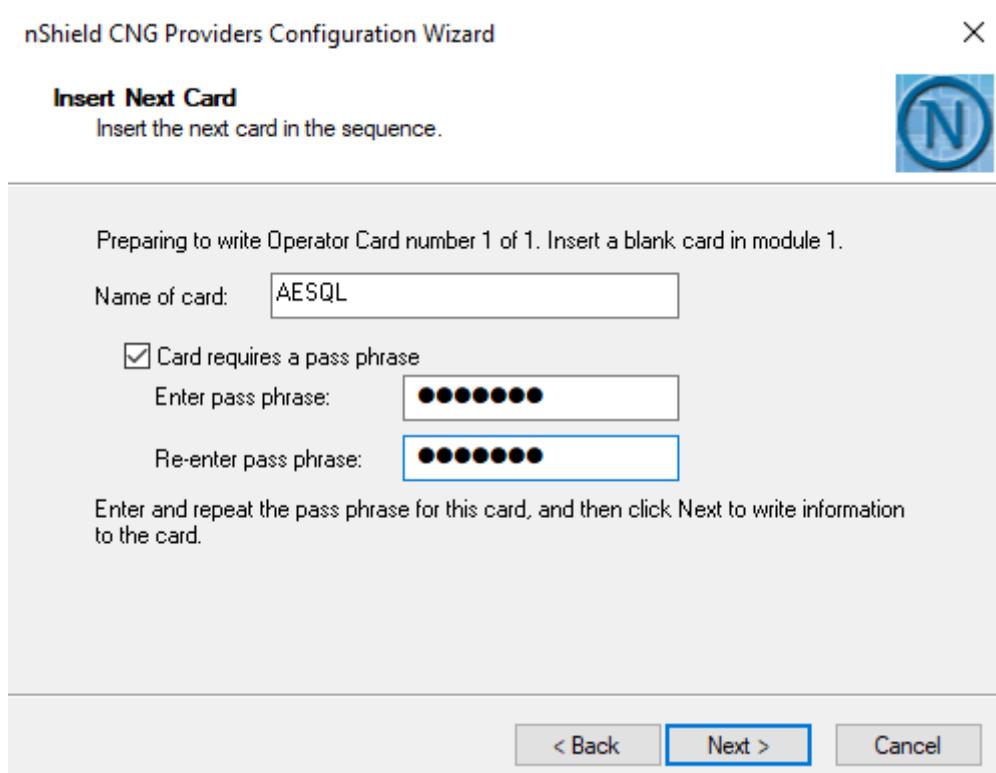
Select **Next**.

12. Enter the OCS name, K of N values, and check **Persistent** and **Usable remotely** as show.



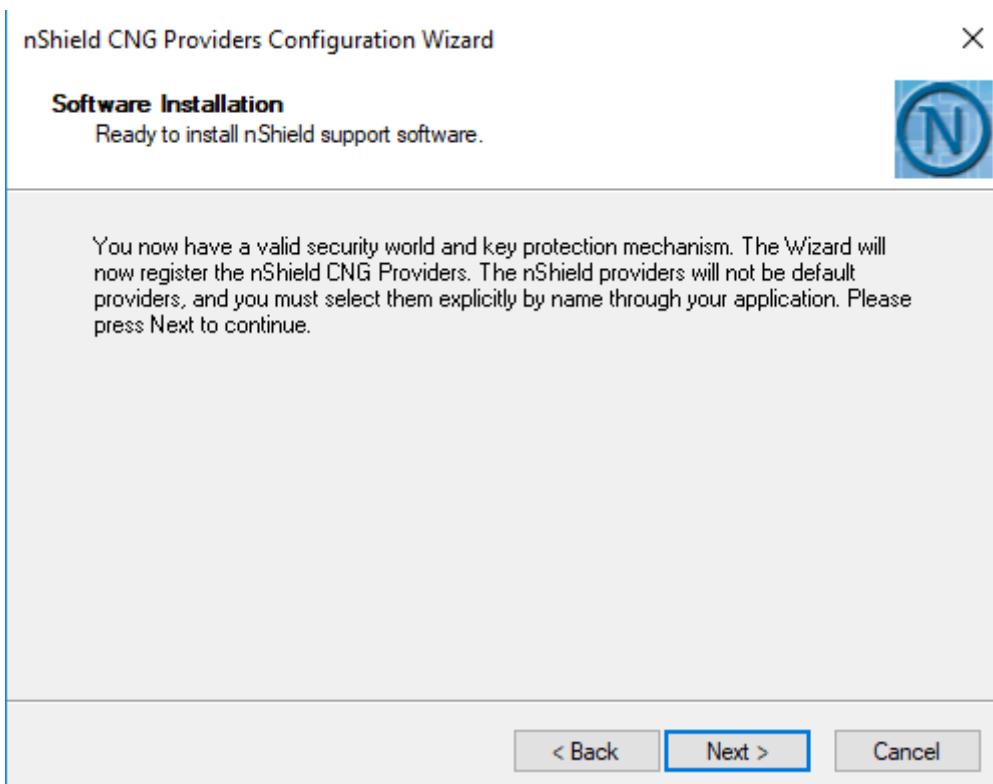
Select **Next**.

13. Insert a blank Operator Card in the HSM. On the **Insert Next Card** screen enter a name to for the OCS card and passphrase.



Select **Next**.

14. Select **Next** and **Finish**. The nShield CNG providers will now be installed and the key Storage Provider will be registered.

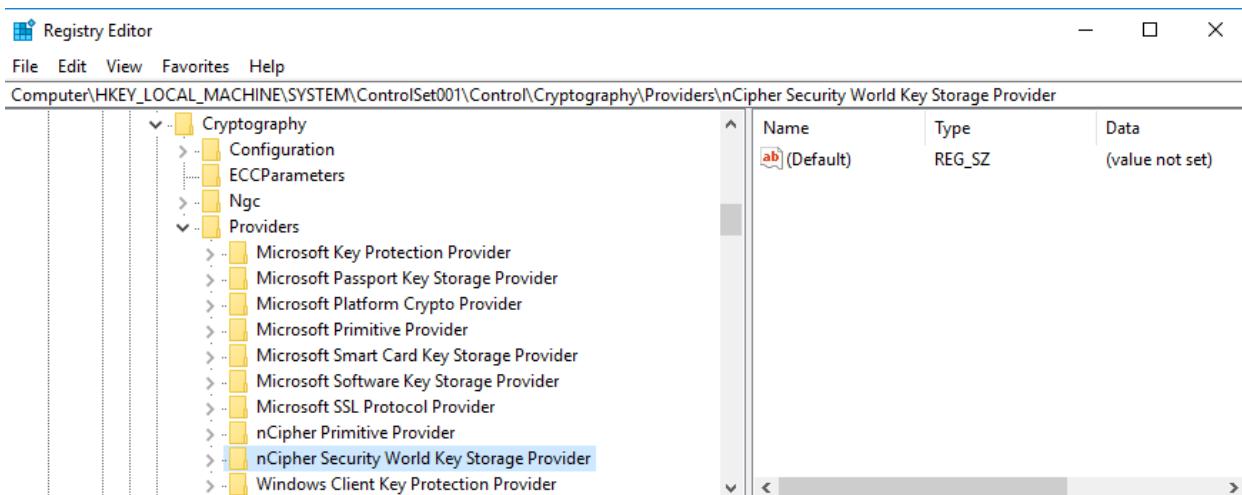


15. Open a command window as administrator and type the following to confirm the KSP has been successfully registered. Look for **nCipher Security World Key Storage Provider**.

```
C:\Windows\system32>cnglist.exe --list-providers
Microsoft Key Protection Provider
Microsoft Passport Key Storage Provider
Microsoft Platform Crypto Provider
Microsoft Primitive Provider
Microsoft Smart Card Key Storage Provider
Microsoft Software Key Storage Provider
Microsoft SSL Protocol Provider
Windows Client Key Protection Provider
nCipher Primitive Provider
nCipher Security World Key Storage Provider
```

## 16. Check the registry in CNGRegistry:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Control\Cryptography\Providers\nCipherSecurityWorldKeyStorageProvider
```



## 2.3. Install and configure SqlServer PowerShell module

1. Open a PowerShell session as Administrator and run:

```
[Net.ServicePointManager]::SecurityProtocol = [Net.SecurityProtocolType]::Tls12
Install-PackageProvider Nuget -force -verbose
```

2. Update PowerShellGet:

```
Install-Module -Name PowerShellGet -force -verbose
```

3. Download and install the SqlServer module to configure Always Encrypted using Power Shell:

```
Install-Module -Name SqlServer -force -verbose -AllowClobber
```



The **-AllowClobber** parameter allows you to import the specified commands if it exists in the current session.

4. Once installed (if you are using PowerShell ISE refresh the Commands pane if you are using PowerShell open a new session), confirm the install by running:

```
Get-Module -list -Name SqlServer
```

5. You should see something similar to the output below:

```
Directory: C:\Program Files\WindowsPowerShell\Modules

ModuleType Version    Name          ExportedCommands
-----  -----    ----          -----
Manifest   21.0.17152 SqlServer    {Add-SqlColumnEncryptionKeyValue, Complete-SqlColumnMasterKeyRotatio...
```

### 3. Generate the encryption keys

#### 3.1. Generate the Always Encrypted Column Master Key (CMK) protected by the nShield HMS

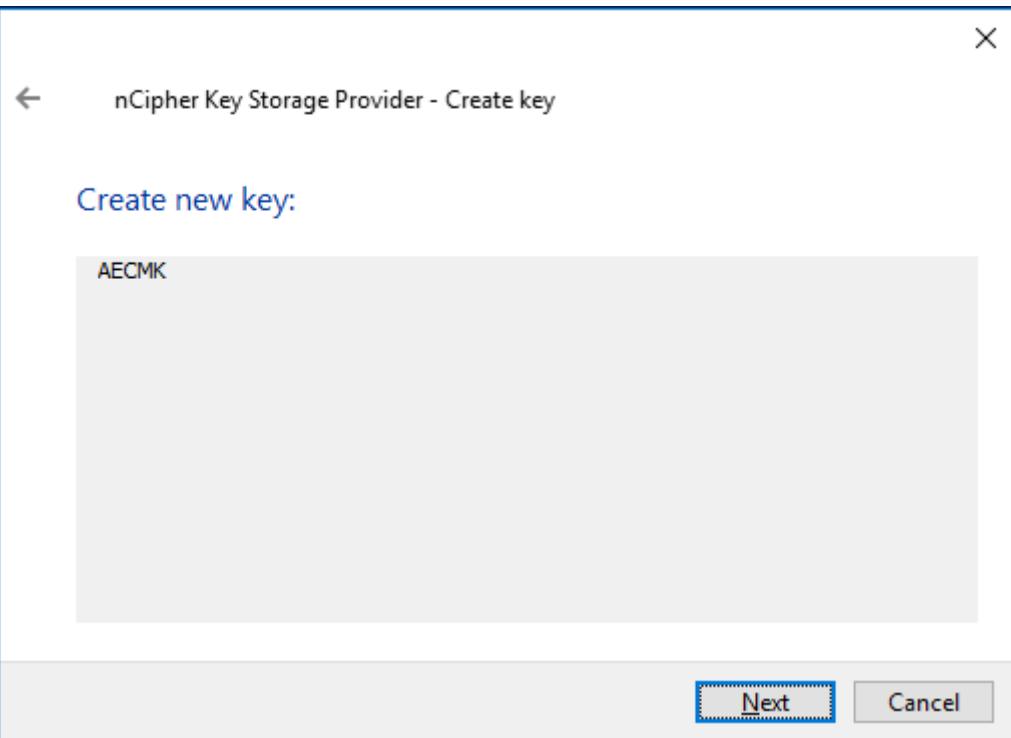
1. Launch PowerShell on the on-premises client computer as Administrator, and run the [Generate\\_CMK.ps1](#) script.

```
$cngProviderName = "nCipher Security World Key Storage Provider"  
  
$cngAlgorithmName = "RSA"  
  
$cngKeySize = 2048  
  
$cngKeyName = "AECMK"  
  
$cngProvider = New-Object System.Security.Cryptography.CngProvider($cngProviderName)  
  
$cngKeyParams = New-Object System.Security.Cryptography.CngKeyCreationParameters  
  
$cngKeyParams.provider = $cngProvider  
  
$cngKeyParams.KeyCreationOptions = [System.Security.Cryptography.CngKeyCreationOptions]::OverwriteExistingKey  
  
$keySizeProperty = New-Object System.Security.Cryptography.CngProperty("Length",  
[System.BitConverter]::GetBytes($cngKeySize), [System.Security.Cryptography.CngPropertyOptions]::None);  
  
$cngKeyParams.Parameters.Add($keySizeProperty)  
  
$cngAlgorithm = New-Object System.Security.Cryptography.CngAlgorithm($cngAlgorithmName)  
  
$cngKey = [System.Security.Cryptography.CngKey]::Create($cngAlgorithm, $cngKeyName, $cngKeyParams)
```

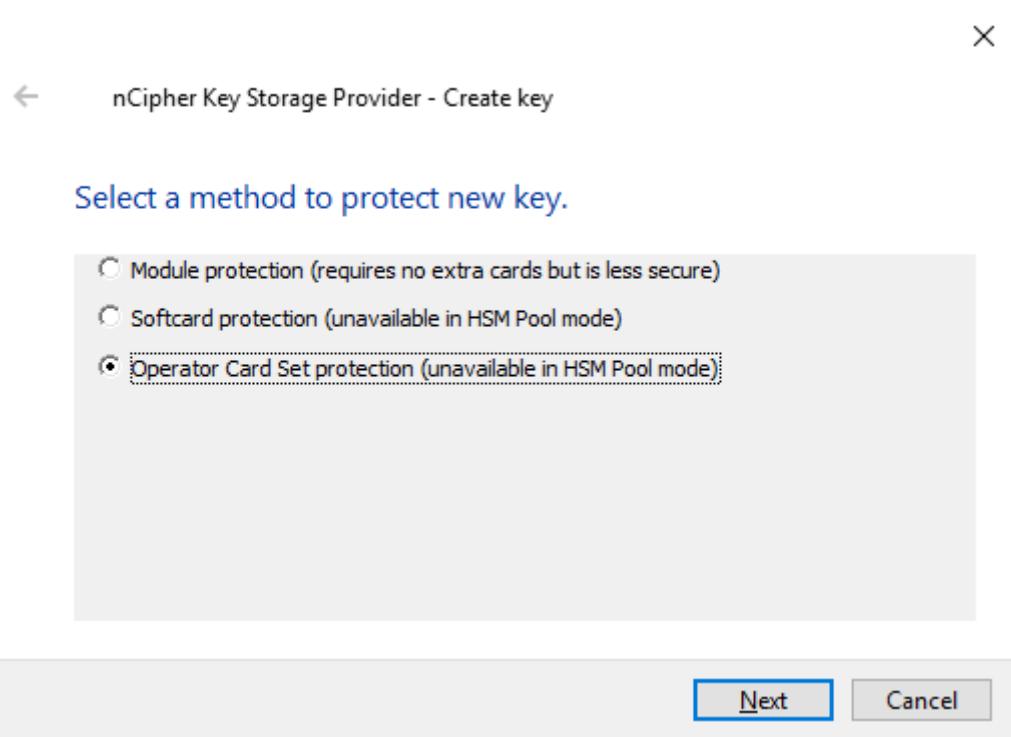
The command line is

```
> PowerShell -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File Generate_CMK.ps1
```

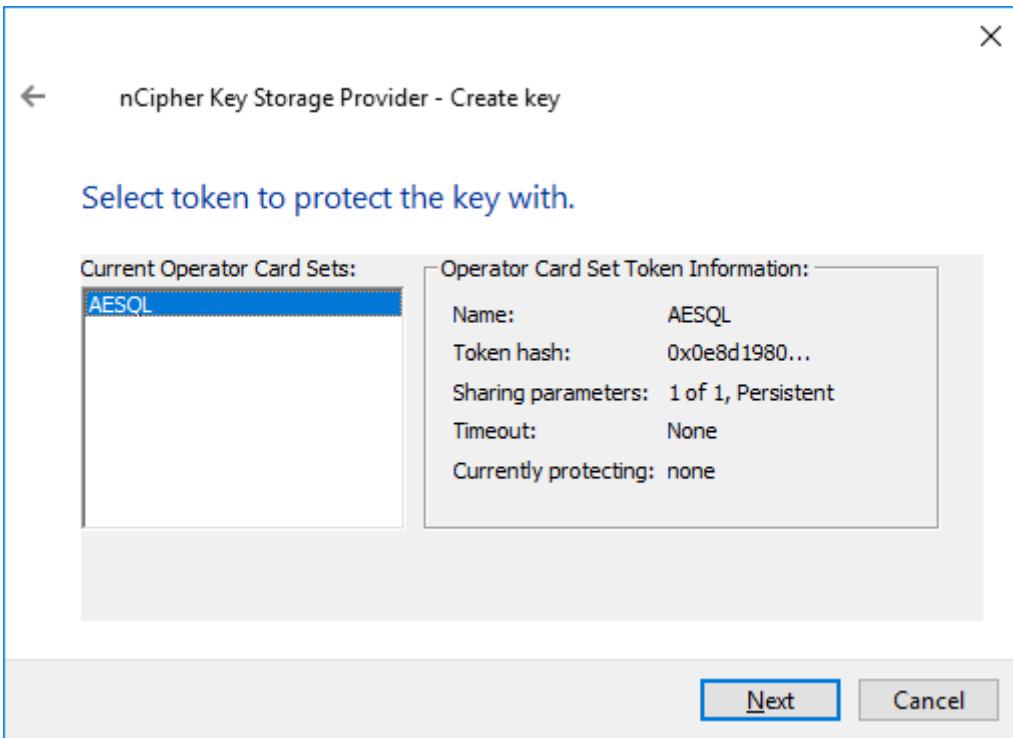
- a. The following pop-window should appear. Select **Next**.



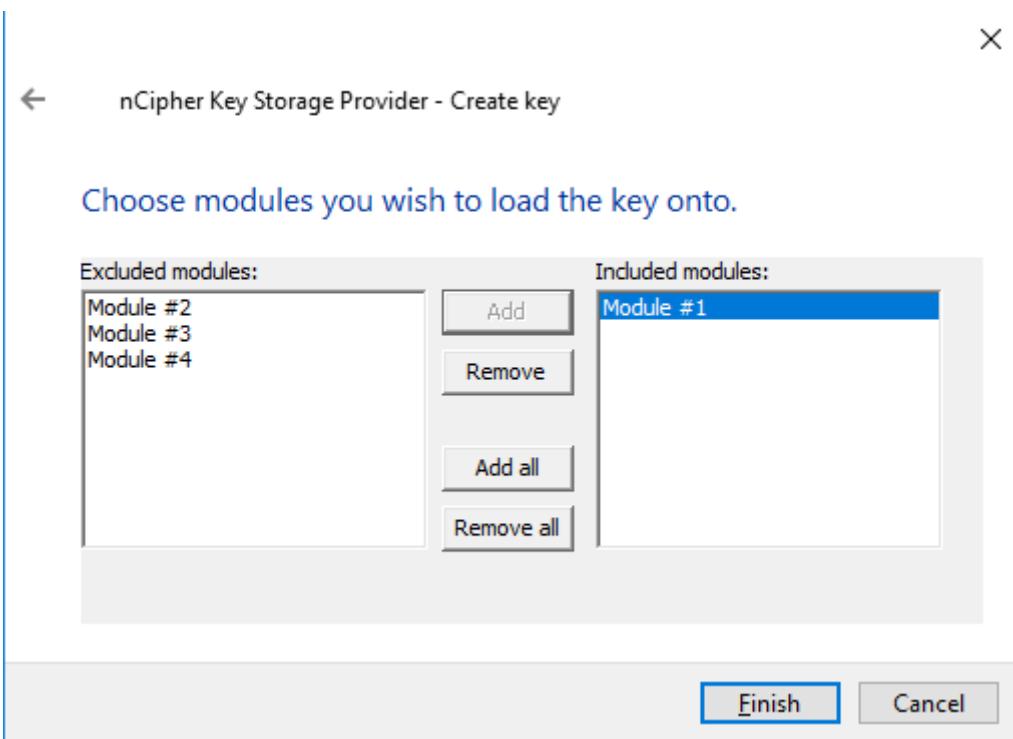
- b. Select the **Operator Card Set Protection**. Insert the OCS card in the HSM and select **Next**.



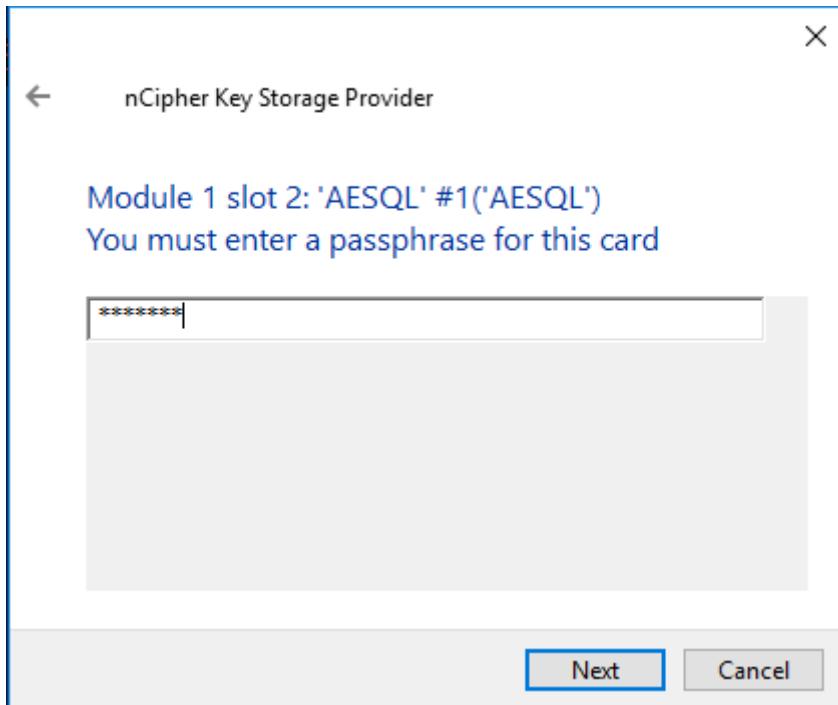
- c. Select **Next**.



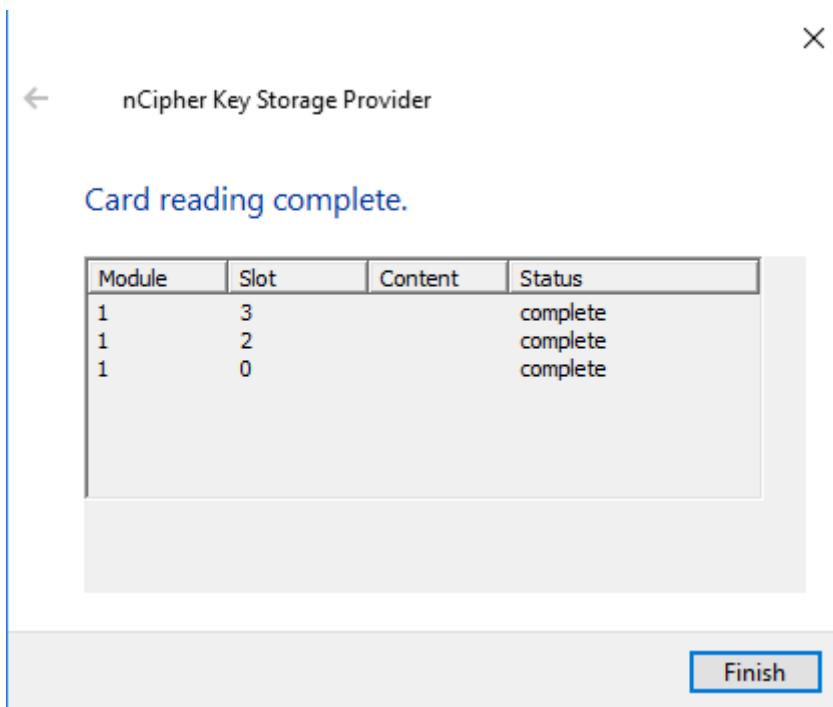
d. Select the HSM and select **Finish**.



e. Enter the OCS passphrase and select **Next**.



f. Select **Finish**.



A 2048-bit RSA key pair, called **AECMK**, has been generated. The key is encrypted in the HSM, and then pushed to the requesting On-Premise Client server, where it is stored as an Application Key Token in the **%NFAST\_KMDATA%\local folder** (`:\\ProgramData\\nCipher\\Key Management Data\\local`).

2. Verify the new key as follows on a command window.

```
C:\Users\dbuser>nfkminfo -k

Key list - 1 keys
 AppName caping          Ident s-1-5-21-2556418611-2173580918-1658130183-1001--
 7b7eb65c095c556e5da059480e6ca2ed512dacc1
```

3. Display the information about the key by copy-pasting the key name above as follows.

```
C:\Users\dbuser>nfkminfo -k caping s-1-5-21-2556418611-2173580918-1658130183-1001--
7b7eb65c095c556e5da059480e6ca2ed512dacc1
Key AppName caping Ident s-1-5-21-2556418611-2173580918-1658130183-1001--7b7eb65c095c556e5da059480e6ca2ed512dacc1
  BlobKA length      1128
  BlobPubKA length   484
  BlobRecoveryKA length 1496
    name           "AECMK"
    hash           76071834044810539e7354f468cc2cae61a448da
    recovery        Enabled
    protection      CardSet
    other flags     PublicKey !SEEAppKey !NVMemBlob +0x0
    cardset         0e8d19801b25d774c3b2bab5a643ec7c20a5255d
    gentime         2021-03-30 19:18:14
    SEE integrity key NONE

  BlobKA
    format          6 Token
    other flags     0x0
    hkm             2a2e6b22ad6a72673473511d91304efd2f76e197
    hkt             0e8d19801b25d774c3b2bab5a643ec7c20a5255d
    hkr             none

  BlobRecoveryKA
    format          9 UserKey
    other flags     0x0
    hkm             none
    hkt             none
    hkr             fc4cbd1a6e88c08dd35912d0aecabf47ff1e0c2a

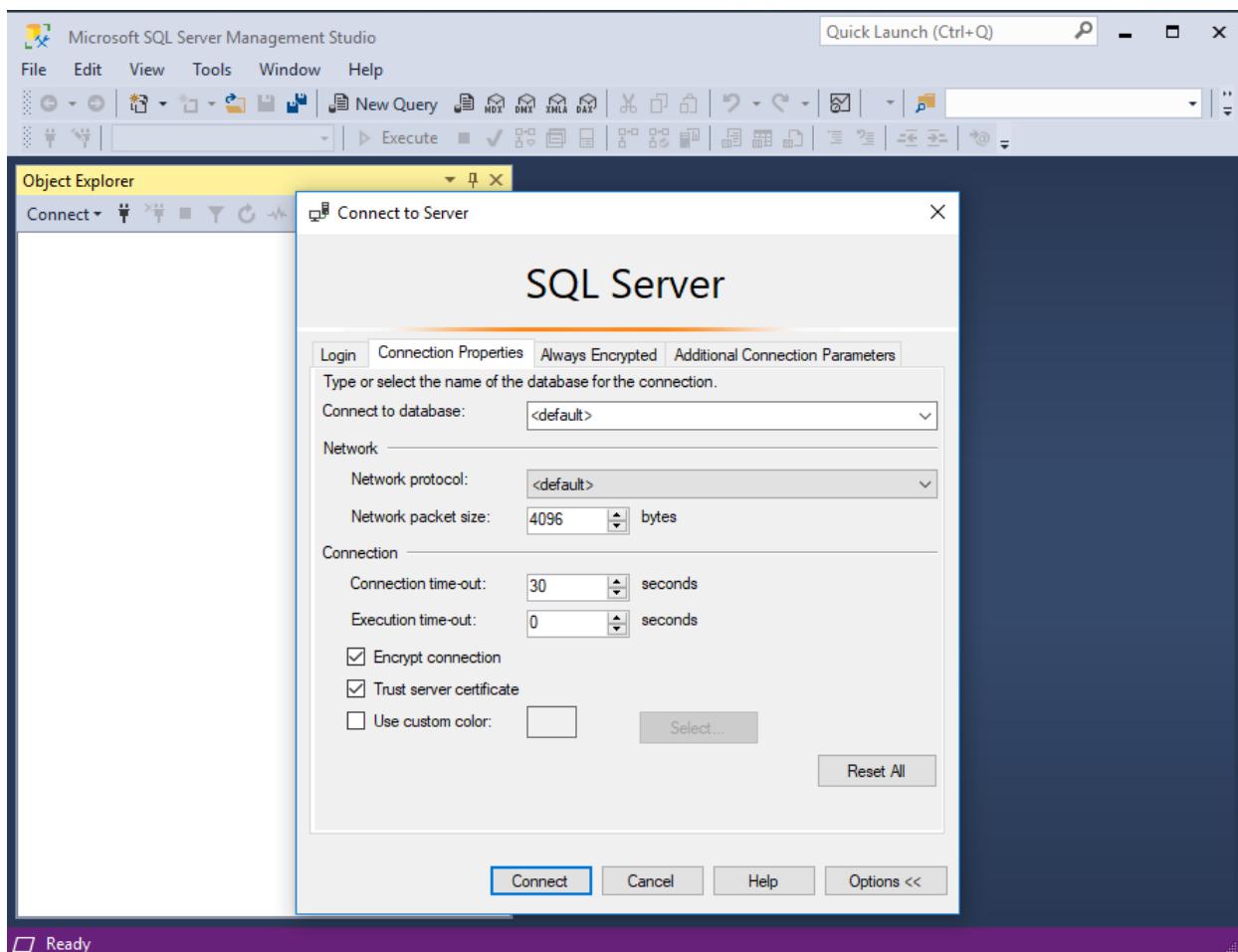
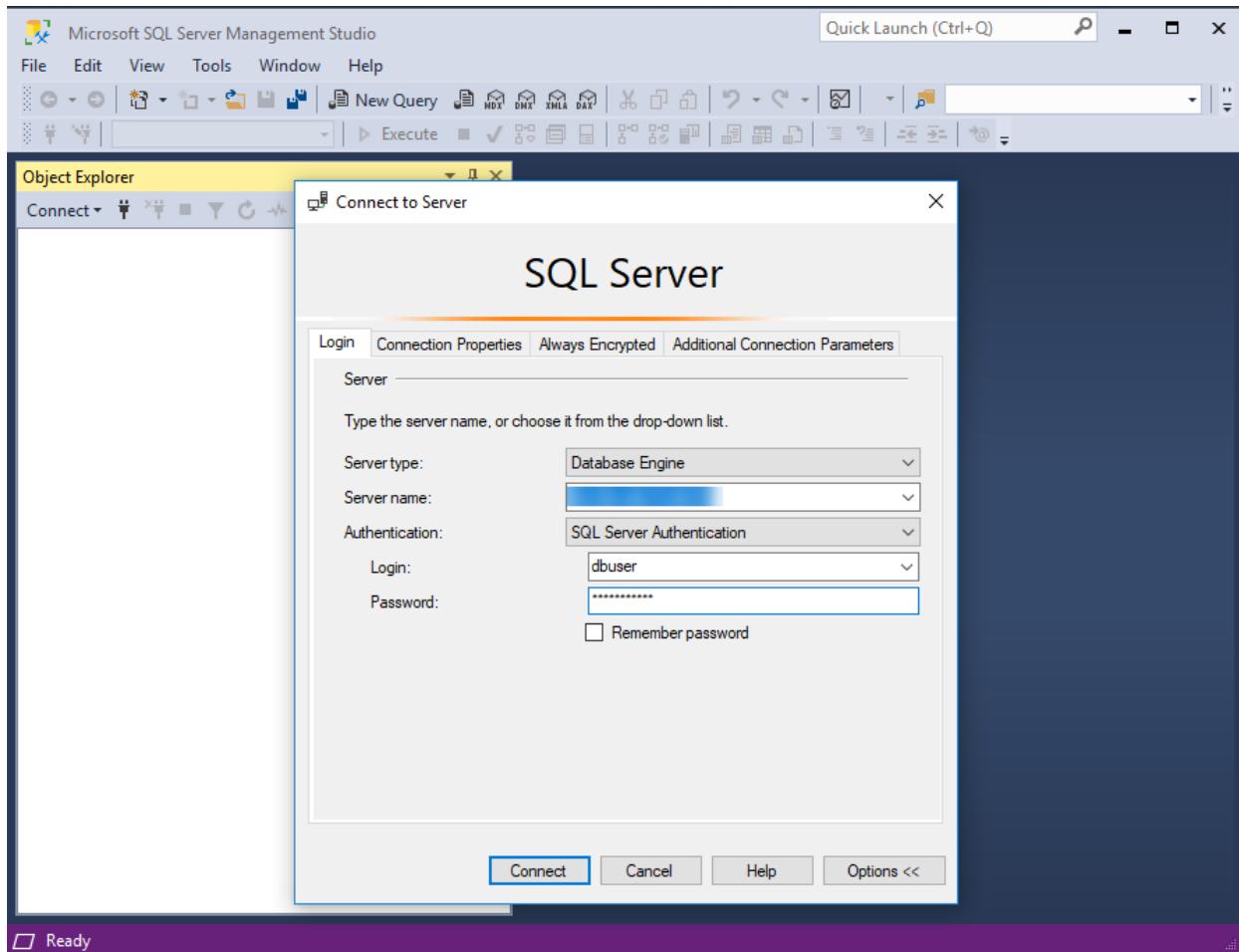
  BlobPubKA
    format          5 Module
    other flags     0x0
    hkm             c2be99fe1c77f1b75d48e2fd2df8dfffc0c969bcb
    hkt             none
    hkr             none

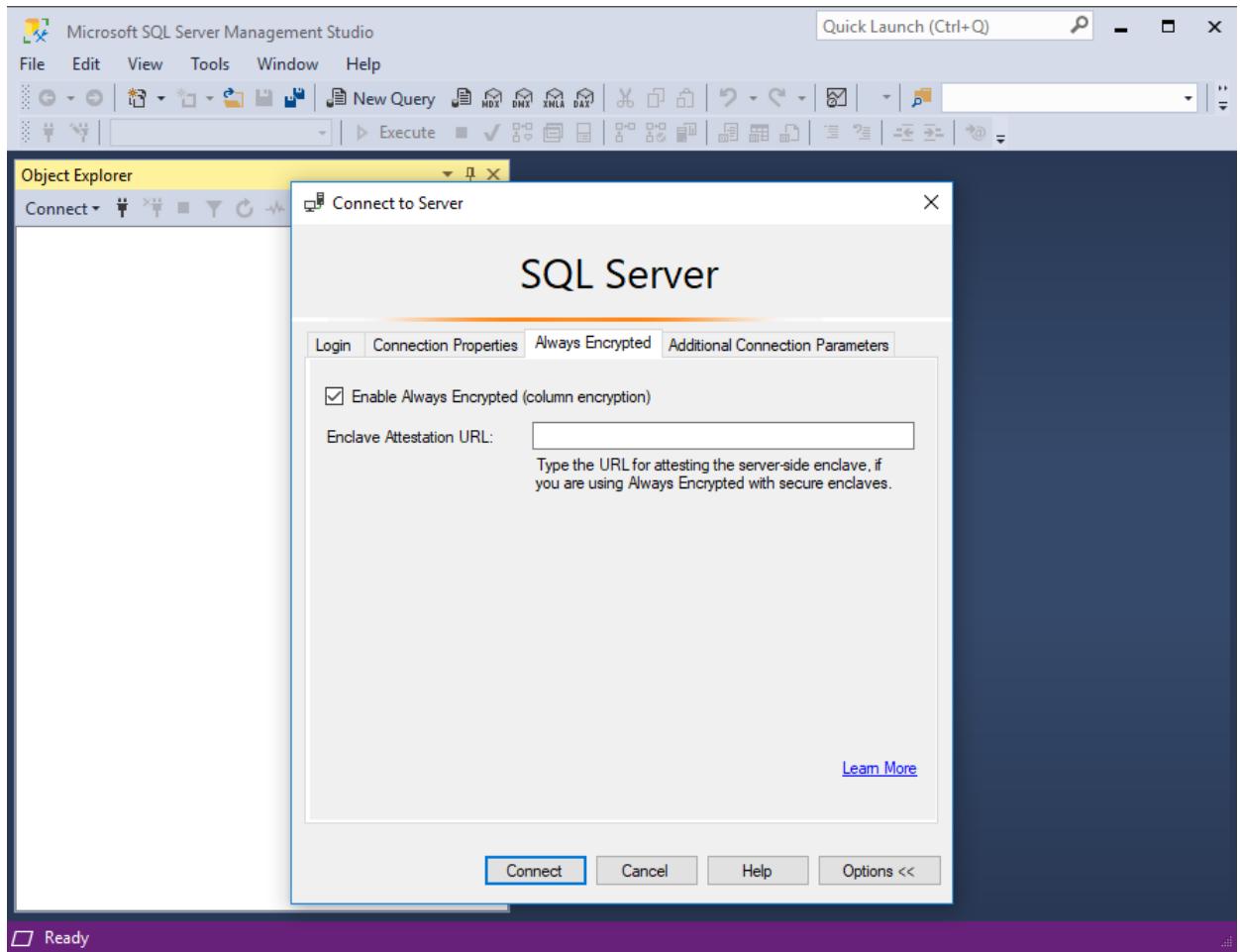
  Extra entry #1
    typecode        0x10000 65536
    length          60
    Not a blob
```

### 3.2. Generate My Column Master Key (MyCMK) and My Column Encryption Key (MyCEK) with SSMS

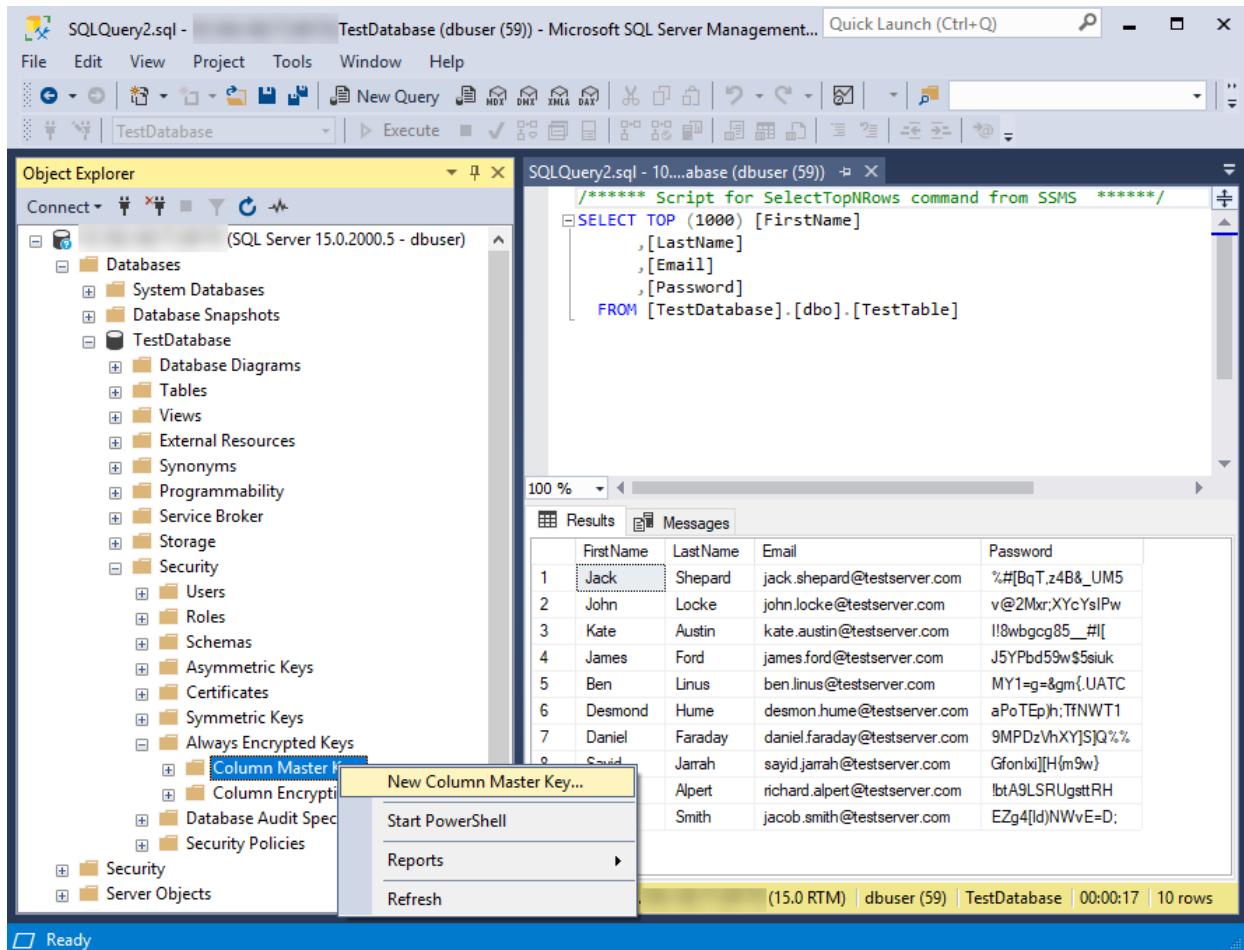
This key will encrypt all subsequent Column Encryption keys (CEKs) in your database.

1. Launch **Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio** on the on-premises client computer.
2. As the **dbuser** user, connect to the database on the SQL server on the hosting site.



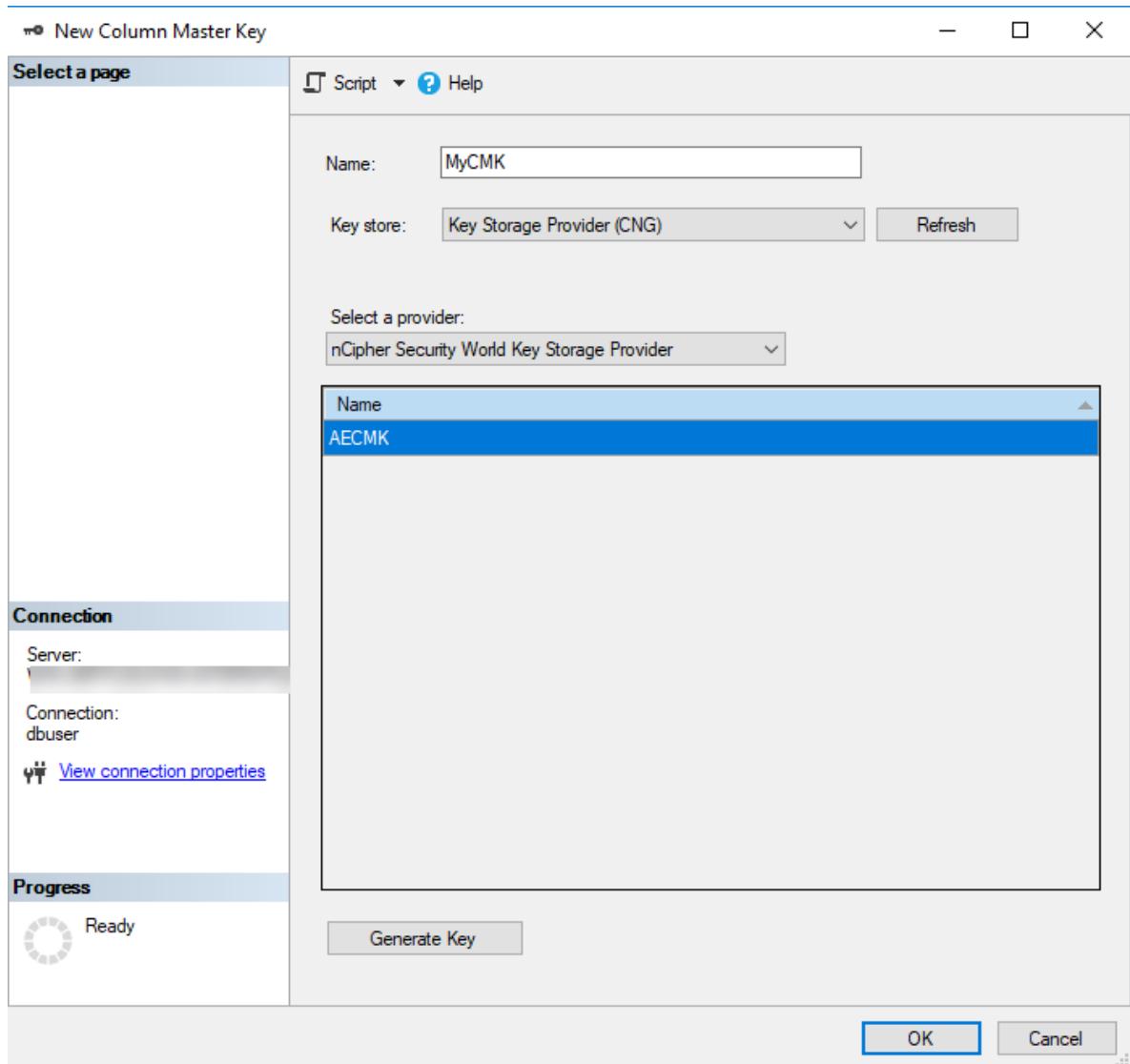


3. Using **Object Explorer**, select the **Security** directory under the desired Database. Select **Always Encrypted Keys** to expand it, then select **New Column Master Key**.

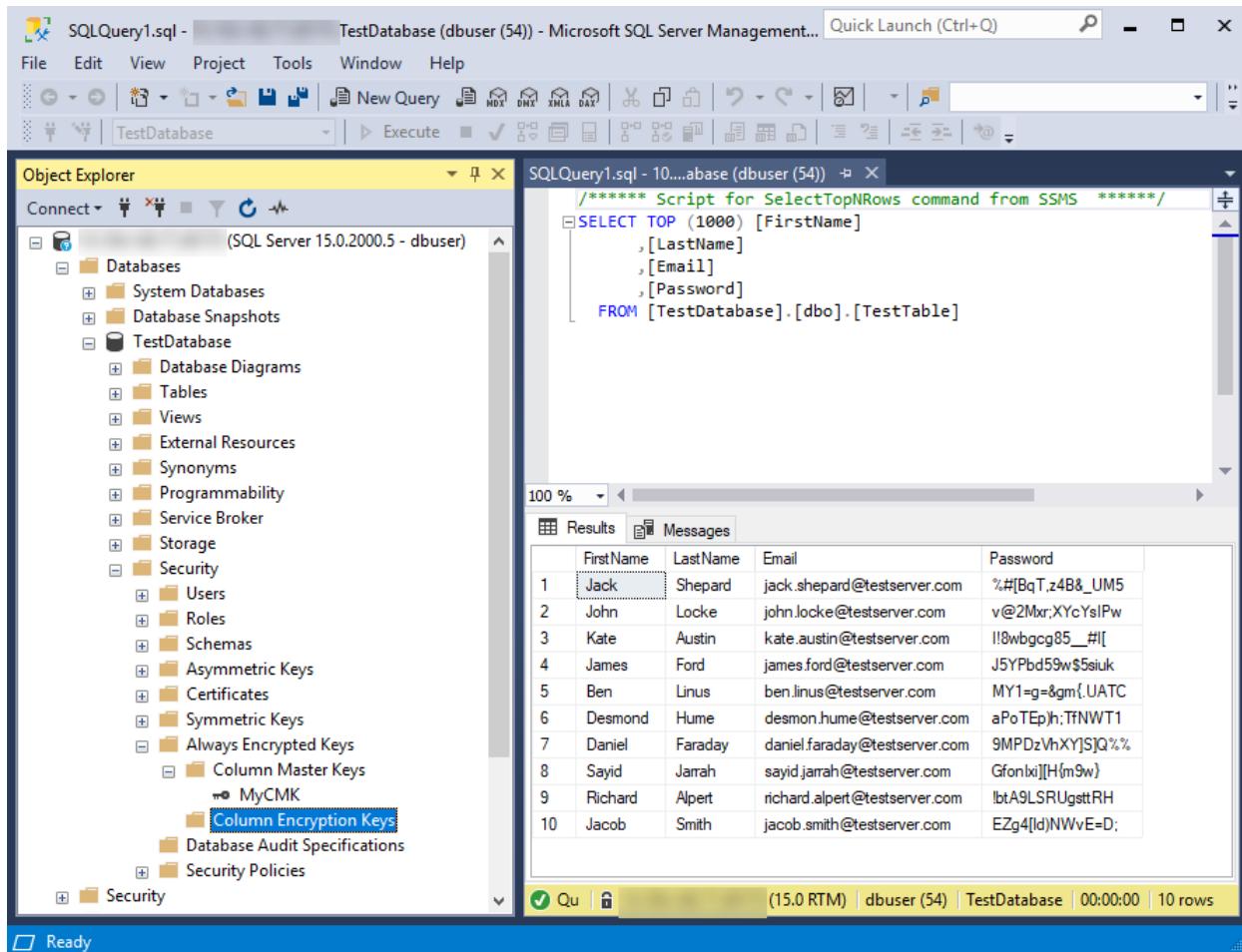


4. Enter the following information on the **Column Master Keys** pop-up window, then select **Next**

- Enter a name, for example **MyCMK**.
- Select **Key Storage Provider (CNG)** from the **Key store** drop-down list. This will then present the option to **Select a provider**.
- Select **nCipher Security World Key Storage Provider** from the drop-down list.
- The **AECMK** key created in an earlier step appears in **Name**. Select **OK** to create a new key using the nShield HSM and CNG KSP.



5. Notice the newly created **MyCMK** in the database **Security\Always Encrypted Keys\Column Master Keys**.

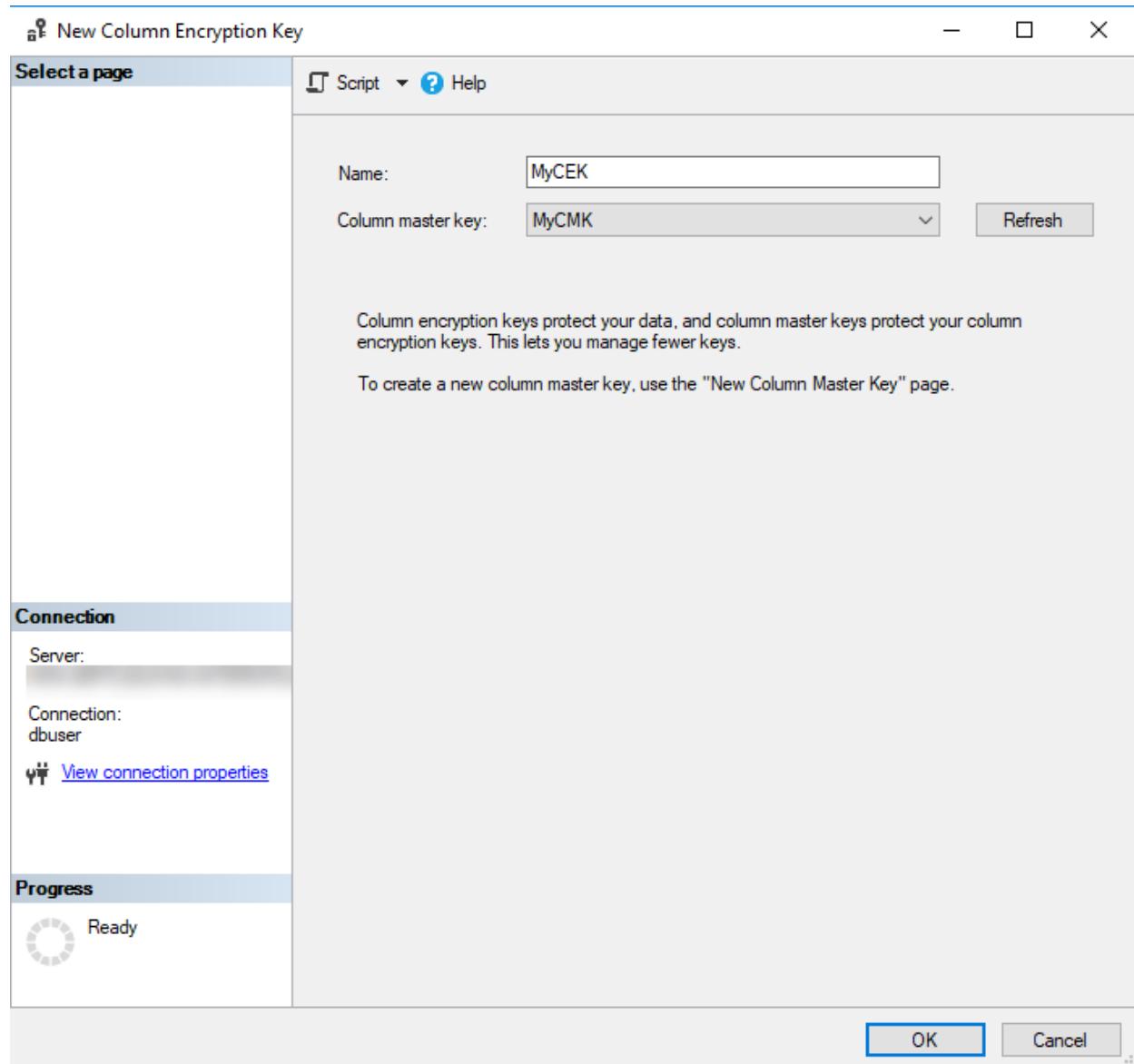


6. Using **Object Explorer**, select the **Security** directory under the desired Database. Select **Always Encrypted Keys** to expand it, then select **New Column MEncryption Key**.

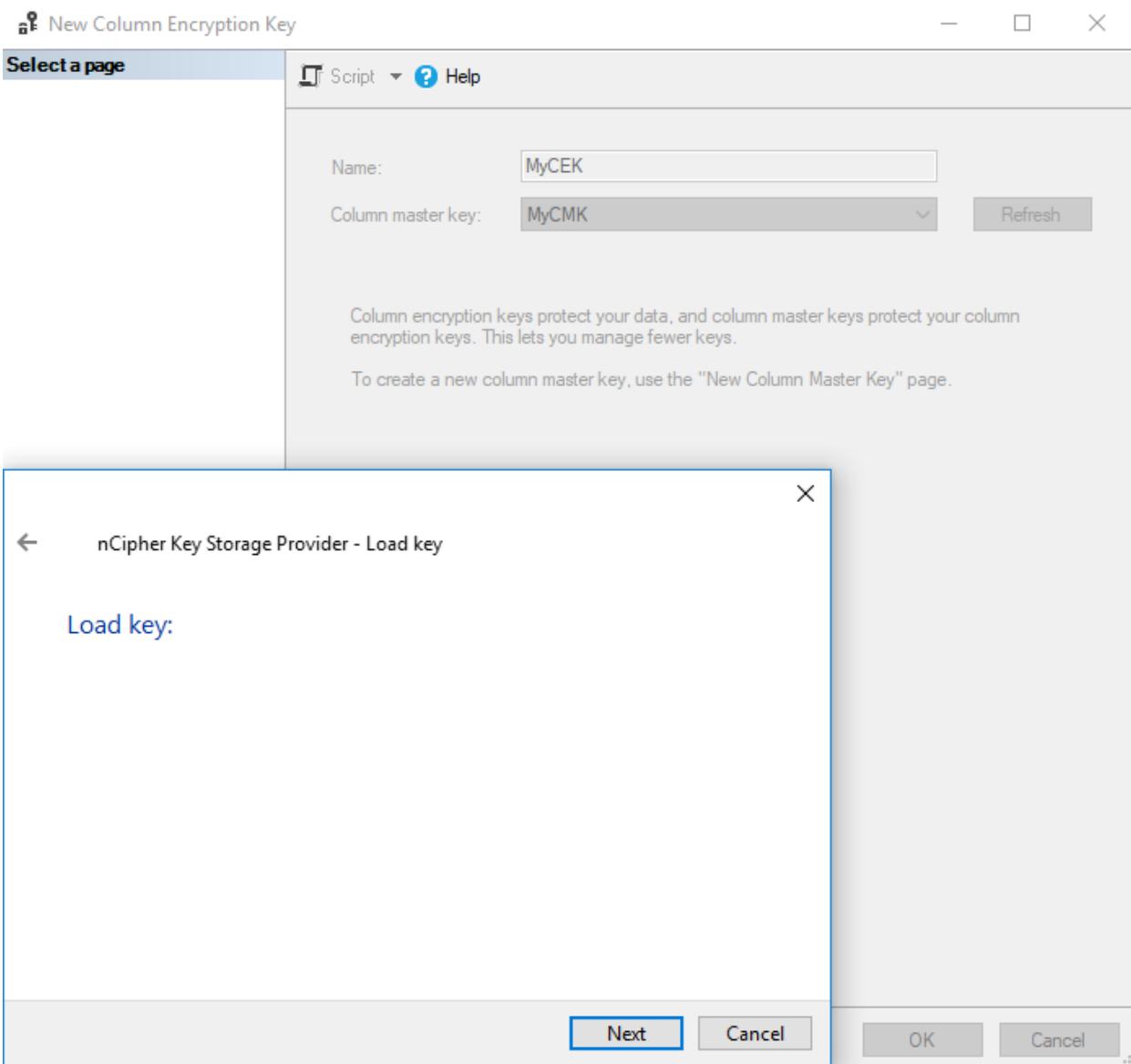
The screenshot shows the Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) interface. In the Object Explorer on the left, under the 'TestDatabase' node, there is a 'Column Encryption Keys' folder. A context menu is open over this folder, with the option 'New Column Encryption Key...' highlighted. The main pane displays a query results grid titled 'Results' for a SELECT statement. The statement retrieves top 1000 rows from the 'TestTable' in the 'TestDatabase'. The results show columns: FirstName, LastName, Email, and Password. The data includes names like Jack Shepard, John Locke, Kate Austin, etc., with their corresponding emails and encrypted passwords.

	FirstName	LastName	Email	Password
1	Jack	Shepard	jack.shepard@testserver.com	%#[BqT,z4B&_UM5
2	John	Locke	john.locke@testserver.com	v@2Mxr;XYcYslPw
3	Kate	Austin	kate.austin@testserver.com	!!9wbgcg85_# [
4	James	Ford	james.ford@testserver.com	J5YPbd59w\$5iuK
5	Ben	Linus	ben.linus@testserver.com	MY1=g=&gm(.UATC
6	Desmond	Hume	desmon.hume@testserver.com	aPoTEph:TfnWT1
7	Daniel	Faraday	daniel.faraday@testserver.com	9MPDzVhXYJSQ%%
8	Sayid	Jarrah	sayid.jarrah@testserver.com	Gfonlxj]H(m9w)
9	Richard	Alpert	richard.alpert@testserver.com	IbA9LSRUgstRH
		Smith	jacob.smith@testserver.com	EZg4 l)d)NWvE=D;

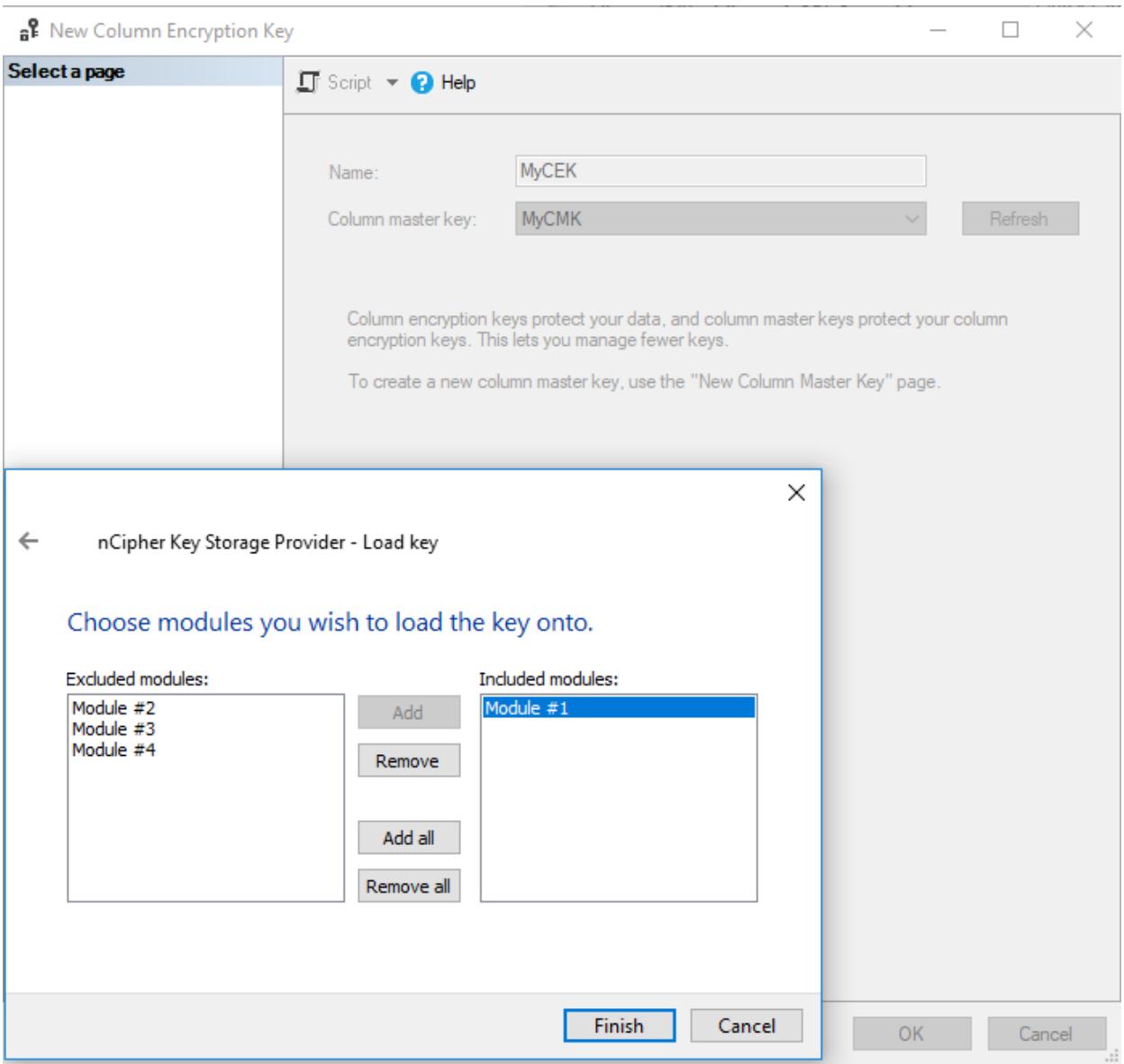
7. Enter **Name** and select **OK**.



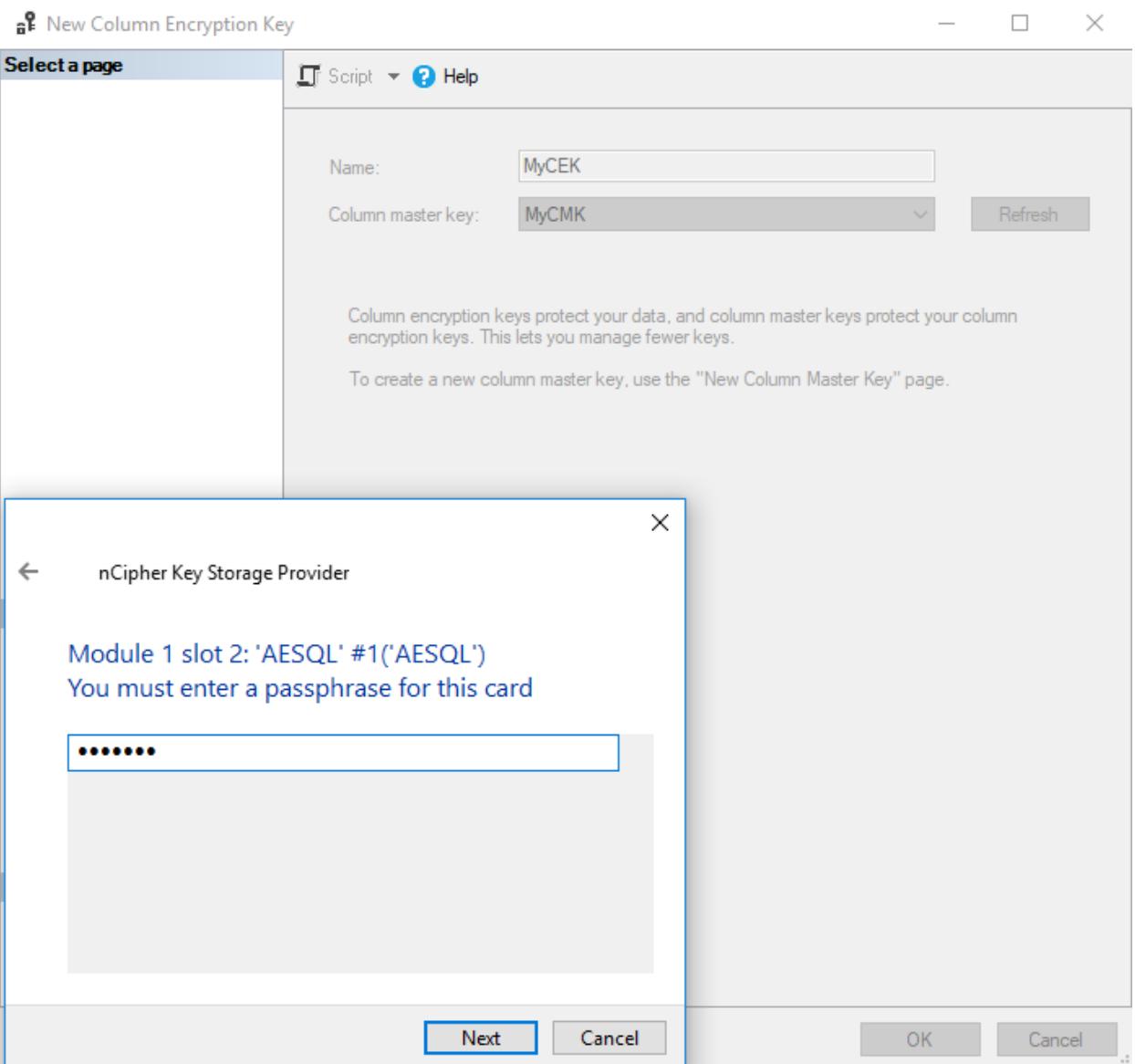
8. Present the OCS and select **Next**.



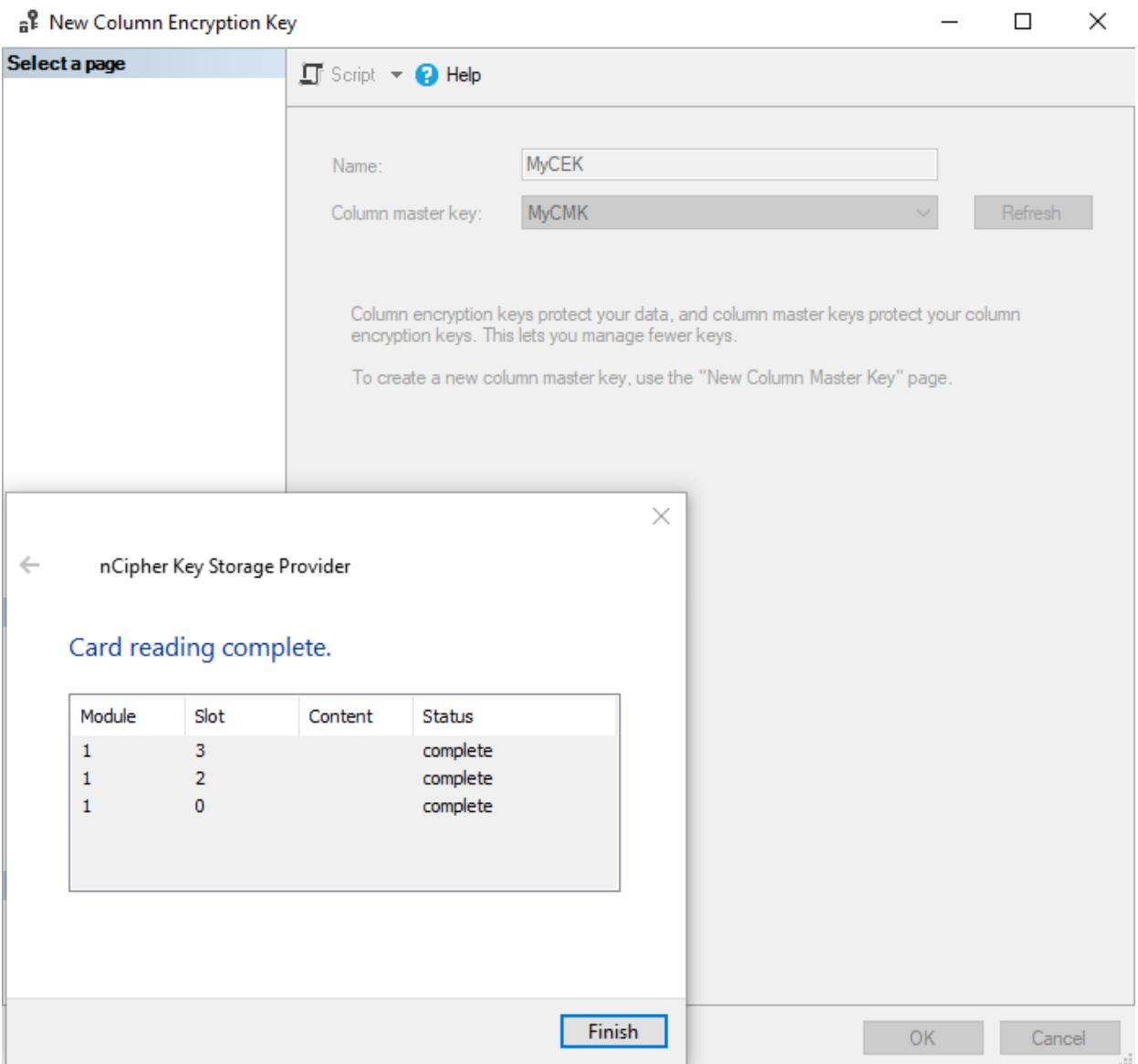
9. Select the HSM and select **Finish**.



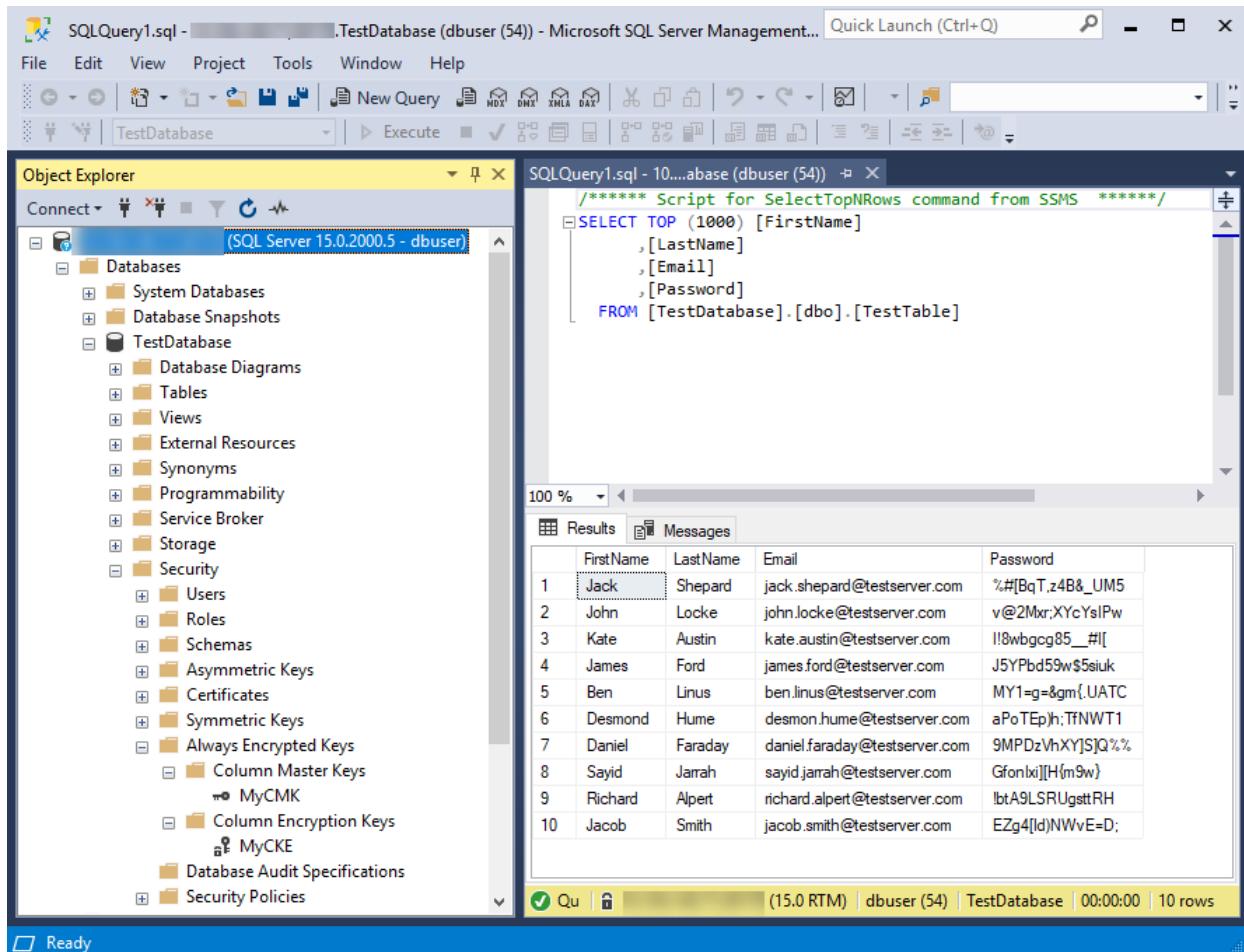
10. Enter the passphrase and select **Next**.



11. Select **Finish** after the OCS card reading completes.



12. Notice the newly created **MyCEK** in the database **Security\Always Encrypted Keys\Column Encryption Keys**.



### 3.3. Generate My Column Master Key (MyCMK) and My Column Encryption Key (MyCEK) with PowerShell

1. Delete MyCEK and MyCMK created above by right-clicking each key and selecting **Delete**.
2. Launch PowerShell on the on-premises client computer and run the [Generate\\_MyCMK\\_and\\_MyCEK.ps1](#) script.

```

# Import the SqlServer module.
Import-Module SqlServer

# Connect to database.
$ConnectionString = "Data Source=<DB_Server_IP>,49170;Initial Catalog=TestDatabase;User
ID=dbuser;Password=<dbuser_Password>;MultipleActiveResultSets=False;Connect
Timeout=30;Encrypt=True;TrustServerCertificate=True;Packet Size=4096;Application Name='Microsoft SQL Server
Management Studio'``"
$Database = Get-SqlDatabase -ConnectionString $ConnectionString

# Create a SqlColumnMasterKeySettings object for your column master key.
$cmkSettings = New-SqlCngColumnMasterKeySettings -CngProviderName "nCipher Security World Key Storage Provider"
-KeyName "AECMK"

# Create column master key metadata in the database.
New-SqlColumnMasterKey -Name "MyCMK" -InputObject $Database -ColumnMasterKeySettings $cmkSettings

# Generate a column encryption key, encrypt it with the column master key and create column encryption key metadata
in the database.
New-SqlColumnEncryptionKey -Name "MyCEK" -InputObject $Database -ColumnMasterKey "MyCMK"

```

The command line is

```

> PowerShell -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File Generate_MyCMK_and_MyCEK.ps1

Name
-----
MyCMK
MyCEK

```

3. Present the OCS, select the HSM, and enter the passphrase.
4. Notice the newly created **MyCMK** in the database **Security\Always Encrypted Keys\Column Master Keys**.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) interface. The left pane displays the Object Explorer, which is connected to a database named 'TestDatabase' on 'SQL Server 15.0.2000.5 - dbuser'. The Object Explorer tree includes nodes for Databases, System Databases, Database Snapshots, TestDatabase (containing Database Diagrams, Tables, Views, External Resources, Synonyms, Programmability, Service Broker, Storage, Security, and various key types like Asymmetric Keys, Certificates, Symmetric Keys, Always Encrypted Keys, Column Master Keys, Column Encryption Keys, Database Audit Specifications, and Security Policies). The right pane shows a query results grid and a script editor. The script editor contains a T-SQL SELECT statement:

```
***** Script for SelectTopNRows command from SSMS *****
SELECT TOP (1000) [FirstName]
    ,[LastName]
    ,[Email]
    ,[Password]
FROM [TestDatabase].[dbo].[TestTable]
```

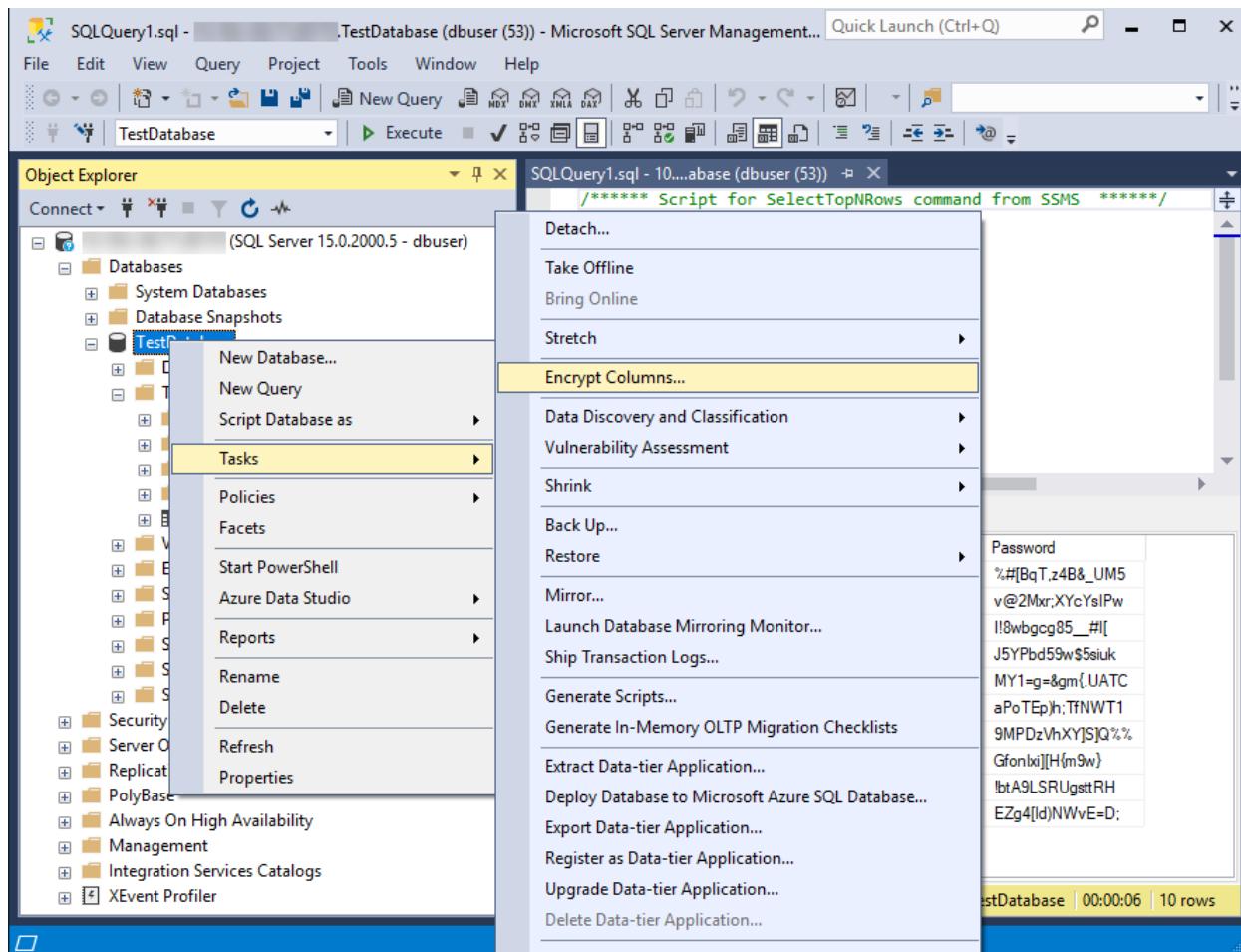
The results grid displays 10 rows of data:

	FirstName	LastName	Email	Password
1	Jack	Shepard	jack.shepard@testserver.com	%# BqT,z4B&_UM5
2	John	Locke	john.locke@testserver.com	v@2Mxr;XYcYsIPw
3	Kate	Austin	kate.austin@testserver.com	!l8wbgcg85_# [
4	James	Ford	james.ford@testserver.com	J5YPbd59w\$5siuk
5	Ben	Linus	ben.linus@testserver.com	MY1=g=&gm{.UATC
6	Desmond	Hume	desmon.hume@testserver.com	aPoTEp h:TfNWT1
7	Daniel	Faraday	daniel.faraday@testserver.com	9MPDzVhXYJSQ%%
8	Sayid	Jarrah	sayid.jarrah@testserver.com	GfonlxjH(m9w)
9	Richard	Alpert	richard.alpert@testserver.com	IbtA9LSRUgsttRH
10	Jacob	Smith	jacob.smith@testserver.com	EZg4 d)NWvE=D;

# 4. Encrypt or decrypt a column with SSMS

## 4.1. Encrypt a column

1. Launch **Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio** on the on-premises client.  
Connect with the dbuser account to the database on the SQL server.
2. Right-click the database, **TestDatabase**, and select **Tasks > Encrypt Columns**.



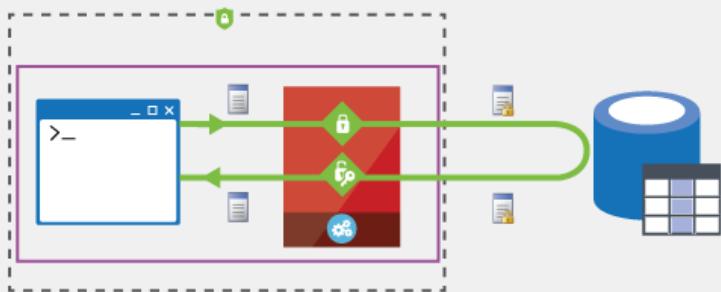
3. Select **Next** on the Introduction screen.



## Introduction

[Introduction](#)[Column Selection](#)[Master Key Configuration](#)[Run Settings](#)[Summary](#)[Results](#)[Help](#)

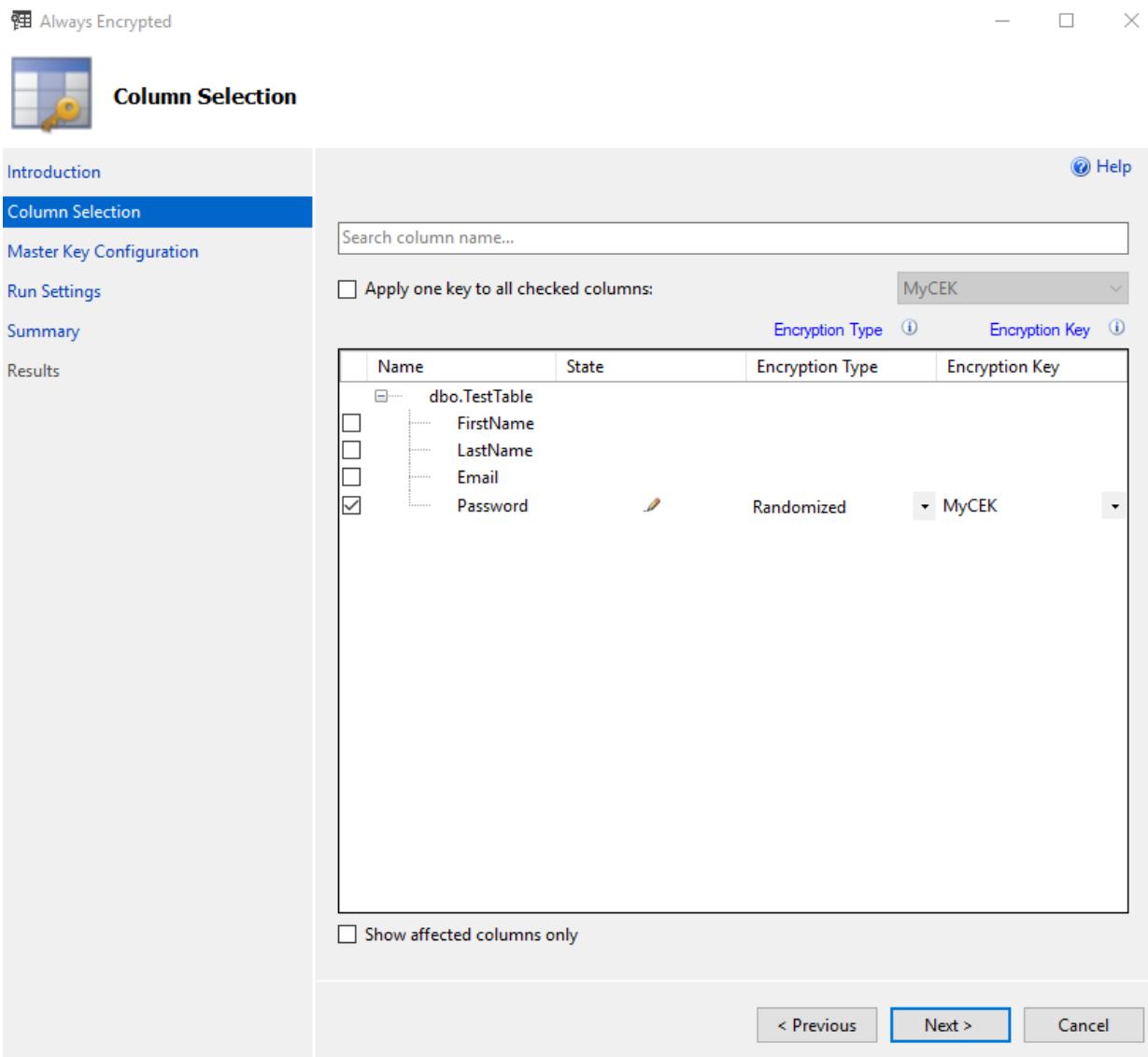
Always Encrypted is designed to protect sensitive information - such as credit card numbers - stored in SQL Server databases. It enables clients to encrypt data inside client applications and never reveal the encryption keys to SQL Server.



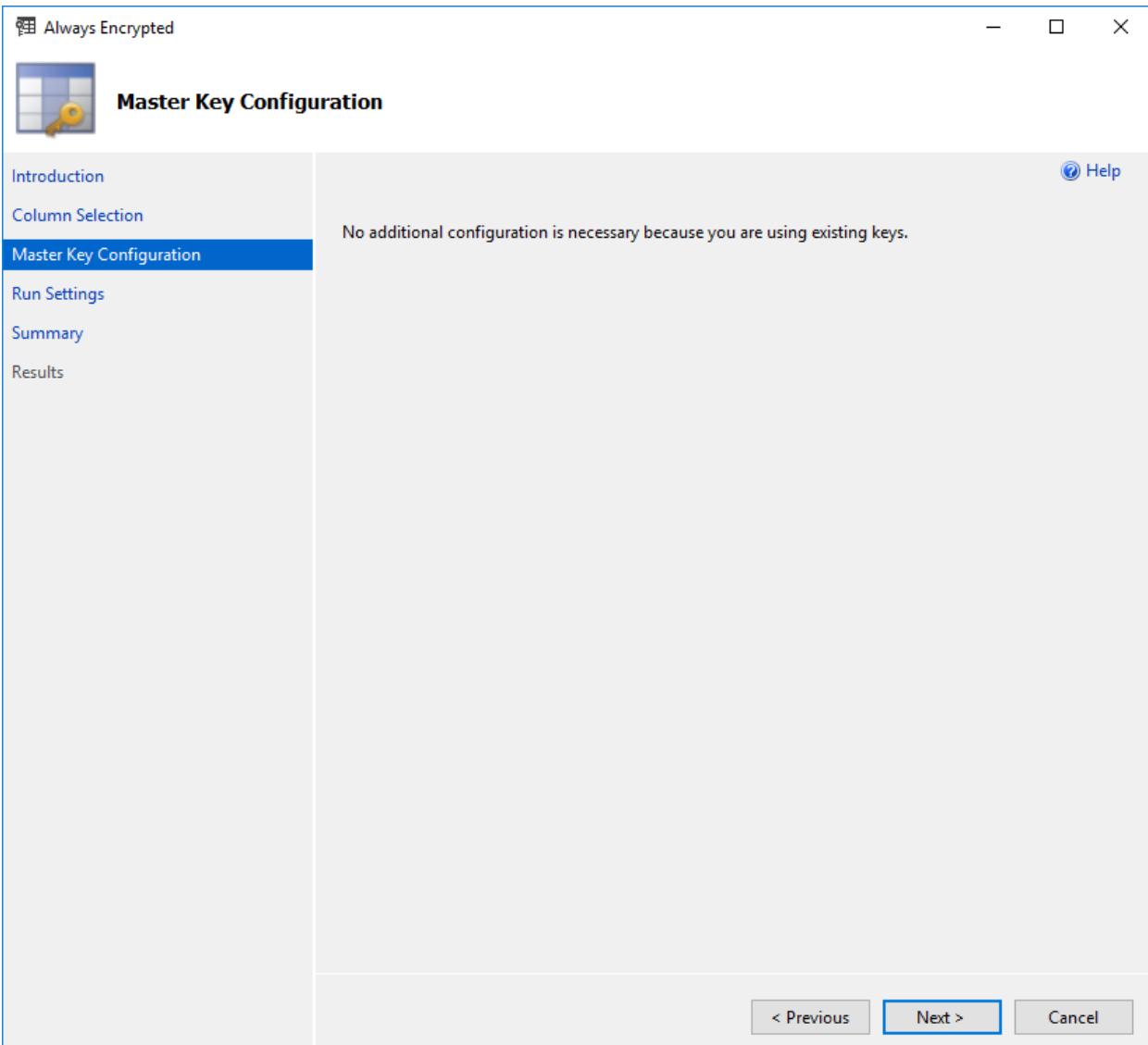
Do not show this page again.

[< Previous](#)[Next >](#)[Cancel](#)

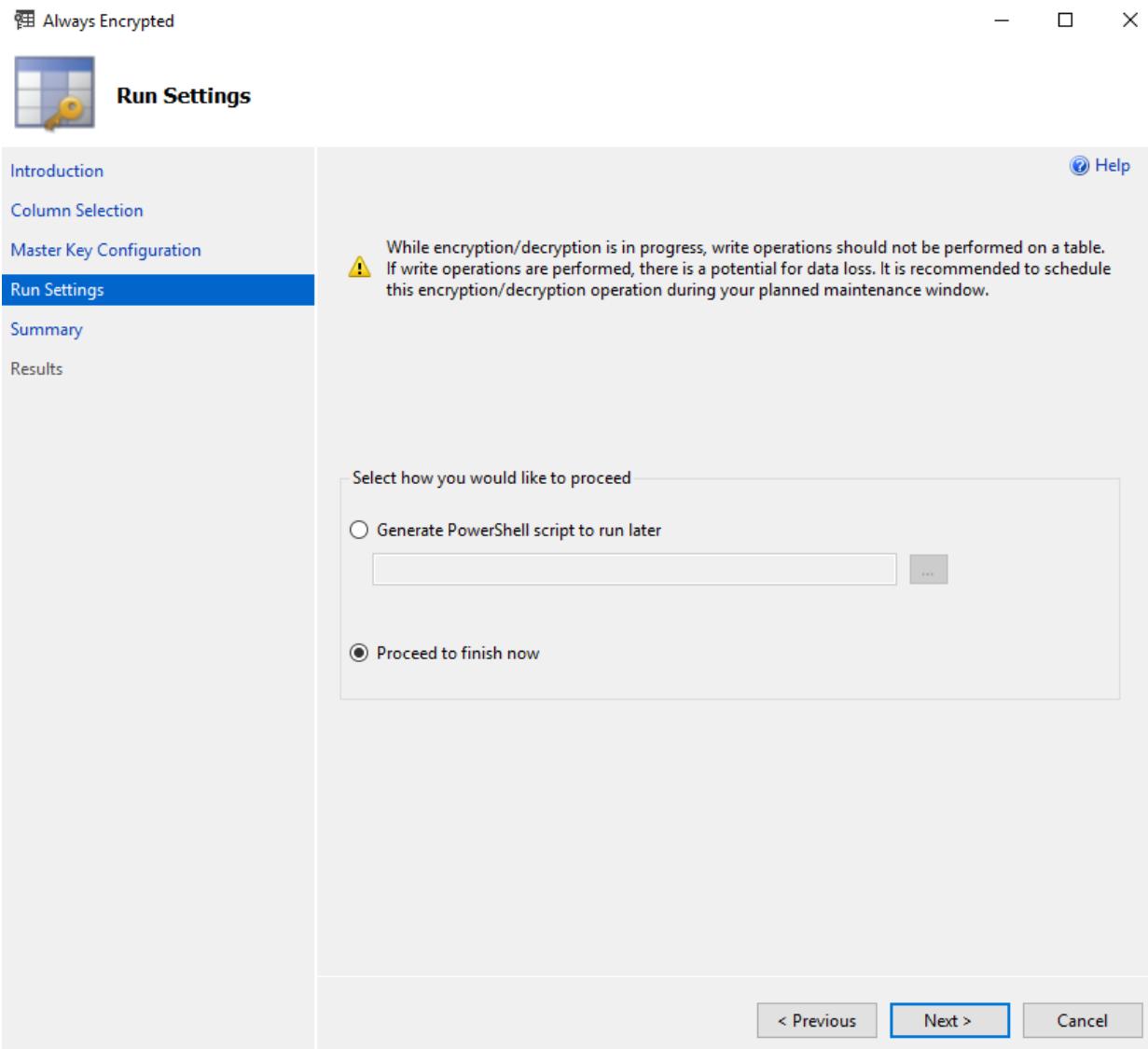
4. Select the column and encryption type on the **Column Selection** screen and select **Next**.



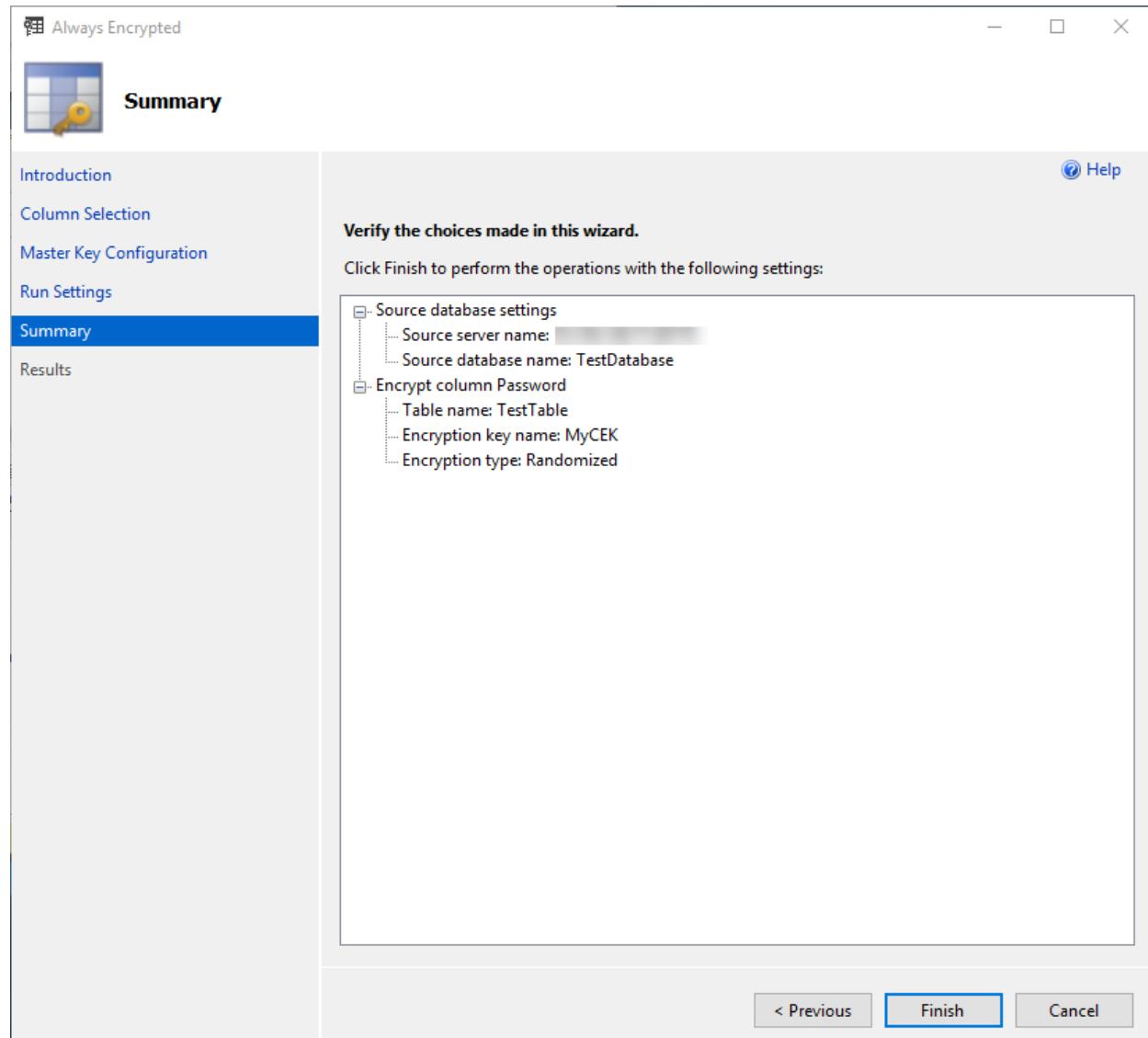
5. Select **MyCMK** on the **Master key Configuration** window. Select **Next**.



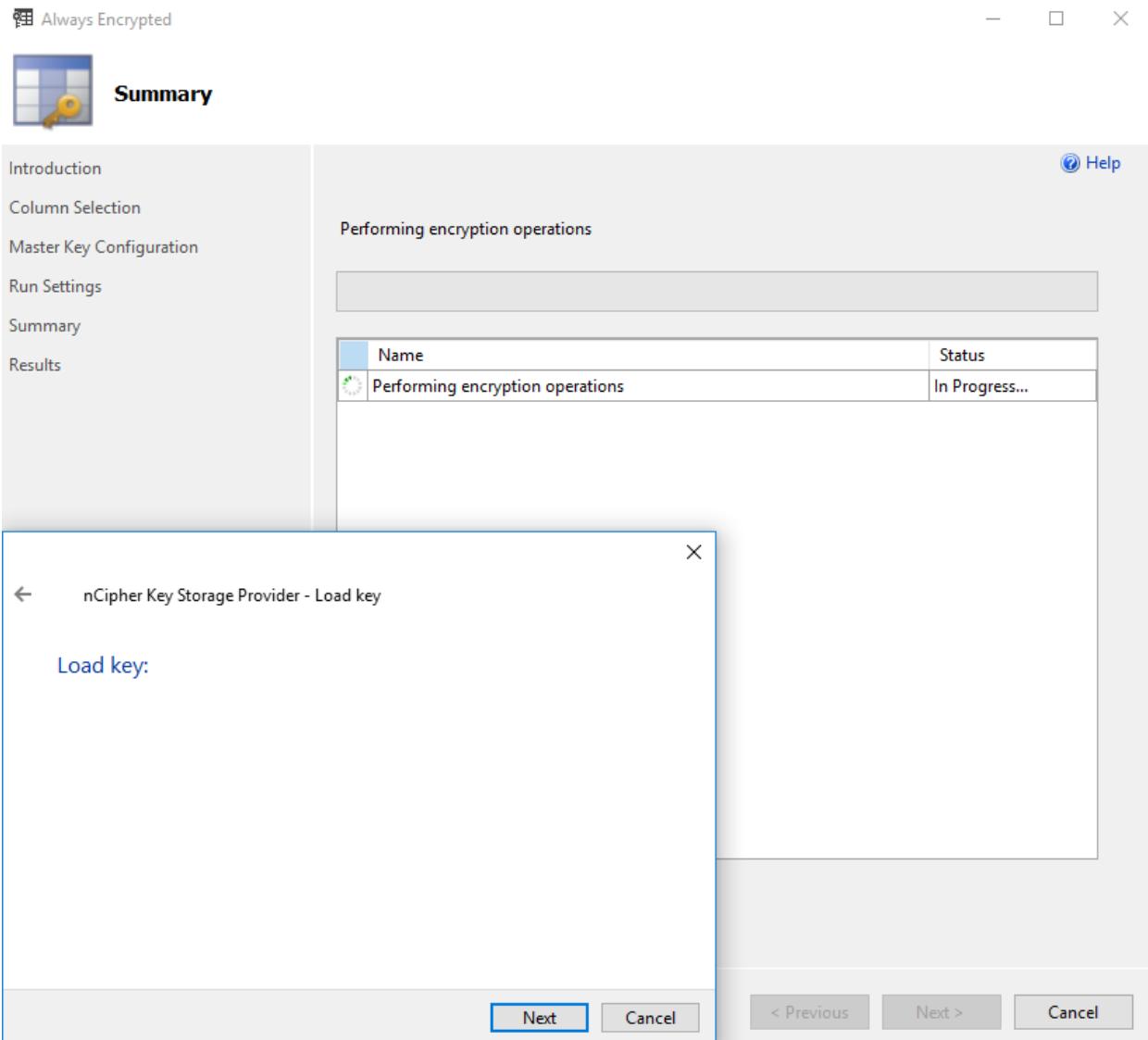
6. Select **Proceed to finish now** radio button and select **Next**.



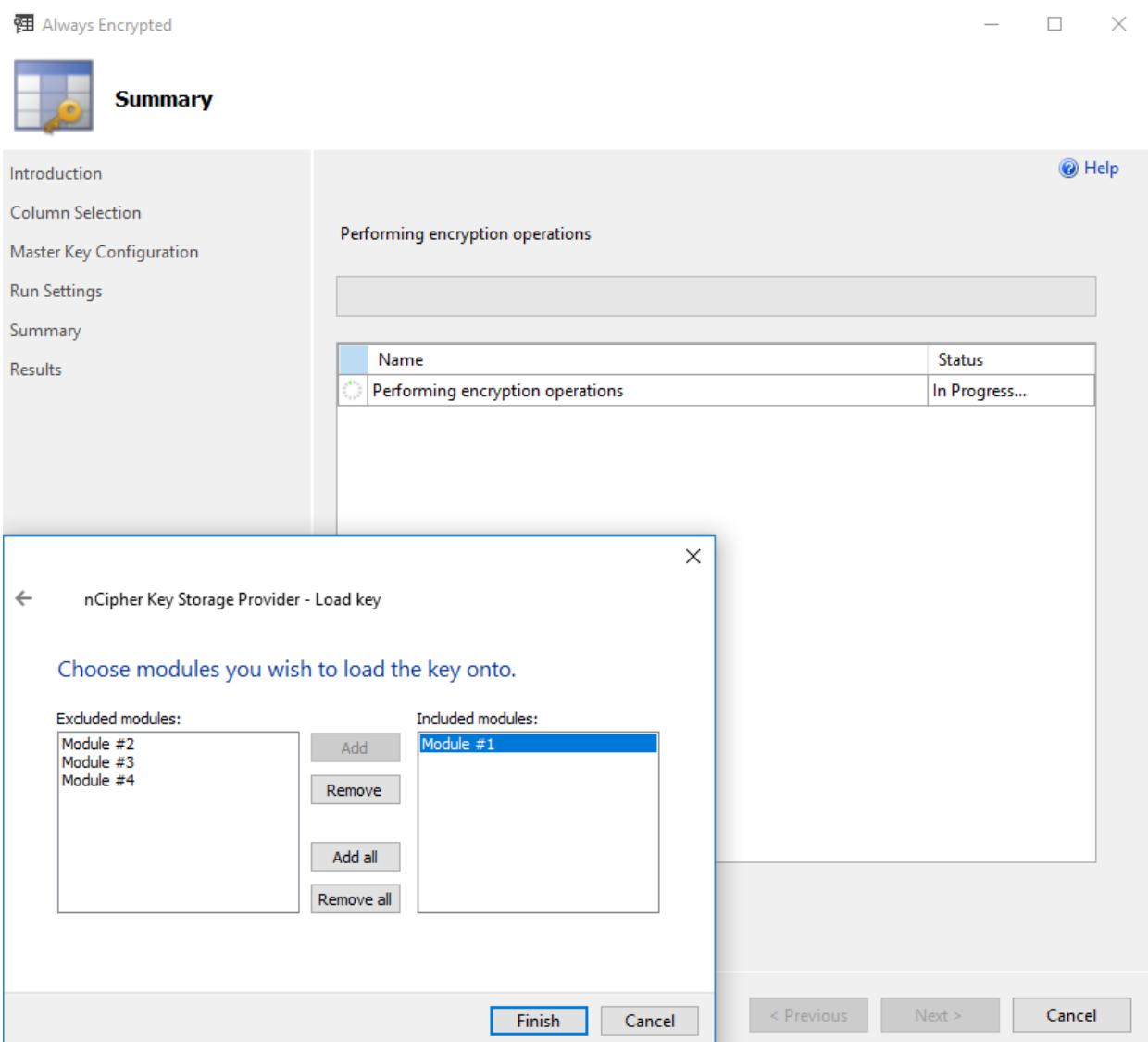
7. Verify the configuration choices on the **Summary** screen. Select **Next**.



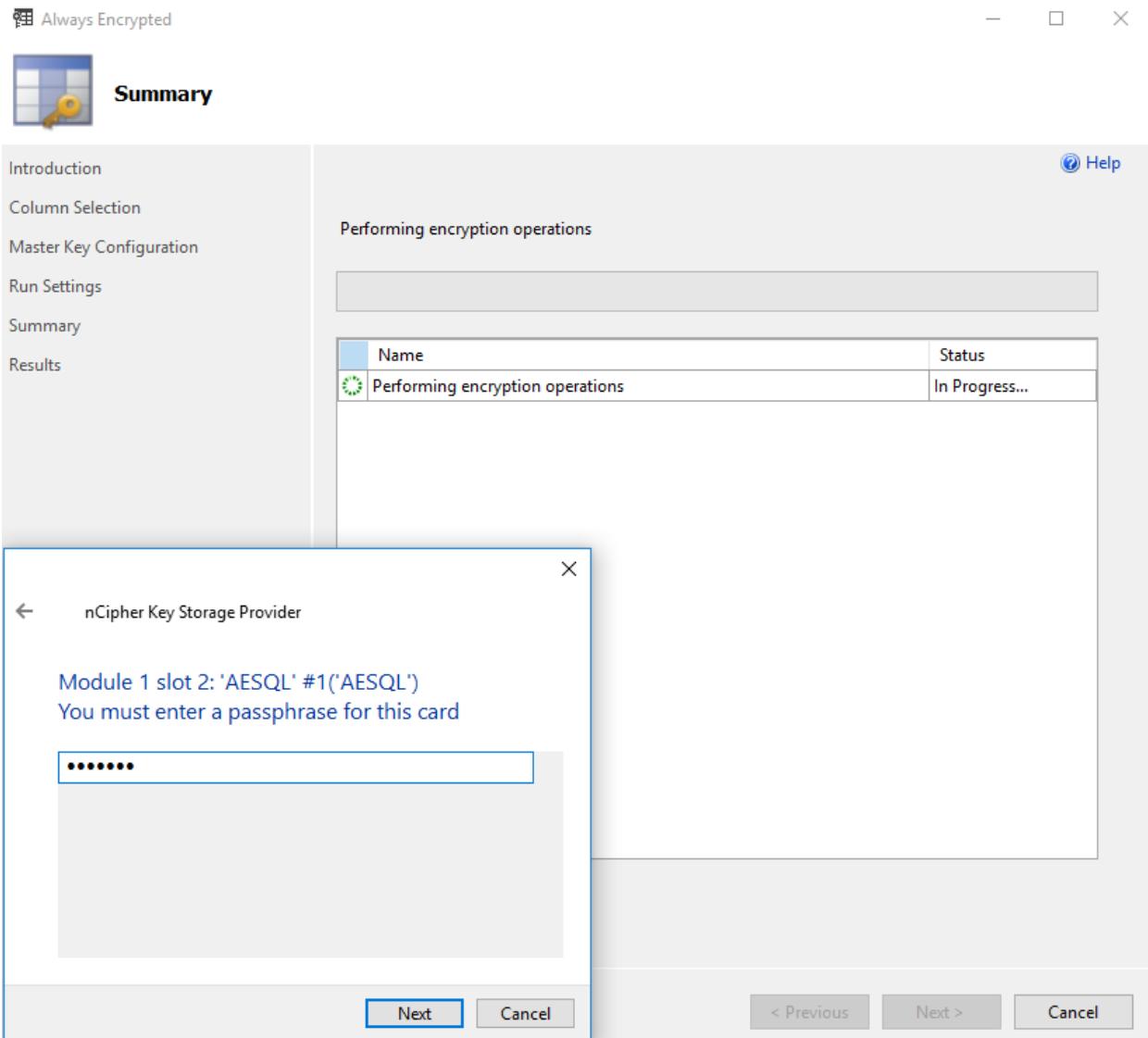
8. Present the OCS that is protecting the CMK and select **Finish**.



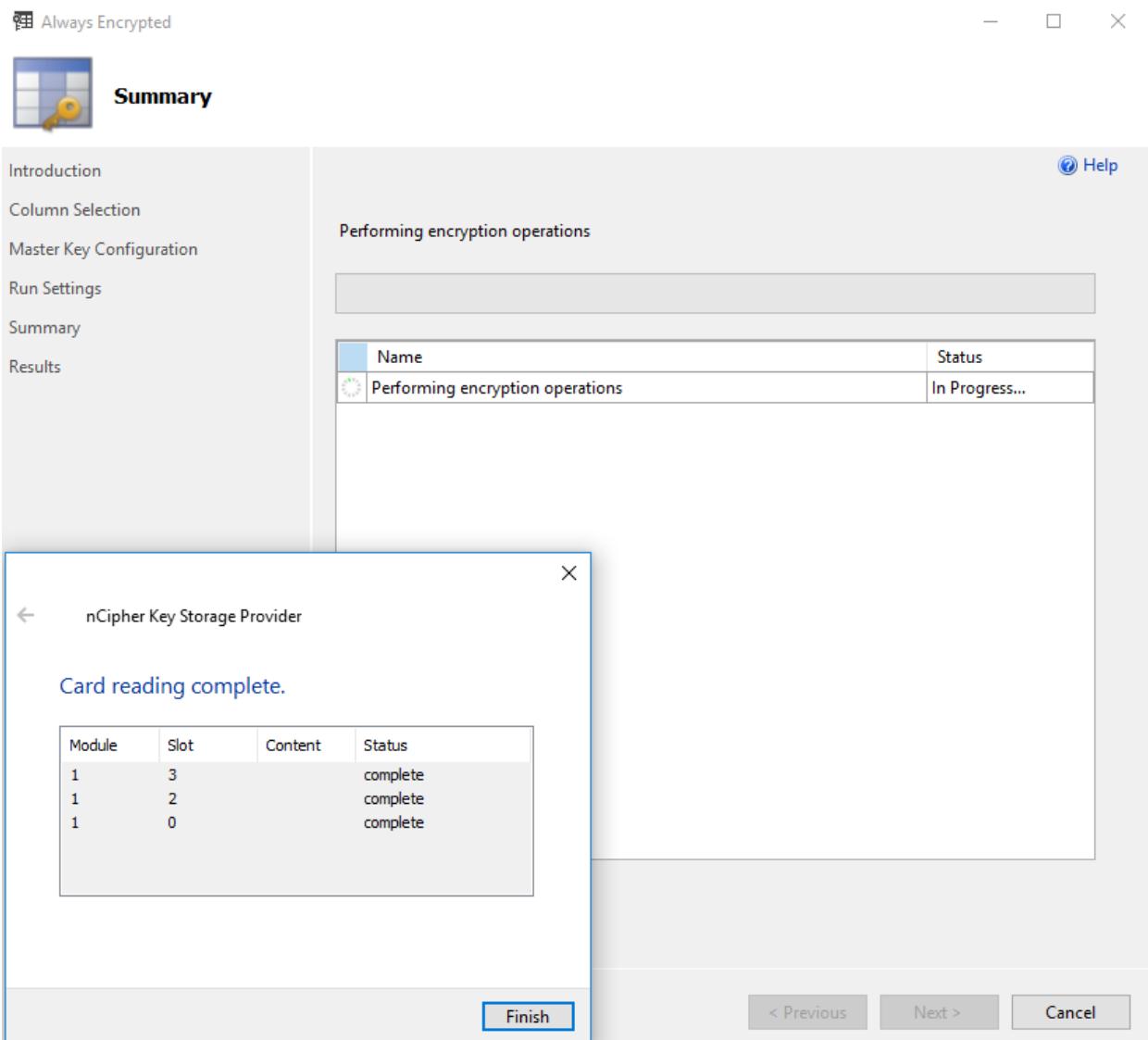
9. Select the HSM and select **Next**.



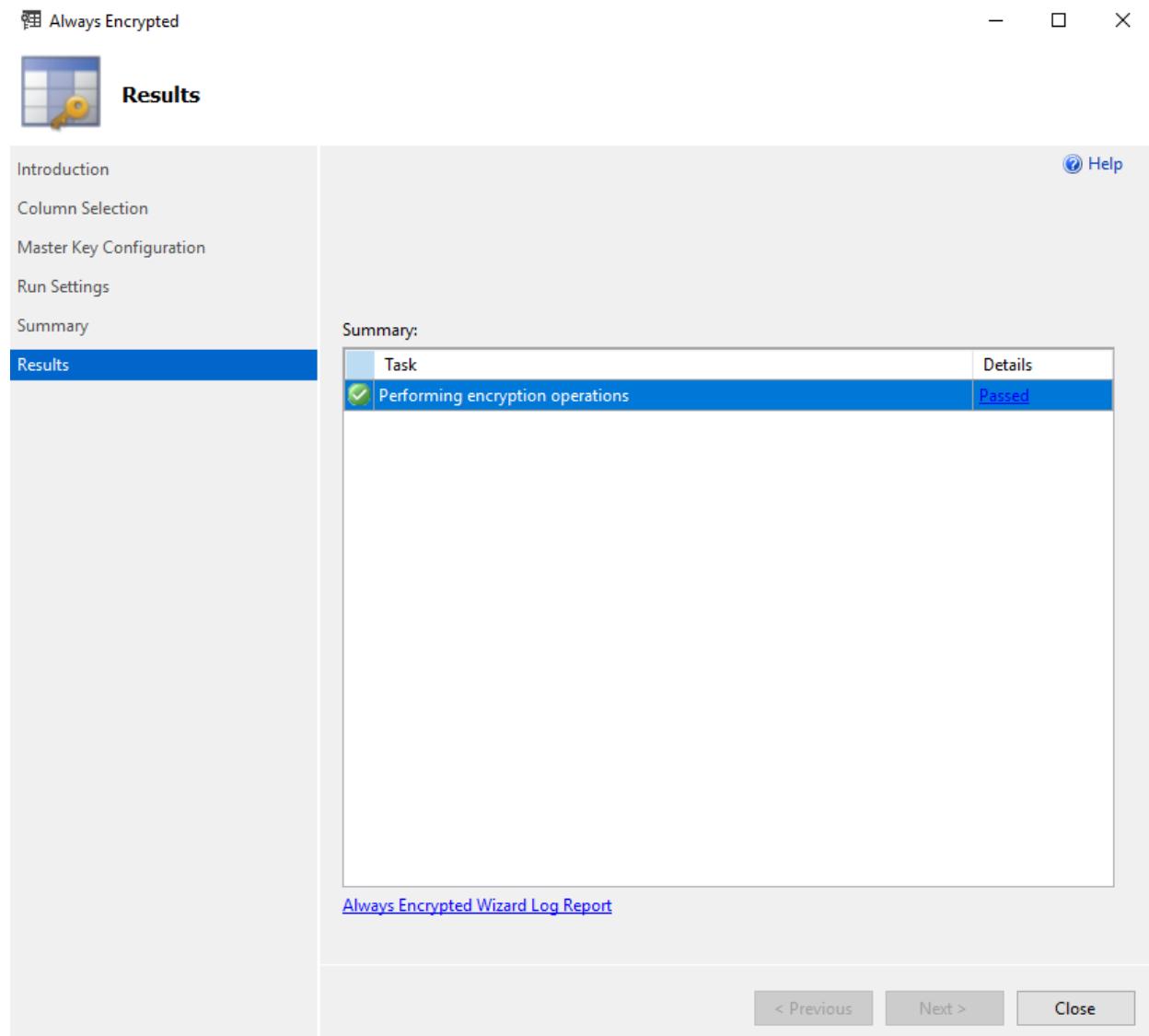
10. Enter the passphrase, and select **Next**.



11. Select **Finish**.



12. Select **Close**.

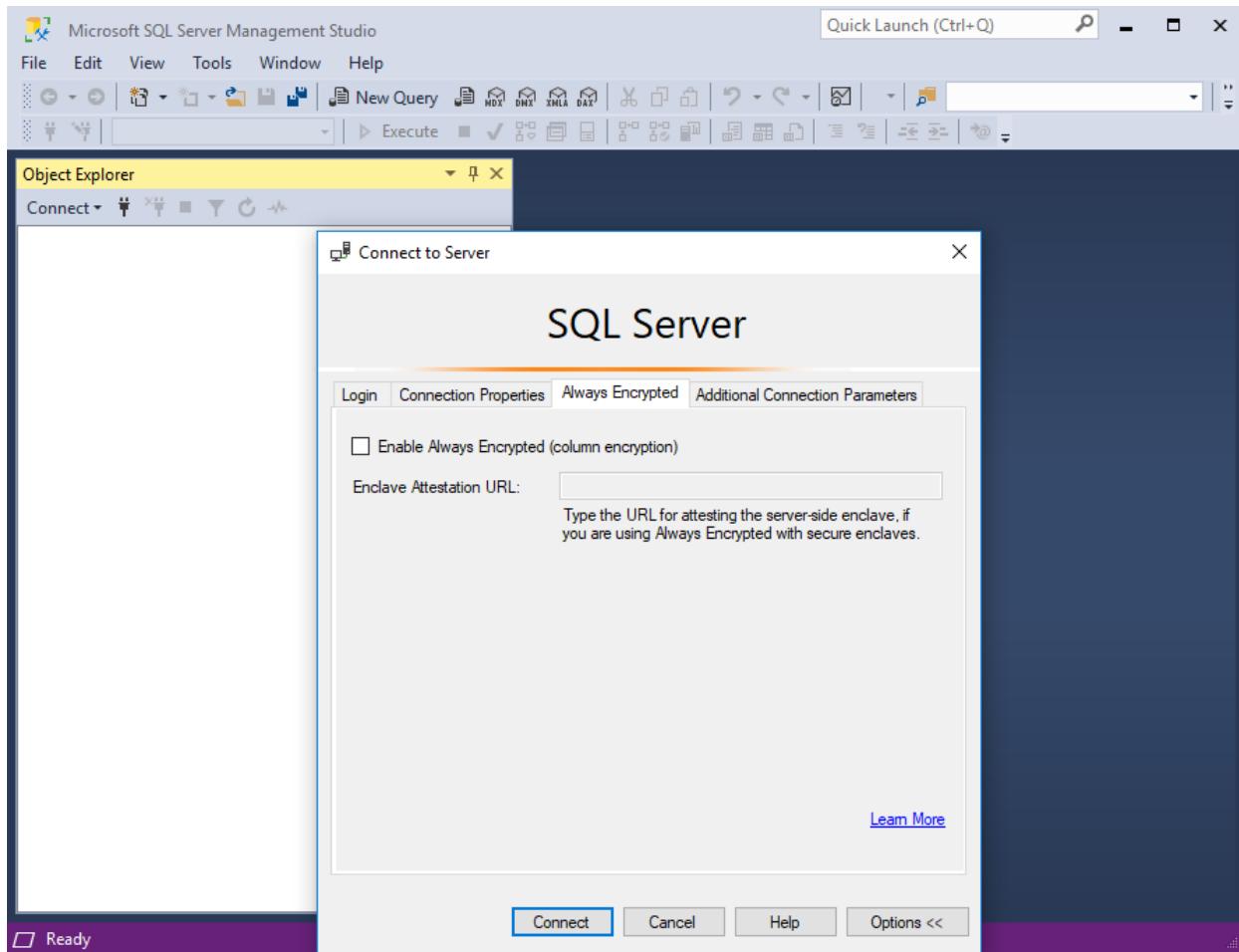


The column has been encrypted in the SQL server, but it shows as clear text on the **Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio** GUI on the on-premises client. This is because **Always Encrypted** is performing the decryption at the on-premises client site.

## 4.2. View an encrypted column

Reconnect to the SQL server with **Always Encrypted** disabled to view the encrypted data stored in the SQL server.

1. Connect to the SQL server from the on-premises client, but with the **Enable Always Encrypted** unchecked.



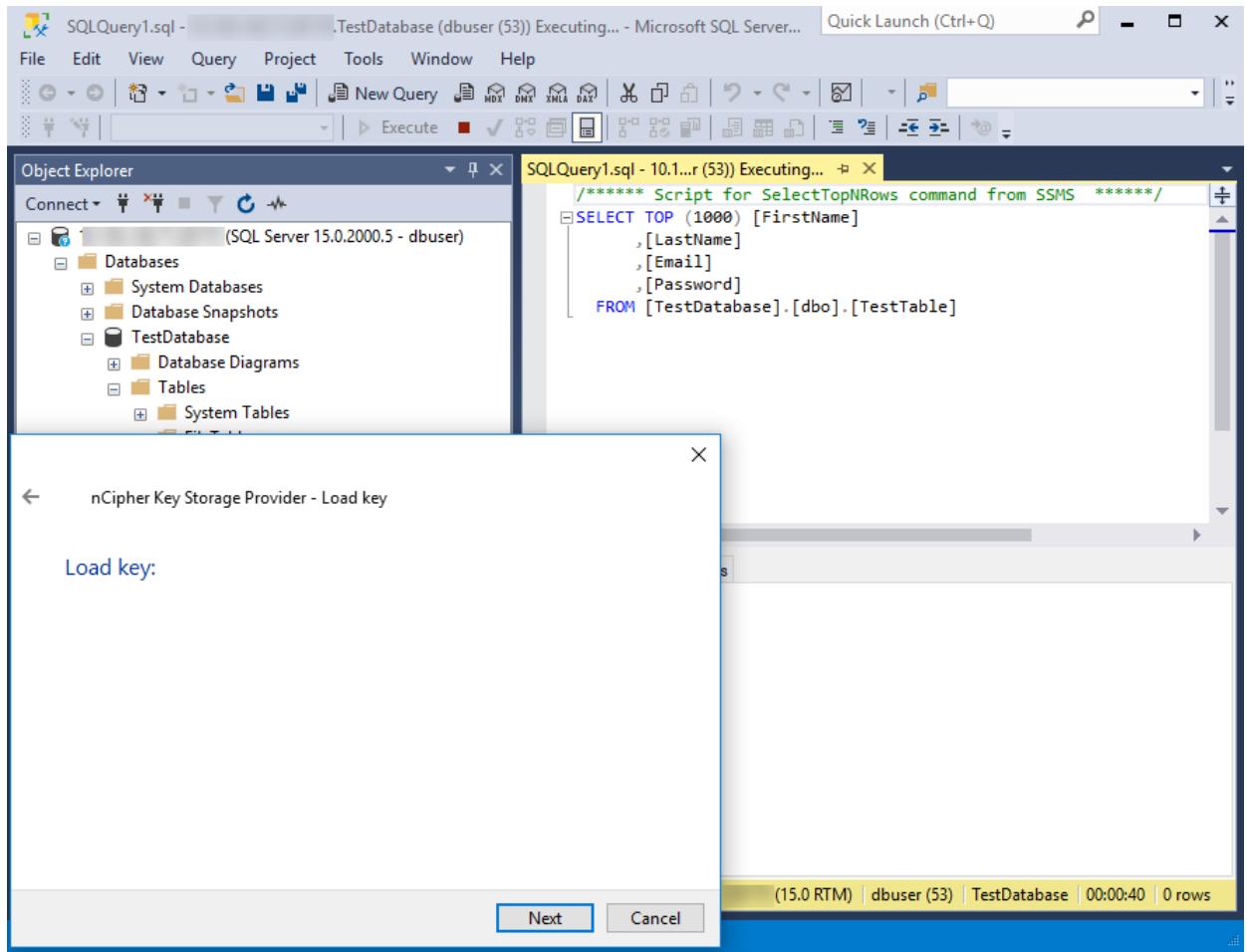
2. Right-click **dbo.Table**, and select **Select Top 1000 Rows**. The column that was chosen for encryption now appears as ciphertext, that is, as an encrypted value.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) interface. On the left, the Object Explorer pane displays the database structure for 'SQL Server 15.0.2000.5 - dbuser'. Under the 'TestDatabase' node, the 'Tables' folder is expanded, showing 'dbo.TestTable'. The main central area contains a query editor window with the following T-SQL script:

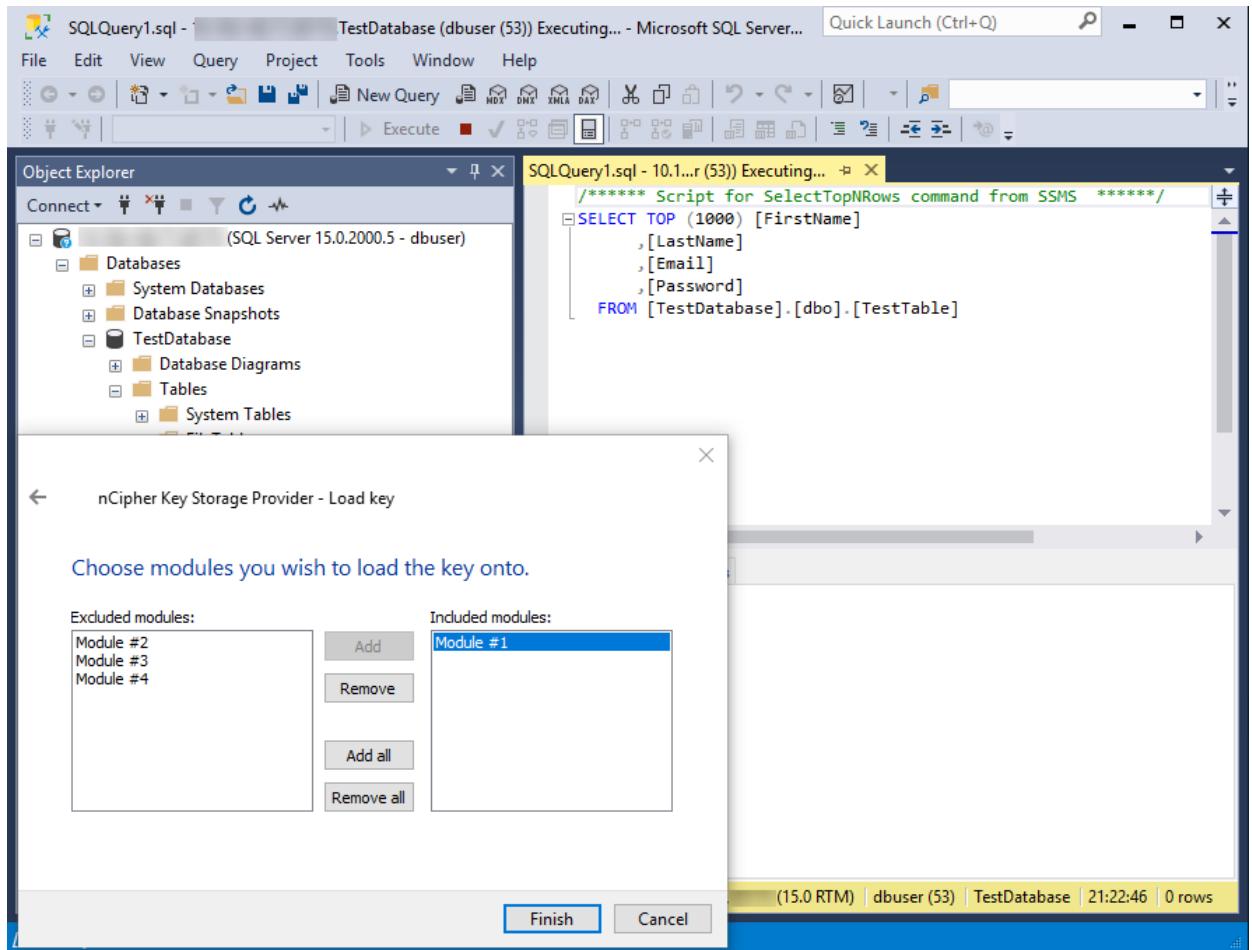
```
***** Script for SelectTopNRows command from SSMS *****/
SELECT TOP (1000) [FirstName]
    ,[LastName]
    ,[Email]
    ,[Password]
FROM [TestDatabase].[dbo].[TestTable]
```

Below the script, the 'Results' tab is selected, showing a grid of 10 rows of data. The columns are labeled 'FirstName', 'LastName', 'Email', and 'Password'. The data includes names like Jack, John, Kate, James, Ben, Desmond, Daniel, Sayid, Richard, and Jacob, along with their corresponding email addresses and encrypted passwords.

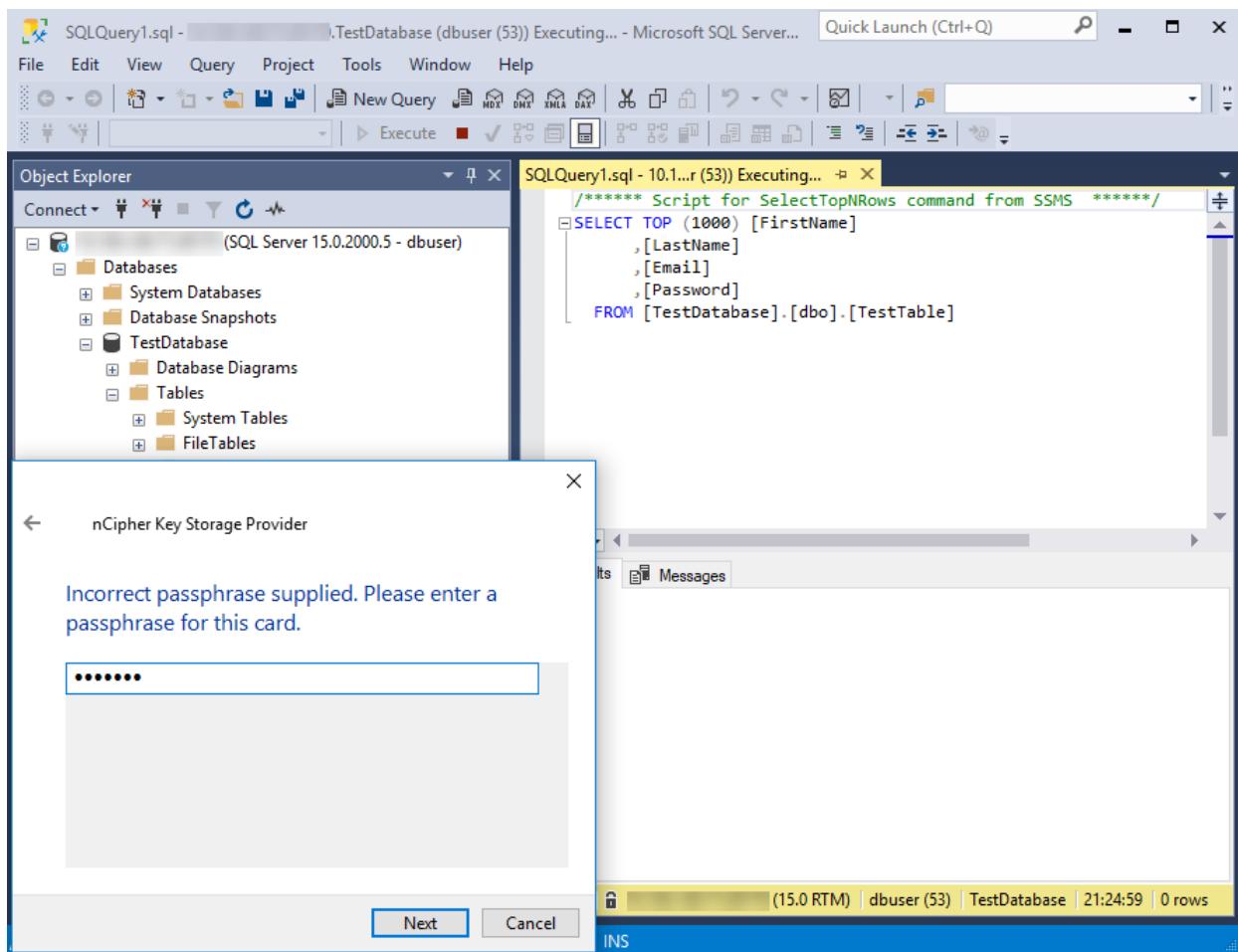
3. Reconnect to the SQL server from the on-premises client, but with the **Enable Always Encrypted** checked. Be prepared to provide the OCS. Select **Next**.



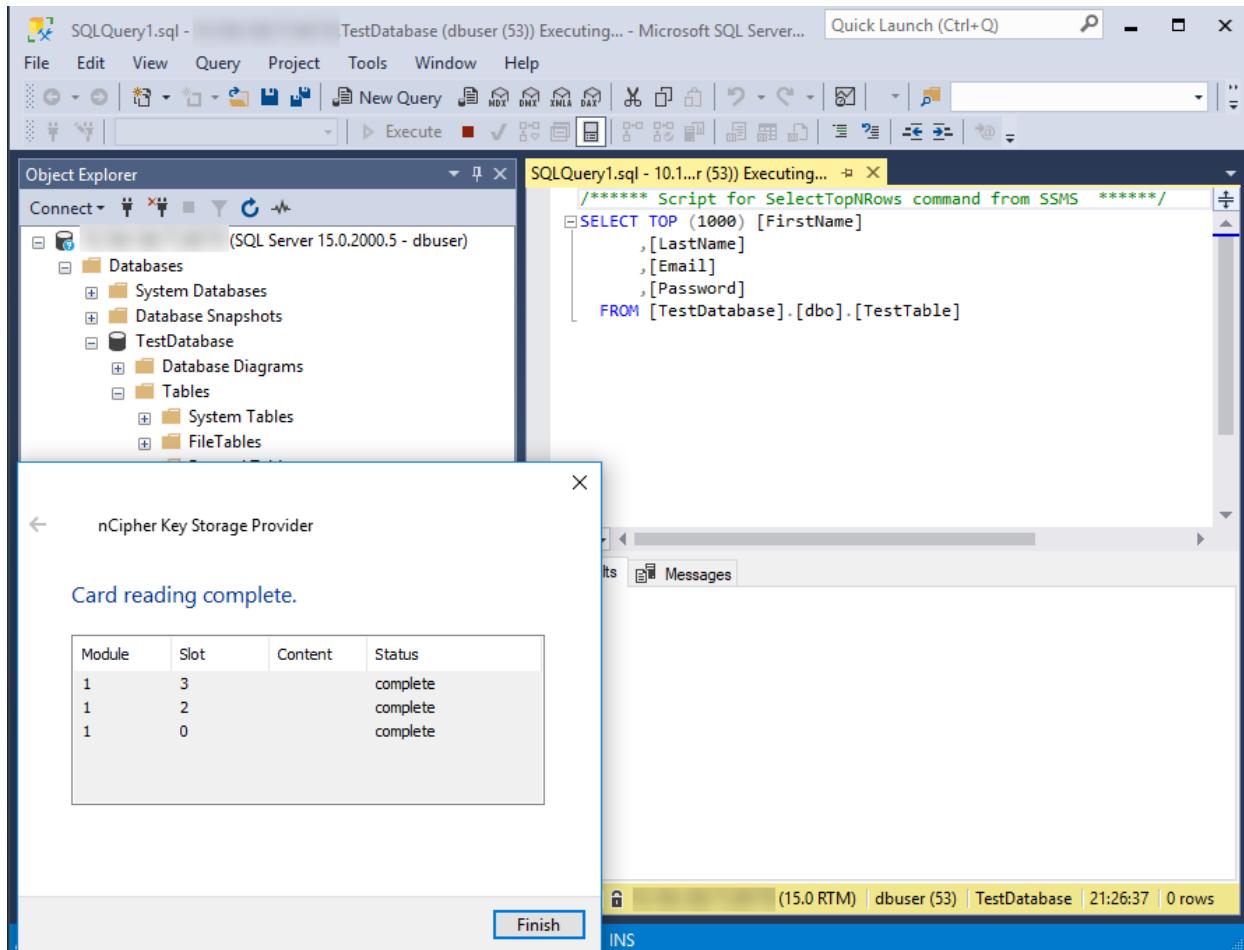
4. Select the HSM. Select **Finish**.



5. Enter the passphrase. Select **Next**.



6. Select **Finish**.



7. Right-click **dbo.Table**, and select **Select Top 1000 Rows**. The column that was chosen for encryption is now being decrypted by **Always Encrypted** with the key protected by the nCipher HSM.
8. Select **Finish**.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) interface. In the Object Explorer on the left, under the 'TestDatabase' node, there is a 'Tables' folder which contains a 'dbo.TestTable'. In the center, a query window titled 'SQLQuery1.sql - 10....abase (dbuser (53)) - Microsoft SQL Server Management...' displays the following T-SQL script:

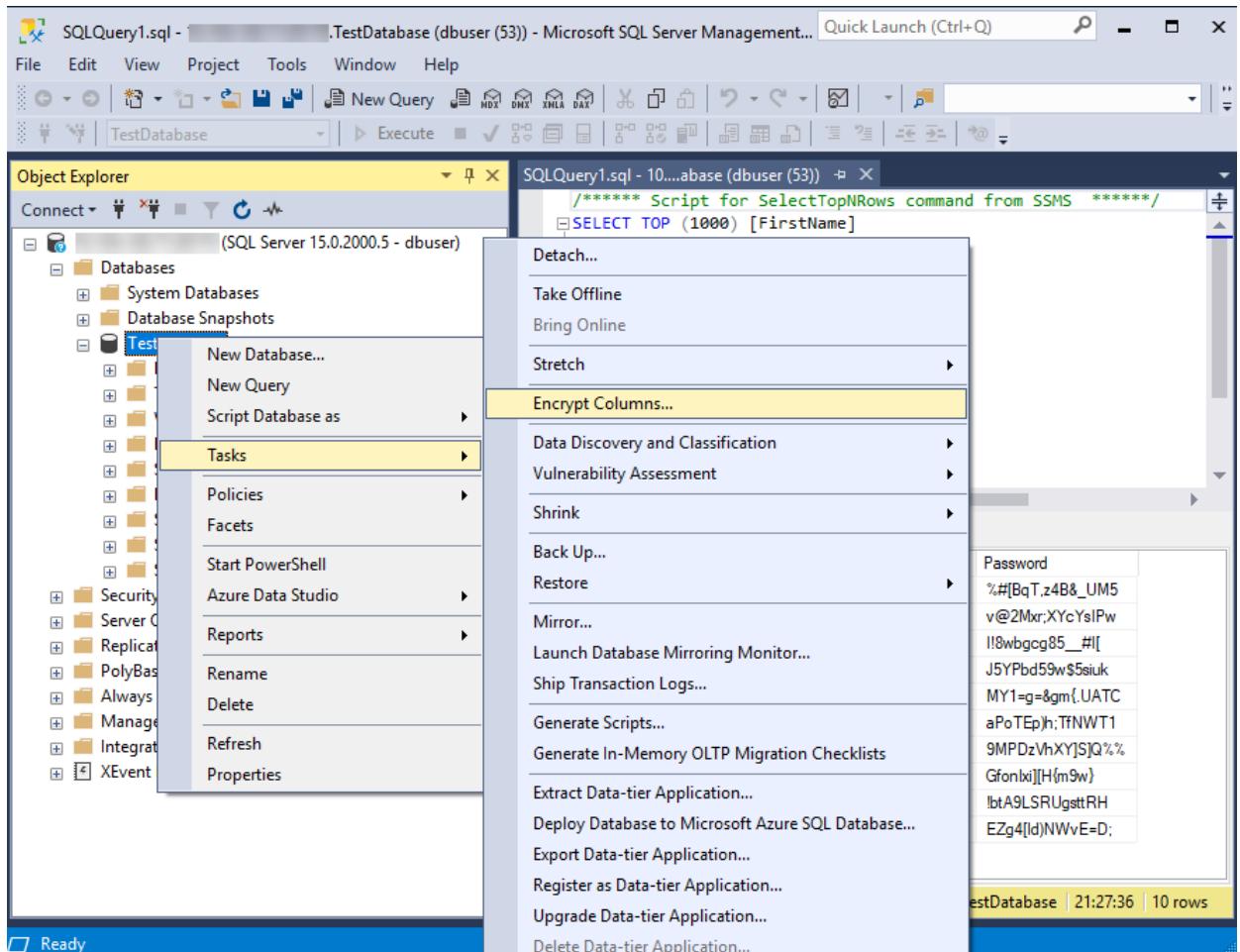
```
***** Script for SelectTopNRows command from SSMS *****
SELECT TOP (1000) [FirstName]
    ,[LastName]
    ,[Email]
    ,[Password]
FROM [TestDatabase].[dbo].[TestTable]
```

Below the script, the 'Results' tab shows a grid of 10 rows of data from the 'TestTable':

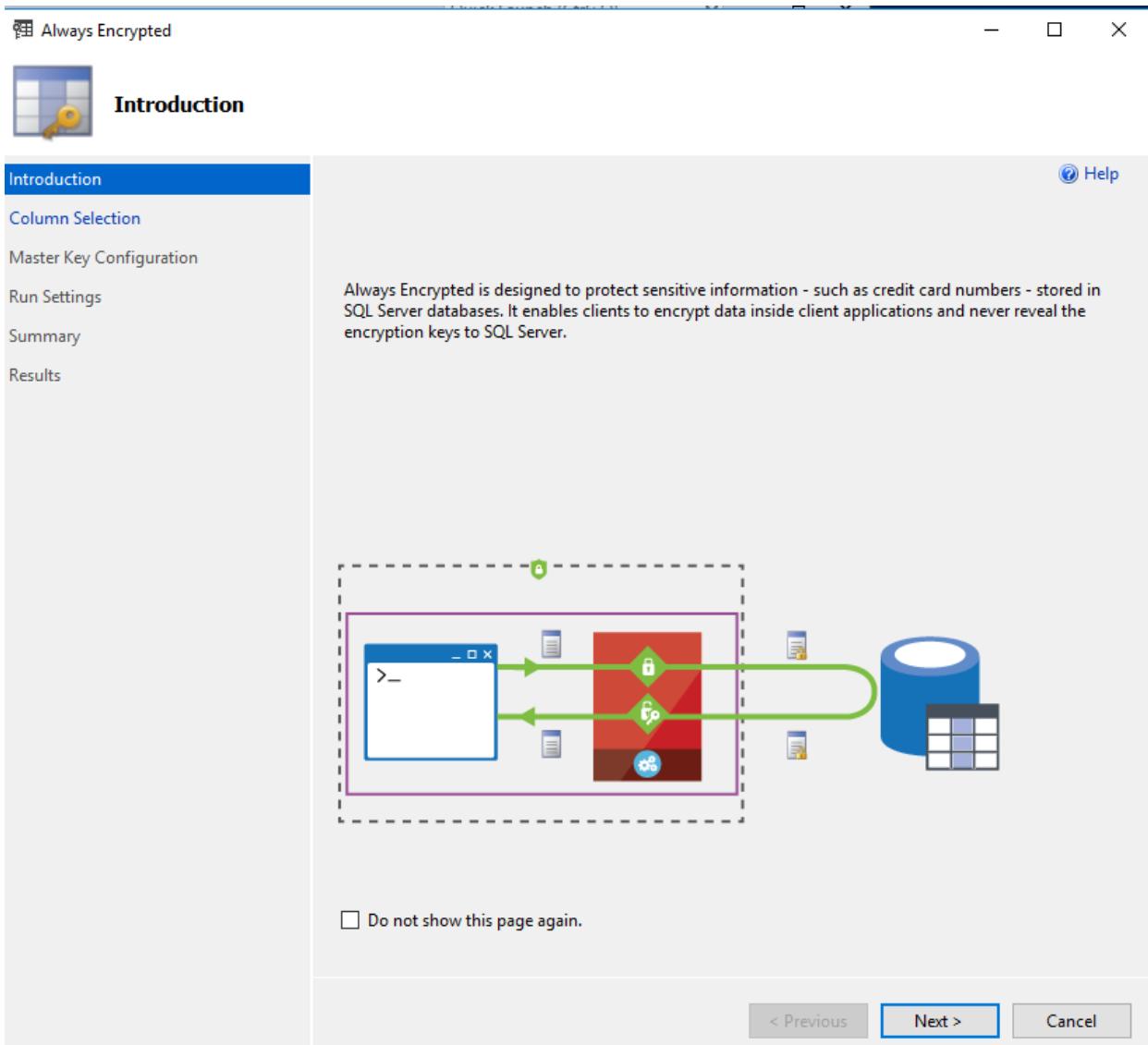
	FirstName	LastName	Email	Password
1	Jack	Shepard	jack.shepard@testserver.com	%#[BqT,z4B&_UM5
2	John	Locke	john.locke@testserver.com	v@2Mxr;XYcYs!Pw
3	Kate	Austin	kate.austin@testserver.com	!!8wbog85_# [
4	James	Ford	james.ford@testserver.com	J5YPbd59w\$5siuk
5	Ben	Linus	ben.linus@testserver.com	MY1=g=&gm{.UATC
6	Desmond	Hume	desmon.hume@testserver.com	aPoTEph;TNWT1
7	Daniel	Faraday	daniel.faraday@testserver.com	9MPDzVhXYJSJQ%%
8	Sayid	Jarrah	sayid.jarrah@testserver.com	Gfonxi][H(m9w}
9	Richard	Alpert	richard.alpert@testserver.com	IbtA9LSRUgstdRH
10	Jacob	Smith	jacob.smith@testserver.com	EZq4ldNWvE=D;

## 4.3. Remove column encryption

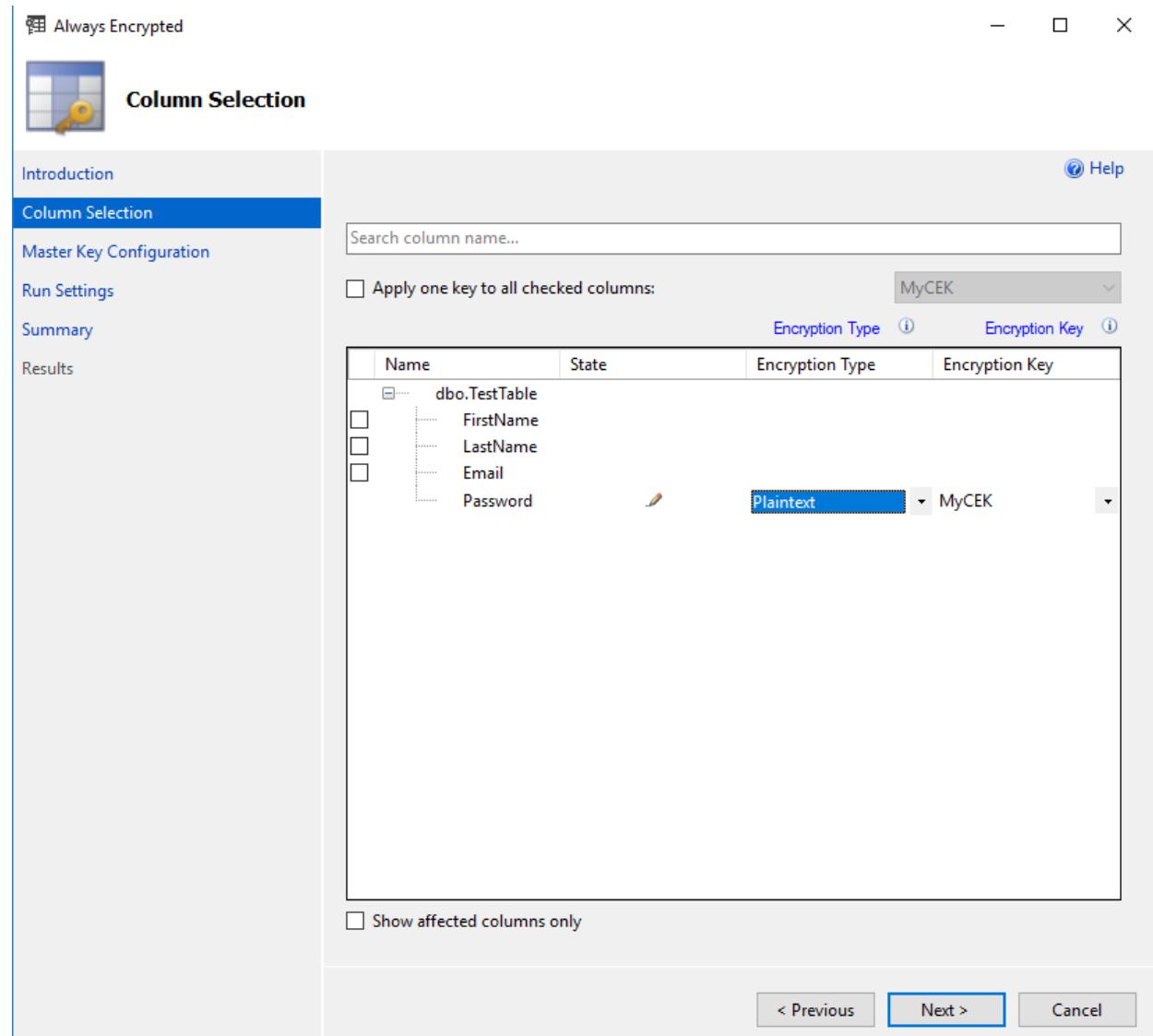
1. Right-click the required database and in the **Tasks** menu and select **Encrypt Columns**.



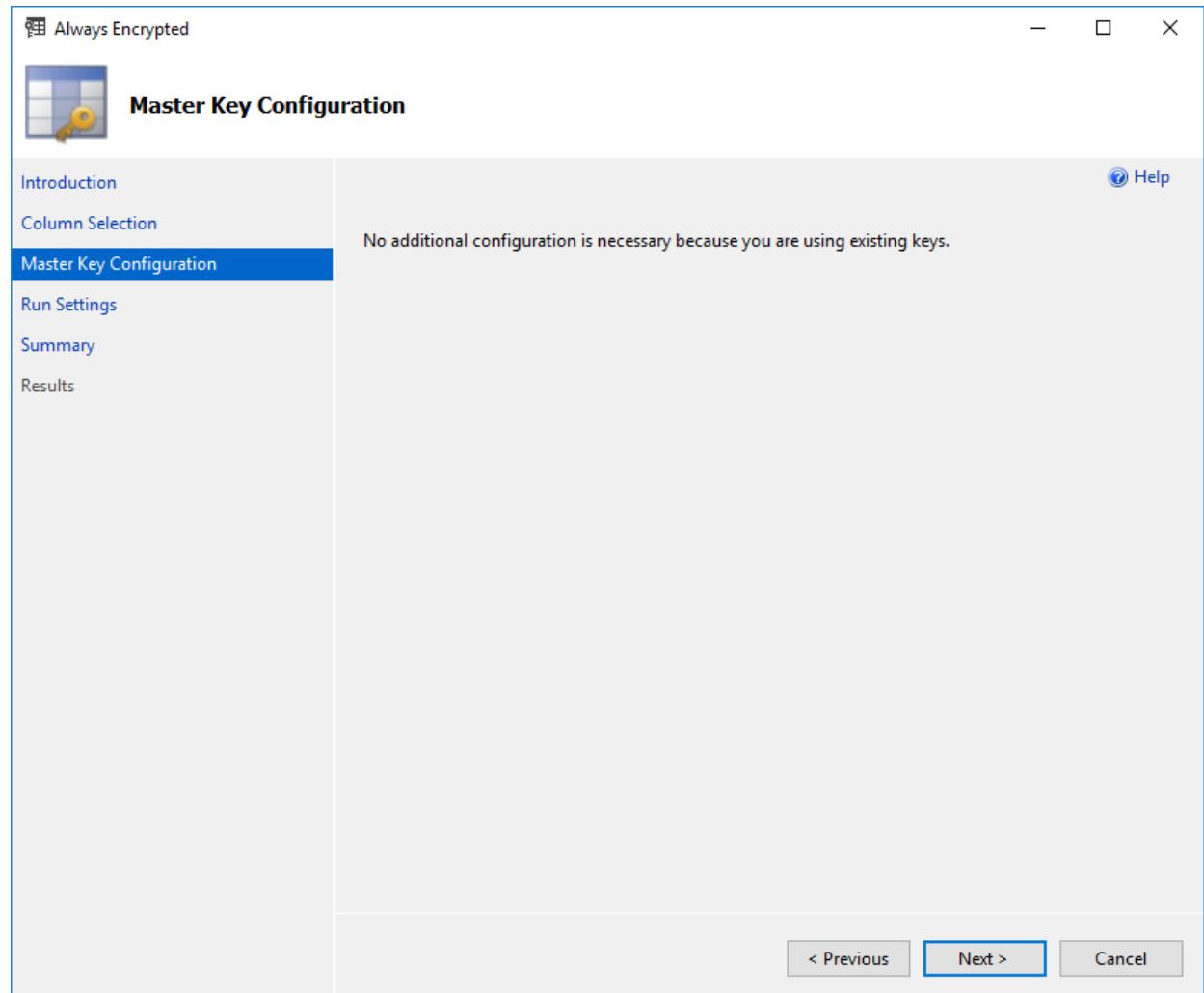
2. Select **Next** on the Introduction screen.



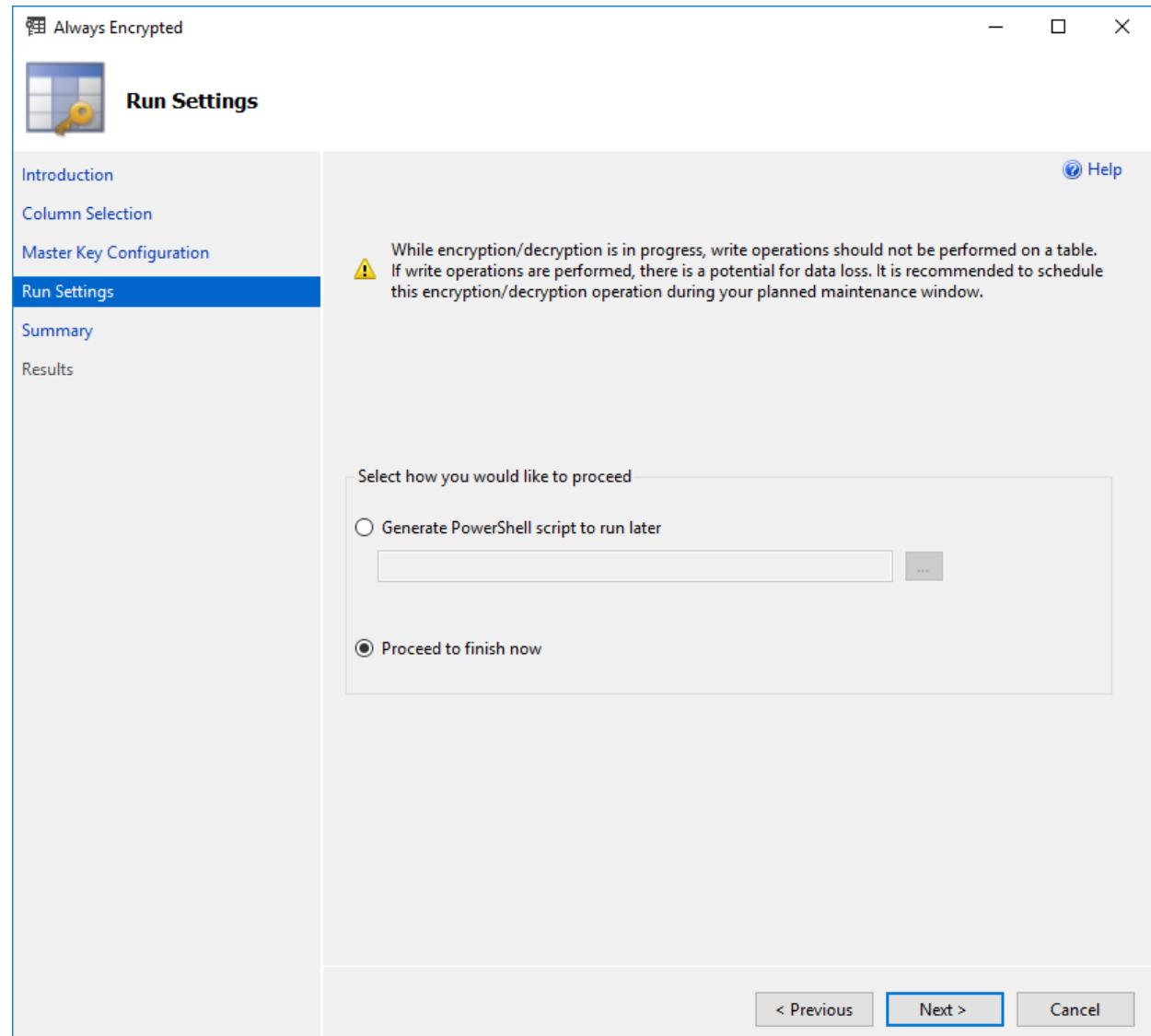
3. Select **Plaintext** from the drop down list in the **Encryption Type** and select **Next**.



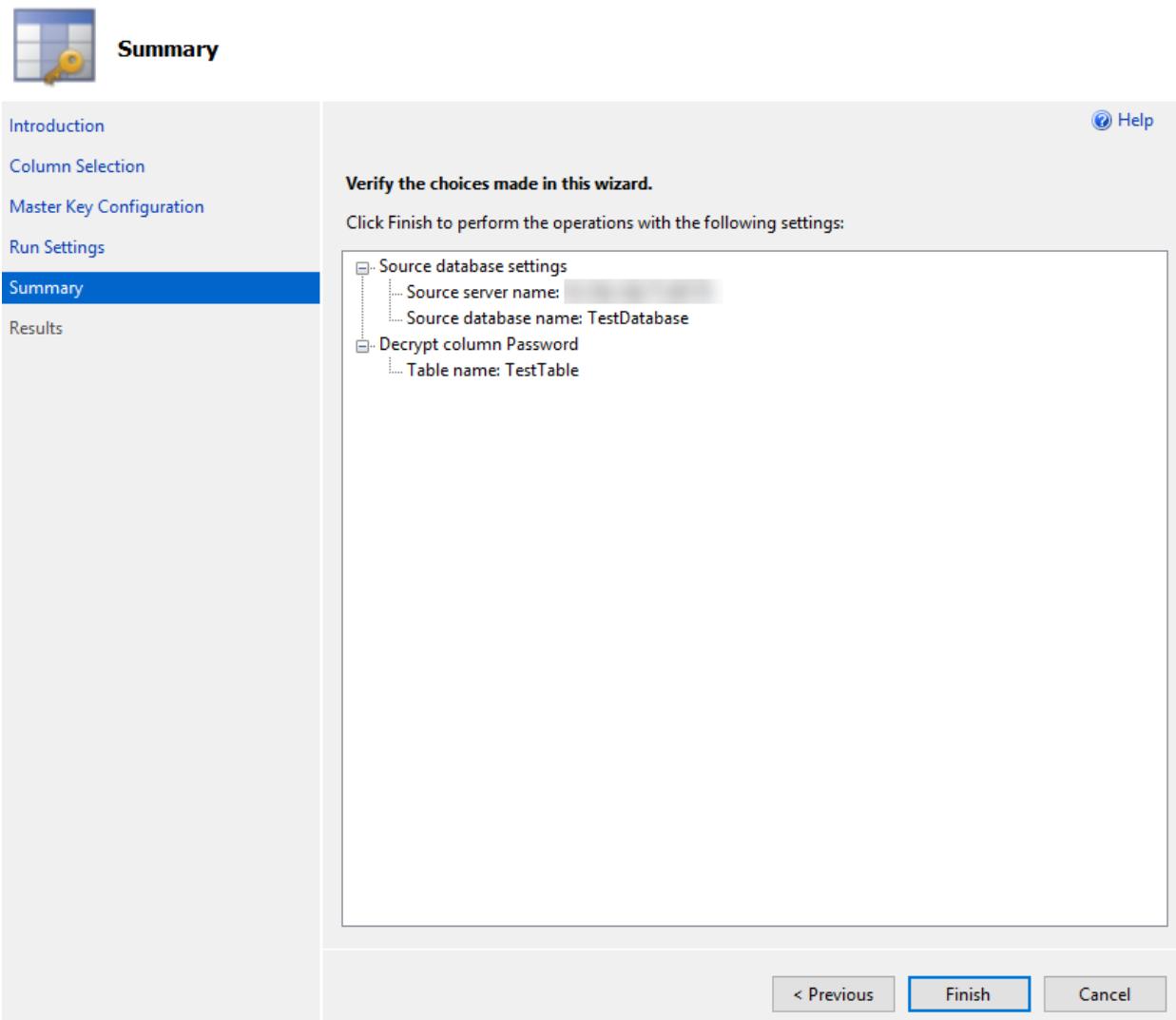
4. Select **Next** on the **Master Key Configuration** window.



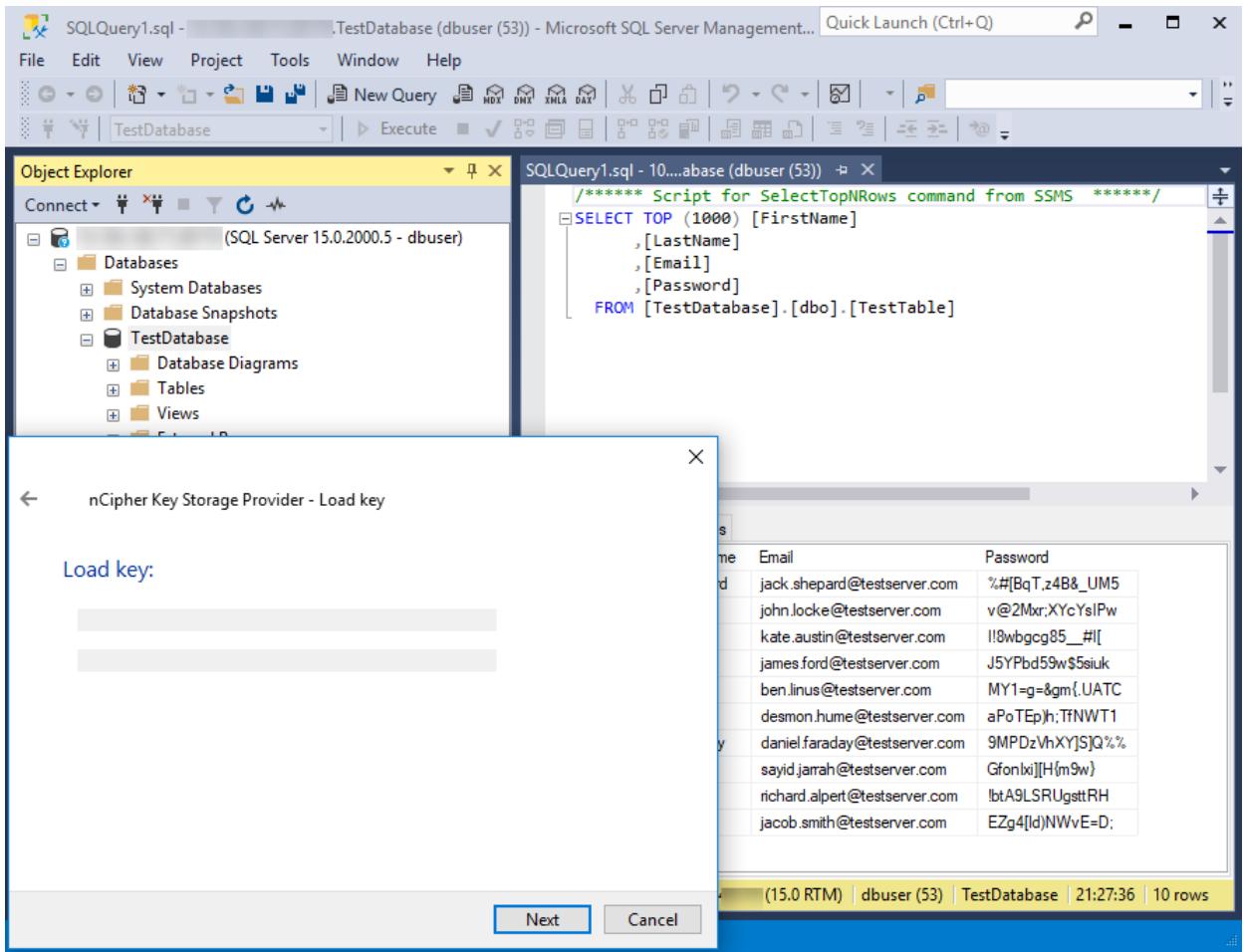
5. Select the **Proceed to finish now** radio button and select **Next**.



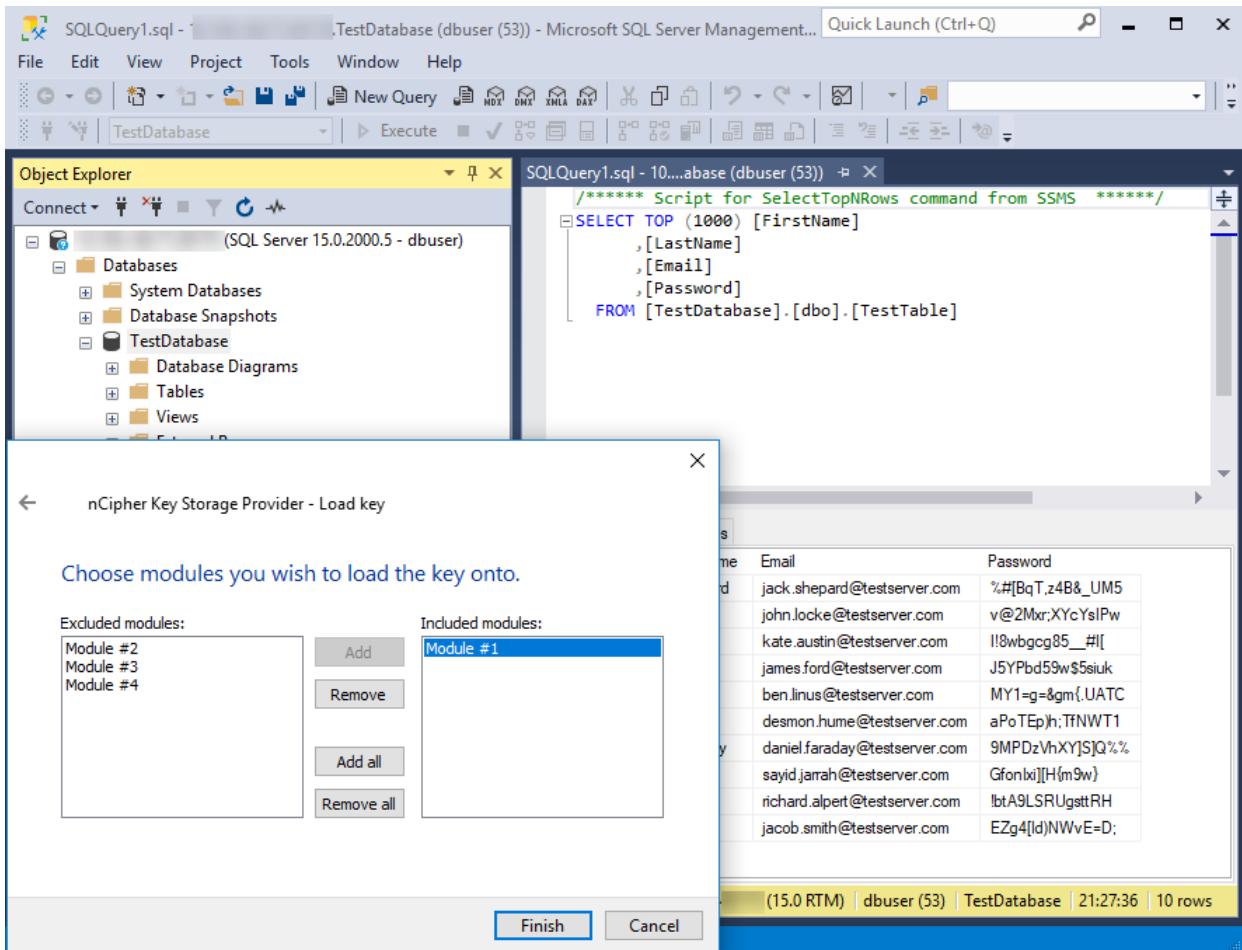
6. Select **Finish** on the **Summary** window.



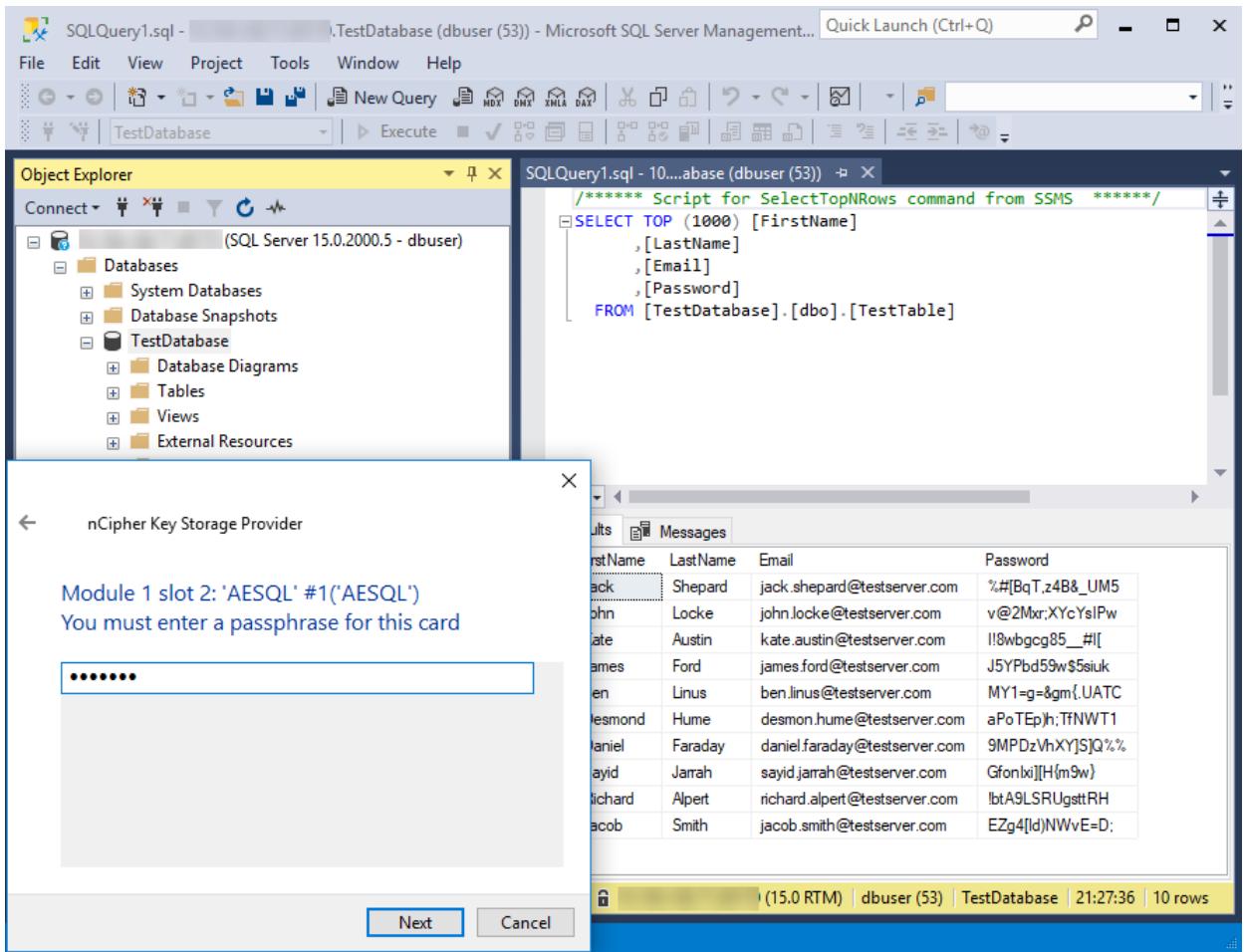
7. Present the OCS and select **Next**.



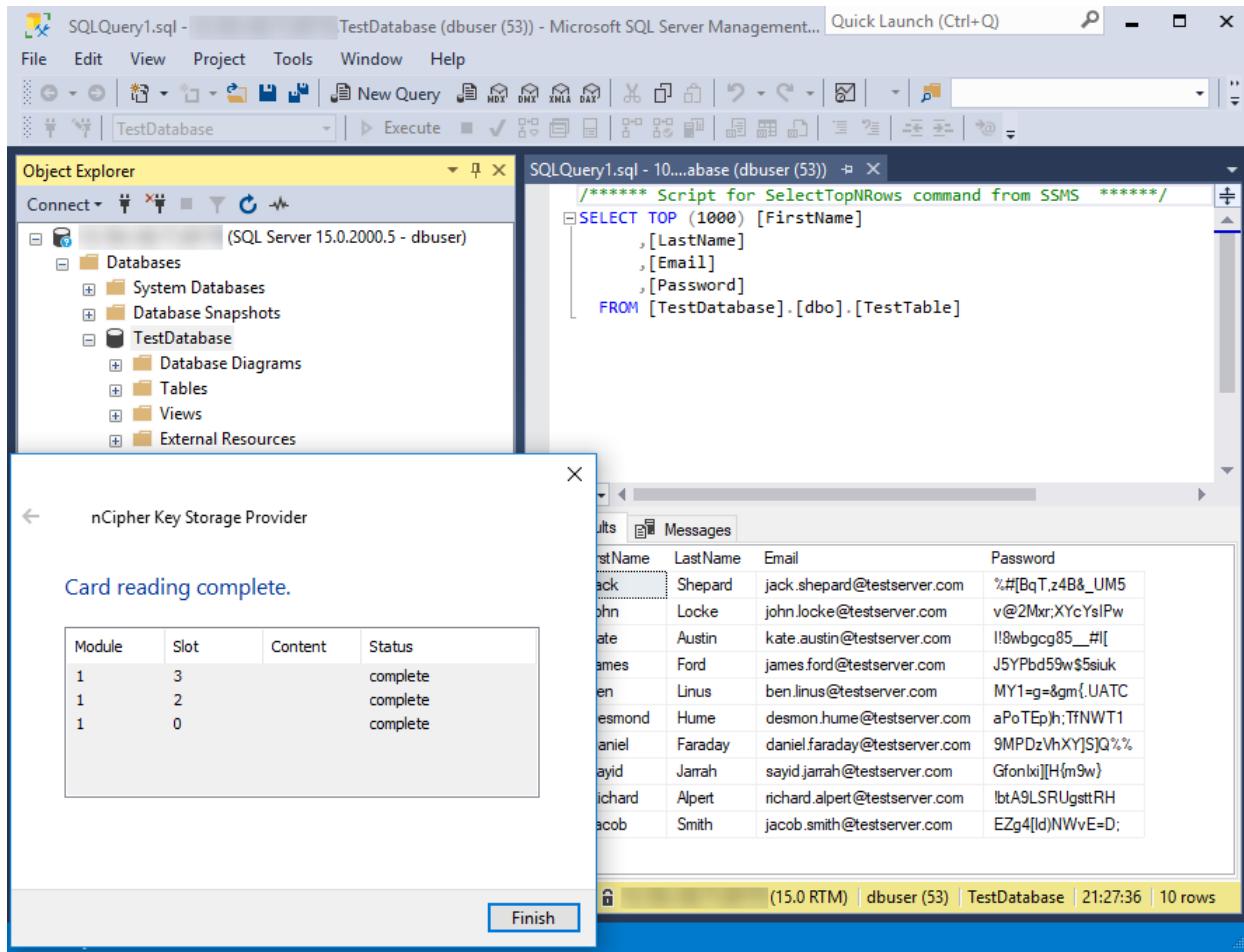
8. Select the HSM and select **Finish**.



9. Enter the passphrase and select **Next**.



10. Select **Finish** upon **Card reading complete**.



The column has been decrypted in the SQL server. To view the plain text data stored SQL server, reconnect to the server with Always Encrypted disabled, see [View an encrypted column](#).

# 5. Encrypt or decrypt a column with PowerShell

## 5.1. Encrypt a column

1. Launch PowerShell on the on-premises client computer and run the following script named Encrypt\_Column\_Named\_Password.ps1.

```
# Import the SqlServer module.  
Import-Module SqlServer  
  
# Connect to database.  
$ConnectionString = "Data Source=<DB_Server_IP>,49170;Initial Catalog=TestDatabase;User  
ID=dbuser;Password=<dbuser_Password>;MultipleActiveResultSets=False;Connect  
Timeout=30;Encrypt=True;TrustServerCertificate=True;Packet Size=4096;Application Name='Microsoft SQL Server  
Management Studio'"  
$Database = Get-SqlDatabase -ConnectionString $ConnectionString  
  
# Change encryption schema.  
$encryptionChanges = @()  
  
# Add changes for table [dbo].[TestTable]  
$encryptionChanges += New-SqlColumnEncryptionSettings -ColumnName dbo.TestTable.Password -EncryptionType Randomized  
-EncryptionKey "MyCEK"  
Set-SqlColumnEncryption -ColumnEncryptionSettings $encryptionChanges -InputObject $Database
```

The command line is

```
> PowerShell -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File Encrypt_Column_Named_Password.ps1
```

2. Present the OCS, select the HSM, and enter the passphrase.

The column has been encrypted in the SQL server, but it shows as clear text on the **Microsoft SQL Server Management Studio** screen on the on-premises client. This is because **Always Encrypted** is performing the decryption at the on-premises client site.

## 5.2. View an encrypted column

Reconnect to the SQL server with **Always Encrypted** disabled to view the encrypted data stored in the SQL server. See [View an encrypted column](#).

## 5.3. Remove column encryption

1. Launch PowerShell on the on-premises client computer and run the following script named Decrypt\_Column\_Named\_Password.ps1.

```
# Import the SqlServer module.  
Import-Module SqlServer  
  
# Connect to database.  
$ConnectionString = "Data Source=<DB_Server_IP>,49170;Initial Catalog=TestDatabase;User  
ID=dbuser;Password=<dbuser_Password>;MultipleActiveResultSets=False;Connect  
Timeout=30;Encrypt=True;TrustServerCertificate=True;Packet Size=4096;Application Name='Microsoft SQL Server  
Management Studio'"  
$Database = Get-SqlDatabase -ConnectionString $ConnectionString  
  
# Change encryption schema  
$encryptionChanges = @()  
  
# Add changes for table [dbo].[TestTable]  
$encryptionChanges += New-SqlColumnEncryptionSettings -ColumnName dbo.TestTable.Password -EncryptionType Plaintext  
Set-SqlColumnEncryption -ColumnEncryptionSettings $encryptionChanges -InputObject $Database
```

The command line is

```
> PowerShell -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File Decrypt_Column_Named_Password.ps1
```

2. Present the OCS, select the HSM, and enter the passphrase.

The column has been decrypted in the SQL server. To view the plain text data stored SQL server, reconnect to the server with Always Encrypted disabled, see [View an encrypted column](#).

## 6. Supported PowerShell SqlServer cmdlets

PowerShell cmdlet	Description
<code>Add-SqlColumnEncryptionKeyValue</code>	Adds a new encrypted value for an existing column encryption key object in the database.
<code>Complete-SqlColumnMasterKeyRotation</code>	Completes the rotation of a column master key.
<code>Get-SqlColumnEncryptionKey</code>	Returns all column encryption key objects defined in the database, or returns one column encryption key object with the specified name.
<code>Get-SqlColumnMasterKey</code>	Returns the column master key objects defined in the database, or returns one column master key object with the specified name.
<code>Invoke-SqlColumnMasterKeyRotation</code>	Initiates the rotation of a column master key.
<code>New-SqlAzureKeyVaultColumnMasterKeySettings</code>	Creates a <code>SqlColumnMasterKeySettings</code> object describing an asymmetric key stored in Azure Key Vault.
<code>New-SqlCngColumnMasterKeySettings</code>	Creates a <code>SqlColumnMasterKeySettings</code> object describing an asymmetric key stored in a key store supporting the Cryptography Next Generation (CNG) API.
<code>New-SqlColumnEncryptionKey</code>	Creates a new column encryption key object in the database.
<code>New-SqlColumnEncryptionKeyEncryptedValue</code>	Produces an encrypted value of a column encryption key.
<code>New-SqlColumnEncryptionSettings</code>	Creates a new <code>SqlColumnEncryptionSettings</code> object that encapsulates information about a single column's encryption, including CEK and encryption type.

PowerShell cmdlet	Description
<code>New-SqlColumnMasterKey</code>	Creates a new column master key object in the database.
<code>New-SqlCspColumnMasterKeySettings</code>	Creates a <code>SqlColumnMasterKeySettings</code> object describing an asymmetric key stored in a key store with a Cryptography Service Provider (CSP) supporting Cryptography API (CAPI).
<code>Remove-SqlColumnEncryptionKey</code>	Removes the column encryption key object from the database.
<code>Remove-SqlColumnEncryptionKeyValue</code>	Removes an encrypted value from an existing column encryption key object in the database.
<code>Remove-SqlColumnMasterKey</code>	Removes the column master key object from the database.
<code>Set-SqlColumnEncryption</code>	Encrypts, decrypts or re-encrypts specified columns in the database.

The full list of cmdlets and additions to the `SqlServer` module can be found at <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/powershell/module/sqlserver/?view=sqlserver-ps>.