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Quick Tips for our Insider friends!

Hey Insiders!

This bi-weekly Quick Tips is coming to you from our home in Redmond where we're wrapping up work in preparation for vacation in Europe in July with our kids. We'll be spending time in Scotland with my parents and on Skye (see my blog post about it here) and in the middle of our trip Kimberly and I are heading up to Svalbard for a wildlife expedition into the Arctic – should be cool (literally)!

On the work side of things we have two sets of big news! The first news is that I've just finished recording another course for Pluralsight. This one is called *SQL Server: Performance Tuning Using Wait Statistics* and it should be released within a week or two. It has more than 4 hours of content about SQL Server's scheduling model, waits, latches, spinlocks, and a huge section on common waits, what they mean, and how to investigate and mitigate further. Our first course released was a four-hour version of my SQL Server Myths and Misconceptions sessions, covering more than 80 myths and a bunch of demos. You can check out my course here.

The second set of big news is that our partners SQL Sentry are running a competition to give away a free seat to our *IE1: Internals and Performance* class in August – check it out!

The most recent book I've read is James Bamford's *Body of Secrets: The Anatomy of the Ultra-Secret National Security Agency*. Now that I'm a naturalized U.S. citizen I'm finding myself more and more interested with the history of the country and how its various institutions have come into being. This book does a terrific job of tracing the history of the NSA up to 9/11, as well as showing how it works and the troubles it's been through. Great stuff and strongly recommended!

Please let us know if you liked what you read/saw here and/or have any suggestions for future Quick Tips.

Note: you can get all the prior Insider newsletters here.

Paul's Ponderings

'Daddy, mommy – I want to be a DBA when I grow up!'

I'd be surprised if any of you who have kids have ever heard them say the words above – I certainly haven't. Our girls say things like paleontologist and rock star when asked what they'd like to be in life.

My point is that very few of us really wanted to get into the field of storing, controlling, and managing data. I certainly didn't – I wanted to work on file systems, which is what I did at DEC before joining Microsoft (my story is here) – and I kind of accidentally fell into the SQL Server world in 1999.

With that in mind, it's really no surprise that there are very few degrees available in being a DBA and those that exist seem to be online or evenings only (such as this one at the University of Denver where Glenn teaches).

So how does one become a DBA? I don't see job adverts looking for 'someone with no knowledge of being a DBA so we can train them' – all the adverts I see want someone with experience.

I think the route that most people take is by becoming an 'involuntary' or 'accidental' DBA first, and then moving to becoming a DBA with a job title that reflects the work being done. This means people are learning for themselves how to do the DBA job, and then getting some training afterwards.

Given that so many companies rely on data these days, and there's a shortage of experienced DBAs in the industry, I think it's time that some companies come up with formal plans for home-growing DBAs rather than relying on people to gather DBA experience somewhere else.

Call to Action: The next time you're trying to hire a DBA, consider finding someone in your company that's looking for a job change and training them to be a DBA.

I'm really interested to know your thoughts on home-grown DBAs—feel free to drop me a line, confidentially as always.

Video Demo

In this first video in a series of videos on SQL Server 2012 Distributed Replay, Jonathan shows how to install the Distributed Replay components in a single server configuration. The video covers how to properly configure the Distributed Replay Controller access permissions to allow the Client service to connect when local NT Service accounts are being used for the services, and how to verify that the configuration is correct. Cool stuff! The video is just over six minutes long.

I produced the video in WMV and MOV formats so everyone can watch. You can get the videos:

- For WMV: here
- For MOV: here

Enjoy!

SQLskills Offerings

Here are our remaining classes for 2012:

- August 6-10, 2012: Internals and Performance (**IE1**) in Bellevue, WA – USA
- August 13-17, 2012: Performance Tuning (**IE2**) in Bellevue, WA – USA
- August 13-17, 2012: Immersion Event for Developers (**IEDev**) in Bellevue, WA – USA
- August 20-24, 2012: High Availability & Disaster Recovery (**IE3**) in Bellevue, WA – USA
- August 20-24, 2012: Immersion Event for Business Intelligence (**IEBI**) in Bellevue, WA – USA
- August 27-31, 2012: Development Support (**IE4**) in Bellevue, WA – USA

And, don't forget about the SQL Sentry competition giving you a chance to win a free seat to IE1: Internals and Performance class in August – check it out!

We hope to see you in Bellevue later this year; otherwise we'll plan to see you in 2013! We're planning to release our 2013 calendar in September.

As a note for those of you who really want us to come to *your* city… we'd LOVE to. However, we just can't be everywhere (we wish we could! ☺). Having said that though, these events are truly *immersion* events and if there isn't one in your city, it might be a good thing to consider the travel and time away. Being in a hotel for the event allows you to participate in evening events, network with your colleagues and focus on the class without the usual requirements of being in your hometown.

To make it easier on you, we work hard to book with hotels where the nightly sleeping costs are reasonable, where you won't need a rental car and in hub cities where flights are cheaper (i.e. Chicago/London/San Francisco/Charlotte). Our Bellevue/Seattle courses are a bit of a departure from this as it's not a major hub city but we balance that with the fact that it's during the summer and many of our past attendees have combined their visit with summer family travel. August in the Pacific Northwest is absolutely stunning and we can give you all sorts of recommendations for sight-seeing if you're interested!

So, that's it for now. Our 2012 schedule is final and we're really looking forward to some great Immersion Events this year as well in 2013. We hope to see you soon!

See here for all the details.

Summary

We hope you've enjoyed this issue - we really enjoy putting these together.

If there is anything else you're interested in, we'd love to hear from you - drop us a line.

Thanks,
Paul and Kimberly

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