If you know someone who you think would benefit from being an Insider, feel free to forward this PDF to them so they can sign up here.

Quick Tips for our Insider friends!

Hey Insiders!

This bi-weekly Quick Tips is coming to you from Europe where we're on vacation during July. I wrote this newsletter before we left and set it up for automatic sending. Look out for some cool photo posts on my blog during August!

We've now got two courses online with Pluralsight. The latest one is called *SQL Server: Performance Tuning Using Wait Statistics* and it was released at the start of July. 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 courses here.

The most recent book I've read is Sharon Kay Penman's *When Christ and His Saints Slept*. This is the start of 3-book series covering the 1100s in England. This book covers the epic struggle between King Stephen and Queen Maud for the English throne. I've read a lot of non-fiction about this period so it was cool to see the main players fictionalized with character development. Great stuff and strongly recommended – I'm moving on to the next two!

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.

Glenn's Ponderings

(In another departure from our usual style, this newsletter's editorial is written by Glenn Berry.)

Over the course of my career, I have encountered a number of what I would consider to be "overly cautious and fearful" database administrators and organizations. For a variety of reasons, they have an outlook and mindset that exaggerates the normal and good tendency of a DBA to be cautious and methodical to the point where the DBA becomes nearly paralyzed with the fear of making a critical mistake on a production database server.

This often manifests itself as a deep resistance to doing any sort of routine maintenance or making any configuration changes or updates to an existing production database server. Because of this, it is very common to see database servers that have not been updated in any way since they were first provisioned, possibly several years ago. They are still running with the original

[main system BIOS](#), original firmware, original drivers and the original build of SQL Server that was installed when the server was first setup. No configuration changes have been made, no index or query tuning has happened, you get the picture…

Personally, I think this situation is a huge mistake, although I know many people will disagree with me.

I am always reminded of Franklin D. Roosevelt's powerful line from his [first inaugural address in 1933](#), which is: "So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." Whenever my own fear of doing something starts to rise, I always think of this line, and the sentiment behind it.

After you have used your own best judgment and experience to decide whether or not you should do something, after you have planned and tested the steps to the best of your ability, at some point you have to reach down and find the courage to go ahead and do it, according to your plan. Otherwise, you will be one of those fearful DBAs, afraid to do anything, because you might fail. I think that that is a sad way to go through life, and is actually harmful to you and your organization in the long run.

But what happens if you make a mistake, won't you get in trouble or maybe even get fired? If you are a competent and experienced DBA, and you make an honest mistake doing something that needs to be done, you will probably be just fine. Especially in the current job market, your organization probably needs you much more than you think! It is extremely difficult to find experienced, good DBAs right now, and I don't see that situation changing that much in the next few years.

Of course, this is not an excuse to be completely reckless. You still need to learn as much as you can about SQL Server, and gain the experience to turn simple knowledge into real wisdom. You need to be careful and methodical, with a well thought out and tested plan of action. But after all of this preparation, you ultimately still have to be brave enough to do the right thing!

I'm curious to hear your thoughts about paralyzing fear of making changes, so please feel free to [drop me a line](#), treated confidentially of course.

Video Demo

In the final video in the series on SQL Server 2012 Distributed Replay, Jonathan shows how to pre-process the trace data using the dreplay administrative tool, and then how to actually perform the replay operation against the target database. Cool stuff! The video is just over 13 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

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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