

(January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013)

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!

Happy New Year from all of us here at SQLskills! I hope you had a relaxing holiday and are ready to get back into the SQL Server spirit of things!

Kimberly and I finished off the year very quietly, winding down from our hectic 2012 and resting before our hectic 2013, which starts next week with a private class in New York. I finished off the year with my two traditional blog posts: [2012: the year in books](#) and [2012 review: the year by the numbers](#) – check them out.

We've had more than 100 registrations for our 2013 classes already, with only a few spots left in the two Tampa classes in February. Check out the full list at the end of the newsletter.

The most recent book I've read is my first book of 2013: *The Hydrogen Sonata* by one of my favorite authors, Iain M. Banks. Banks writes sci-fi under that name and contemporary fiction as Iain Banks (without the middle initial) – all of his work is excellent. This book is set in Banks' Culture universe and is a rollicking good story with all the usual elements his books have, including some great ship Mind conversations. Strongly recommended for sci-fi fans, and a good book to try if you've never read Banks' work.

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**

It's the time of year when many people make New Year's resolutions (I have a recurring one to exercise more and eat less ☺), but how many of you reading this made a SQL Server-related resolution?

I made two: to do more public speaking, and to learn something new and out of my comfort zone about SQL Server. Let me explain...

You might think the first resolution doesn't make much sense, as I spend a lot of time teaching classes (83 days in 2012), but that's all classes and conferences. What I'm talking about is doing more user group presentations, and mostly remotely.

If you're interested in public speaking about SQL Server, there are quite a few options open to you:

- Conferences like PASS, TechEd, and our new conference SQLIntersection (*more details in the next newsletter but **save the date** for the week of **April 8, 2013***)
- SQL Saturdays: there's usually one happening somewhere in the world every weekend
- User groups: there are hundreds of SQL Server user groups, but don't stop just there - .Net, SharePoint, and developer user groups are also great places to speak about SQL Server
- Within your own company: presenting to your colleagues is a great way to practice giving presentations and can also be a great way to foster relations between different I.T. teams within your organization

For the second resolution, I haven't finalized what I'm going to learn about yet, but I'm leaning towards PowerShell, which I haven't played with at all yet. Like many of you, I don't have time to sit down and spend a day or two doing nothing but learning a new area, but I do have time to absorb things in small chunks (which is what I'm continually doing through the year).

So, if you want to learn something new, where would you start? One of the easiest ways to learn is to read through one of the month-long Topic-A-Day blog post series that people have written recently. Here are some examples:

- My ["A SQL Server DBA Myth a Day"](#) series from April 2010
- Glenn Berry's ["A DMV a Day"](#) series from April 2010
- Sebastian Meine's ["A Join A Day"](#) series from December 2012
- Robert Davis' ["31 Days of Disaster Recovery"](#) series which is under way this month
- Denis Gobo's ["SQL Advent 2012"](#) series on best practices and ["SQL Advent 2011"](#) series on SQL Server improvements and upgrades
- Jonathan Kehayias' ["An XEvent a Day"](#) series from December 2010
- Thomas LaRock's ["March Madness"](#) series on SQL Azure system tables from March 2012
- Jason Strate's ["31 Days of SSIS"](#) series from January 2011

And there are a bunch more out there I'm sure, but I couldn't find one on PowerShell...

**Call to action:** Challenge yourself to do something new with SQL Server this year – you know the old saying, the more you know, the further you go!

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

## **Video Demo**

In this Insider newsletter I want to show you the various methods for attaching a database that's been cleanly shut down, but the transaction log file or files are missing. This is one of the demos I included in my 7.5 hour Pluralsight course on [Understanding Logging, Recovery, and the Transaction Log](#) so rather than record the demo again I'll just show you the original recording.

The video is 4 minutes long and you can get it in WMV format only [here](#). A zip of the demo code is [here](#).

Enjoy!

### **SQLskills Offerings**

All of our 2013 public classes are now open for registration! Based on requests from people, attendee ratings of the hotels we used last year, and the ease of using hotels we know, we're using the same locations again. This means we cover both sides of the US, central US, and Europe.

Please know that these classes are final as the hotel contracts are signed, and the classes will not be cancelled or moved for any reason, nor will the dates change. We are not planning any other locations for 2013.

- February 4-8, 2013: Internals and Performance (**IE1**) in Tampa, FL – USA
- February 11-15, 2013: Performance Tuning (**IE2**) in Tampa, FL – USA
- April 29-May 3, 2013: Internals and Performance (**IE1**) in Chicago, IL – USA
- April 29-May 3, 2013: Immersion Event for Business Intelligence (**IEBI**) in Chicago, IL – USA (co-located but in a different training room. Attendance is for one event or the other; these cannot be combined for one attendee where they move back/forth.)
- May 6-10, 2013: Performance Tuning (**IE2**) in Chicago, IL – USA
- May 13-17, 2013: High Availability & Disaster Recovery (**IE3**) in Chicago, IL – USA
- May 13-17, 2013: Immersion Event for Developers (**IEDev**) in Chicago, IL – USA (co-located but in a different training room. Attendance is for one event or the other; these cannot be combined for one attendee where they move back/forth.)
- May 20-24, 2013: Development Support (**IE4**) in Chicago, IL – USA
- June 3-7, 2013: Internals and Performance (**IE1**) in London – UK
- June 10-14, 2013: Performance Tuning (**IE2**) in London – UK
- June 17-21, 2013: High Availability & Disaster Recovery (**IE3**) in London – UK
- June 24-28, 2013: Development Support (**IE4**) in London – UK
- September 16-20, 2013: Internals and Performance (**IE1**) in Bellevue, WA – USA
- September 23-27, 2013: Performance Tuning (**IE2**) in Bellevue, WA – USA

One thing to note is that the course prices have increased slightly for 2013, reflecting increasing food, logistics, travel, and accommodation costs. We kept our prices the same for the last three years but now we have to raise them a little.

For US classes, the new early-bird price is US\$3,295 and the full-price is US\$3,795. However, for all past attendees in the 12 months prior to registration, we will only charge the 2012 early bird price of US\$2,995. As an alumnus, send us an email prior to registering and we'll give you a code to use to access this special rate. And **be sure to get your registrations in early!**

For UK classes, the new early-bird price is US\$3,795 and the full-price is US\$4,295. There is a similar past-attendee price equal to the 2012 UK early bird price of US\$3,495. **Again, be sure to get your registrations in early!**

See [here](#) for the main Immersion Event Calendar page that allows you to drill through to each class for more details and registration links.

So, that's it for now. We hope to see you soon!

### **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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