

(October 28<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!

This newsletter is coming to you from Las Vegas where we're just about to start our [2013 Fall SQLintersection conference](#). Many of you are DBAs that go to PASS, so why go to SQLintersection? It's more for those of you who are developers and architects. If your designs are effective then it will make the DBAs' jobs easier. Our next SQLintersection is going to be Orlando in April 2014.

As far as the recent PASS Summit it concerned, we all had a really fantastic time, culminating with Kimberly and me racing 600hp NASCAR cars around the Charlotte Motor Speedway. You can check out the SQL Sentry video of the event [here](#).

### Our classes in Sydney and Melbourne in March 2014 are now available for registration:

- [Sydney, March 10-14](#)
- [Melbourne, March 17-21](#)

**Also our two-for-one offer is starting to really take off.** As an example, for two people to attend IEDev or IEBI in 2014 would normally be \$6,590 plus expenses. Now you can have two people attend for \$3,295, and the savings should cover all travel expenses from virtually anywhere in the US. The two-for-one offer is available for the first 5 people to register for any 2014 delivery of IE0, IEBI, IEDEV, IE4, IETS (**NOTE:** about **half** the free seats have gone already).

The most recent book I've read is Amy Tan's [The Joy Luck Club](#). I was introduced to Tan's work when I read the very popular [Saving Fish From Drowning](#) (which I also recommend) a few years back. *The Joy Luck Club* is excellent. It follows four women who emigrated from China to San Francisco in 1949 and formed a social club to swap stories about their lives and what they've been through, and it's still going forty years later. It has some really interesting insights into Chinese society during the war years and I strongly recommend it.

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**

To start with, I have a quick correction from last week's newsletter. When describing the locks required for offline rebuilding of indexes, I mistakenly told you the locks for offline \*building\*, not rebuilding. Offline rebuilding of an index requires a SCH\_M lock on the table for the duration. Sorry for any confusion.

In my *Practical Disaster Recovery Techniques* pre-con workshop I did at PASS last week and will be doing at SQLIntersection on Friday, one of the things I stressed was that practicing disaster recovery (DR) techniques is crucial for success when a disaster happens for real.

In this newsletter, I want to pose a series of questions to you and make you think about an honest answer to each one. I'm sure some of you practice DR techniques regularly, but from surveying classes I know that those of you who do are not in the majority.

### **Part 1: Information**

- Do you know where the latest copy of the DR handbook/run book is? Does everyone else know?
- Do you know where the scripts are for automating restores of your backups?
- Do you know where the installation media for Windows and SQL Server are kept in your environment?
- Do you know where the Windows and SQL Server product keys are?
- Do you know how you'll be able to get new servers if your data center is destroyed?
- And do you know where they will be installed? What about network? Power? HVAC?

### **Part 2: Techniques**

- When was the last time you tried a full restore sequence, including tail-of-the-log backups?
- When was the last time you tried failing over to your secondary servers/data center?
- When was the last time you did a bare-metal install? How long did it take?
- When was the last time you rebuilt or restored master on a server?
- When was the last time you practiced a recovery as if your main server was completely dead? Did you successfully recover?
- When was the last time you practiced a recovery as if your main SAN was completely dead? Did you successfully recover?
- When was the last time you practiced a recovery as if you didn't have onsite backups and the SAN was dead? Did you successfully recover?

**Call to action:** Think through the answers to the questions above and consider whether you're comfortable with your responses. Now, think whether you'd be comfortable if someone responsible for some of your data (e.g. your bank, 401-k/retirement account holder, doctor's

office, favorite airline, credit-card companies) made those same answers about their DR preparedness. My feeling is that you should be able to answer ‘yes’ for all the Part 1 questions, and answer ‘within the last 3 months’ for all the Part 2 questions, to feel fully comfortable that you’re practicing enough.

I’m curious to hear your thoughts on practicing DR techniques, so please feel free to [drop me a line](#), always treated confidentially, of course.

## **Video Demo**

From Erin:

Last week the SQLskills team was in Charlotte, NC for the annual PASS Summit. It was a great week and I presented my session *Making the Leap from Profiler to Extended Events*. I had a great crowd with great questions. A consistent theme in Extended Events questions is, “Does it do ‘X’ like Profiler?” One of the features of Profiler that I used often was Templates.

Templates made it very easy to start a trace, as the events, columns, and filters were already selected. The good news is that Templates also exist for Extended Events, and in this video I’ll walk through the process for creating Event Sessions and then starting and stopping them when needed, as well as creating Templates that also make it easy to start and stop Event Sessions.

The video is about eleven and a half minutes long and you can get it:

- In WMV format [here](#)
- In MOV format [here](#)

The demo code is available [here](#).

Enjoy!

## **SQLskills Offerings**

As I mentioned above, we’ve opened up our first-half of 2014 classes for registration. All US classes have alumnus discounts equivalent to 25%-off the full price, and many have a special offer for the first 5 people who register for each class in 2013 – buy-1-get-1-free!

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.

Also, we’ve added a few new items to help you justify your training dollars:

- [Letter to your boss explaining why SQLskills training is worthwhile](#)
- [Community blog posts about our classes](#)

- [Immersion Event FAQ](#)

Remaining 2013 class:

- November 11-15, 2013: Internals and Performance (**IE1**) in Chicago (**SOLD OUT!**)

2014 Immersion Events:

Tampa, FL

- February 3-7, 2014: **IE1**: Immersion Event on Internals and Performance
- February 3-5, 2014: **IE0**: Immersion Event for the Accidental/Junior DBA
- February 6-7, 2014: **IEHW**: Immersion Event on SQL Server Hardware
- February 10-14, 2014: **IE2**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning
- February 10-14, 2014: **IEBI**: Immersion Event on Business Intelligence
- February 17-21, 2014: **IE3**: Immersion Event on High Availability and Disaster Recovery
- February 17-21, 2014: **IEDEV**: Immersion Event for Developers

Australia

- Sydney, NSW; March 10-14, 2014: **IE1**: Immersion Event on Internals and Performance
- Melbourne, VIC; March 17-21, 2014 **IE1**: Immersion Event on Internals and Performance

Chicago, IL

- April 28 – May 2, 2014: **IE1**: Immersion Event on Internals and Performance
- April 28 – May 2, 2014: **IEBI**: Immersion Event on Business Intelligence
- May 5-6, 2014: **IEHW**: Immersion Event on SQL Server Hardware
- May 5-9, 2014: **IE2**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning
- May 12-16, 2014: **IE3**: Immersion Event on High Availability and Disaster Recovery
- May 13-16, 2014: **IETS**: Immersion Event on Advanced Transact-SQL
- May 19-23, 2014: **IE4**: Immersion Event on Security, PowerShell, and Developer Support
- May 19-21, 2014: **IE0**: Immersion Event for the Accidental/Junior DBA

Bellevue, WA

- June 9-13, 2014: **IE1**: Immersion Event on Internals and Performance
- June 16-20, 2014: **IE2**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning

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

## **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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