

(December 9th, 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 is the last newsletter for 2013 and is coming to you from Thailand, where Kimberly and I are taking a break for a few weeks of diving on the Thailand Aggressor. This live-aboard has two itineraries covering the North and South Andaman Sea, so we figured if we're flying all this way, we may as well do both weeks and experience the critters and diving in both areas. Photos will be forthcoming!

I'd like to thank all of you for reading our newsletter every two weeks! It'll continue again from January 6th, 2014. On December 31st I'll post my traditional end-of-year blog posts about my year of books and our year by the numbers – check them out.

Kimberly's second Pluralsight course has just been published – SQL Server: Optimizing Ad Hoc Query Performance – check it out [here](#).

Also check out the very bottom of the newsletter for details of the **Spring 2014 SQLintersection** conference and **how you can get a \$50 Amazon gift card for referring someone** to our IEO and IEHW classes.

The latest book I've read is Sara Wheeler's *[Terra Incognita: Travels in Antarctica](#)*. I enjoyed the book so much that I just picked up Wheeler's *[The Magnetic North](#)* and *[Travels in a Thin Country](#)* too. This book covers Wheeler's time in Antarctica as part of the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists' and Writers' Program and as a guest of the British Antarctic Survey. She spends time at a bunch of the camps and research stations, meeting a wide variety of interesting people and seeing some cool (ha ha) places. She also recounts a lot of the exploration history of the continent, including Shackleton, Scott and more, which I've always been strongly interested in. It's very well written 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](#)

As 2013 draws to a close, I'm really looking forward to 2014 from a SQL Server perspective. There are some pretty cool features in SQL Server 2014 that I'm going to be playing with and blogging about, such as:

- Buffer pool extensions onto a local SSD
- I/O resource governing
- Hekaton – a.k.a. In Memory OLTP
- Online partition rebuild
- Lots of new Extended Events, DMVs, and DBCC commands
- Read/write and clustered columnstore indexes

Kimberly and I have both been burned in the past by spending lots of time investigating, documenting, and testing new pre-release features only to have them pulled from the product before RTM so this time we decided to wait until SQL Server 2014 was fully baked before diving in.

Kimberly and I have also decided that the time is right for us (and SQLskills) to get involved in Windows Azure SQL Database and the SQL cloud offerings in a big way. The catalyst for this is the Windows Azure SQL Database Premium edition that's currently in preview – read about it [here](#). It's taken a while, but with the additional capabilities that the Premium edition brings, Windows Azure SQL Database finally seems to have hit a maturity point that's going to make it more attractive to businesses to use. There's a huge amount of confusion out there about how to architect applications to make use of the cloud as well as how to manage SQL databases in the cloud, and we're planning to help demystify this all for you starting in 2014.

So, exciting times ahead! It's going to be a very busy year for all of us on the team, with more classes than ever before and more technology to explore and blog about. We hope you'll be there with us through the year!

I'm curious to hear your thoughts on SQL Server 2014 and/or Windows Azure SQL Database, so please feel free to [drop me a line](#), always treated confidentially, of course.

Video Demo

In this Insider demo video, I'm giving you an extract from Jonathan's new Pluralsight course on [SQL Server: Maintenance Plans](#). In the demo he shows how to configure Database Mail, set up an Operator for notifications, and configure SQL Agent alerts.

The video is about five and a half minutes long and you can get it in WMV format [here](#).

Enjoy!

SQLskills Offerings

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! And, there are still 1 or 2 of these available in almost every course offered but they're almost gone!

If you know someone who would benefit from our IE0: Immersion Event for Accidental/Junior DBA or IEHW: Immersion Event on SQL Server Hardware, refer them to us and when they register we'll send you a \$50 Amazon gift card. Either they or you just need to let us know you referred them, we'll match it up to their registration and send you the gift card.

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. Additionally, most of our public training courses will be held in the first half of 2014. We might add a couple of other classes in the second half of 2014, but not all that many (maybe one or two IE1 deliveries and one IE2). Please plan accordingly.

Finally, to help your boss understand the importance of focused, technical training, we've added a few new items to help you justify spending your training dollars with us:

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

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.

SQLintersection

Our Spring SQLintersection conference is starting to come together and looks to be an amazing line-up of 5 tracks over 3 days with 7 full day workshops (2 pre-cons on Saturday, 3 on Sunday, and 2 post-cons on Thursday). The conference runs from Sunday, April 13 through Wednesday, April 16, 2014 in Orlando, FL at the JW Marriott. We plan to pack in a lot of information about best practices, architectural/design decisions, platform choices, and new features coming in SQL Server 2014. The specific sessions, titles and abstracts will start to make it up on the [SQLintersection](#) site over the next couple of weeks and if you register for the full show package before January 17, 2014, you'll also receive your choice of an XBOX One, Surface 2, or a gift card.

Our confirmed speaker line-up includes: Kimberly L. **Tripp**, Paul S. **Randal**, Brent **Ozar**, Aaron **Bertrand**, Andrew **Kelly**, Bob **Beauchemin**, Bob **Ward**, David **Pless**, Erin **Stellato**, Glenn **Berry**, Grant **Fritchey**, Jeremiah **Peschka**, Jonathan **Kehayias**, Kendra **Little**, Kevin **Kline**, Steve **Jones**, Tim **Chapman**, and a few more surprises still coming!

This is going to be THE *get-your-questions-answered* and *architect-the-RIGHT-solutions* event of the first half of 2014!

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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