(February 17th, 2014)

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 Tampa where we've just started the third week of classes for 2014, with Kimberly, Jon, Glenn, and me teaching IE3, and Bob teaching IEDEV in the room next door. Kimberly and I drove down to Caspersen Beach in Venice, FL yesterday to look for shark teeth (unsuccessfully) and it was great to get out in some warm sunshine before we head up to Manhattan next weekend for a couple of private client classes – brrr!

We still have a few seats in our Australia classes in March so we've created a special offer – see here for details. Also check details of the **Spring 2014 SQLintersection** conference (I blogged details here) – we just confirmed some Microsoft engineers/speakers from the SQL Server Development team to be there and we're creating a full track (all 3 days) that covers SQL Server 2014; the full conference schedule will be available online this week.

The most recent book I've read is Eric Schlosser's *Command and Control*. The book is an absolutely excellent history of US nuclear weapon control (or lack of it), accidents involving US nuclear weapons, and US nuclear strategy from the 1940s to the 1980s. It's really shocking how close the US came to an accidental nuclear detonation several times. Schlosser also covers the Damascus Titan II accident in great detail, along with the almost laughable ineptitude of the Air Force and SAC in dealing with it. There are very comprehensive notes and sources, which actually led me to buy another 15 or so books over the last two weeks on related topics! 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

While we were driving back from the shark-tooth beach yesterday I was thinking about what to write about in this newsletter, and decided on a self-improvement topic – setting yourself a challenge.

I recently decided to learn Mandarin Chinese – spoken and written. Why? I've always been enthralled with China and both our daughters will be learning Chinese for four years in their high school (they chose Chinese over Spanish). So I thought – why not learn Chinese with them?

I like a challenge, and this one's going to be hard.

It's going to be hard for me to find the time to put into learning Chinese. I brought some of the introductory books with me to Tampa and I haven't had a chance to open them yet as other things keep cropping up (like SQL Server, teaching, and client work!). So, I'm already finding it difficult.

Chinese is a very hard language to learn, especially without speaking it regularly to other students and having a teacher to help me. So until the kids start later this year, I'll be mostly on my own.

But I'm really motivated, and I know I'll be able to do it gradually.

I think many people are content to just sit back and roll along with life and they're missing out on the satisfaction and sense of fulfillment that is gained from setting yourself a challenge and seeing it through.

And don't forget, challenges don't need to be intellectual, they can be physical too. I've set myself a goal of losing 65lbs this year and I'm 20lbs down already. Many of us need to think about our health – rolling along with life can lead to problems there too.

You may be thinking "how is this relevant to SQL Server?" Well, you can set yourself challenges at work as well as in your personal life. Learn a new feature, build a failover cluster, practice manual recovery from corruption, study for and pass a certification exam, start a blog – there are so many ways you can push yourself that can be beneficial to your career and energize you to take the next step (e.g. a new job with more responsibility, a move into management, a sideways move from DBA to developer or vice-versa).

But the only person who can really challenge you that way is you.

Call to action: Short and sweet this time – set yourself a challenge. Personal, health, work – it doesn't matter as long as you have some goal to aim for that you can work towards and feel that sense of achievement when you reach it.

I'm curious to hear your thoughts on setting yourself a challenge, so please feel free to drop me a line, always treated confidentially, of course.

Video Demo

In this video Jonathan shows how to configure Service Broker in a single-database configuration to allow asynchronous processing of long-running tasks in SQL Server. This is something that

Jonathan's done several times recently with clients and we thought it would make a cool demo to share with our Insider friends.

The video is just over 10 minutes long and you can get it:

- In WMV format here.
- In MOV format here.

You can get the demo code here.

Enjoy!

<u>SQLskills Offerings</u>

We've just created a last minute special offer for our classes in Sydney and Melbourne where you can bring a friend or colleague for half price for every regular registration – see here for details.

Please know that all of our classes will run and their dates will not change. Additionally, most of our public training courses will be held in the first half of this year. We might add a couple of other classes in the second half of the year, but not all that many (maybe one or two IE1 deliveries and one IE2 and, if added, they'll be held in the US). 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

<u>2014 Immersion Events</u>

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 has an amazing line-up with 50 SQL sessions, 3 SQL keynotes, and 7 full-day workshops (2 pre-cons on Saturday [April 12], 3 on Sunday [April 13], and 2 post-cons on Thursday [April 17]). The main conference runs from Sunday evening, 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 (including a full day pre-conference workshop and multiple sessions during the conference).

The specific sessions, titles, and abstracts are on the SQLintersection site and if you register early, 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**, Jos **de Bruijn**, Kendra **Little**, Kevin **Kline**, Mike **Zwilling**, Steve **Jones**, and Tim **Chapman**! We have a few more SQL team members joining us and the Microsoft CAT team will be hosting a booth to discuss SQL Server 2014 as well as what you're working on today!

This is going to be THE *get-your-questions-answered* and *architect-the-RIGHT-solutions* event of the first half of 2014! Plus, it's at the perfect time to get a jumpstart with SQL Server 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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