

(June 9th, 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 Redmond where we've been gearing up for the June classes that start today and we (us and the kids) just spent the weekend being trained as [Diving Emergency Management Providers](#) (CPR, bleeding, shock, etc; emergency oxygen provision; neurological issues; injuries from hazardous marine life). As with any hobby/sport, continuing education and skills enhancement lead to enhanced enjoyment and, in this case, safety.

Registrations are coming in thick and fast for the next of our popular SQLintersection conferences, in Las Vegas this November – see [here](#) for details. Also, use the discount code “SQLskills” and you can save \$50 off registration!

The most recent book I've read is Robert D. Kaplan's [Asia's Cauldron: The South China Sea and the End of a Stable Pacific](#). This is a very interesting book that discusses the rising maritime tensions in the South China Sea. It gives recent histories of Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Taiwan, along with their claims on the island groups in the South China Sea, the state of their pertinent military forces, and their relationships with China and the US. The crux of the matter is that China has enormous claims over the South China Sea, far exceeding those stipulated by the Law of the Sea (200 miles from a country's coastline), and is hugely increasing its military capabilities in the area. This means it can bully the aforementioned countries and start to resist and deter US forces in the region (which significantly help to balance power and maintain peace by their very presence), especially if US naval power in the Indo-Pacific decreases due to budget cuts. This was a short book, but extremely interesting, and a reminder that the Middle East is not the only area where the US must maintain an active presence and interest.

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 I mentioned above, Kimberly, the kids, and I all got trained over the weekend as emergency first aid providers for diving injuries and emergencies. Hopefully we'll never have to use these skills, but if we're ever presented with a diving emergency, we'll know what to do in a variety of

situations. However, the best way for us to cope with diving emergencies is to prevent them in the first place, by diving safely and avoiding underwater hazards.

This same mindset applies to being a SQL Server DBA: the best way to avoid having to take emergency action is to try to avoid the emergency in the first place, but you also need to know what to do to cope with an emergency if it does happen.

When you think about general first aid, you'll probably think of CPR and using a defibrillator, plus coping with burns, broken bones, bleeding, and insect stings. In the field of diving, there are other injuries that crop up, including decompression sickness requiring oxygen, stroke and other neurological problems, hypothermia, marine animal bites, and life-threatening stings and envenomations from jellyfish, spiny fish, and other creatures.

This is also just like being a SQL Server DBA. There are general computer problems that can occur and also specific problems related to SQL Server and databases. Both sets of problems have ways to be prevented and strategies for successfully coping with them if they occur, and good DBAs should know what to do for as many of them as possible.

There are a bunch of possible SQL Server emergencies, including:

- Data corruption causing workload cessation and possible data loss
- Security breaches and data theft (there have been several high-profile cases of this recently, such as Target)
- Suddenly running out of disk space for data and/or log files causing workload cessation
- Sudden performance drop affecting workload throughput
- Sudden inability to connect to SQL Server causing workload cessation

For each of these possibilities, you should have a strategy to prevent it happening and also a strategy to troubleshoot and rectify the problem.

I'm guessing that many of you have a strategy for the first one, but what about the others? What would you do?

Call to action: Make sure your ability to cope with SQL Server emergencies extends further than just dealing with data corruption. Even better, have a strategy in place to proactively prevent any of these problems from occurring.

As a secondary call to action, take a look at the [survey results I posted last week](#). Most of you do not have adequate uptime targets or measurements, and you need them to help effect a proper disaster prevention and recovery strategy.

I'm curious to hear your thoughts on emergency preparation and prevention, so please feel free to [drop me a line](#), always treated confidentially, of course.

Video Demo

In this week's Insider demo video, Jonathan demonstrates how to use state-maintaining predicates in Extended Events and explains why the order of predicates in the event's where clause is very important to ensure that data is collected accurately in the event session.

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

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

You can get the demo code [here](#).

Enjoy!

SQLskills Offerings

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 will add a few more classes in the second half of the year, but not all that many (specifically, one each of IE1 and IE2 in Chicago and two IE1 deliveries in Australia). Please plan accordingly. And, if you're in Australia and want direct notice when our classes are added, please email training@SQLskills.com.

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

Bellevue, WA

- June 16-20, 2014: **IE2**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning

Chicago, IL

- October 6-8, 2014: **IE0**: Immersion Event for the Accidental/Junior DBA
- October 9-10, 2014: **IEHW**: Immersion Event on SQL Server Hardware

See [here](#) for the main Immersion Event Calendar page that allows you to drill through to each class for more details and registration links. **We are planning to release the rest of our 2014 class schedule shortly.**

Fall SQLintersection

This year our Fall SQLintersection conference will be the week of November 10th in Las Vegas. See [here](#) for details. Don't forget to use the discount code "SQLskills" (without the quotes and it isn't case-sensitive) and you can save \$50 off registration! We hope to see you there!

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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