

(December 8th, 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 Sydney, Australia where it's already Tuesday in our IEPTO1 class here (Sydney is 19 hours ahead of Redmond, WA). Before the class, we had a great weekend getting on the time zone – basically driving around some of the far-flung national parks looking for kangaroos, wallabies, and birds.

Lots of class news to mention:

- Our spring 2015 classes in Chicago and Bellevue are open for registrations. All classes have a discount for registering in 2014 (US\$125 off IE0 and US\$200 off all 5-day classes) so get those training budgets working for you before you lose them at the end of the year!
- We're also bringing IEPTO2 to **Sydney in February 2015**, with big incentives! See [here](#) for details.
- We're headed back to the UK in 2015, bringing **IEPTO1 to London in August**, with a US\$200 discount for registering in 2014! See [here](#) for details.
- And the really big news in this newsletter is that **we'll be teaching an IEPTO2 delivery in Dublin in October!** See [here](#) for details.

The most recent book I've read is Gary Gibson's [Stealing Light](#). Every so often I need to leave behind heavy-duty history, historical fiction, or politics, and depart into pie-in-the-sky science fiction; Gibson's *Shoal Sequence* series fills that need superbly. It has old alien artifacts, diverse species, exploding stars, head implants – all the usual stuff that makes sci-fi such enjoyable escapism. I got half way through the second book on the flight down here and it's just as good as the first one. Highly recommended for sci-fi fans.

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 been pretty quiet for blog posts since the last newsletter as we had Thanksgiving in the U.S. and then we headed straight down here to Australia, so nothing extra to point you at (but I will be blogging a bunch of stuff this week!)

However, this trip has provided me with the inspiration for this Ponderings. Kimberly's been posting photos from some of our day trips to Twitter/Facebook and one person posted that we certainly *carpe diem*. And yes, when we somewhere far-flung that we don't come to very often, we try to make as much use of our time as possible to go sightseeing.

Carpe diem translates as 'seize the day'. I think a good Latin motto for DBAs, especially around the upcoming holiday period, should be *noli pro cras tenere quae hodie facere potes*, which translates as 'do not hold for tomorrow those things which you can do today', although it doesn't roll off the tongue quite so easily!

My point here is that there are a lot of (sometimes considered tedious or onerous) tasks that are very easy for a DBA to always push off until 'tomorrow', which are really better done sooner than later. Here are some examples that spring to mind:

- Performing a test restore from scratch of your backups
- Performing a failover test to your high-availability secondary system
- Adding documentation around things like SSIS packages or code rollout procedures (no-one likes doing documentation...)
- Do some index cleanup on a few of your large tables
 - Check for duplicate indexes
 - Check for left-based redundancies and consider their usefulness
 - Check for unused (or, minimally used) indexes
- Do some statistics cleanup
 - Check for statistics that are left-based subsets of your indexes (possibly because of newly created indexes)
- Check your maintenance routines – have you wanted to make them tied to data change (rather than sledgehammer maintenance where you just execute whether you need to or not)?
- Are you outgrowing your resources?
 - CPU / memory / disk space – have you checked on your capacities lately?
- Implement capturing of I/O latencies to help identify problems
- Implement capturing of wait statistics to help identify problems
- Look at your buffer pool to see whether you've got lots of wasted disk/memory space

There are all kinds of little projects you can do that will give you more peace of mind, increase performance, or help you with performance troubleshooting.

Call to action: Procrastination has often been the cause of problems that I've had to help deal with, where a little earlier time investment could have forestalled a performance problem or disaster situation. Do yourself a favor – make a list of the tasks you've been putting off and cross some of them off your list before your holiday break or even during your holiday (if you're one

of those folks that works through it because the office is a ghost-town and you get more done) – you'll be happy that you did.

I'm curious to hear your thoughts on procrastination, items that regularly get put off, and the subsequent problems it can cause, so please feel free to [drop me a line](#), always treated confidentially, of course.

Video Demo

In this Insider Video Erin takes a look at operators you can expect to see when your queries use columnstore indexes. Specifically, she highlights what to look for within those new operators, and within the existing operators (e.g. hash match), to make sure processing is optimal.

The video is just under 13 minutes long and you can get:

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

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

Enjoy!

SQLskills Offerings

We've released most of our classes for 2015. We might add one more domestic delivery of IEPTO1 and possibly IEPTO2 / IEBI but these will be partially based on instructor and conference schedules; it's important to note that 2nd half courses will be limited. Also, please be aware that all US classes have discounts for registering in 2014.

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](#)

Upcoming Immersion Events

Sydney, NSW, Australia

- February 23-27, 2015: **IEPTO2**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2 (formerly IE2)

Chicago, IL

- April 27-29, 2015: **IE0**: Immersion Event for the Accidental/Junior DBA
- April 27-May 1, 2015: **IEPTO1**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1 (formerly IE1)
- May 4-8, 2015: **IEPTO2**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2 (formerly IE2)
- May 4-8, 2015: **IEBI**: Immersion Event on Business Intelligence
- May 11-15, 2015: **IEHADR**: Immersion Event on High Availability and Disaster Recovery (formerly IE3)

Bellevue, WA

- June 8-12, 2015: **IEPTO1**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1 (formerly IE1)
- June 15-19, 2015: **IEPTO2**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2 (formerly IE2)

London, UK

- August 24-28, 2015: **IEPTO1**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1 (formerly IE1)

Dublin, Ireland

- October 12-16, 2015: **IEPTO2**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2 (formerly IE2)

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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