

(March 2nd, 2015)

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, where it's actually already Tuesday. Kimberly and I are getting ready to fly home after a great weekend bumping around the wild back roads in a 4WD Mitsubishi. The highlight was visiting the Cedar Creek Wombat Rescue and Hospital about 150km north of the city. You can see some photos of Kimberly with wombats on their FaceBook page [here](#).

Registrations are coming in thick and fast for the next of our popular SQLintersection conferences, in Scottsdale, AZ this May – see [here](#) for details. Our show will mainly focus on the troubleshooting and performance problems that we know you're facing today but will also highlight best practices in architecture, design, and SQL Server 2014. For a total of 6 full days – you can immerse yourself into great content with speakers that you know will deliver! Also, use the discount code “SQLskills” and you can save \$50 off registration!

The two most recent books I've read are Daniel Suarez's [Daemon](#), and Robert Baer's [See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's War on Terrorism](#), and I highly recommend both of them.

Saurez's book was a real page-turner and I finished the whole thing on the flight down to Sydney. I picked it up based on recommendations from some Twitter followers and I'm glad I did. It's a clever techno-thriller about a distributed computer system that slowly starts taking over the planet. Not giving away any more of the plot, but it's well done and believable. I've already ordered part two, plus his other books.

Baer's book is extremely interesting, and I think of it as a bit of a corollary to [Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA](#) that I read last year. It covers his time in the CIA up to 9/11 and shows how, from the perspective of an active senior case officer in the field, the Washington-based CIA headquarters was very out of touch with happenings around the world and lacking good intelligence-gathering capabilities in places like Iraq and the Near East. The book covers Baer's time in Lebanon, Tajikistan, Iraq, and latterly in Washington, and I found it fascinating.

Note: you can get all the prior Insider newsletters [here](#).

Paul's Ponderings

One of the things that struck (and impressed) all four of us when we were teaching down under in Sydney last week was just how much the people in the class were really *into* being there and learning. We do see a lot of passion and interest in SQL often but there just seemed to be something different about this group (and, it wasn't just their accents).

That made me think a bit about why we'd all been impressed and I concluded that many times when I've been involved in training, whether a public class, a private class, or something like a user group, not everyone in the audience is really focused on making the most of the experience. But, again, why?

Let's take a user group meeting, for example. When I'm attending a user group meeting in person, I'll typically see a few people buried in laptops, tablets, or phones, not paying attention to the topic being presented, often for the whole meeting and from before the meeting started. Doesn't matter who is presenting or what the topic is.

One has to wonder: why attend the meeting in the first place? If you're not interested, don't attend. Or if work is pressing, don't attend.

I can see some people being forced to reluctantly go on training courses by their organizations, but that shouldn't be seen as a penance or chore. You should feel lucky that your company values training, as so many companies don't, it seems.

What might have sealed the deal though, was that very few of the class attendees even brought laptops. And, it also felt as though Australians in general weren't as tied to the cellular devices or social networks. In general, we felt as though this might have been the winning factor. Disconnecting (to a point), and really focusing on what's presented, can really help you to get more out of the training.

I think any opportunity for training/learning should be embraced so you get the most out of it. It doesn't matter whether it's a training class, user group, conference, or SQL Saturday. They can all be incredibly opportunities to:

- Learn new things to enable you to be better at your job (and possibly move on to a more senior position, or a lateral move to another company.)
- Reinforce things you've forgotten or had misconceptions about.
- Discover online resources you can use to find answers to your problems.
- Network with other people in the same line of work. You'll be surprised how often contacts formed this way can lead to job opportunities and a small community of friends you can canvass for advice/help.
- Discuss technical challenges in your environment with others who may already have solved them in theirs.

And if you think about user groups or SQL Saturdays, they're even better opportunities because they're free!!!

Call to action: The next time you have the opportunity to learn, whatever the venue, format, and topic, don't squander it! Reduce your load and take only a minimal amount of technology. But put the phone down when the presentation starts. Focus. Life's too short to not take advantage of ways to better yourself – who knows where it'll lead?

Video Demo

Scripting out your users and their respective passwords can help you with server migrations as well as disaster recovery. Microsoft provides a set of stored procedures to help you with this task. In this Insider video Tim will walk you through the steps of creating the stored procedures and scripting out a set of SQL and Windows accounts to show you how easy it is.

The video is about 3 minutes long and you can get it:

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

And you can get the code [here](#).

Enjoy!

SQLskills Offerings

We've released most of our classes for 2015. We might add one more domestic delivery of IEPTO1 in the 2nd half of the year 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 very limited.

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

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) **SOLD OUT!**
- 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.

Spring SQLintersection

This year our Spring SQLintersection conference will be the week of May 17th in Scottsdale, AZ. 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

Paul@SQLskills.com and Kimberly@SQLskills.com