

(April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016)

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 enjoying the beautiful (and unseasonably warm!) weather, and we're all set for SQLintersection next week followed by four weeks of classes in Chicago.

We've had two new Pluralsight courses published since the last newsletter:

- Erin's course on *SQL Server: Understanding and Using DBCC Commands* (details [here](#))
- Glenn's course on *SQL Server: Scaling SQL Server 2012 and 2014: Part 2* (details [here](#))

Check them both out!

With a few courses (both of the IEPTO1 classes, IE0, and IEBI) sold out and others filling fast, be sure to book soon so that you're not disappointed. The next IEPTO1 in the U.S. will be in Bellevue, WA in September, plus London in June, Dublin in October, and **we've just added another IEPTO1 and IE0 delivery in Chicago in November**, plus we've **added an IEBI to our September line-up in Bellevue, WA**. These coupled with our IEPDS (on **data mining** and R) plus our two **SSIS** classes give you tremendous opportunities to improve at your current job as well as increase your skills for the future! All the schedule details are [here](#).

Next week, we're looking forward to seeing you at our Spring SQLintersection conference; we have an absolutely phenomenal line-up – one of our best for sure! We have keynotes from Buck Woody and Bob Ward from Microsoft, and another on tools and productivity from SQL Sentry. And with 9 workshops over 4 pre-conference and post-conference days, deeper dives are possible too. Best practices, troubleshooting, tips and tricks are our mainstay yet this show also adds a lot of new features for SQL Server 2014 and 2016. The show is in Orlando, FL with preconference workshops starting on Saturday, April 16, 2016. And, if you're signing up at the last minute, be sure to use the discount code 'SQLskills' when registering to receive \$50 off. See [here](#) for more details.

The two latest books I've read are Stephen Greenblatt's [\*The Swerve: How the World Became Modern\*](#) and Helen Simonson's [\*Major Pettigrew's Last Stand\*](#).

Greenblatt's book is a wonderful work for bibliophiles and history buffs, detailing how a 15th-century book hunter, Poggio Bracciolini found the only remaining copy of the epic poem [\*On the\*](#)

[\*Nature of Things\*](#) by the ancient Roman Lucretius, hidden away in a monastery library in the mountains of Europe. Greenblatt describes how the poem and its contents arguably inspired many great thinkers during the Renaissance and ensuing scientific revolution. He also tells much of Poggio's long life, especially amid the tumult of the Church, and also of the period when Lucretius was alive.

Simonson's book is a delightful novel set around Major Pettigrew, an aging, honorable widower coping with the sudden loss of his brother, and a budding relationship with the Pakistani widow running the local mini-mart. Village life gets increasingly complicated for the old-fashioned and traditional Major as he gets embroiled in many uncomfortable situations. A charming debut novel and I've already got her second one ready to read.

I can recommend both books unequivocally!

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

### **Paul's Ponderings**

No major theme this week but a few things to discuss around Microsoft announcements...

Firstly, Microsoft announced an amazing deal for developers. Anyone who joins the Visual Studio Dev Essentials community can get SQL Server 2014 (and 2016, when it ships) Developer Edition completely for free. That's a cool \$59.95 saving. Even better is that they're also giving away a free, unrestricted three-month Pluralsight license, worth at least \$100, to everyone who signs up. All the details are on their website [here](#).

Secondly, Microsoft [announced](#) that from now on, they recommend proactively installing Cumulative Updates (CUs) in just the same way that they've always recommended installing Service Packs (SPs). They can make this change because they test CUs to the same standard as SPs, so the risk of regressions is no worse with a CU than with an SP.

This is a big change, as most people (IMHO) didn't install CUs unless they needed to, as they were guided that way by Microsoft, but now there should be no institutional push-back citing a lack of Microsoft guidance.

But I see a big hurdle: installing a new SQL Server build really requires extensive application testing to make sure there are no functional or performance regressions. I don't see companies having the resources to test and install a new SQL Server build every time a CU is released, nor do I expect most of them to *\*want\** to do this a lot more regularly than before.

Overall though, I think this is a good move from Microsoft and I applaud anything that will help companies proactively install CUs to prevent them from hitting known bugs with released fixes.

Lastly, tomorrow (April 12th, 2016) is the official end of extended support for SQL Server 2005. This is a bit poignant for me as SQL Server 2005 is the last version that shipped while I was at

Microsoft (I left on August 31, 2007), and I invested 5 years of my life in it – firstly with an extensive rewrite of DBCC CHECKDB, repair, and all of DBCC in general, and then as the Dev Lead (manager) of the Access Methods team in the Storage Engine.

I remember organizing dinner for several hundred people every day for months over the summer of 2005, being at work from 8am till late evening every day of the week, and generally having a blast with the pressure, responsibility, and frenetic pace of work.

If I could go back in time, would I do it again? Absolutely – it was an exhilarating experience and taught me a huge amount.

But maybe I'd push a bit harder to rewrite the old shrink code so it didn't suck so badly! ☺

**Call to action:** If you're still using SQL Server 2005, now's the time to start thinking about moving off it, if you're not forced to stay because of a legacy third-party application. Microsoft has a good upgrade page [here](#), and my team's been helping a lot of clients move up to 2012 and 2014 over the last year, ensuring a smooth migration with minimal problems. [Let us know](#) if we can help you out!

### **Video Demo**

In this video, Glenn demonstrates the significant performance differences between querying a non-compressed row store table, a page-compressed row store table and a table with clustered columnstore index in SQL Server 2014. These differences include reduced elapsed time, reduced query cost, and reduced I/O statistics.

The video is just under 12 minutes long and you can get it:

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

The demo code is available [here](#).

Enjoy!

### **SQLskills Offerings**

We've released all of our 2016 classes for registration, listed below, including two new classes in Chicago in November that we just added. We hope to see you at a class or a conference this year!

To help your boss understand the importance of focused, technical training, we've also added a few 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

- **IE0:** Immersion Event for Junior/Accidental DBAs
  - April 25-27 **SOLD OUT!**
- **IEPTO1:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
  - April 25-29 **SOLD OUT!**
- **IEBI:** Immersion Event on Business Intelligence
  - April 25-29 **SOLD OUT!**
- **IEPTO2:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2
  - May 2-6
- **IESSIS1:** Immersion Event on Learning SQL Server Integration Services
  - May 2-6 **NEW!!**
- **IEPDS:** Immersion Event on Practical Data Science
  - May 9-13 **HOT!!**
- **IEHADR:** Immersion Event on High Availability and Disaster Recovery
  - May 9-13
- **IEPTO1:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
  - May 16-20 **SOLD OUT!**

### London, UK

- **IEPTO1:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
  - June 13-17
- **IEPTO2:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2
  - June 20-24

### Bellevue, WA

- **IEPTO1:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
  - September 12-16
- **IEBI:** Immersion Event on Business Intelligence
  - September 19-22 **NEW!!**
- **IEPTO2:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2
  - September 19-23
- **IESSIS2:** Immersion Event on Advanced SQL Server Integration Services
  - September 19-22 **NEW!!**

### Dublin, Ireland

- **IEPTO1:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
  - October 3-7 **NEW!!**

Chicago, IL

- **IE0:** Immersion Event for Junior/Accidental DBAs
  - November 7-9 **NEW!!**
- **IEPTO1:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
  - November 7-11 **NEW!!**

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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