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're getting ready for our next set of Immersion Events; we leave on Wednesday for London. I've been reading about ancient Rome recently, I'm looking forward to heading back to the fabulous British Museum to check out some of the Roman artifacts.

Speaking of London, the two classes coming up in the next two weeks (and one in Dublin in October) will be **our last European classes until 2018**. It was a difficult decision but due to events/obligations already scheduled in 2017, we're going to have to skip international Immersion Events for 2017. If you're considering one of our IEs be sure to sign up soon if you don't want to wait another year.

After another incredibly successful delivery, we've added an IEPDS class on data science, R, and data mining to our Chicago lineup in November. This is one of the next big things in data and a must for those of you looking to expand your knowledge/resume!

Our Fall classes are also starting to fill up, be sure to book your Immersion Event in advance to avoid the class you want selling out – all the schedule details are here.

We have a special offer running through July 15, where any client – new and existing – can get a **single-instance health check for only US$2,500**, which is more than 1/3 off the normal price! Details about why our health checks are so cost-effective are here.

And some **exciting news** – I've finally released my comprehensive wait stats and latch classes library! Check out the details here.

The latest book I've read is Henry Kissinger's *World Order*. Kissinger's excellent disquisition is part history, part survey, and part explanation and I found it immensely interesting. He examines in great detail the Westphalian order (named after the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia that ended the devastating Thirty Years War), where there's a balance of power between states, and the problems that arise when the balance is disrupted (e.g. both World Wars), along with sections on Europe, Islamism and the Middle East, and Asia and China.

Almost 1/3 of the book is dedicated to the history of major U.S. foreign policy since WWI, and all the wars we've fought since then (including the Cold War) to try to maintain order and/or

defend a people being wrongly subjugated. He ends with an analysis of how technologies are affecting world order, and a call to action for future policy changes to maintain it.

This is the first book of Kissinger's that I've read, and his powerful intellect and clarity of thought are obvious throughout; I have many of his other works and I'm looking forward to reading them too. Hugely recommended!

Note: you can get all the prior Insider newsletters here.

The Curious Case of…

We've added this new section to the newsletter to explain problems we've found on client systems; it might be something you're experiencing too.

Erin took on a new client a few years ago that was having trouble managing their environment and was considering upgrading from Standard to Enterprise. It turned out they had 36 different mount points for a single RAID 5 array on their SAN, with data files spread on each the mount point and ten (!!) transaction log files – all for a single database! You might wonder how a system gets to this point?

This configuration had been recommended by a previous consulting company, who had stated that if each table were on its own filegroup, and each filegroup were on a different mount point, then they would get better performance. They'd also been "trying" to set up partitioned views before being dismissed by the client.

Erin helped them rationalize their physical layout and configured partitioned views correctly, so they were able to remain on Standard Edition until upgrading to 2014 Enterprise Edition recently.

This was a case of complexity for the sake of complexity, and a serious lack of understanding of how SQL Server and the SAN interacted, on the part of the previous consultants. It's very rare these days for tables/filegroups to have to be on different portions of an I/O subsystem for performance reasons, and certainly not on different mount points on the same RAID array!

Paul's Ponderings

If you've followed my blog and/or Twitter account for a few years, you'll know that one of my hot buttons is people being insensitive or rude online – in email, Twitter, blog comments, whatever.

There definitely seems to be a view among some people that if one isn't interacting face-to-face then one can say anything without thinking of the consequences of what's being said. Even something as trivial as sending an email to a distribution list asking for help and not saying

thanks seems wrong to me, but that's trivial compared to some of the things I see people say to each other online.

I remember one case in particular, where I'd shared a sad news article on my Facebook page about a truck transporting sheep to a different farm that had been in an a bad accident and a lot of the sheep had been killed. A loose acquaintance posted something like 'Time to make haggis!' maybe thinking they were being funny. But not to me, who really likes sheep, and had obviously posted the story because it was upsetting to me.

Along these lines, Jonathan noticed a blog post during the week and sent the link to our team. We discussed it amongst ourselves and agreed that it would be a good topic for the newsletter this time.

The blog post is from Jeff Atwood ([@CodingHorror](#)), who founded [Stack Exchange](#), and is about empathy and the effect that typed words can have on others.

Kimberly and I feel that empathy seems to have been replaced by an unnecessary need to reduce response time. Fueled also by (the often anonymity of) the internet, people are too quick to react without any real thought about what the event / story / news item / tweet, etc. means to the person that posted it.

Too often people want to be the FIRST! commenter or the most clever commenter or the most snarky commenter – as opposed to a compassionate commenter. In *many* recent interactions, this is especially true. People have lost sight of how we got to where we are and aren't stopping to think about what their actions mean to others; ultimately, damaging relationships that took much longer to form.

Call to action: Go read Jeff's blog post at https://blog.codinghorror.com/they-have-to-be-monsters/. And then take a moment to think if you're ever in a situation where you're going to type something that might be hurtful to someone else.

<u>Video Demo</u>

SQL Server 2016 was released last week on June 1st, and that means that the highly-anticipated feature of Query Store is out and available in every edition of SQL Server. In this video Erin uses the UI to view different plans for the same query, see how to force a plan, and then see what happens if that forced plan can't be used. Query Store is a game changer in terms of more than troubleshooting performance issues – forcing plans without a plan guide is just one cool piece of functionality it provides, so check out this video to see how!

The video is about 12.5 minutes long and you can get it:

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

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

Enjoy!

<u>SQLskills Offerings</u>

Our 2016 classes are all open for registration (listed below), including three new classes in Chicago in November added because of popularity. 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](#)

<u>Upcoming Immersion Events</u>

London, UK (*returning to Europe in 2018 **NOT 2017***)

- **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 **Just added!!**
- **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 course!!**

Dublin, Ireland (*returning to Europe in 2018 **NOT 2017***)

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

Chicago, IL

- **IE0**: Immersion Event for Junior/Accidental DBAs
  - November 7-9 **Just added!!**
- **IEPTO1**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
  - November 7-11 **Just added!!**
- **IEPDS**: Immersion Event on Practical Data Science
  - November 7-11 **Just added!!**

Click 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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