(October 29th, 2019)

If you know someone who would benefit from being an Insider, feel free to forward this PDF to them so they can sign up here.

Note: As an Insider, you can read all prior Insider newsletters here.

Quick Tips for our Insider friends!

Hey Insiders,

This newsletter is coming to you from Redmond, where Kimberly's teaching her IEVLT online class to 25 info-hungry students! By the way, if you don't read the Ponderings in this newsletter, but you are interested in electronics at all, check out https://eater.net/8bit, which I'm building at the moment.

SQLskills News

Live, IN-PERSON classes: we've announced our schedule for Spring 2020 in Chicago:

- IEPTO1: Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1 – April 27-May 1
- IE0: Accidental/Junior DBA – April 27-29
- IECAG: Clustering and Availability Groups – April 30-May 1
- IEPTO2: Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2 – May 4-8
- IEAzure: Azure SQL Database, Azure VMs, Azure Managed Instance – May 4-7

The classes all have early-bird prices through the end of 2019 and you can get all the details and registration information through the class schedule page here.

Live, ONLINE classes: we have one more class coming up in November:

- IECS: Columnstore Indexes – November 12-14

The class is US$495 (US$395 for past attendees) and you can get all the details and registration information through the class schedule page here.

Fall SQLintersection: If you're looking for a great place to learn best practices in migration, troubleshooting, and performance, join us in Las Vegas in the week of November 18 for our SQLintersection conference where we're going to focus on these incredibly important processes. SQLintersection will not only help you migrate to a newer version of SQL Server but it will teach you the best new features to leverage once you're there! We've got an incredible line-up this Fall and ALL of our sessions have been posted; check out our website to view our

spectacular line-up including Bob Ward, Pedro Lopes, Pam Lahoud, Brent Ozar, and most of our SQLskills team! We hope you can join us in November! Check out all out in my blog post here.

PASS workshops: if you're planning to go to the PASS Summit in November, Erin and Jonathan both have pre-conference workshops:

- Erin: Performance Tuning with Query Store in SQL Server – see here
- Jonathan: Bigger Hardware or Better Code and Design? – see here

Finally, even if you can't join us in person, I've put out a call for **remote user group sessions** for the remainder of 2019! If you'd like one of us to present for your user group, check out my blog post here.

Book Review

One of the recent books I've read is Anthony Everitt's *Cicero: The Life and Times of Rome's Greatest Politician*. From Amazon: "Brilliant, voluble, cranky, a genius of political manipulation but also a true patriot and idealist, Cicero was Rome's most feared politician, one of the greatest lawyers and statesmen of all times. In this dynamic and engaging biography, Anthony Everitt plunges us into the fascinating, scandal-ridden world of ancient Rome in its most glorious heyday--when senators were endlessly filibustering legislation and exposing one another's sexual escapades to discredit the opposition. Accessible to us through his legendary speeches but also through an unrivaled collection of unguarded letters to his close friend Atticus, Cicero comes to life as a witty and cunning political operator, the most eloquent and astute witness to the last days of Republican Rome." I had no idea that he essentially took over as the leader of Rome for the six months before Marcus Anthony and Octavian reconciled. Excellent biography and highly recommended!

The Curious Case of…

This section of the newsletter explains recent problems we've helped with on client systems; they might be something you're experiencing too.

I had a question in a blog comment last week on why emergency-mode repair requires the database to be in EMERGENCY mode as well as SINGLE_USER mode…

Read the explanation in my blog post here.

Ponderings…

(From me this time, and a short one as I was on vacation last week – enjoy!)

I'm constantly amazed at the time people spend putting information online just because they want to share it and help others – pure altruism. A case in point: there's a guy called Ben Eater

who's created a whole series of excellent YouTube videos on how to build an 8-bit computer from scratch on breadboards (see https://eater.net/8bit, and I've just started building it last week – I have waaay too many electronics kits I've bought and never gotten around to building!). He doesn't make any money from them – he's just an enthusiast who likes to educate people.

There are others who do similar videos on electronics (one of my passions apart from SQL Server) too, without being overtly used to make money and I even have a (soon-to-be-resurrected blog on electronics over at https://www.sqlskills.com/blogs/paulselec/). Whatever you want to know, there's probably someone out there who's posted a bunch of information about it.

SQL Server is no different. The sheer amount of information being published each week for the good of the community is just staggering (and I'm grateful to Steve Jones's Database Weekly emails each weekend that curate some of it – see the right-hand side of the page of https://www.sqlservercentral.com/ for the sign-up links).

So why am I writing this editorial? Well, apart from publicizing Ben's 8-bit computer work because it's just so darn cool, I want to make sure that you know to search online when you need some information. From some of the questions I get in email, I can tell for sure that the sender hasn't done even a basic search as the answer is out there in many places.

And also … **Call to action:** If you have something cool to share that you think could benefit others, share it somewhere for the good of the world. You might think that no-one will ever see it, but search engines see everything and make information discoverable, and you'll be helping out someone in future who needs the information you're sharing.

Glenn's Tech Insights

Recent news and views from the hardware and Windows worlds that we think will be interesting to SQL Server community members.

In Glenn's regular roundup of tech news this time he talks about the following:

- In this post:
    - AMD's Threadripper 3000 series of processors
    - AMD's Ryzen 9 3950X processor
- In this post:
    - SQL Server Cumulative Updates
    - Intel's Cascade Lake-X HEDT processors

Check it all out!

#TBT

(Turn Back Time…) Blog posts we've published since the previous newsletter plus some older resources we've referred to recently that you may find useful.

The theme for the TBT this time is database mirroring. Although database mirroring has been deprecated, it's still in wide use and it's still a very easy way to perform a rolling upgrade or move data around. Here are some useful links:

- Glenn's Pluralsight course: *[SQL Server: Understanding, Configuring and Troubleshooting Database Mirroring](#)*
- Whitepapers:
  - *[Database Mirroring and Log Shipping Part I – Prescriptive Guidance](#)*
  - *[Prior Clustering and Mirroring Deployments Part I – Prescriptive Guidance](#)*
  - *[Proven SQL Server Architectures for High Availability and Disaster Recovery](#)* (written by me)
  - *[SQL Server Replication: Providing High-Availability Using Database Mirroring](#)* (written by me)
  - *[Database Mirroring and Log Shipping Working Together](#)*
  - *[Database Mirroring: Alerting on Database Mirroring Events](#)*
  - *[Database Mirroring: Best Practices and Performance Considerations](#)*
- KB article *[Things to consider when setting up database mirroring in SQL Server](#)*
- My blog posts:
  - *[Importance of network latency when using database mirroring](#)*
  - *[Importance of monitoring a database mirroring session](#)*
  - *[Database mirroring blog category](#)*

Here are the blog posts we've published since the last newsletter:

- Glenn: *[SQL Server 2017 CU17 Released](#)*
- Glenn: *[T-SQL Tuesday #119 Changing Your Mind](#)*
- Tim: *[Skip-2.0 Backdoor Malware – SQL Server](#)*
- Paul (electronics blog): *[Smoothing capacitors on power lines](#)*

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

<u>Video Demo</u>

In this Insider video, Tim gives you an update to the preview pricing tier for singleton Azure SQL Databases known as serverless. This new option will allow customers to set a minimum and maximum number of vCores for their database to be able to auto scale up and down depending on their workload. This has the capability of saving customers money and allowing them to dynamically scale up when customers need it the most. Until now, customers had to get creative

with scaling; now they can do it in preview with a few mouse clicks, and Tim shows you where to configure it.

The video is just over 4.5 minutes long and you can get it here.

Enjoy!

Upcoming SQLskills Events

We have one more live, online event coming up in November and we've published our Spring 2020 class schedule too!

You have multiple learning opportunities as every event has a different focus as well as different benefits – from deep-technical training in our Immersion Events to wide-ranging topics at SQLintersection where you can learn more effectively how to keep moving forward in both your environment and your career! And, of course, one benefit you'll always get from in-person events is networking; we hope to meet/see you at an event soon!

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
- So why do you want to come to our training? And the winners are…
- Community blog posts about our classes
- Immersion Event FAQ

LIVE, IN-PERSON Immersion Events:

Chicago, IL, Spring 2020

- **** All classes have early-bird prices through 12/31/19 ****
- **IEPTO1**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
  - April 27 – May 1
- **IE0**: Immersion Event for the Junior/Accidental DBA
  - April 27-29
- **IECAG**: Immersion Event on Clustering and Availability Groups
  - April 30 – May 1
- **IEPTO2**: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2
  - May 4-8
- **IEAzure**: Immersion Event on Azure SQL Database, Azure VMs, and Azure Managed Instance
  - May 4-7

LIVE, ONLINE Immersion Events:

- **IECS**: Immersion Event on Columnstore Indexes
  - November 12-14

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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