

(November 26th, 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 we're just back from our Fall SQLintersection conference in Las Vegas last week. Great fun and we're already planning the Spring show!

Jonathan's latest Pluralsight course just went live, and it's very cool: *SQL Server: Using SentryOne Plan Explorer* – a complete revamp of his course from 2013. Check out the details [here](#).

Happy Thanksgiving to all our U.S. readers (and to U.S. citizens living abroad)!

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](#).

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

The latest book I've read is Barry Strauss's [The Trojan War: A New History](#). I've had this for almost exactly ten years and happened to pick it as something quick to read a few weeks ago. Strauss does a great job of combining the stories told in the various epic poems with archaeological evidence. He presents the war as it was written about and surmises about what

may actually have been true or not, pulling in comparisons to known battles and customs in the few hundred years either side of the probable date of the (around 1200BC). And I didn't realize until just now that he also wrote [*Ten Caesars: Roman Emperors from Augustus to Constantine*](#) that I read last month - now looking forward to reading his book on the Battle of Salamis. Very interesting 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 was installing SQL Server 2019 at the weekend and ran into a persistent failure. After a bit of digging about I found out what it was and wrote a blog post about it – check it out [here](#).

Ponderings...

(From me this time. I was super-busy at SQLintesection last week so was looking for an old Ponderings to rerun, and I was inspired to pick this one from eight years ago – enjoy!)

My ~~rant~~ editorial this time isn't a technical one but more of a career/development one. I'll throw these into the mix every so often as I know people find them useful.

After visiting the first client on our recent trip I was inspired to write a blog post about communication and why I think it's a very much neglected skill these days. See [here](#) for the post. I wasn't inspired by any deficiencies at that client, but instead from thinking about all the communication I'd had with people during the course of the week (at the client and over email) and how I'd had to adapt my language, tone, technical level, and content based on the audience. The blog post specifically deals with being a consultant and how effective communication is of such paramount importance there. Then as we were flying home yesterday I was thinking about the topic for this newsletter and decided to expound a little further on the topic of communication.

If you think about it, effective communication is the single most important skill for a human being to master. We process information constantly and we interact with other people by communicating.

The manner in which we communicate says a lot about who we are, and strongly influences how people react to us. Some examples of communication styles that I see when people present, answer questions, ask questions and talk to each other that give people a very negative impression:

- Arrogance

- Combativeness
- Disdainfulness
- Bluster
- Scornfulness

I've witnessed these (and worse) in meetings many times—especially in things like code/design reviews where people take constructive criticism personally and bristle against it.

With the ubiquitous nature of online communications, it's hard to escape examples of poor communications. When sending an email it's imperative that you read over what you've written and think how someone reading it will interpret your words, phrasing, and any between-the-lines feeling you had when you wrote it. Email is so easy to misinterpret, especially if you're not used to someone's email style and usual phraseology.

And don't get me started about online forums and newsgroups. It seems that people think they can hide behind an online username and spout abuse at people for being ignorant. People forget that **everyone** starts with zero SQL Server knowledge, and that ignorance does NOT equal stupidity.

The very worst thing I've noticed is the seeming increase in the lack of grace when people communicate—when did it become acceptable to not say 'please' or 'thank you'? There's no excuse for a lack of civility and it drives me nuts when I see it.

In today's society where so much of our communication is not face-to-face, we need to be extra careful to communicate effectively. And when we ARE communicating face-to-face we have to remember that we're not in forums or twitter and adjust accordingly.

Call to action: stop and think about how you're communicating with people around you and whether making a small change in your attitude, tone, or language would make people more likely to acquiesce to your requests and be more cooperative.

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:

- New Intel processor security vulnerabilities revealed
- Microsoft offers new Azure VMs running AMD EPYC 7002 processors

Check it all out in [this post!](#)

#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 backups:

- My Pluralsight course: [SQL Server: Understanding and Performing Backups](#)
- My TechNet Magazine article from 2009: [Understanding SQL Server Backups](#)
- My SQL Server Magazine article from 2011: [Advanced Backup and Restore Options](#)
- My TechNet Magazine article from 2009: [Recovering from Disasters Using Backups](#)
- [Backup blog posts](#) from our accidental DBA series
- Blog post: [New script: How much of the database has changed since the last full backup?](#)
- Blog post: [Importance of having the right backups](#)
- Blog post: [Importance of validating backups](#)
- My blog post category on [Backup/Restore](#)

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

- Paul: [New Pluralsight course: SQL Server: Using SentryOne Plan Explorer](#)
- Tim: [Capturing Throughput Usage in SQL Server](#)
- Erin: [Query Store Options in SSMS 18.4](#)
- Glenn: [AMD Ryzen 9 3950X Processor Released](#)
- Glenn: [Windows 10 Version 1909 Available](#)

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

SQL Server 2019 just shipped and it's time to start planning upgrades and determining what features to implement! One of the most valuable new features in 2019 is Accelerated Database Recovery (ADR). Many data professionals who have been working with SQL Server for years will probably recall a scenario they've run into which would have benefited from ADR. If you haven't seen it yet, check out this week's Insider video from Erin!

The video is just over 14.5 minutes long and you can get it [here](#).

The demo code is [here](#).

Enjoy!

Upcoming SQLskills Events

Our Spring 2020 classes are all open for registration!

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:

- More coming in 2020!

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

Paul@SQLskills.com and Kimberly@SQLskills.com