

(March 17th, 2020)

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've hunkered down for an extended period of social distancing. I hope you all stay safe and healthy!

Lots of changes have happened in the last week: SQLBits has moved to September, our own Spring SQLintersection has been canceled, and our Spring classes have moved to October.

But, some good news for you: **recordings of our live, online classes are available to buy**, and we have a **special discount for new clients through April 30** – all the details are below!

SQLskills News

Online class recordings: you can buy recordings of all our online classes, for as little as US\$299 each. See [here](#) for all the details.

New client discount: we've dropped the price of our health check to US\$2,495 for all new clients between now and the end of April. Send us an email [here](#) for more details

Live, IN-PERSON classes: our Chicago classes have moved to October:

- IEPTO1: Performance Tuning and Optimization, Part 1 – October 19-23
- IE0: Accidental/Junior DBA – October 21-23
- IECAG: Clustering and Availability Groups – October 19-20
- IEReporting: Using and Administering SSRS/PowerBI – October 21-22
- IEPTO2: Performance Tuning and Optimization, Part 2 – October 26-30
- IEAzure: Azure SQL DB, Azure VMs, Azure Managed Instance – October 26-29

You can get all the details and registration information through the class schedule page [here](#).

SQLBits: Kimberly, Erin, and I will all be presenting at [SQLBits](#) in London in September. Our precons are:

- Paul: 3/31 [Performance Troubleshooting using Waits and Latches](#) SOLD OUT!!
- Erin: 4/1 [Performance Tuning with Query Store in SQL Server and Azure](#)

- Kimberly: 4/1 [Statistics4Performance: Internals, Analysis, Problem Solving](#)

SQLintersection: The Spring show has been canceled and everything has moved to the Fall show in Las Vegas in December. More details here nearer the time.

Finally, even if you can't join us in person, I've put out a call for **remote user group sessions for 2020!** If you'd like one of us to present for your user group, check out my blog post [here](#).

Book Review

The latest book is Fred Kaplan's [The Wizards of Armageddon](#). This is an excellent book that traces the history of the development of the US nuclear weapons/war strategy from WWII up to the early 1980s, and the people (mostly civilians) who did it. This topic has always been interesting to me as my life was closely linked to all this from an early age, as we lived four miles from [Faslane](#), the Royal Navy Polaris submarine base, and my father served on one of them for many years. Lots of fascinating details about the various strategies and the rivalries between their proponents and detractors – 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.

A few weeks back I had someone ask why the on-page size limit for a row is 8,060 bytes, when there's 8,096 bytes available on a page – read through my explanation [here](#)...

Ponderings...

(From Tim this time – enjoy!)

With the outbreak of the coronavirus COVID-19, the world is seeing cities and countries go into isolation. Many companies are mandating that workers now telecommute to help decrease the spread of the virus and to ensure the safety of their employees as well as keeping the employees healthy so they can work.

As data professionals, we plan for various types of disasters for our database instances. We leverage things like log shipping, database mirroring, availability groups, failover clusters, replication, and others for high availability and disaster recovery. We plan for local outages as well as huge events that would affect an entire datacenter. Business continuity is critical to ensuring your business can stay active and profitable while events happen.

With the coronavirus outbreak there have been countless stories of people purchasing bottled water, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, and soap in bulk, depleting the supply in their area. People are

nervous and rightfully so. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus a pandemic. In the United States on March 12 the President announced the US would be closing flights from Europe and the next day nearly every major sports group cancelled their seasons, colleges announced closings, and Disney announced closures of their parks.

Agencies are calling for social isolation to avoid large crowds to help stop the spread of this virus. This made start thinking about my personal disaster recovery plan. I've always been the type of person that likes to have supplies on hand. I don't like going shopping or having to get out in public often. It's been said that I don't go shopping, I go buying. I like to purchase bulk items when I can. With the fear of having to quarantine in my home for several weeks I quickly inventoried what my family may need. It wasn't much, but when I forecast out by several months it was a slightly different story. After a trip to a few stores, we are set.

I started asking friends if they were prepared to be stuck at home for a couple of weeks and most said no. For the few that said they should be ok food wise, I started asking what they would be eating. The common phrase was "we have plenty of food in the house". I would probe harder and ask what meals they could make. After going back and forth with a few questions, most realized that they were not as prepared as they thought. They would be low on meats, vegetables, paper products, and many other items. They had become so accustomed to being able to drive to the store to pick up a handful of items whenever they needed that they didn't have much inventory on hand at home.

With the immediate threat of possibly having to isolate in homes, it is becoming more concerning that everyone will need to have supplies to last for several weeks. In scouting, we discuss this very thing with our Emergency Preparedness merit badge and how each home needs a kit that contains essential supplies for any number of emergencies. I hope each of you have taken steps to be prepared. I'd like to offer a few points of consideration. Plan for longer than two weeks just in case. Most perishable items will go bad after two weeks (fresh veggies and milk), so think about ingredients you will need for various recipes and what you can substitute for perishable items. Think about all items you may need: paper products, toothpaste, coffee, toilet paper, medicines, and the like.

Call to action: Be safe out there and don't wait to get supplies until things get bad in your area, prepare now!

#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 #TBT is the Query Store so here are some resources for you:

- Erin's recent blog post: [T-SQL Tuesday #124: Using Query Store \(and why you might not be...yet\)](#)
- Erin's Pluralsight course on [SQL Server: Introduction to Query Store](#)
- Erin's [recorded 3-day class on Query Store](#)
- Erin's [Query Store](#) blog post category with more than 40 posts

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

- Erin: [Working From Home...with Kids](#)
- Erin: [T-SQL Tuesday #124: Using Query Store \(and why you might not be...yet\)](#)
- Paul: [Spring discount on health checks for new clients](#)
- Paul: [Online class recordings available to purchase](#)
- Paul: [April/May classes in Chicago moved to October](#)

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

The video this time is from my 7.5 hour Pluralsight course on [SQL Server: Logging, Recovery, and the Transaction Log](#). This demo shows you how SQL Server will crash recover databases in parallel by spinning up a certain number of threads and then walking the list of databases in database ID order.

The video is just under 5 minutes long and you can get it in WMV format [here](#).

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

Enjoy!

Upcoming SQLskills Events

Our 2020 classes have moved to October and 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 a more broad set of topics at SQLBits / SQLintersection! 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, Fall 2020

- **IEPTO1:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
 - October 19-23
- **IEReporting:** Immersion Event on Using and Administering SSRS and Power BI
 - October 21-22
- **IE0:** Immersion Event for the Junior/Accidental DBA
 - October 21-23
- **IECAG:** Immersion Event on Clustering and Availability Groups
 - October 19-20
- **IEPTO2:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2
 - October 26-30
- **IEAzure:** Immersion Event on Azure SQL Database, Azure VMs, and Azure Managed Instance
 - October 26-29

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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