

(August 26th, 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're celebrating again – SQLskills is 25 years old! See Kimberly's editorial below for more details.

I picked my mentoring Class of 2020! You can read a bit about how the first half of the year went for me in the preamble of [this post](#) about the Class.

Are your kids going back to in-person school? Tim and I have been taking orders from parents and teachers for ear-saver mask straps (see [here](#)) for kids, teachers, classrooms, schools. We've printed and shipped/donated almost 37,000 between us so far with our seven 3d printers, for anyone that needs them. If you know anyone who could use some free straps, hit me or Tim up in email – don't be shy – I ship in units of 10s and 100s and I'm taking requests for shipments 7-10 days from now.

Stay safe and healthy!

SQLskills News

Live, ONLINE classes – filling up FAST: our classes this year will all be live-streamed online in September and October, as it's not feasible to run in-person classes for the foreseeable future. We're running them as a series of half-day sessions so it's less onerous than the usual 9-hour days in our in-person classes. Attendees will also get a recording of the entire class – something we've never done before!

- **IE0:** Immersion Event for the Junior/Accidental DBA
 - Half days on 9/14-17 and 9/21-24
- **IEAzure:** Immersion Event on Azure SQL Database, Azure VMs, and Azure Managed Instance
 - Half days on 9/15-17 and 9/22-24
- **IECAG:** Immersion Event on Clustering and Availability Groups
 - Half days on 10/6-8
- **IEPTO1:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
 - Half days on 10/5-9 and 10/12-16

- **IEPTO2:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2
 - Half days on 10/19-23 and 10/26-30

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

Kandio job candidate assessments: we've teamed up with Kandio to produce technical assessments to help companies screen candidates for job recruitment. If you want to make sure someone really knows what they say they know, check out the assessments [here](#).

Online 2019 class recordings: you can buy recordings of all our three-day online classes from 2019, for as little as US\$299 each. See [here](#) for all the details.

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

- Erin: [Performance Tuning with Query Store in SQL Server and Azure](#)
- Kimberly: [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.

Book Review

From the archives (and I just recommended this to my Dad over the weekend): Back in 2014 I read Eric Schlosser's [Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, the Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety](#). This is an absolutely excellent history of US nuclear weapon control (or lack of it), accidents involving US nuclear weapons, and US nuclear strategy from the 40s to the 80s. It's really shocking how close the US came to an accidental nuclear detonation several times. It also covers the Damascus accident in great detail, along with the almost laughable ineptitude of the Air Force and SAC in dealing with it. There are very comprehensive notes and sources, which actually led me to buy another 15 or so books over the following two weeks on related topics. 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.

There was a Twitter #sqlhelp question last week from someone who was provisioning a server for offloading DBCC CHECKDB from a production server, and he asked whether to prioritize CPU or memory when configuring the server. My answer was neither! You can read through my explanation [here](#)...

Ponderings...

(From Kimberly this time – a short one, but an important one – enjoy!)

At the end of July, I celebrated my 25th anniversary with SQLskills. I started the company as a one-woman-show; my intention was really just to be able to have flexibility in choosing what I wanted to do. I enjoyed speaking at events and teaching but I also enjoyed consulting and writing. At that point in my career, I had worked for Microsoft University but they were only doing Train-the-Trainer events when I left, as I missed teaching actual students – instead of just teaching people to deliver the courses. And, I had worked in “User Education” for the SQL Server Development Team; I was the sole writer for the Transact-SQL Manual for SQL Server 6.0 (which was a HUGE undertaking). Ultimately, I wanted a mix of these things. But, above all, I wanted to help customers achieve their real goals with SQL Server; who knew that SQL Server 6.5 wouldn’t be the ultimate production-ready server (at the time it seemed pretty cool). Ha!

So, here I am – 25 years later – and WOW, what an amazing adventure it’s been!

For many years I worked independently and partnered with some fantastic folks (Bob Beauchemin for SQL Development; Elizabeth Vitt and Stacia Misner for BI) and I even had some incredible guest speakers at our first Immersion Events (2004 and 2006): William Vaughn and Joe Celko! Then, at Tech*Ed 2006, things changed again when I met Paul Randal (the blurry picture in my slide roll is the very first time we met – and, the picture is hilariously TERRIBLE). We were married in 2007. Then, in September 2007, Paul joined SQLskills.

We never wanted to become a large company; we’ve always wanted to stay small and focused. And, sure enough, we’ve stuck to this – assembling a deeply technical team that continues to impress me every day. I absolutely love working with Jon, Erin, and Tim – even Paul! And, with the SQL Community being as large and strong as it is, we don’t really feel like a small company as much as partners in a huge community of AWESOME PEOPLE!

And so, I’m humbled and honored to have been part of such an amazing community for over 25 years and I look forward to many, many more! Thanks for all the wonderful experiences.

I hope you enjoy my trip down memory lane as much as I did creating it:

<https://www.SQLskills.com/about/meet-the-team/celebrating25years/>.

(From Paul: I’m amazed at how much time and effort Kimberly put into the page above – she’s really very proud of this anniversary and everything that’s happened over the years!)

#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 TBT this time is about identifying and fixing esoteric query plan performance issues, and Joe recorded four excellent courses on this:

- [SQL Server: Common Performance Issue Patterns](#)
- [SQL Server: Common Query Tuning Problems and Solutions – Part 1](#)
- [SQL Server: Common Query Tuning Problems and Solutions – Part 2](#)
- [SQL Server: Troubleshooting Query Plan Quality Issues](#)

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

In this Insider video, Tim dives deeper into the Azure SQL Serverless tier. Specifically he discusses how compute is billed based on your vCore selection either by actual usage or the minimal vCore selection. You'll see how a workload can increase the amount of compute the database is using and how to view the vCores per second that are consumed.

The video is around 7 minutes long and you can get it in WMV format [here](#).

Enjoy!

Upcoming SQLskills Events

Our 2020 classes have moved to be entirely online in September and 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, Online Immersion Events:

Fall 2020

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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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