

(April 13th, 2021)

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!

This newsletter is coming to you from Redmond as usual, where we've just started our spring IEPTO2 live, online class, and we're enjoying the glorious spring sunshine!

Take care and stay safe out there!

SQLskills News

Live, ONLINE classes in 2021: our classes this year will be live-streamed online, as it's not feasible to run in-person classes for the foreseeable future. Just like our last deliveries, we'll be running them as a series of half-day sessions. Students love the split training days, from the comfort of watching in sweatpants to the ability to still get some of their regular duties accomplished. We had rave reviews for the format. And, all attendees of a live class receive lifetime streaming access to the recording of the entire class – something we'd never done before 2020!

Our remaining live, online classes for spring 2021 are as follows:

- **IEPTO2:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2
 - Currently running...
- **IEQS:** Immersion Event on Solving Common Performance Problems with Query Store
 - Three half-days: May 4-5-6, 2021
- **IEVLT:** Immersion Event on Very Large Tables: Optimizing Performance and Availability through Partitioning
 - Four half-days: May 17-18-19-20, 2021

These classes are available for registration individually or as part of a discounted bundle. You can get all the details on our [training options page](#) or just go directly to our [new shop](#). However, before you buy, be sure to review all of the new options and discounts; we're very excited to offer our new Blackbelt Badge and Bundles!

Streaming recordings of all classes: we've built a new system that allows you to buy streaming access to all our class recordings. All classes are available for a complete year of access and a few heavily discounted courses for 90 days of access, plus you can purchase them individually or

as part of a discounted bundle. You can get all the details in our [training options page](#) or just go directly to our [new shop](#).

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](#).

Book Review

The latest book I've read is William Manchester's [The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill: Visions of Glory 1874-1932](#). What an incredible book about an incredible man! This is the first volume of Manchester's magisterial biography of Winston Spencer Churchill (covering 1874-1932), and from the start it was a real page-tuner! I've spent 2-3 hours each day for the last two weeks plowing through the 900 pages, as it's not just about Churchill, but also about the times and political times he lived in, about which I've read very little in the past. And it's just fascinating! Churchill was definitely a complicated person, larger-than-life, and a furiously-productive literary and oratorical genius, although almost absurdly ambitious, rebellious, and stubborn at times. Btw, Churchill has been a contentious figure in recent years, but I'm a believer in not harshly judging all figures from the past using the morals and beliefs of the present. No doubt some of you will disagree. The end of this volume sees him a political outcast, and the world preparing for the rise of Nazism and the descent into WWII. I can't wait to read the next volume! 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.

Last week I answered a question on the #sqlhelp tag on Twitter and it reminded me of a new VLF status that was introduced for Availability Groups. You can read about it in my blog post [here](#)...

Ponderings...

(From me this time – I've seen a lot of negativity online over the last couple of weeks, so I'm rerunning this editorial from 2016 – enjoy!)

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.

#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 deadlocks so here are some resources for you:

- Jonathan's Pluralsight courses: [SQL Server: Deadlock Analysis and Prevention](#)
- The [deadlock entry](#) from our [Accidental DBA blog-post series](#)
- Jonathan's very long SimpleTalk article on [Handling Deadlocks in SQL Server](#), which is an excerpt from his popular (and free) e-book [Troubleshooting SQL Server: A Guide for the Accidental DBA](#)

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

In this Insider video, Tim continues the series of Azure related videos by showing how to decipher the Azure virtual machine naming convention, as well as how to leverage the filter options to narrow down more suitable options for your SQL Server workload. Selecting the proper size Azure VM is crucial for making sure your VM can support your SQL Server workload, so understanding the different naming conventions and what each class of virtual machine supports is a great first step.

The URL Tim used is <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-machines/vm-naming-conventions>.

The video is 7 minutes long and you can get it in MP4 format [here](#).

Enjoy!

Upcoming SQLskills Events

Our 2021 classes are entirely online in the spring and they're open for registration!

With our new streaming system, you can now choose to attend a live, online event or purchase a recording to watch at your leisure, either individually or as part of a bundle. And all attendees of live events get lifetime access to the class recordings too!

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](#)

LIVE, Online Immersion Events:

Spring 2021

- **IEAzure:** Immersion Event on Azure SQL Database, Azure VMs, and Azure Managed Instance
 - Completed
- **IEPTO1:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
 - Completed
- **IEPTO2:** Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2

- Currently running...
- **IEQS:** Immersion Event on Solving Common Performance Problems with Query Store
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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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