(June 1ˢᵗ, 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 Concrete, WA, where we're camping this week on our back-country property.

Take care and stay safe out there!

SQLskills News

SQLskills Summer School Special Savings SALE!

Starting just in time for Summer, we will be offering our lowest prices EVER on all recorded courses and bundles. We just completed our spring series of courses and have new recordings for SQL Server 2019. AND, our "Summer School Special" will include some extra time to really dive in as you'll get the summer for FREE! Recordings are usually accessible for 1 year from the date of purchase. For purchases made during the sale, your access won't expire until **Sept 30, 2022**!

The sale starts on Monday, June 14 and lasts through the end of Friday, July 10. Each course will be available individually but there will also be even better budget-friendly bundles! Start thinking about what you want to learn and invest in your SQL Server future!

Here's what we have to offer (all prices in USD):

- IE0: Immersion Event for the Accidental and Junior DBA
  - Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 8 half days for over **32 HOURS** of content
  - Special 2020 Price $2,495 LIVE (normal price $3,295) and 1 year access recordings for $1,695
  - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only $1,295**
- IEAzure: Immersion Event on Azure SQL Database, Azure VMs, and Azure Managed Instance
  - Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 6 half days for over **22 HOURS** of content
  - Regularly priced at $3,295 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for $1,695
  - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only $1,295**
- IEPTO1: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
  - Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 10 half days for over **43 HOURS** of content

- o Regularly priced at $3,995 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for $1,995
- o **Summer School Savings SALE price: only $1,595**
- IEPTO2: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2
    - o Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 10 half days for over **40 HOURS** of content
    - o Regularly priced at $3,995 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for $1,995
    - o **Summer School Savings SALE price: only $1,595**
- IECAG: Immersion Event on Clustering and Availability Groups
    - o Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 4 half days for over **18 HOURS** of content
    - o Regularly priced at $1,695 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for $845
    - o **Summer School Savings SALE price: only $695**
- IEQS: Immersion Event on Solving Common Performance Problems with Query Store
    - o Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 3 half days for almost **10 HOURS** of content
    - o Regularly priced at $995 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for $495
    - o **Summer School Savings SALE price: only $395**
- IEVLT: Immersion Event on Very Large Tables: Optimizing Performance and Availability through Partitioning
    - o Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 4 half days for almost **14 HOURS** of content
    - o Regularly priced at $995 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for $495
    - o **Summer School Savings SALE price: only $395**
- IEQuery: Immersion Event on Fixing Slow Queries, Inefficient Code, and Caching/Statistics Problems
    - o Recorded on SQL Server 2017 over 3 half days for over **11 HOURS** of content
    - o Regularly priced at $695 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for $395
    - o **Summer School Savings SALE price: only $295**
- IETLB: Immersion Event on Transactions, Locking, Blocking, Isolation, and Versioning
    - o Recorded on SQL Server 2017 over 3 half days for over **13 HOURS** of content
    - o Regularly priced at $695 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for $395
    - o **Summer School Savings SALE price: only $295**
- IECS: Immersion Event on Columnstore Indexes
    - o Recorded on SQL Server 2017 over 3 half days for almost **11 HOURS** of content
    - o Regularly priced at $695 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for $395
    - o **Summer School Savings SALE price: only $295**

And we have four bundles:

SQL Server Jumpstart Bundle

IE0 + **IEQuery** + **IETLB**: **Summer School Savings BUNDLE price: only $1,495**

*** 70% SAVINGS off of full price PLUS 3 months FREE ***

ADD the remaining 3 Short Courses (IEQuery / IEVLT / IECS) for only $695

Performance Tuning Bundle

IEPTO1 + **IEPTO2**: **Summer School Savings BUNDLE price: only $2,495**

*** 70% SAVINGS off of full price PLUS 3 months FREE ***

Complete Short Course Bundle

IEQuery + **IETLB** + **IEQS** + **IEVLT** + **IECS**: **Summer School Savings BUNDLE price: only $995**

*** 80% SAVINGS off of full price PLUS 3 months FREE ***

BlackBelt Bundle

IEAzure + **IEPTO1** + **IEPTO2** + **IECAG** + **IEQS** + **IEVLT** + **IECS**: **Summer School Savings BUNDLE price: only $4,995**

*** 70% SAVINGS off of full price PLUS 3 months FREE ***

Also, if you're an alumnus of one of our prior courses, your online account will automatically give you an ADDITIONAL 5% discount. If you don't already have an account on our system – but you are a prior student (of ANY Immersion Event)– please send Kimberly an email to get you set up as an alumnus.

Book Review

I've finished two books since the last newsletter…

The first is *2034: A Novel of the Next World War* by Elliot Ackerman and Admiral James Stavridis USN. I've been looking forward to reading this as I have great respect for Admiral Stavridis and his geopolitical views and commentary. It's not a pithy book at all, but is a good page turner as the conflict develops and has some interesting twists and turns that are entirely believable. Light-weight and a fast read, but worth it I think, so recommended.

The second is *Ready Player Two* by Ernest Cline. I'm mixed on this book, and there are a lot of negative reviews of this book online, citing: poor writing, too much woke writing, obvious sequel movie fodder, too much exposition, and more. I have to admit that after the first third of the book, I was a little bored for the second third, but then it picked up for the final third, which I read in one sitting. The middle third of the book was like someone narrating playing a 1980s textual adventure game. Overall, I enjoyed the book, but it wasn't as fresh and original as Ready Player One. However, I still recommend it for anyone who enjoyed Ready Player One.

The Curious Case of…

This section of the newsletter explains recent problems we've helped with on client systems or been asked about over email or #sqlhelp; they might be something you're experiencing too.

I had an email question last week from someone who wasn't using my wait stats script and hadn't looked in my waits library, and wanted to know why the wait type *PREEMPTIVE_OS_FLUSHFILEBUFFERS* was the highest one on their Linux instances. You can read about it in my blog post [here](…)…

Ponderings…

(From Kimberly this time – enjoy!)

The last 15 months have been a struggle for many. We've lost friends. We've lost family. We've been isolated. We've been depressed. We've gained weight. We've become frustrated.

OK, maybe not everyone has felt all of these. I know many who have. It's time to work towards getting out of this. Many of us are vaccinated or close to it and this should help. But, sadly, it's not the only thing that's going to get us through this. This is MY opinion and MY ponderings and I know not everyone will feel this way but we've decided to cancel all travel for 2021 and stay home – even now we're fully vaccinated. We want to take time to invest in ourselves and let the spread of Covid settle down even further. Yes, we can travel. Yes, we want to travel. But, no, it's just not worth it to potentially keep spreading this if we can avoid it.

While we know this isn't a magic bullet, we've decided to focus on ourselves and focus on local "travels." We've decided to get back into nature – locally. I always want to see EVERYTHING when I travel and yet I still haven't visited Mount St. Helens, which is so close to us here in Redmond. Even still, we're going to stay in Washington and visit local national parks. We're going to walk more. We're going to hike more. We're going to invest in ourselves to get out of this mental fog that's become somewhat the new normal. We're going to invest in ourselves while reducing our impact. We've already been camping – TWICE – and we loved it (and we're camping this week again!) It was the first time in 15+ years for either of us and the first time we've EVER camped together. I used to joke that camping was a three-star hotel. However, now we've definitely been camping with far fewer stars but seeing so many more! It's actually been really energizing.

Find what you love. Invest in yourself. Stay strong. We will get through this.

#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 log shipping. It's been around forever, is simple to configure, and has a bunch of uses. Here are some useful links:

- Glenn's Pluralsight course: *SQL Server: Understanding, Configuring and Troubleshooting Log Shipping*
- Whitepapers:
  - *Database Mirroring and Log Shipping Part I – Prescriptive Guidance*
  - *Proven SQL Server Architectures for High Availability and Disaster Recovery* (written by me)
  - *Database Mirroring and Log Shipping Working Together*
- Blog posts:
  - Paul: *SQLskills SQL101: Log shipping performance problems*
  - Glenn: *Upgrading SQL Server–Migrating with Log Shipping*

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

A backup in SQL Server creates more than the backup file you see on disk. Information is also written to *msdb*, and if you do not clean up that data regularly, it can have a negative impact on your system over time. Follow along with Erin in this week's video to make sure you're removing older backup history to keep your *msdb* database at a reasonable size.

The video is 8.5 minutes long and you can get it in MP4 format here and the demo code is here.

Enjoy!

Upcoming SQLskills Events

Our spring 2021 classes are over – see the top of the newsletter for amazing prices on course recordings!

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:

Fall 2021

- Schedule coming soon…

You can get all the details on our training options page or just go directly to our new shop.

<u>Summary</u>

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