

(June 15th, 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, WA, where we've just kicked off our summer sale!

Take care and stay safe out there!

SQLskills News

SQLskills Summer School Special Savings SALE!

Starting just in time for summer, we are 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" includes 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 started yesterday and lasts through the end of Friday, July 10. Each course is available individually but there are also even better budget-friendly bundles! Start thinking about what you want to learn and invest in your SQL Server future!

All the details are below and in our [online shop](#). Also, be sure to check out our suggested [Learning Paths](#), based on where you are in your data professional career.

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

From the 2009 archives: Umberto Eco's [The Name of the Rose](#). I love Eco's works (this is my 4th of his) – they're hugely involved and heavy going to read, with long sections of complex prose. His stories are always involved and erudite, and this is no exception – a murder-mystery set in an early 14th century Italian monastery, amidst the Imperial vs. Papal backed theological struggles of the time. Unfortunately I'd seen the movie so knew the end, but the book was excellent – lots of pithy, syllogistic discussion. Highly recommended, but not for the casual reader.

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 was asked an interesting question in email last week, started to answer, and then realized I'd written about it back in 2015. The question was what happens if a crash occurs, crash recovery starts, and then another crash occurs during a checkpoint operation. What does subsequent crash recovery do? You can read about the answer in my blog post [here](#)...

Ponderings...

(From me this time – enjoy! I first wrote about this problem ten years ago, and I’m still shocked and amazed every time it happens.)

Several times over the last month we were contacted by desperate people looking for a magic bullet to allow them to recover a badly-corrupt database without suffering data loss. And of course they don’t have backups either, or backups are many months old and would result in significant loss of data. In this situation, after asking for some *DBCC CHECKDB* output, my answer is often “game over”. At this point the options are to run repair (which may not be possible) and salvage what’s left, try to export out as much data as possible, or chance one of the third-party tools that try to extract valid data from a corrupt database.

I’m constantly amazed that people get themselves into this mess, and to be honest, it’s actually companies that are getting themselves into this mess, not individuals. And I don’t mean the mess of having a corrupt database – that can happen randomly to anyone – I mean the mess of having a corrupt database with absolutely no backups (not just slightly out-of-date but NO BACKUPS).

I’m going to go out on a limb and say that no matter how inexperienced the person is who is responsible for SQL Server at a company; it is simply inexcusable and irresponsible for a company to NOT have a backup of their critical data.

What’s a *little* more excusable is not testing the backups, but only a little more so. As an inexperienced DBA, one wouldn’t expect the database to become corrupted occasionally, and one wouldn’t expect the backups to become corrupted occasionally either.

What is grossly inexcusable is when *experienced* DBAs don’t test their backups or run database consistency checks – and so have no idea whether a restore will result in a corruption-free database, or whether the restore sequence will even work. But unfortunately this seems to be pretty common.

Call to action: be honest with yourself – if you’re not regularly (i.e. at least once a month) testing that your backups can be used for a trouble-free restore then you’re being unprofessional as a DBA, your company is at risk of losing data, and you’re at risk of losing your job if a disaster occurs and your recovery “*plan*” doesn’t work. Harsh words, but there’s no excuse – even the “we don’t have disk space or time” isn’t acceptable IMHO. This is where you need to get management involved and you need to make your case. Cover your data. Cover yourself.

#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.

Dealing with corruption is the theme for this TBT:

- My course: [SQL Server: Detecting and Correcting Database Corruption](#)
- My course: [SQL Server: Advanced Corruption Recovery Techniques](#)
- My blog post: [SQLskills SQL101: Why DBCC CHECKDB can miss memory corruption](#)
- My blog post: [SQLskills SQL101: Dealing with SQL Server corruption](#)
- My blog post: [Disaster recovery 101: fixing a broken boot page](#)
- My blog post: [Corruption recovery using DBCC WRITEPAGE](#)
- My [Corruption](#) blog post category

And since the last newsletter, a blog post:

- Jonathan: [Getting Maximum Performance From Always On Availability Groups](#)

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

Query Store Hints! They're here! Not sure what they are or how they work? Tune in to this week's video with Erin to learn more about this new feature that's in public preview in Azure SQL Database. That means you can use it TODAY!

The video is just over 11 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](#).

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