(August 18th, 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 I've been camping and working on our land all through the summer – I haven't spent a night in Redmond since mid-June! I have to tell you that being outside all the time has been wonderful and has had a really positive effect on my overall health. We have great cell service here too so I'm able to work outside as well. It's amazing how far cell/wifi has come, I can even see 106Mbps down!

Our 2021 Fall classes are open for registrations and we have a newsletter special for you: an additional $200 off the price of any upcoming LIVE class if you book it before the end of August – use the discount code NewSkills (case-insensitive).

Take care and stay safe out there!

SQLskills News

SQLskills Fall Classes!

All classes below include lifetime access to class recordings and materials. Details are available through our shop page, and click on the class names below to see more about each class.

Let us know if you have any questions and make sure to check out the bundles at the bottom for amazing cost savings!

IE0: Accidental and Junior DBAs

- 8 half days: September 13-16 and September 20-23, 2021 (8am-1pm Pacific)
- Early-bird price US$2,895 through September 1, then US$3,295
- Alumnus price US$2,695

IEPTO1: Performance Tuning and Optimization, Part 1

- 10 half days: October 11-15 and October 18-22, 2021 (9am-2pm Pacific)
- Early-bird price US$3,495 through September 1, then US$3,995
- Alumnus price US$3,295

IECAG: Clustering and Availability Groups

- 4 half days: November 1-4, 2021 (8am-1pm Pacific)
- Early-bird price US$1,495 through September 13, then US$1,695
- Alumnus price US$1,295

IECS: Columnstore Indexes

- 3 half days: November 16-18, 2021 (8am-1pm Pacific)
- Early-bird price US$795 through September 30, then US$995
- Alumnus price US$695

IEPTO2: Performance Tuning and Optimization, Part 2

- 10 half days: November 29-December 3 and December 6-10, 2021 (8am-1pm Pacific)
- Early-bird price US$3,495 through October 17, then US$3,995
- Alumnus price US$3,295

IEAzure: Azure SQL Database, Azure VMs, Azure Managed Instance

- 7 half days: January 10-13 and January 18-20, 2022 (9am-2pm Pacific)
- Early-bird price US$2,895 through November 14, then US$3,295
- Alumnus price US$2,695

Live Performance Tuning Bundle (IEPTO1 and IEPTO2)

- Early-bird price US$4,995 through September 13, then US$5,995
- Alumnus price US$4,695
- Only available for purchase through October 9

Live Blackbelt Bundle

- All above classes except IE0, plus recordings of IEQS on Query Store and IEVLT on Very-Large Tables/Partitioning
- Early-bird price US$7,995 through September 13, then US$9,995
- Alumnus price US$7,295
- Only available for purchase through October 9

All the details are in our online shop. Also, be sure to check out our suggested Learning Paths, based on where you are in your data professional career.

If you're an alumnus of one of our prior courses, your online account will automatically give you an ADDITIONAL 5% discount off any recorded course and direct access to all of our alumnus pricing above. 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 help you get the best price on your first course. Once you're in the system, your "member pricing" will reflect the alumnus discounts!

Book Review

The latest book I've read is Dan Simmons' *Drood: A Novel*. I read the first 200 pages of this on a dive trip a few years ago and then forgot about it so I restarted it last week. I spend a couple of hours each afternoon reading in the shade. Amazon's précis sums up the book perfectly: "On June 9, 1865, while traveling by train to London with his secret mistress, 53-year-old Charles Dickens--at the height of his powers and popularity, the most famous and successful novelist in the world and perhaps in the history of the world--hurtled into a disaster that changed his life forever. Did Dickens begin living a dark double life after the accident? Were his nightly forays into the worst slums of London and his deepening obsession with corpses, crypts, murder, opium dens, the use of lime pits to dissolve bodies, and a hidden subterranean London mere research… or something more terrifying? Just as he did in The Terror, Dan Simmons draws impeccably from history to create a gloriously engaging and terrifying narrative. Based on the historical details of Charles Dickens's life and narrated by Wilkie Collins (Dickens's friend, frequent collaborator, and Salieri-style secret rival), DROOD explores the still-unsolved mysteries of the famous author's last years and may provide the key to Dickens's final, unfinished work: The Mystery of Edwin Drood. Chilling, haunting, and utterly original, DROOD is Dan Simmons at his powerful best." Excellent stuff - highly recommended! (And his book *The Terror*, plus the *Hyperion* series...)

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.

Several times over the last few months Jonathan has run into performance issues with clients using the AT TIME ZONE syntax. After digging into what's going on under the covers using the XPerf tool, he found out what the problem is. You can read all about it, plus how to avoid the performance issue, in Jon's recent blog post here…

Ponderings…

(From me this time – non-technical – enjoy!)

As I mentioned in the newsletter introduction, I've been living in our glamping campsite on our new land near Concrete, WA since June 17th, so exactly two months to the day. Kimberly's been up here a lot, but makes a multi-night trip home every 7-10 days for appointments and so on (and I'm very grateful to her for bringing up all my Amazon purchases and doing the laundry each time – she's wonderful!). I have been down a few times to pick up large things that need a trailer, but I haven't been down there for a few weeks now.

Why did I decide to do this?

Well, as you all read in the newsletter back in February I was pretty down, and managed to get over that before all our Spring classes happened. But I was still in a 'physical' rut. I'd put on a bunch of weight during the pandemic and I really detest working out. So, in mid-June I said screw it, I'm going to stay on the new property from now until October. I hadn't been camping or working outside regularly for 15 years so it was time for a change.

One of the reasons I was so excited about the land is that I love working outside and it's basically a 'free' workout, without the tedium of forced exercise. And I was amazed at how quickly the human body can mend itself – after just a month I'd lost 30 pounds, stopped having muscle aches, and became noticeably stronger and with better stamina. We have a near infinite amount of outside work to do, and when my tractor arrives mid-September (Kubota has a three-month wait at the moment…) I'll be even busier so it's just going to get better and better.

Another reason I was excited is that Kimberly and my favorite thing to do together is scuba diving, but we haven't been since March 2020 and many of our other hobbies are one-person things. So getting this land is an immediate 'hobby' to draw us together for the rest of our days.

To be honest, it's one of the best decisions we've ever made, and making the life change over the summer to be up here has reinvigorated my health and happiness. There's wildlife everywhere (birds, lizards, snakes, snowshoe hares, cottontail rabbits, chipmunks, deer, bears, and we've even seen cougar tracks) and it's nicely isolated from chaos; something we've greatly enjoyed!

Call to action: Don't be afraid to make a change in your life, whether at home or at work, to get yourself out of a rut and back to enjoying life again!

#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 query plan and query performance analysis:

- Erin's Pluralsight course: *SQL Server: Analyzing Query Performance for Developers*
- Joe's Pluralsight course: *SQL Server: Query Plan Analysis*
- Erin's Pluralsight course: *SQL Server: Introduction to Query Store*
- Joe's Pluralsight course: *SQL Server: Troubleshooting Query Plan Quality Issues*
- My blog post: *Query plan analysis first steps*
- Joe's whitepaper: *Optimizing Your Query Plans with the SQL Server 2014 Cardinality Estimator*

And since the last newsletter, blog posts:

- Paul: *The DBCC_OBJECT_METADATA latch*
- Jonathan: *AT TIME ZONE Performance Issues*
- Jonathan: *More About AT TIME ZONE*
- Jonathan: *Upgrading/Migrating Large Replicated Databases Without Reinitializing*
- Erin: *Remove Data from Query Store*

 I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

The demo video this time is a slide excerpt from Jonathan's Pluralsight course *SQL Server: Deadlock Analysis and Prevention*. You may not know it but deadlocks don't just involve locks and Jon explains here how you can get deadlocks involving query execution memory grants.

The video is just over minutes long and you can get it in WMV format here.

Enjoy!

Upcoming SQLskills Events

Our Fall 2021 classes are all 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:

Fall 2021

- **IE0: Accidental and Junior DBAs**
    - 8 half days: September 13-16 and September 20-23, 2021 (8am-1pm Pacific)
- **IEPTO1: Performance Tuning and Optimization, Part 1**
    - 10 half days: October 11-15 and October 18-22, 2021 (9am-2pm Pacific)
- **IECAG: Clustering and Availability Groups**

- o 4 half days: November 1-4, 2021 (8am-1pm Pacific)
- **IECS: Columnstore Indexes**
  - o 3 half days: November 16-18, 2021 (8am-1pm Pacific)
- **IEPTO2: Performance Tuning and Optimization, Part 2**
  - o 10 half days: November 29-December 3 and December 6-10, 2021 (8am-1pm Pacific)
- **IEAzure: Azure SQL Database, Azure VMs, Azure Managed Instance**
  - o 7 half days: January 10-13 and January 18-20, 2022 (9am-2pm Pacific)
- **Live Performance Tuning Bundle (IEPTO1 and IEPTO2)**
  - o Only available for purchase through October 9
- **Live Blackbelt Bundle**
  - o All above classes except IE0, plus recordings of IEQS on Query Store and IEVLT on Very-Large Tables/Partitioning
  - o Only available for purchase through October 9

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

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