

(September 15<sup>th</sup>, 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'm still camping and working on our land – it's so peaceful out here – but it's starting to get a little chilly!

**Through September we're knocking US\$500 of the price of a server audit for new clients – only US\$2,495 for a comprehensive review – contact us [here](#)!**

**Take care and stay safe out there!**

### **SQLskills News**

#### **SQLskills Insider Sessions!**

We've been thinking a lot about work-life balance and the continued stresses from the ongoing pandemic and we decided that we would push our upcoming classes to Spring 2022. A huge thank you to all of you who were registered to either move to Spring or change to recorded courses – no one chose a refund. And, it makes sense too – we just recorded a round of our most popular courses (IEPTO1, IEPTO2, and IEAzure++) this past Spring on SQL Server 2019 so there's great, [fresh content already available](#).

So, what can you do this Fall? Dedicate some time to staying up-to-date! Consider taking some classes, look at upcoming FREE conferences like PASS and Ignite, but above all, make time for YOU! Make time for learning and staying healthy, both mentally and physically! In these stressful times, there's no better investment!

For SQL Server (and many other things), it can be great to create a dedicated and regularly scheduled "block" of time for that task. And, we will help fill it with content! Whether you attend one or all of our **FREE SQLskills Insider Sessions**, you should still consider some regularly blocked time for YOUR learning and YOUR career.

As for SQL Server, we're going to run different topics or a theme for a few weeks and then we're going to follow them up with an open Q&A. These LIVE, interactive sessions are completely FREE and will always happen at the same time – beginning at 10:00am Pacific Time. We're going to put together a web page with more details and a registration link so you can get

reminders for the specific sessions in which you want to attend. The only requirement – you need to be a SQLskills Insider!

These SQLskills Insider Sessions will begin on Wednesday, October 6 and will run almost every Wednesday (unless it conflicts with another event or US holiday) and run for up to 75 minutes of content (sometimes they'll be shorter), up to 15 minutes of Q&A (sometimes a few of us might stay longer) and will be a great way to remind you of things you may already know or just allow you to stay fresh.

To start things off, Kimberly is going to do a series on statement execution, stored procedures, caching (the good and the bad), and recompilation; she'll follow up this series with an Ask Anything Q&A.

- All of these will be 10:00am PT until 11:30 PT (75 mins presentation, 15 mins Q&A)
- **SQLskills Insider Session: Statement Execution and Caching**
  - Wednesday, October 6, 2021
- **SQLskills Insider Session: Plan Cache Pollution and Clean Up**
  - Wednesday, October 13, 2021
- **SQLskills Insider Session: Stored Procedures, Part 1 – Execution and Caching**
  - Wednesday, October 20, 2021
- **SQLskills Insider Session: Stored Procedures, Part 2 – Caching Problems and Recompilation**
  - Wednesday, October 27, 2021
- **SQLskills Insider Session: Ask Anything Q&A – Caching and Recompilations**
  - Wednesday, November 3, 2021

We will skip an Insider Session on November 10<sup>th</sup> as the [FREE PASS Conference](#) will be running that day (Wednesday, November 10 through Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>!

Our thought: block around this time – EVERY Wednesday! **Dedicate 2 hours a week to Improving Your SQL skills with SQLskills!** Join us when it makes sense (hopefully always! 😊) or, read blog posts, review topics of interest, go spelunking in the documentation on a topic that's always interested you. Stay fresh, stay current – stay ahead of the competition!

Block the time NOW and we'll send you more details in the next newsletter!

### **PASS Data Community Summit**

Both Erin and Kimberly are presenting full-day workshops at the Summit in November:

- Erin: [Finding Problems and Stabilizing Performance with Query Store](#)
- Kimberly: [Solving Query Performance Problems with Statistics](#)

The main registration page is [here](#).

## **Book Review**

The latest book I've read is Richard Powers' [\*The Overstory: A Novel\*](#). What a wonderful book! From Amazon: "The Overstory, winner of the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction, is a sweeping, impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of—and paean to—the natural world. From the roots to the crown and back to the seeds, Richard Powers's twelfth novel unfolds in concentric rings of interlocking fables that range from antebellum New York to the late twentieth-century Timber Wars of the Pacific Northwest and beyond. There is a world alongside ours—vast, slow, interconnected, resourceful, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible to us. This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see that world and who are drawn up into its unfolding catastrophe." Highly recommended!

## **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.*

Last week I had a question in email asking about weird corruption problems and messages in the error log about SQL Server having to try a read multiple times. You can read my explanation of what this means and why it's pretty bad [here](#)...

## **Ponderings...**

*(From Kimberly this time— enjoy!)*

This last 18 months has been difficult. A few things went back to normal and then didn't stay that way. Friends and family have become sick. Being at home has gotten very old. As you've seen, Paul and I made some personal changes to get out and be in nature. We purchased some land and have been camping on it; Paul hasn't slept in Redmond since June 17! I know this isn't possible for everyone; we'd been planning this for quite some time already. But, it's important to really consider YOU and what YOU need in these difficult times.

We've added our SQLskills Insider Sessions to help you stay ahead in tech but we want to remind you that life is not all about work. It's difficult, but possible to make changes and an investment in YOU. In SQL, we are so fortunate to love what we do – and we have an incredible community with which we get to interact. But, not everyone reaches out for help. Not everyone discusses their (dare, I say it) *feelings*.

In addition to making time for tech, make time for YOU. And, YOUR health. And, YOUR family, etc. Work IS important; it's where we make our livelihood. But, if we don't make time for ourselves and our family, we could lose what we value most.

Consider weekly calls to various family and friends you haven't recently reached out to. Many of us are “fire-driven” in our work (I know this can be especially true at times and for many DBAs);

we're constantly putting out fires and working on "incredibly important" issues. Sometimes we lose track of the day and it's suddenly 2 hours later than we wanted to end work. We've sat in that chair for hours and now we're exhausted.

There are LOTS of tips and tricks around changing some of these bad habits. Get an hourglass (or 5 mins or 15 mins or 30 mins) and use these as a way of forcing you to another task – or to get up. Or, just set your phone's alarm and get up and walk away. Clear your head. You'd be surprised at what it can do to bring you clarity to that problem you've been working on.

Above all, schedule some time for YOU.

Stay happy and healthy friends. We will get through all of this, together!

## **#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.*

In this TBT I want to point you at a 30-part blog post series that the team did a few years ago that covers a lot of introductory topics, aimed at accidental/involuntary DBAs. Rather than listing all 30 posts, [here](#) is a link to the main page for the series. The series covers these main areas:

- Setup and configuration
- Backups
- Implementing maintenance and security
- Troubleshooting performance
- High availability
- General troubleshooting
- Although the series was aimed at accidental DBAs, these posts are all worth reading to make sure your basic understanding of topics is current and complete.

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

## **Video Demo**

Do you have some really large tables in your database that no one talks about (but everyone knows about) and you need to remove data from them? Or have you been asked to purge data from some tables, but aren't sure how to approach it? You're not alone. This week Erin talks through initial considerations for removing a lot of data from a table, so you can understand what to avoid (and why) and how to efficiently remove or archive information without bringing down the system.

The video is about 18.5 minutes long and you can get it in WMV format [here](#).

The demo code is [here](#).

Enjoy!

### **Upcoming SQLskills Events**

We've moved all our classes to early 2022 – schedule details will be published shortly.

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 2022

- Details 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

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