

(December 14th, 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!

The last newsletter of the year! It's been quite a roller-coaster this year and I'm looking forward to the world being a better place in 2022. We'll be back with the next newsletter at the start of January.

From all of us at SQLskills, whatever you celebrate in the upcoming holiday season, we thank you for your support during 2021 and wish you the very best!

SQLskills News

END OF YEAR BLOWOUT SALE through Christmas Day – We're feeling festive!

These are the best prices we've ever offered. We hope that these deep discounts allow you to get the training you need so you can stay on top of your career and SQL Server technology!

These BETTER-THAN-BLACK-FRIDAY, ROCK-BOTTOM PRICES are AVAILABLE through 23:59:59.997 December 25, 2021 UTC.

Everything is on sale, for example:

- Our signature Blackbelt Bundle is usually \$6,995; on sale for \$1,999!
- Performance Tuning Bundle (IEPTO1 and IEPTO2) is usually \$3,395; on sale for \$899!
- IEAzure is usually \$3,295; on sale for \$425!
- Our 3-day short courses are usually \$795-\$995; on sale for \$99-\$125!

These prices are available ONLINE and with CREDIT CARD purchases ONLY. Each person wanting to go through this deep, technical training sets up their own account during the purchase process; and access will be given immediately upon the completion of the purchase.

All the details are in our shop [HERE](#).

SQLskills Insider Sessions!

We wrote about the motivation behind our Insider Sessions and you can register for just one, or the entire series here: <https://www.SQLskills.com/iSessions>.

The main page with all the details is [here](#).

Coming up:

- **SQLskills Insider Session: Understanding Statistics: More on The Histogram with Kimberly L. Tripp**
 - Wednesday, December 15, 2021 – [details](#)
- **SQLskills Insider Holiday Party... all bets are off and no technical content is expected!**
 - Wednesday, December 22, 2021

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, register online, and each week we'll send you a meeting link with joining instructions. And, stay tuned, we'll announce the rest of the year's line-up of topics and speakers soon!

Book Review

The most recent book I've read is Neil Gaiman's [The Absolute Sandman: Volume 1](#). The Sandman is one of the very few comics I can read, and it's just excellent. The Sandman is Dream, one of the Endless, along with Death, Destiny, Despair, Delirium, Destruction, and Desire. This is the first of five hardback anthologies of Gaiman's work, of which I have four (the fifth is a collection of odds and ends I wasn't really interested in). It's my third time reading it (2008, 2014) and I've been re-reading it over the last week, inspired by the news that the comics are going to be made into a Netflix series. Highly recommended for comics fans!

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.

We've had some cases recently where Query Store was causing problems and the client couldn't shut it off. Luckily there's a solution that Erin blogged about a while back. You can read all about it in her post [here](#)...

Ponderings...

(From me this time – I was going to write a brand new one but with my Dad being rushed to hospital in Scotland on Saturday and in ICU, plus two friends passing away suddenly on Monday

and a Covid booster shot in the afternoon, I just don't have it in me. This is a re-run of an editorial from 2019, on a subject I still get asked about a lot. Enjoy, and hug your loved ones!)

In [newsletter #4](#) in April 2011 my editorial was a rant about the cloud, and how I was getting tired of hearing about it over and over and being pushed to start using it when it had so many drawbacks and limitations compared to on-premises SQL Server.

Fast forward 8 years and now the cloud is definitely a major force in the I.T. world, whether we're talking about Microsoft Azure, Amazon AWS, or others, and we've embraced it at SQLskills, with classes, Pluralsight courses, and consulting with clients.

The problem I see now is that many on-premises DBAs are wondering whether the cloud is sounding the death knell for their job role. Last week while teaching IEPTO1, I had five people come up to ask me whether I thought the on-premises DBA role was dying.

My answer is an unequivocal 'NO!' The on-premises DBA role is definitely not dying; it's evolving.

It's not dying because there are a huge number of companies with extensive SQL Server environments that will not move to the cloud, for a number of possible reasons:

- They have a huge capital investment in hardware already
- The workloads are (or are perceived to be) too large to be run in the cloud
- The workload performance requirements are (or are perceived to be) too stringent to run in the cloud
- The I.T. infrastructure is (or is perceived to be) too complex to move to the cloud
- They want to maintain complete control over the I.T. infrastructure
- There would not be a cost saving from moving to the cloud

Don't get me wrong – lots of companies **are** moving part or all of their SQL Server environments to the cloud, but lots are not. In these latter companies, on-premises DBAs will obviously still be required for a long time to come. And, even if your company straddles the fence, with some on-premises servers and some in the cloud, there's still an important role for the DBA.

However, the on-premises DBA role is definitely evolving, and to make sure you're still a highly-desired employee, there are some areas you should look at learning or getting experience with:

- DevOps, to tighten up code releases so it's not just developers throwing code over the wall into production and the DBA has to figure out performance problems
- Data visualization, for instance with PowerBI, even if just to show performance trends on the servers you manage

- Machine learning and data science, to help the company gain valuable insight into the data they have
- The cloud, ironically, so that if your company *does* decide to move any of its environment to the cloud, you're prepared
- The latest releases (2016, 2017, and 2019) as I know there are a lot of you out there still running on 2008, 2008 R2, 2012 and you'll be upgrading those environments soon

Bottom line: the on-premises DBA role is definitely a good career choice still. Almost every week I'm approached by someone I know in the industry to see if I'm aware of any good DBAs that are looking for a job. There's a strong market for DBAs out there and I don't expect it to slack off anytime soon.

#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.

Partitioning is the theme for this TBT:

- Kimberly's intro to partitioning post: [SQLskills SQL101: Partitioning](#)
- Original partitioning whitepaper that Kimberly wrote (which is scenario based so it's still very applicable to all versions): [Partitioned Tables and Indexes in SQL Server 2005](#)
- Additional whitepaper written with focus on features rather than scenarios: [Partitioned Table and Index Strategies Using SQL Server 2008](#)
- Kimberly's [recorded IEVLT class](#)

Posts since the last newsletter:

- Erin: [Stats Q&A 1: Creating SQL Server Statistics](#)
- Erin: [Stats Q&A 2: Updating SQL Server Statistics](#)

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

In this week's video, I present a demo from my Pluralsight course [SQL Server: Advanced Corruption Recovery Techniques](#). The demo is a more complex scenario than the standard 'hack-attach' of a detached SUSPECT database; in this case, the file IDs of the detached database are not in the expected numerical order.

The video is just over 6 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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