

(January 4th, 2022)

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 first newsletter of 2022 – Happy New Year!

We had so many people tell us they wouldn't have budget for our sale until January that we extended the sale prices through mid-January – enjoy!

SQLskills News

END OF YEAR BLOWOUT SALE extended through Friday, January 14!

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 January 14, 2022 UTC; this is definitely the last extension.

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>. We thought we'd start them back up this week but we're making lots of decisions around when/how we deliver these so we're going to start next week (Jan 12). Kimberly wants to wrap up the statistics "internals / histogram"

discussions so be sure to review the resources posted [here](#) and the recommended PASS Session (link in those resources).

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

Coming up:

- **SQLskills Insider Session: Statistics Wrap-Up and Q&A with Kimberly L. Tripp**
 - Wednesday, January 12, 2022 ([details](#))

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

From the 2017 archives I present you DK's [Remarkable Books: The World's Most Beautiful and Historic Works](#). As you all know I'm seriously addicted to books and reading – a true bibliophile. I've been working through this wonderful book during December reading about a few books each day. Here's the Amazon blurb about it that describes is better than I can:

A beautifully illustrated guide to more than 75 of the world's most celebrated rare and seminal books and handwritten manuscripts ever produced with discussions of their purpose, features and creators. From ancient masterpieces such as The Art of War written on the leaves of bamboo to the stunningly illustrated Birds of America to Chairman Mao's Little Red Book, Remarkable Books delves into the stories behind the most incredible tomes ever produced offering an insight into their wider social and cultural context and is chronologically ordered to demonstrate the synergies between the growth in human knowledge and the bookmaking process. Alongside breathtaking images of the books and manuscripts themselves close-up views draw out interesting features which are discussed in greater detail while biographies tell the lives of the people who produced them. This coffee table-worthy book is wrapped in a textured jacket with gold foil making it a great gift for those with an interest in literature and art and design.

I'm familiar with many of the books covered especially the illustrated manuscripts from the Middle Ages as those are of particular interest to me. It really is a fantastic book itself and I hugely recommend it!

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 holiday break I was emailed by people looking for a bit of help to reattach damaged databases to SQL Server. I wrote about the 'hack attach' method back in 2010 and you can read my explanation of it [here](#)...

Ponderings...

(This editorial is adapted from my traditional first-newsletter-of-the-year editorial that I've been doing since 2014.)

At the start of every New Year it's always tempting to come up with a series of resolutions about things you're going to start doing, and it's tempting for me to write an editorial about planning to do new things. It's really easy to come up with ideas for cool things to *start* doing, which is why it's the easy route to take at the start of a new year.

But before you go too crazy with new ideas, consider a post mortem of your goals and plans from 2021. 2021 was a really crazy year, with most of us having to make big changes in how and where we worked. Look back at the year and see what didn't go well, and then figure out how to improve on those things. In my opinion, that's going to have a more positive effect on your life than continuing to do poorly on those things, and also try to add new things as well. (From 2014 to 2016, Kimberly commented "*the SQL development team could learn from this too...*", but with SQL Server 2016 and later versions, they really have been going back and fixing a bunch of things that were broken or outdated.)

During 2015, one of the things I had reinforced through the year while I mentored folks in the SQL community is that **everyone** has something with which they need help or advice, and I continue to swap emails with a few mentees when they ask for advice (in the years since 2015). I did the same thing with my 2020 mentees (who I mentored through 2021 too). I strongly advise you to get a mentor outside your management chain (and preferably outside your company) – someone to whom you can bounce questions and one that has no vested interest – other than just helping you out.

And I'm not just talking about things in your work life; I'm also talking about things in your personal life. Here are some examples of things to think about and consider improving upon for 2022:

- Your work/life balance
- The support your immediate manager gave you
- Your interactions with some of your colleagues

- Your interest in some aspects of your job
- Your career/skills development
- Resistance to change
- Keeping on top of performance fires
- Keeping track of goals and to-do lists
- Saying ‘no’ when you’re already overloaded
- Accepting a poor status quo at work instead of looking for a better job
- Finding time for disaster recovery planning/testing
- Finding time for all the little things that it’s easy to procrastinate about
- Finding time for your hobbies
- Finding time and motivation to become/stay healthy
- Keeping in touch with old friends and distant family
- Finding time to read some books or learn something new that’s non-work
- Your work/life balance (again, because it’s **so** important)

All of these can cause significant amounts of stress, so fixing them should be the first priority. Only once you have these items fixed, should you embark upon new and additional goals!

Call to action: Before you set cool, new goals for 2022 (whether at work or at home), do a post-mortem and work to fix the stuff from 2021 that was broken or didn’t go so well. Not only will it feel good but it’ll also reduce stress. And try to get a mentor!

#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 section this time is replication, still a hugely relevant and useful technology. Here are some resources for you:

- Joe’s Pluralsight course on [SQL Server: Transactional Replication Fundamentals](#) that has 2 hours explaining what replication is, how to set it up, how to monitor and troubleshoot it, and how to combine it with other HA technologies
- Whitepaper on [SQL Server Replication: Providing High-Availability Using Database Mirroring](#) that I wrote for Microsoft back in 2008, but is still completely relevant today and can be extrapolated to working with Availability Groups too.
- Old whitepaper on [Proven SQL Server Architectures for High Availability and Disaster Recovery](#) that I wrote for Microsoft in 2010, and isn’t listed on their site any more, but has an interesting set of architectures, including one using peer-to-peer replication.
- And a bunch of blog posts:

- [*In defense of transactional replication as an HA technology*](#)
- [*REPLICATION preventing log reuse but no replication configured*](#)
- [*The Transactional Replication Multiplier Effect*](#)
- [*When is the Publication Access List required?*](#)
- [*Transactional Replication Use Cases*](#)
- And check out the [Repltalk blog](#) that's been a fount of replication knowledge since 2010.

Posts since the last newsletter:

- Paul: [*How to Perform Point-in-Time Recovery of a SQL Server Database*](#) (on the SentryOne blog)

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

In this week's Insider Video Erin answers a few commonly asked questions about Query Store and discusses the Query Tuning Advisor and the very useful QDSToolbox.

The video is just over 9 minutes long and you can get it in MP4 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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