

(January 18<sup>th</sup>, 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!**

This newsletter is coming to you from Redmond, where we're working on some brand new classes that we'll be offering in a few months!

If you weren't able to get approval for a training purchase before the sale ended on Friday, send us an email at [training@sqlskills.com](mailto:training@sqlskills.com) before the end of January and we'll give you a discount code.

### **SQLskills News**

#### **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've started them back up in 2022 but we're going to cut back on the frequency. **But, the best news is that we've posted all of the prior sessions online for streaming. For free!** Just go to the completed sessions and you'll find all of the resources, and the videos! Enjoy.

As for the rest of this year, we'll have a few more scheduled by the next newsletter and between now and then – you can review some of what's already posted. The main page with all the details is [here](#).

Our thought: block some time – EVERY WEEK! **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 some time NOW, register online, and when a session is planned to run, 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 latest book I've read is Stuart A.P. Murray's [The Library: An Illustrated History](#). As a total bibliophile, anything to do with books interests me so I thought this would be a good read, and it

was. From Amazon: "Throughout the history of the world, libraries have been constructed, burned, discovered, raided, and cherished—and the treasures they've housed have evolved from early stone tablets to the mass-produced, bound paper books of our present day. The Library invites you to enter the libraries of ancient Greece, early China, Renaissance England, and modern-day America, and speaks to the book lover in all of us. Incorporating beautiful illustrations, insightful quotations, and many marvelous mysteries of libraries—their books, patrons, and keepers—this book is certain to provide you with a wealth of knowledge and enjoyment." Recommended for anyone who loves books.

### **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 was chatting with Jonathan about page compression and he didn't realize that there's an easy way to check whether page compression is working well for a table or index. You can read my explanation of it and get the simple T-SQL script [here](#)...

### **Ponderings...**

*(From me this time, short and sweet and not SQL Server related – enjoy!)*

One of the things I mentioned in the newsletter last time about New Year goal setting was finding more time for hobbies compared to 2021. During the last year I did absolutely nothing with my vast collection of electronics kits, components, and lab instruments, and Kimberly did absolutely nothing with her vast photo archive (around 200 thousand).

We are both determined to change that this year. Kimberly's already started spending a few hours each day processing photos and picking photos from various trips to make into photo books. With such a huge number of photos to go through, it's a sloooow process.

I've decided to rekindle my electronics passion through nostalgia. I got into electronics when I was ten years old, when my Dad gave me an electronics kit he'd put together, in a box he'd hand made, and the [Ladybird book](#) *Simple Electronics*. See [here](#) for photos. That kit led to me getting a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Computer Science and Electronics from the University of Edinburgh in 1994. Anyway, I found a copy of the book on eBay a few years ago and I'm going to remake all the circuits to remind me of my technical roots.

Fast forward a few years and Dad bought me another Ladybird book – *Building a Transistor Radio*. On one of the electronics Facebook groups I'm on, someone posted a [link to a PDF](#) of the book, so I've just downloaded it and I'm going to build the radio again. Dad built me a wooden enclosure with a circuit board made out of screws with large washers to trap the component legs,

and I built a radio. We used to have 60-feet of enameled copper wire in a big ‘V’ mounted in the back garden between the back wall and the house as my aerial, which entered the dining room through a tiny hole in the window frame next to where I did my electronics.

And one more thing... once a week we used to all walk the mile to our local library, with our cocker spaniel ‘Dylan’, and check out books. That was where I got my well-known passion for reading. Well, there were two books I used to check out regularly, *Adventures with Electronics* and *Adventures with Microelectronics*, and I always wanted to build the circuits in them but never got around to it. Back then I used to have to fill in a paper form to post to Maplin Electronics and send a postal order for a few pounds and then wait weeks for the components to arrive. A far cry from online browsing and delivery in a day or two today!

Anyway, after I downloaded the transistor radio book earlier today, I suddenly remembered the two other books, and I found them ‘used – very good’ in an online bookstore in the UK, and bought them! More wonderful nostalgia that I’ll enjoy when I read through them again 35 years on, and I’m going to make all the circuits this time!

**Call to action:** Hobbies don’t have to be something brand new. Think back to some hobby you used to have and you’ve neglected for a very long time and consider how much fun it used to be and the memories you’ll rediscover by starting it up again. Enjoy!

## **#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.*

I’ve got a new TBT this time – my Curious Case archives! There are a ton of interesting tidbits in here that you may have missed in earlier newsletters.

- [\*The Curious Case of... tracking page compression success rates\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... the BULK OPERATION lock during a heap NOLOCK scan\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... the un-killable thread\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... object ID 99\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... log generated during a DROP TABLE\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... lack of motivation\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... the failing differential restore\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... the aborted xdes map\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... resolving call stack symbols on SQL Server 2019\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... almost online index rebuilds\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... setting up a server for DBCC CHECKDB\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... extent scan fragmentation\*](#)

- [\*The Curious Case of... the 8060-byte row size limit\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... whether corruption can propagate to secondary databases\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... restoring a table into a different database\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... a sudden latency and memory usage increase\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... transactions rolling back during DBCC CHECKDB\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... a truncated log file after a revert from snapshot\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... emergency-mode repair\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... why a minimally-logged operation doesn't make a log backup smaller\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... too few log records for an offline index rebuild\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... what is the wait resource \(0:0:0\)?\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... why the transaction log has to be zero-initialized\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... how to find which page an index row is on\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... very long failover times with a large ad hoc workload\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... does SQL Server use a read/write thread per LUN?\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... trying to find an MDF file in a RAW disk\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... how to find FILESTREAM info from an MDF\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... the CLR assembly failure after an AG failover\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... unstoppable DBCC CHECKDB\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... faster disks causing more WRITELOG waits\*](#)
- [\*The Curious Case of... copying FILESTREAM files between tables\*](#)

Posts since the last newsletter:

- Paul: [\*The Curious Case of... tracking page compression success rates\*](#)
- Erin: [\*A Fond Farewell\*](#)

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

### **Video Demo**

If you're like a lot of folks in the database community, you use Ola Hallengren's scripts for maintenance, including managing index fragmentation and statistics. You might have even customized the execution of the IndexOptimize stored procedure a bit, so you're familiar with the different options. But if you haven't customized it, or you're not familiar with the options related to statistics, have you ever verified what statistics are updated? In this video Erin reviews the default values related to statistics, and discusses how to customize them to ensure you're keeping database stats up to date.

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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