

(May 26th, 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 I've got a trailer full of camp hardware to take up this weekend and stay for a week or so while Kimberly is on a dive trip (I'm not into travel yet).

Many thanks to everyone who sent well wishes when Kimberly and I had Covid-19 back in late March, even though both double-vaxxed and boosted. I was given IV monoclonal antibodies and Kimberly a course of Paxlovid – both of which worked really well and we recovered quickly. I just didn't get back into the routine of regular newsletters until now.

SQLskills News

Upcoming Summer School Special Savings SALE!

Starting just in time for summer, we will be offering fantastic prices to keep you learning and give you the summer for free! Get current and sharp on SQL Server 2019 so that you're ready to learn about SQL Server 2022 when it comes out. These SUPER LOW (**AT LEAST 80% OFF**) prices are for all of our recorded courses and bundles. Our "Summer School Special" includes extra time for you to really dive in as you'll get THE SUMMER FOR FREE! Recordings are usually accessible for 1 year from the date of purchase. For purchases made during the sale, your access won't expire until **Sept 30, 2022!**

The sale starts on Monday, June 13 and lasts through the end of Friday, July 8. Each course will be available individually but there will also be even better budget-friendly bundles. Start thinking about what you want to learn and invest in your SQL Server future!

These prices are so low... there are no additional discounts available. If your team wants to bulk purchase courses or bundles, we can offer an easier way to pay (one bill and then each attendee sets up their accounts after payment is received). Orders for individuals are available for credit card payment only. Send [Training an email](#) to ask about a bulk purchase order.

Here's what we have to offer (all prices in USD):

- IE0: Immersion Event for the Accidental and Junior DBA
 - Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 8 half days for over **32 HOURS** of content

- LIVE (normal price \$3,495) and 1 year access recordings for \$1,695
 - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only \$699 (80% OFF)**
- IEAzure: Immersion Event on Azure SQL Database, Azure VMs, and Azure Managed Instance
 - Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 6 half days for over **22 HOURS** of content
 - Regularly priced at \$3,295 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for \$1,695
 - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only \$659 (80% OFF)**
- IEPTO1: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 1
 - Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 10 half days for over **43 HOURS** of content
 - Regularly priced at \$3,995 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for \$1,995
 - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only \$799 (80% OFF)**
- IEPTO2: Immersion Event on Performance Tuning and Optimization – Part 2
 - Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 10 half days for over **40 HOURS** of content
 - Regularly priced at \$3,995 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for \$1,995
 - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only \$799 (80% OFF)**
- IECAG: Immersion Event on Clustering and Availability Groups
 - Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 4 half days for over **18 HOURS** of content
 - Regularly priced at \$1,695 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for \$845
 - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only \$339 (80% OFF)**
- IEQS: Immersion Event on Solving Common Performance Problems with Query Store
 - Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 3 half days for almost **10 HOURS** of content
 - Regularly priced at \$995 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for \$495
 - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only \$199 (80% OFF)**
- IEVLT: Immersion Event on Very Large Tables: Optimizing Performance and Availability through Partitioning
 - Recorded on SQL Server 2019 over 4 half days for almost **14 HOURS** of content
 - Regularly priced at \$995 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for \$495
 - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only \$199 (80% OFF)**
- IEQuery: Immersion Event on Fixing Slow Queries, Inefficient Code, and Caching/Statistics Problems
 - Recorded on SQL Server 2017 over 3 half days for over **11 HOURS** of content
 - Regularly priced at \$695 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for \$395
 - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only \$159 (80% OFF)**
- IETLB: Immersion Event on Transactions, Locking, Blocking, Isolation, and Versioning
 - Recorded on SQL Server 2017 over 3 half days for over **13 HOURS** of content
 - Regularly priced at \$695 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for \$395
 - **Summer School Savings SALE price: only \$159 (80% OFF)**
- IECS: Immersion Event on Columnstore Indexes
 - Recorded on SQL Server 2017 over 3 half days for almost **11 HOURS** of content
 - Regularly priced at \$695 LIVE and 1 year access recordings for \$395

- **Summer School Savings SALE price: only \$199 (80% OFF)**

And we have four bundles:

SQL Server Jumpstart Bundle

Courses: IE0 + IEQuery + IETLB:

Summer School Savings price: only \$749

***** 85% SAVINGS off of full price PLUS 3 months FREE *****

SQL Server Jumpstart+ Bundle

Courses: IE0 + IEQuery + IETLB + IEQS + IEVLT + IECS

Summer School Savings price: only \$1,210.50

***** 85% SAVINGS off of full price PLUS 3 months FREE *****

Performance Tuning Bundle

Courses: IEPTO1 + IEPTO2: Summer School Savings price: only \$1,198.50

***** 85% SAVINGS off of full price PLUS 3 months FREE *****

Complete Short Course Bundle

IEQuery + IETLB + IEQS + IEVLT + IECS: Summer School Savings price: only \$686.25

***** 85% SAVINGS off of full price PLUS 3 months FREE *****

BlackBelt Bundle

IEAzure + IEPTO1 + IEPTO2 + IECAG + IEQS + IEVLT + IECS: Summer School Savings price: only \$2,125.00

***** 87% SAVINGS off of full price PLUS 3 months FREE *****

PASS Data Community Summit Workshops

Both Kimberly and I are presenting pre-con workshops in Seattle at PASS in November, and we'll both be on stage for each other's workshop to help with questions.

- Monday, 11/14: Paul: Performance Troubleshooting with Waits and Latches
- Tuesday, 11/15: Kimberly: Indexing for Performance

Check out the details [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've started them back up in 2022 but we've 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.

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.

Book Review

The latest book I've read is Robert K. Massie's [*Castles of Steel: Britain, Germany, and the Winning of the Great War at Sea*](#). I've been bogged down on completing books the last month as I've been rotating between about ten 800+ page, pithy history books, and finally decided to concentrate on this one over the last week. This book is superb and covers the naval contest between Great Britain and Germany during WWI. It's an excellent follow-on to Massie's earlier [*Dreadnought*](#), about the arms race between the two navies leading up to WWI. I found it particularly interesting to read about several prior surface-ship incarnations of submarines my Dad served on, most notably H.M.S. Warspite (also H.M.S. Courageous and H.M.S. Resolution, and of course the future Faslane submarine base, H.M.S. Neptune, that I lived near and went to often growing up, having my own base pass at age 16).

It's hard for me to do a book like this justice in a quick review, so I'll excerpt from the Amazon review and encourage you to read it. "In a work of extraordinary narrative power, filled with brilliant personalities and vivid scenes of dramatic action, Robert K. Massie, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Peter the Great*, *Nicholas and Alexandra*, and *Dreadnought*, elevates to its proper historical importance the role of sea power in the winning of the Great War. ... Ultimately, the distinguishing feature of *Castles of Steel* is the author himself. The knowledge, understanding, and literary power Massie brings to this story are unparalleled. His portrayals of Winston Churchill, the British admirals Fisher, Jellicoe, and Beatty, and the Germans Scheer, Hipper, and Tirpitz are stunning in their veracity and artistry. *Castles of Steel* is about war at sea, leadership and command, courage, genius, and folly. All these elements are given magnificent scope by Robert K. Massie's special and widely hailed literary mastery."

Enormously recommended, especially for anyone interested in WWI and/or naval history. Read *Dreadnought* first!

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.

Back in April I had an email discussion with someone last week who was wondering about log backups and minimally-logged operations. Specifically they were confused as to how the log backup works if no checkpoint has occurred since the operation completed. Surely the data pages are still dirty in memory? You can read my explanation [here](#)...

Ponderings...

(From me this time – enjoy!)

As I was sitting on Sunday afternoon with a cup of coffee and wondering what to write about for the newsletter, I happened to be looking at my blog, and specifically the Most Popular Posts section (which you may not be able to see – more on that coming...) and thought to myself that the numbers weren't updating. I experimented and found that they really weren't.

So I thought I'd do some investigation of the Wordpress plugin ([Wordpress Popular Posts](#)) and its settings, and look in its support forum to see whether there were any known issues. There was, so I thought I'd fix the problem myself and impress Jonathan (our web master).

As an aside, although I'm very smart, I'm not known for having the most common sense, and I've tried messing with Wordpress before and managed to cause varying degrees of problems, so you'd think I'd have remembered, backed away, and waited until Monday to talk to Jon about it, but no...

I figured I'd update the plugin – what could go wrong? Apparently, quite a bit. I pressed the button to update the plugin, the little spinney icon spun for a bit, and then it said it failed to remove the old plugin.

At this point I really should have backed away, but no...

I decided to deactivate the plugin, thinking that this would remove it properly. So I clicked the deactivate button. That seemed to work, and the number of plugins dropped by one. Success! Or so it seemed...

Next I went to the Add Plugins page, searched for Wordpress Popular Posts and clicked Install Now. The little spinney icon did its thing for a bit and then it changed to Install Failed!

Boo!

At this point I was smart enough to back away and send a groveling email to Jon asking for help on Monday morning. He is a Wordpress expert, speaks PHP and stuff, and he'll fix it easily, no doubt. And then he'll ask me to please not do that again (or maybe something less polite ☺).

However, the Most Popular Posts portion of my blog has disappeared until he does.

Call to action: It's really easy to do a little research, jump to a conclusion, and embark on a course of action that ends up breaking something badly. The SQL Server (I had to mention that somewhere!) example that springs to mind is someone removing a transaction log file to try to get crash recovery to go faster. In cases like these, it's usually better to ask for help from someone who knows what they're doing, rather than rashly proceeding and ultimately failing, or at least testing the chosen course of action before doing it in production.

PS I hope that story made you chuckle. And as I was finishing writing this, I got an email from Jon saying he'd fix it in a minute... Thanks Jon!

#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 #TBT this time is deadlocks so here are some resources for you:

- Jonathan's Pluralsight courses: [SQL Server: Deadlock Analysis and Prevention](#)
- The [deadlock entry](#) from our [Accidental DBA blog-post series](#)
- Jonathan's very long SimpleTalk article on [Handling Deadlocks in SQL Server](#), which is an excerpt from his popular (and free) e-book [Troubleshooting SQL Server: A Guide for the Accidental DBA](#)

Posts since the last newsletter:

- Paul: [The Curious Case of... eager writing and minimally-logged operations](#)
- Paul: [The SQL Server Transaction Log, Part 3: Logging Basics](#) (on SQLPerformance.com)
- Paul: [T-SQL UNION Operator: A How-To Guide](#) (on the SentryOne blog)
- Paul: [SQL Server T-SQL SELECT DISTINCT Clause Tutorial](#) (on the SentryOne blog)
- Paul: [An Introduction to SQL Server T-SQL ORDER BY Clause](#) (on the SentryOne blog)

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

In this week's demo video, Jonathan shows how to change the scripting options in Management Studio to script statistics with their histogram for troubleshooting performance regressions and finding the root cause as efficiently as possible.

The video is 8 minutes long and you can get it in MP4 format [here](#).

Enjoy!

Upcoming SQLskills Events

We're not running any public classes this year, instead we're waiting for SQL Server 2022 to be released and we'll run classes in 2023.

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](#)

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

Paul@SQLskills.com and Kimberly@SQLskills.com