

(June 13th, 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 very excited to kick off our annual summer sale!

SQLskills News

It's here – the Summer School Special Savings SALE!

Starting just in time for summer, we are 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 today and lasts through the end of **Friday, July 8**. Each course is available individually but there are also even better budget-friendly bundles.

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 \$139 (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 \$139 (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 \$139 (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 Fareed Zakaria's [*Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World*](#). I've always enjoyed Zakaria's foreign policy column in Time magazine, but this was the first of his books that I've read. I really enjoyed it – the same insightful, unpretentious style as his column. From Amazon: "Lenin once said, 'There are decades when nothing happens and weeks when decades happen.'" This is one of those times when history has sped up. CNN host and best-selling author Fareed Zakaria helps readers to understand the nature of a post-pandemic world: the political, social, technological, and economic consequences that may take years to unfold. Written in the form of ten "lessons," covering topics from natural and biological risks to the rise of "digital life" to an emerging bipolar world order, Zakaria helps readers to begin thinking beyond the immediate effects of COVID-19. *Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World* speaks to past, present, and future, and, while urgent and timely, is sure to become an enduring reflection on life in the early twenty-first century." 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 from someone about why DBCC DROPCLEANBUFFERS wasn't working as expected. I wrote about this back in 2015, and you can read my explanation [here](#)...

Ponderings...

(From me this time. I was contacted by a random person last week whose company was the victim of an encryption ransomware attack – I got one every few weeks – and they had no backups and corrupt files, so nothing I could do. It reminded me of a story I like telling around backups from my Microsoft days, that I wrote about in the newsletter 7 years ago. Here it is again – enjoy!)

I'm writing this while still at SQLIntersection and I've just finished presenting a new DBA Mythbusters session. I love doing sessions like this as I get to jump around all over the SQL Server Engine and talk about lots of different things.

One of the myths I busted in the session is “Always plan a backup strategy”.

Now don’t get me wrong, you do need to have a backup strategy, but you shouldn’t start out by thinking about what your backup strategy is going to be.

Let me tell you a story.

Back while I was on the SQL Server development team at Microsoft, I happened to be on site with Product Support, when they took a call from a small bank with corruption problems. At first they were reluctant to discuss their backups, but once we showed how recovering without backups would mean data loss, they explained their situation.

They had a full database backup from the start of January, were using the full recovery mode, and had log backups from every half-hour. The problem was that we were then in late April – so more than 5,000 backups.

And they were all on tape!

We were very skeptical that the restore sequence would work without a problem but, miracle of miracles, it did. However, it took **three** days.

They’d called in on Tuesday and the restore sequence finished on Friday. For those three days, the entire bank was offline. No ATMs, no payments, no bill paying, and so on.

And they went out of business.

If your bank is unexpectedly down for, say, half a day, you’re unlikely to go through all the hassle of changing to a different bank. But if your bank is down for three days, now you won’t trust them and you’ll take your business somewhere else.

They thought they had a great backup strategy: full recovery mode and regular log backups. But they’d never tried doing a restore so didn’t realize it would take so long.

Call to action: The trick is to plan a **restore** strategy. Think about what restores you need to be able to do to meet your downtime and data loss service level agreements. That then dictates what backups you need to have so that you can do those restores. If you just think about things from a backup strategy point of view, you can get into trouble.

#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 transaction log is the theme for #TBT this time. Here are some transaction log resources for you:

- My 8-hour Pluralsight courses: [SQL Server: Logging, Recovery, and the Transaction Log](#)
- My [transaction log blog category](#)
- My [sqlperformance.com blog posts](#) on transaction log configuration and performance troubleshooting
- Kimberly's post on [VLF sizing](#)
- My TechNet Magazine article on [Understanding Logging and Recovery in SQL Server](#) (the formatting is messed up a bit on that web page)
- The [WRITELOG](#) page from my waits library

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

Video Demo

Continuing the backups theme from the Ponderings, the demo video this time is from my Pluralsight course [SQL Server: Understanding and Performing Backups](#). The demo creates a disaster scenario and then comes up with the optimal restore sequence.

The video is 4 minutes long and you can get it in MP4 format [here](#).

The demo code is [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

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