

(January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

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!**

Happy New Year! I hope 2023 is better for you than 2022, and that you all had an excellent holiday season!

As you know, I'm a huge introvert. One thing I realized at the weekend is that I've become too anti-social over the last few years, and probably unhealthily so. As I get older (50 last year!) I've realized I need some buddies in my life. I have them, but I need to be better at doing things with them. So my sole NY resolution is to be more social, and engage more with my good friends.

### **SQLskills End-Of-Year SUPER SAVINGS SALE!**

**It's still here – our Year-End SUPER SALE!**

**Everything below is in our [shop](#), through EOD January 15 (GMT).**

These SUPER LOW (**AT LEAST 80% OFF**) prices are for all of our **recorded** courses and bundles. These courses are available for you to stream immediately after a successful payment!

**These prices are so low... there are no additional discounts available.** If your team wants to bulk purchase courses or bundles for at least 6 people, we can offer an easier way to pay (one bill and then each attendee sets up their accounts after payment is received). Send [Training an email](#) to ask about a bulk purchase order.

**Orders for individuals are available for credit card payment only.**

**\*\* Remove the Expiration Date! \*\***

If you have already purchased the BlackBelt Bundle and purchase it again, **we will REMOVE the expiration dates on all 7 of the included courses**. Your access to these courses will NOT expire! If this is your first purchase and you want to remove the expiration date, purchase it a second time and we'll do the same thing (we'll remove the expiration date). In fact, any purchase that you make for a second time, individual courses or bundles; we'll REMOVE the expiration date!

NOTE: we'll have to remove the expiration dates manually. Complete your first purchase (possibly already done earlier this year or last, etc.). Then, complete your second purchase. Send an email to [training@sqlskills.com](mailto:training@sqlskills.com) with your username and order numbers and we'll remove the expiration dates!

## **Pricing for our ENTIRE RECORDED COURSE LIBRARY**

These prices are for already delivered and recorded, online courses. Access to these courses is available immediately! Access to your course(s) is for ONE year from date of purchase.

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
  - **EOY 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
  - **EOY 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
  - **EOY 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
  - **EOY 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
  - **EOY 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

- **EOY 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
  - **EOY 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
  - **EOY 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
  - **EOY 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
  - **EOY SALE price: only \$139 (80% OFF)**

## **Pricing for our EVEN LOWER PRICED BUNDLES**

These prices are for already delivered and recorded, online courses. Access to these courses is available immediately! Access to your courses is for ONE year from date of purchase.

### **SQL Server Jumpstart Bundle**

**Courses included: IE0 + IEQuery + IETLB:**

**EOY SALE price: only \$749**

**\*\* 85% SAVINGS off full price \*\***

### **SQL Server Jumpstart+ Bundle**

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

**EOY SALE price: only \$1,210.50**

**\*\* 85% SAVINGS off full price \*\***

## **Performance Tuning Bundle**

Courses included: IEPTO1 + IEPTO2

EOY SALE price: **only \$1,198.50**

**\*\* 85% SAVINGS off full price \*\***

## **Complete Short Course Bundle**

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

EOY SALE price: **only \$686.25**

**\*\* 85% SAVINGS off full price \*\***

## **BlackBelt Bundle**

Courses include: IEAzure + IEPTO1 + IEPTO2 + IECAG + IEQS + IEVLT + IECS

**REGULAR EOY SALE price: \$2,125.00**

**\*\* 87% SAVINGS off full price \*\***

## **Book Review**

The latest book I've finished (book #14 in 2022) is William Manchester and Paul Reid's [\*The Last Lion: Winston Spencer Churchill: Defender of the Realm, 1940-1965\*](#). This is the final book in Manchester's magisterial biography of Winston Spencer Churchill (covering 1940-1965). It was started by Manchester and completed by Reid, by prior arrangement, after his death in 2004. It was a real page-tuner just like the prior volumes, as it's not just about Churchill, but also about political times he lived in, and especially the conduct of WWII, about which I've read very little in the past. And it's just fascinating! Churchill was definitely a complicated person, larger-than-life, and a furiously-productive literary and oratorical genius, although almost absurdly ambitious, rebellious, and stubborn at times. Btw, Churchill has been a contentious figure in recent years, but I'm a believer in not harshly judging all figures from the past using the morals and beliefs of the present. No doubt some of you will disagree. I'm very pleased to have read about his colorful life over the last two years (and 3,000 pages), and I've really got a bug for biographies now. 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.*

Over the holiday break, I was asked by two separate clients why they couldn't kill a DBCC CHECKDB process. You can read about it in my post from 2019 [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 2022. 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), and now I'm doing it again for the next six months with my 2023 mentees. 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 2023:

- 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 2023 (whether at work or at home), do a post-mortem and work to fix the stuff from 2022 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 this time is query plan and query performance analysis:

- Erin's Pluralsight course: [SQL Server: Analyzing Query Performance for Developers](#)
- Joe's Pluralsight course: [SQL Server: Query Plan Analysis](#)
- Erin's Pluralsight course: [SQL Server: Introduction to Query Store](#)
- Joe's Pluralsight course: [SQL Server: Troubleshooting Query Plan Quality Issues](#)
- My blog post: [Query plan analysis first steps](#)
- Joe's whitepaper: [Optimizing Your Query Plans with the SQL Server 2014 Cardinality Estimator](#)

And blog posts since the last newsletter:

- Paul: [The Mentoring Class of 2023](#)
- Paul: [Mentoring 2023 – want some help from me?](#)

I hope you find these useful and interesting!

## **Video Demo**

In the first demo video of the year, Jonathan takes a look at some cool new features in SQL Server 2022 for backup metadata.

The video is about 5 minutes long and you can get it in WMV format [here](#).

The demo code is available [here](#).

Enjoy!

### **Upcoming SQLskills Events**

We've decided to record SQL Server 2022 updates relevant to our class material rather than running full classes, as, to be honest, not much has changed in our space and 2022 focused a lot on Azure extensions.

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 [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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