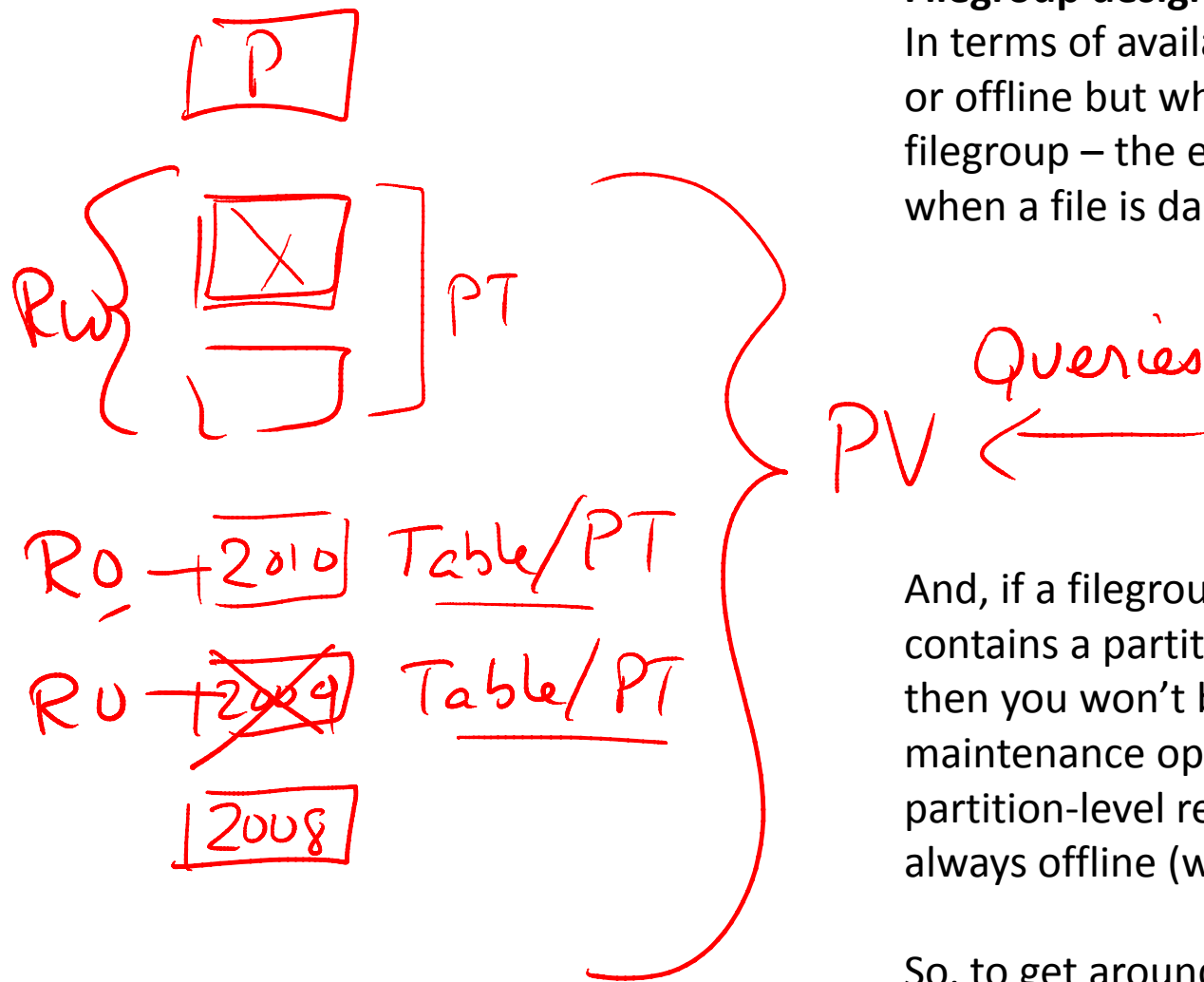


Filegroup design/backup strategy

In terms of availability, a file can be online or offline but when a file is a member of a filegroup – the entire filegroup is offline when a file is damaged.

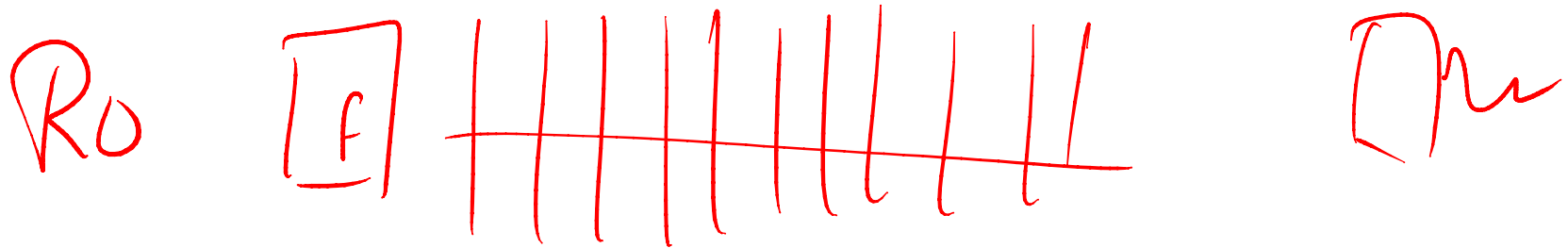


And, if a filegroup is set to READONLY and it contains a partition of partitioned table – then you won't be able to do ONLINE maintenance operations. You can ONLY do partition-level rebuilds and these are always offline (which stinks).

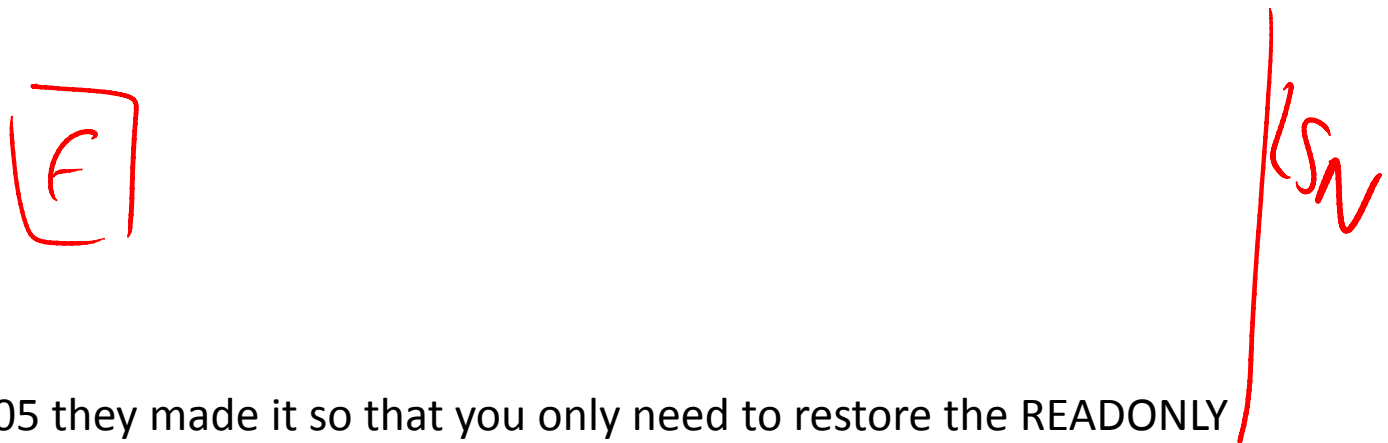
So, to get around that – I like to create smaller tables and UNION [ALL] them into a view (Partitioned Views). That tends to get you the best of both worlds!

Restoring Logs

In older versions 7.0/2000 – you needed to apply all transaction logs EVEN when the filegroup had been marked as READONLY.

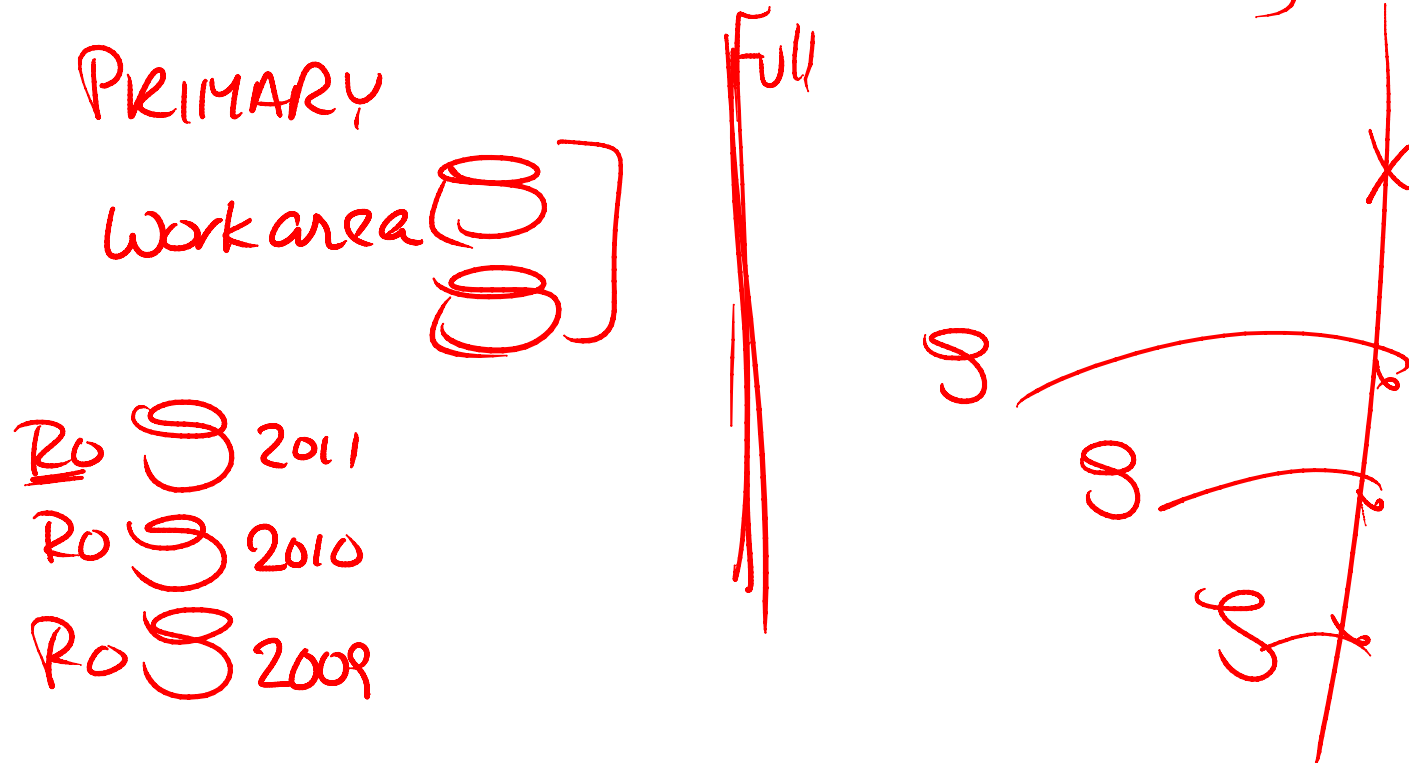


The trick was to do differentials (even though they didn't have any changes in them)...



In SQL Server 2005 they made it so that you only need to restore the READONLY filegroup. You do not need to “bring the filegroup forward” by applying logs. They know the last LSN where it was modified and if the FG that you restore matches that – you’re done!

2005 Simple Rec Mod



As of SQL 2005 – granular backups in SIMPLE!

Finally, you can even do file/filegroup backups in the SIMPLE recovery model. Basically, you need to treat READWRITE as a unit. The READONLY can be backed up and restored individually. This gives you a lot of options if you have a large DW that needs a work area but you don't need recovery of the work area (and you don't want to do log management). This gives you a very powerful hybrid with granular backups.