

SQLskills Immersion Training

IE2: Performance Tuning

Kimberly's Whiteboard Drawings and Annotations

Kimberly L. Tripp
Kimberly@SQLskills.com



NOTE: Includes whiteboard drawings from prior IE courses
+ drawings done the week of May 6, 2013
Chicago, IL – IE2 Training

SQLskills Immersion Training

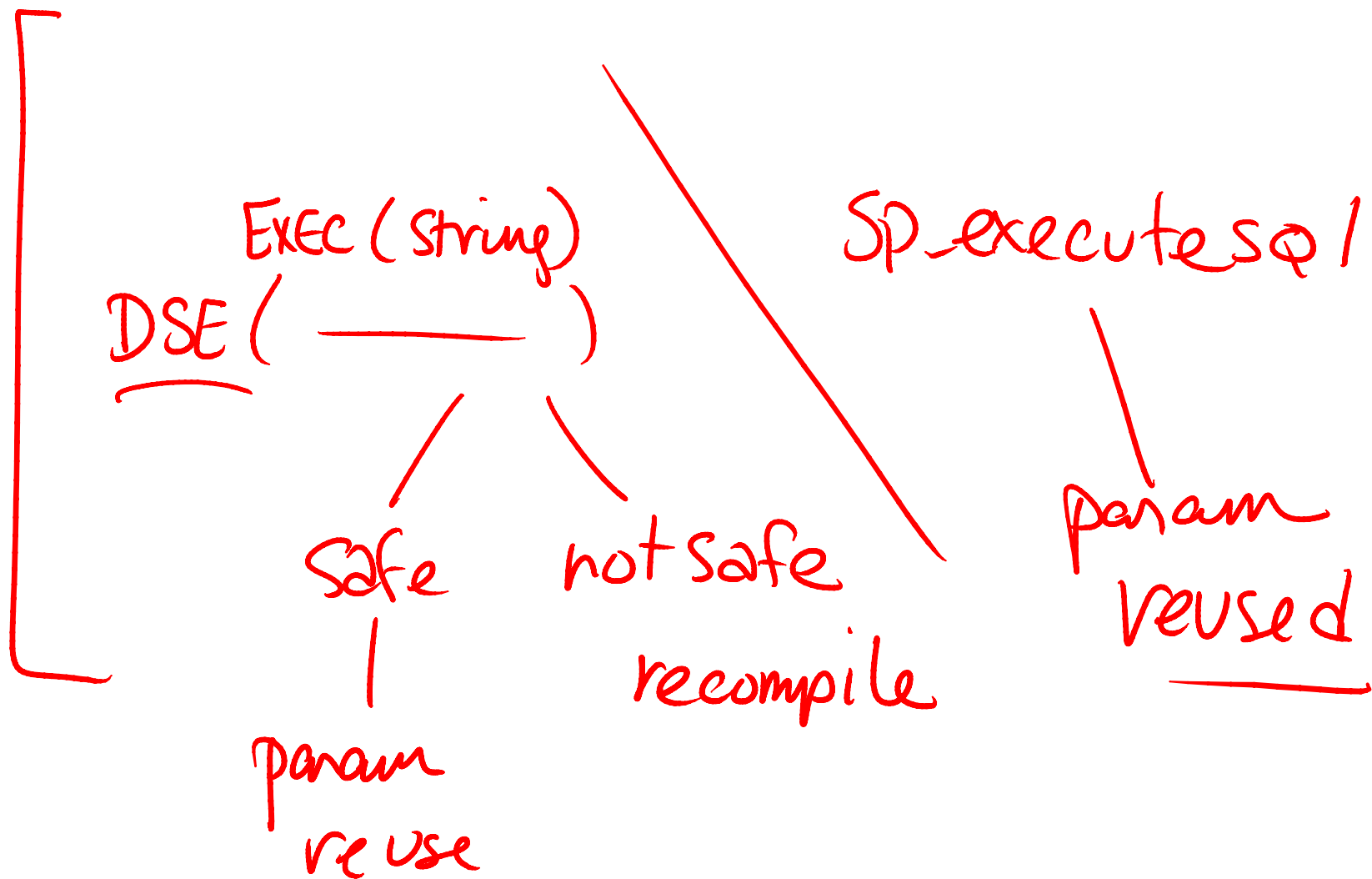
IE2: Performance Tuning

Plan Cache & Index Analysis

Kimberly L. Tripp

Kimberly@SQLskills.com





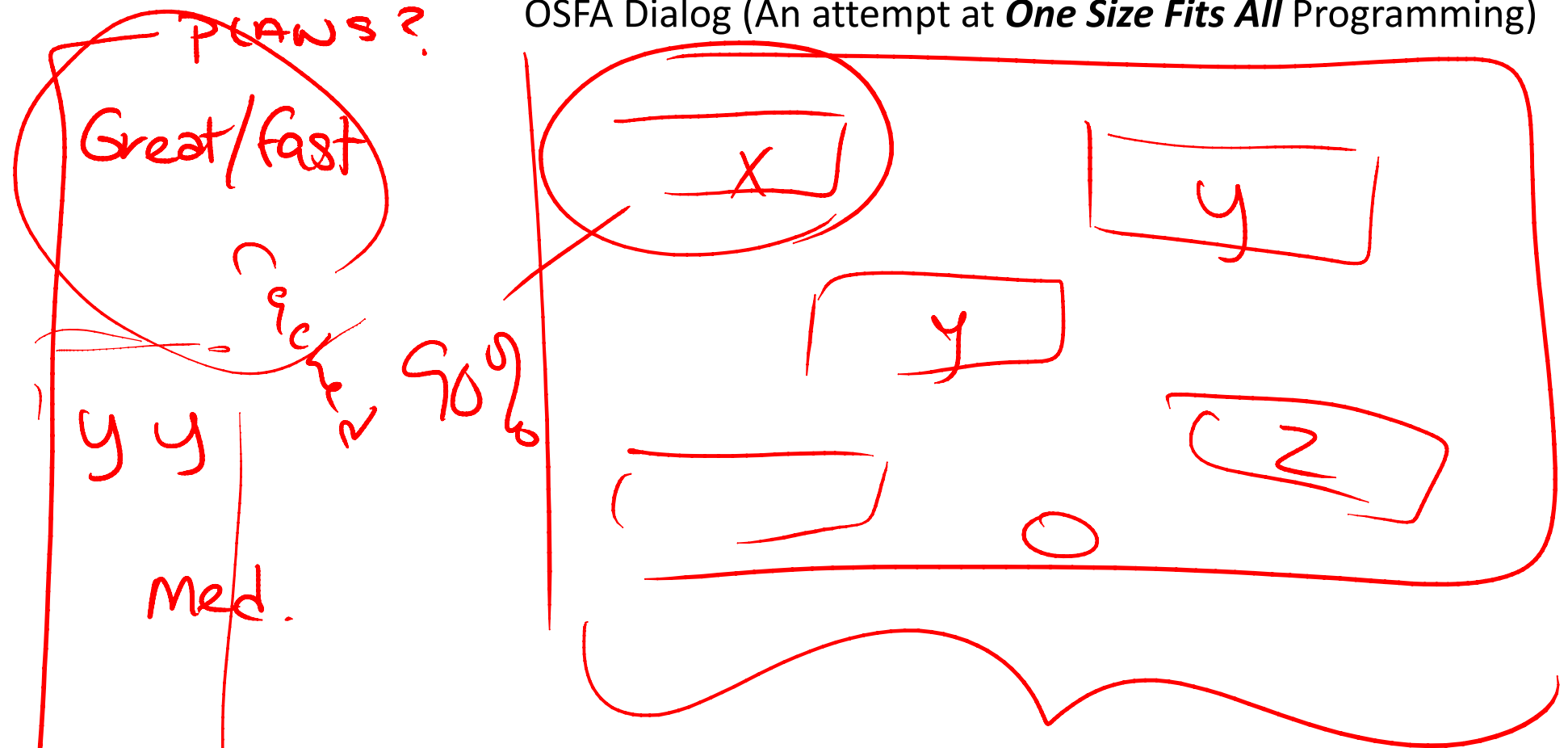
Using EXEC (string) [DSE] and/or sp_ExecuteSql [ES] inside of stored procedures

DSE and ES are not the same.

DSE is unknown until runtime. At that point the statement is treated as though it's adhoc. Because most statements are **not** going to be safe, the statement will end up being recompiled (and optimized) for each execution.

ES is forced parameterization. When a statement is stable you can use this to reduce compilation/CPU costs.

OSFA Dialog (An attempt at *One Size Fits All* Programming)



Multipurpose screens/dialog boxes that lead to multipurpose procedures

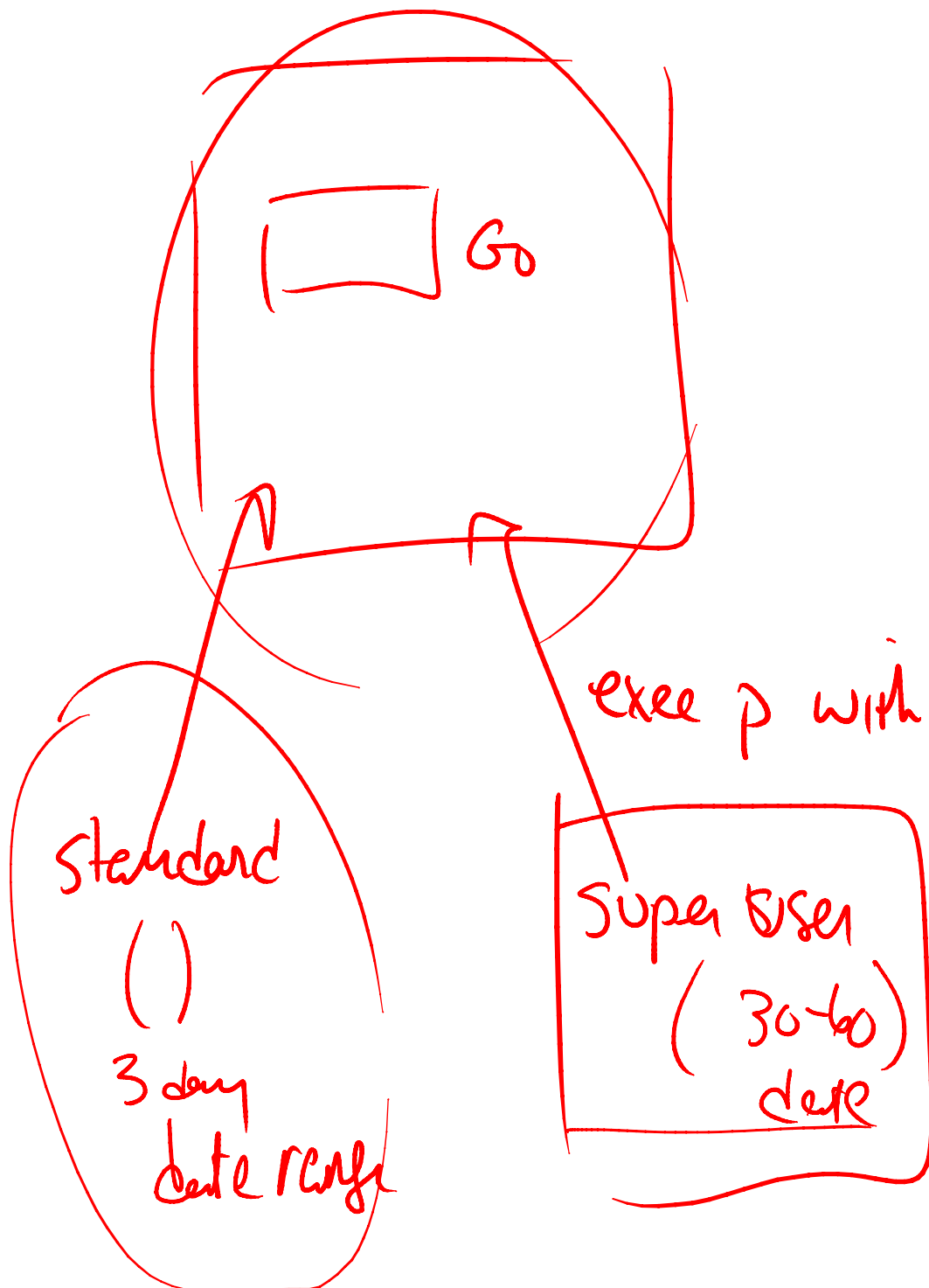
They looked/sounded good at the time?

But, they're often VERY hard to optimize with where clauses that look like:

```
WHERE (Column1 = @Value1 OR @Value1 IS NULL)
      AND (Column2 = @Value2 OR @Value2 IS NULL)
      AND (Column3 = @Value3 OR @Value3 IS NULL)
```

...

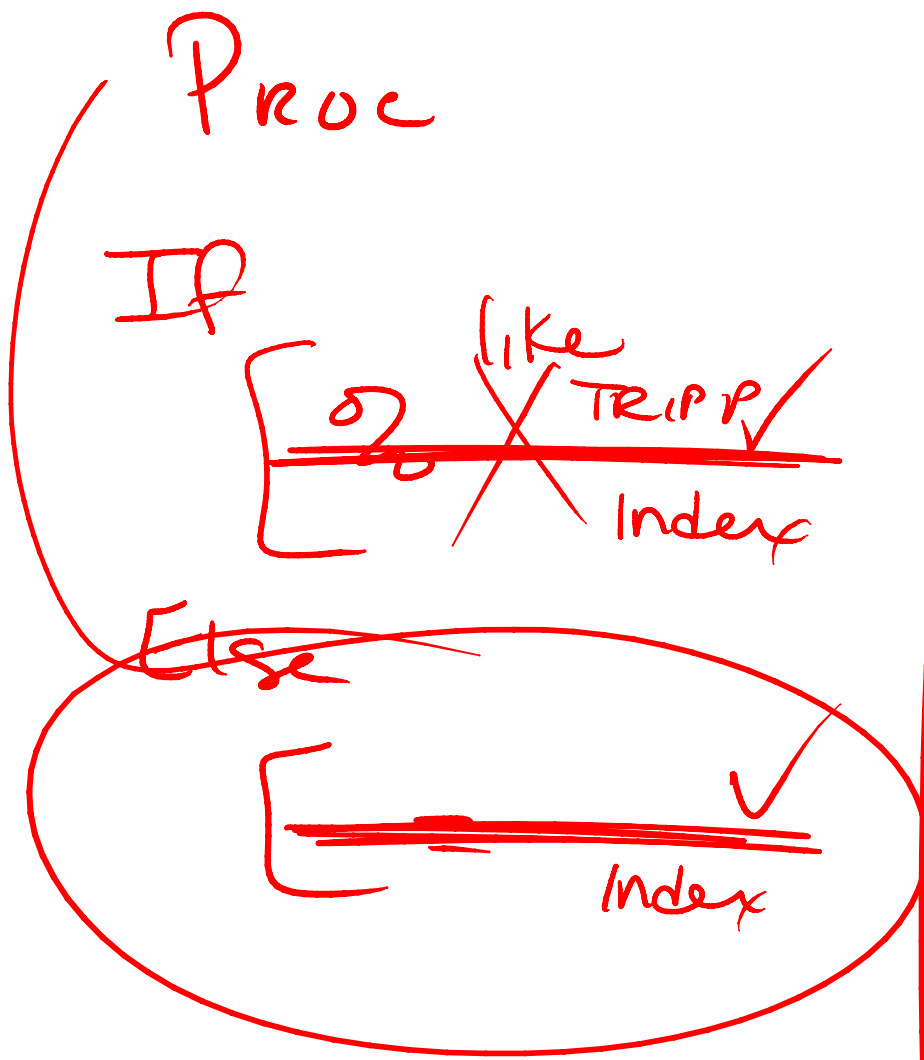
Check out the demo scripts in order to fully see how to better optimize this – using `sp_executesql` (for combinations that are stable) and `sp_executesql WITH RECOMPILE` for combinations that could generate different plans.



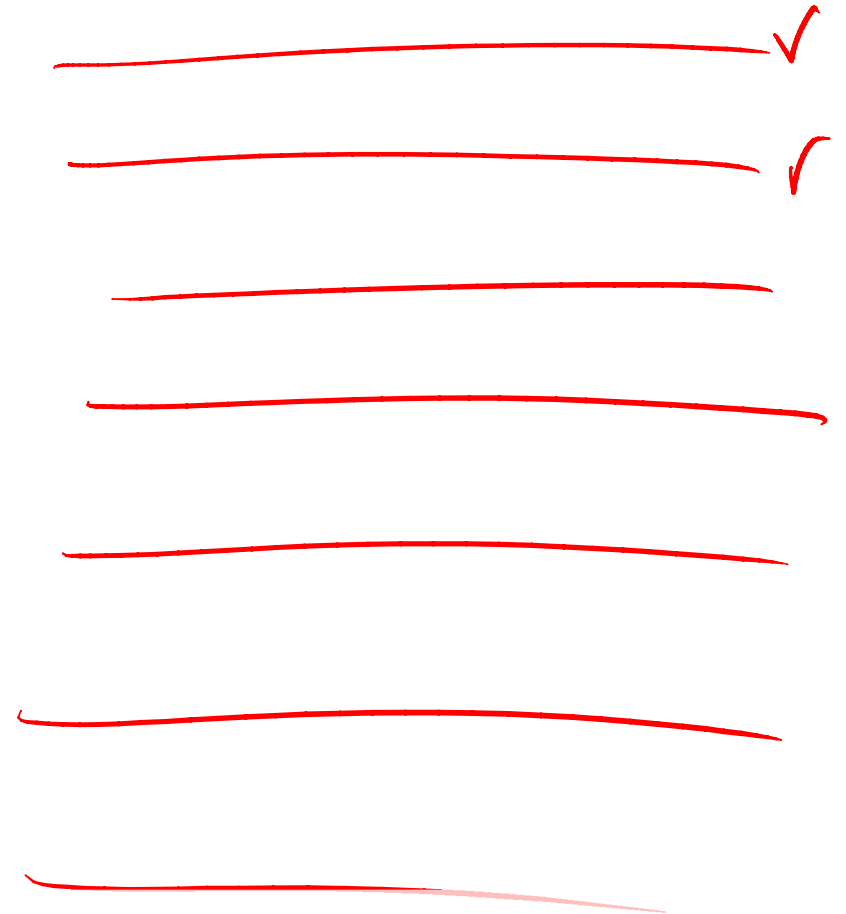
Options for different executions

If we largely execute with “standard” users and we absolutely want THAT plan to be in cache and to be re-used then we could:

- 1) Use option (optimize FOR...) and use a literal that will generate a plan that’s great for the “typical” scenario. However, the performance won’t be great for the atypical (super user) scenario.
- 2) We could use EXEC for the typical scenario and EXEC proc WITH RECOMPILE for the super user scenario. The benefit of this is:
 - 1) We get a cached plan for the typical user (no CPU/plan stability)
 - 2) We get a specific plan for the atypical user (the super user) as opposed to a possibly inefficient plan (so, we have to compile but we’re only compiling this one type of plan)

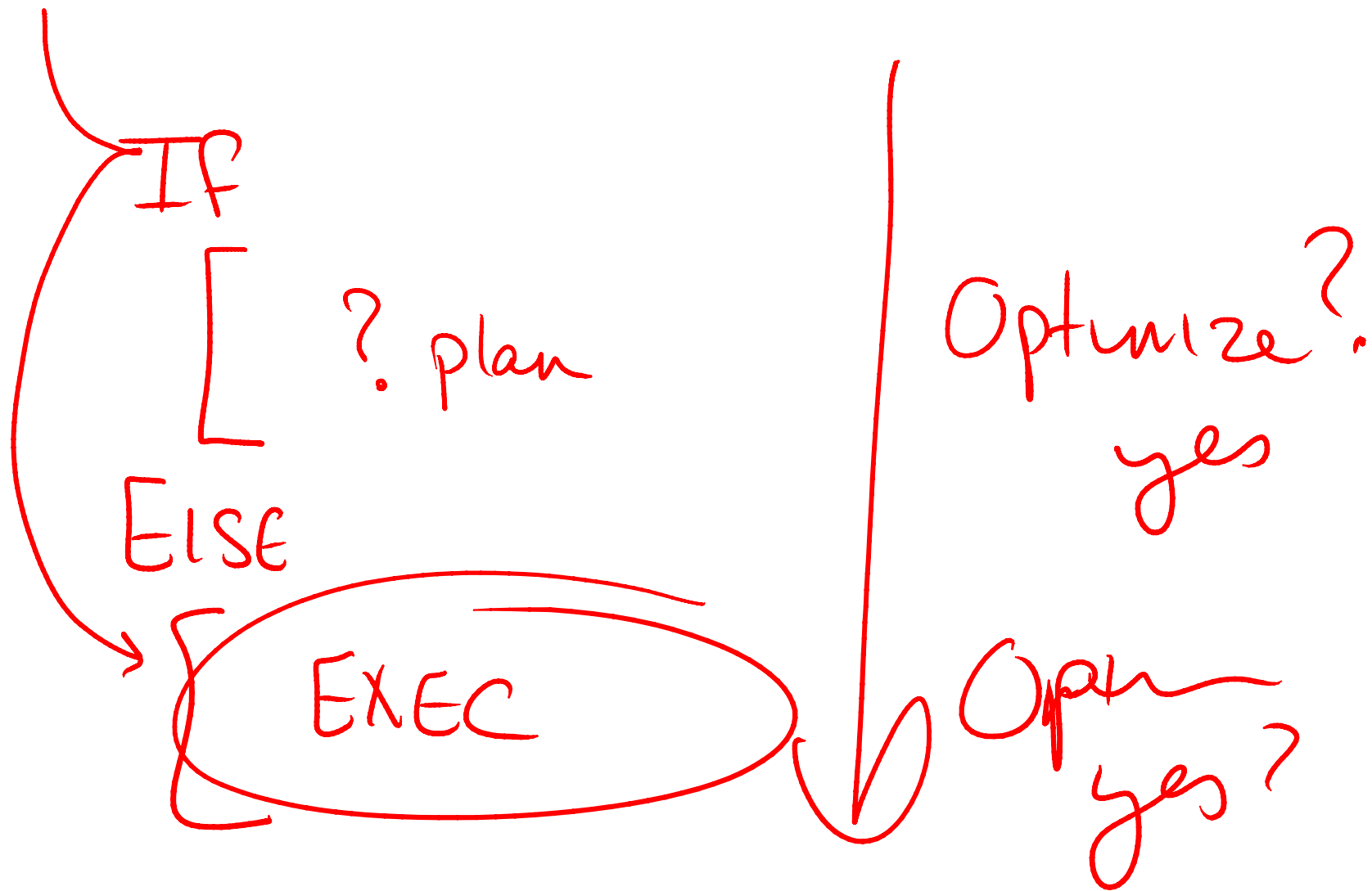


Proc



Conditional logic and modularization

This is another way of looking at the same thing from the prior diagram. Really, don't think of the "logic" in your procedure; think only of the procedure as a list of statements (regardless of conditional logic). SQL Server tries to optimize ANY statement that's "*optimizable*" with the parameters that were supplied (regardless of those specific parameters apply for *that* execution). This is another case where you can end up with an inefficient plan because of parameter sniffing.



Conditional logic and modularization

Creating branching logic for different types of parameters seems logical but because SQL Server optimizes the process of optimization (where they try to optimize anything that's optimizable), you can often end up with a plan that's not ideal.

You are much better off breaking that code into smaller subprocedures – SQL Server will never step into a subprocedure unless it's executed and in this case it will only be executed with exactly the right parameters.

CR PROC —
(param1
 pa 2
 —)

} Sniffed

as

Declare var — unknown why?
 we don't know
 until EXECUTION

Select -- -- param?

Select -- -- param?

Parameters are “sniffed”

SQL Server uses parameters to optimize. Sniffing implies that SQL Server uses the histogram to evaluate the data selectivity. For the FIRST execution, parameter sniffing is great. It's the subsequent executions that can suffer from parameter sniffing (and therefore end up with PSP = parameter sniffing problems).

Variables are “unknown”

Variables are only known at runtime as the statements execute and the variables are assigned. As a result, they are unknown during optimization. Without an actual value, SQL Server cannot use the histogram. Instead SQL Server uses the density vector for the “average” numbers of rows that meet that criteria.

SP
variable v1

params	
@p1	
@p2	
@p3	

Se ~ @v1
If

Se ~ @p1 ~ @p2 ✓
Else

Se ~ @p1 ✓

SQL Server Optimizes everything that's optimizable (sp?) ☺

Again, parameters are known.

Parameters can be sniffed. SQL

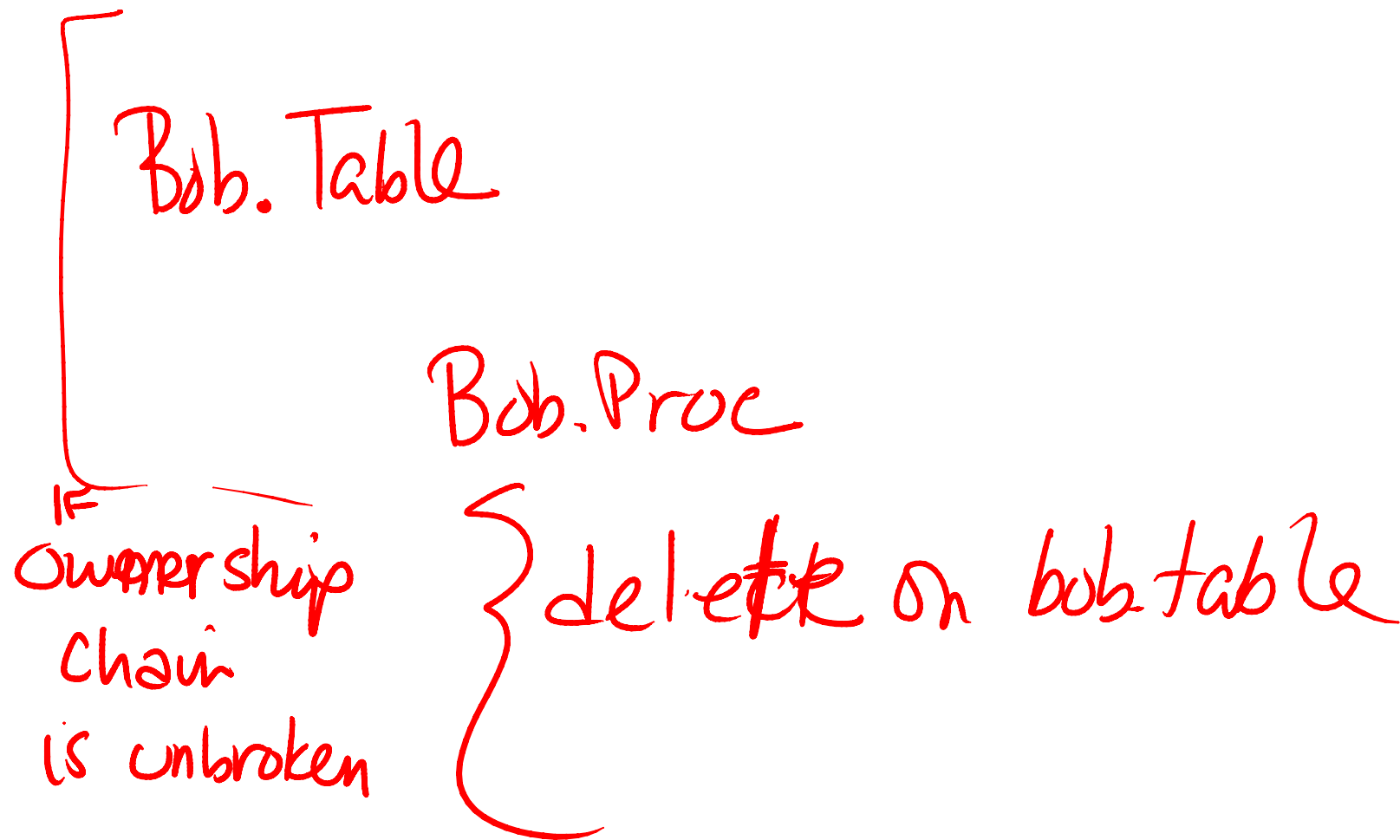
Server will optimize every statement that it can – regardless of what actually ends up executing. At the time of optimization they do not know what will or will not execute and they do not know the value of a variable.

DEFAULT
Proc

DSE — protects against SQLinj
execute under context
CALLER

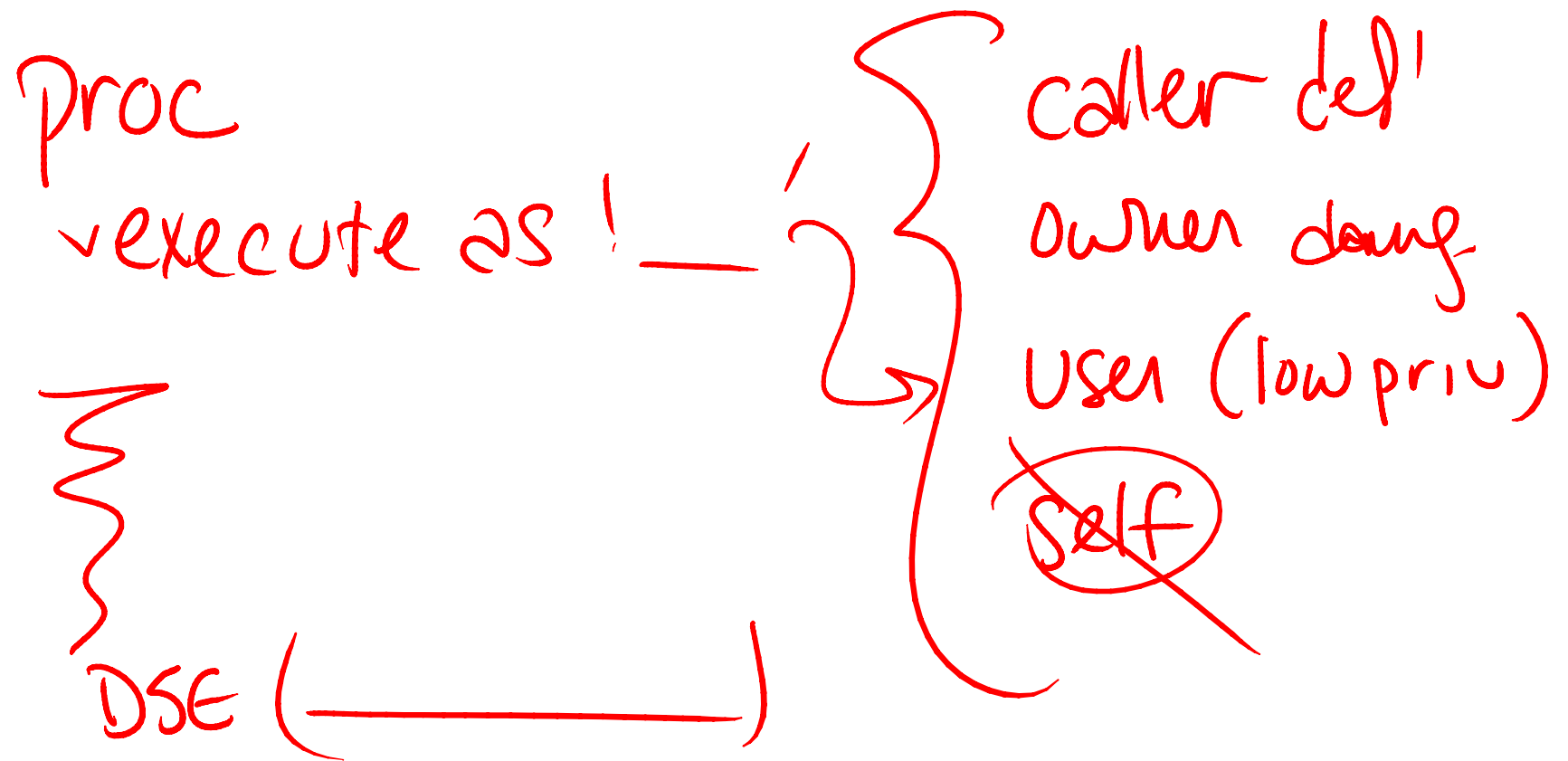
Dynamic String Execution and SQL Injection

TO prevent SQL Injection, SQL Server requires that strings execute under the context of the caller.



Without Dynamic String Execution permissions flow through the ownership chain

The idea is that when the ownership chain is unbroken then direct permissions (for example, to do a delete) are not necessary. As an owner you are giving rights to a process; this procedure can be protected with more business rules/logic and even reduced/isolated to specific rows. The end user does NOT need direct delete permissions to be able to execute the procedure as long as they've been given execute rights on the sproc.



Dynamic String Execution, EXECUTE AS and SQL Injection

People complained that granting permissions directly to the user was a problem... so, they wanted an alternative. Enter: EXECUTE AS.

While it solves the problem of permissions, it adds more potential for SQLInjection.

So..... Check out these posts:

[Little Bobby Tables, SQL Injection and EXECUTE AS](#)

["EXECUTE AS" and an important update your DDL Triggers \(for auditing or prevention\)](#)

✓ fn .
✓ (fn + ln) ?

Stable plans vs. unstable plans – how do you know?

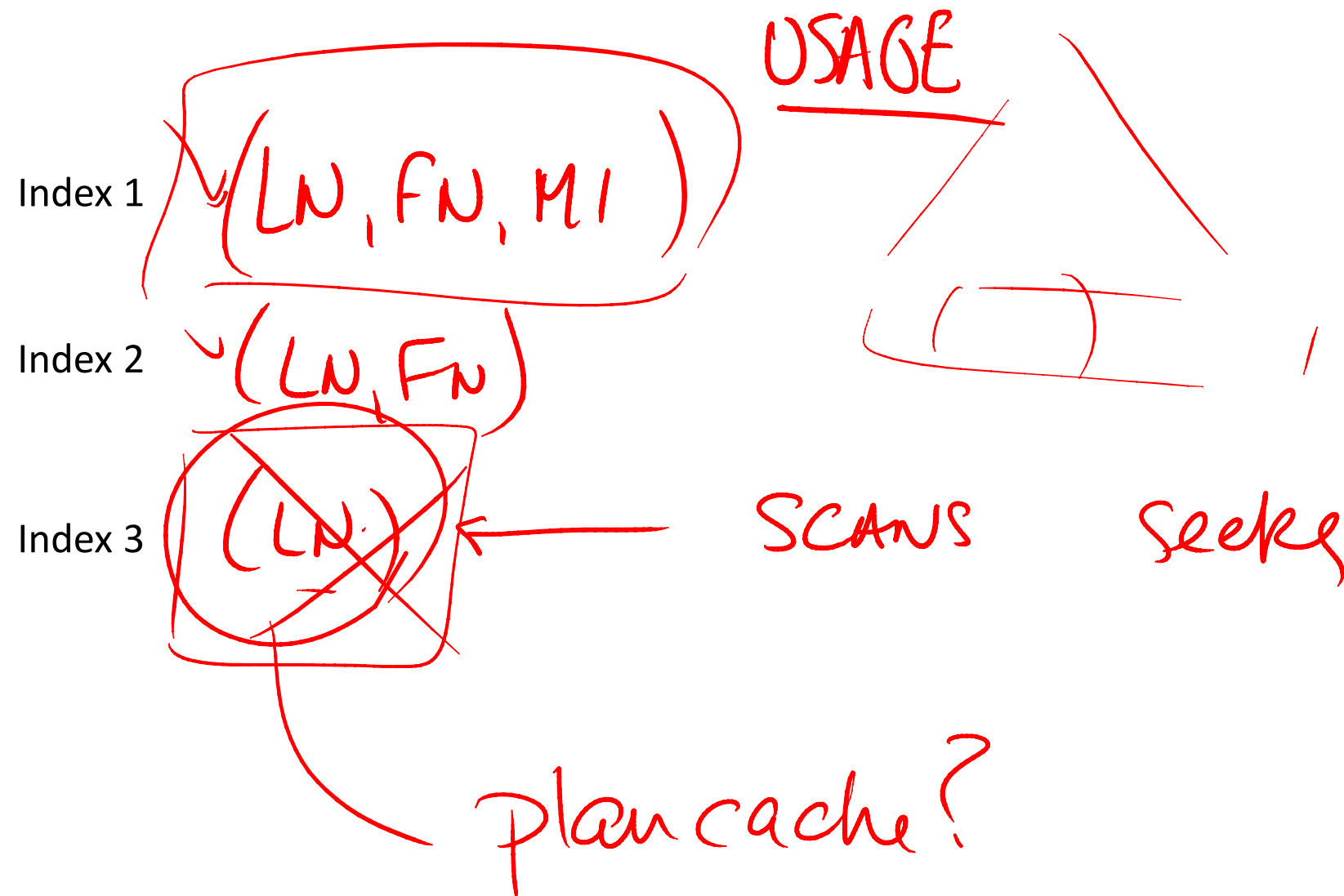
- You could test different combinations using execute with recompile.
- You might know because of selectivity?

* ~~fn + ln + mno~~ ← stable/cons
✓ ln

* ~~ln + mno~~ ←
* ~~mno~~ ←
* ~~mno + fn~~ ←
} Should not
ree.

S38 – options that better balancing recompiling too much vs. not recompiling enough

This is from the multipurpose procedure demo. There are 3 parameters and 7 possible combinations that can be submitted. Instead of adding `OPTION (RECOMPILE)` to the statement (which doesn't always work [remember, it has a very checkered past]) you can build the statement dynamically and then programmatically (by setting a `RECOMPILE` flag to 0 or 1) decide whether or not `OPTION(RECOMPILE)` should be added to the dynamically constructed statement. Then, you can use `sp_executesql` to place ALL seven statements in cache. Those without the `OPTION(RECOMPILE)` clause will be cached. Those with – will get a plan on each execution.



Should you drop redundant indexes? It depends. 😊

It's TRUE that query that uses a left-based subset of one index (let's say that a query uses index 2) that is COULD use a wider version of the same (left-based) index. It could use Index 1 instead of 2.

The problem is that there could be specific uses that warrant the smaller version. Questions to ask: Is the smaller version used by scans? Are they executed VERY frequently? How important are they?

Key Inc

$C1 = C2$ ~~$C3$~~

$C1, C2, C3$ no inc

Key = navigation

Key must be pres.

Key Inc

<u>LN, FN</u>	
<u>LN</u>	
<u>LN, FN, MI</u>	
LN	SSN
//	
<u>LN, FN, MI</u>	(^{inc} SSN)

Consolidation?

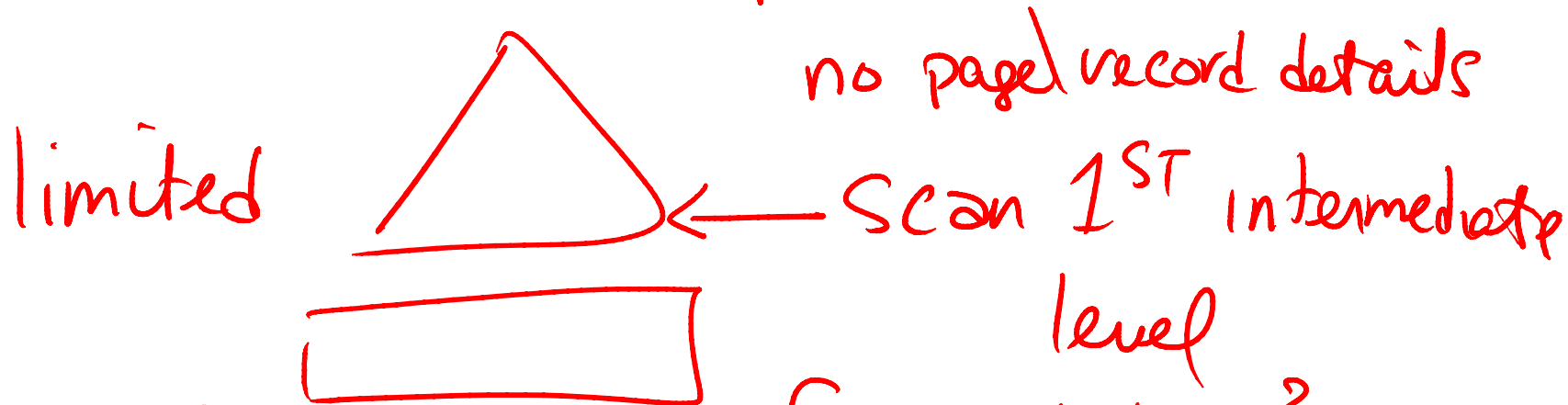
You can CONSIDER removing indexes that are left-based subsets of others (in terms of the key). However, be sure to preserve the key as that's used for navigation/seeking. The columns that are included can be combined in any order.



Index Health – Checking for fragmentation

For a limited mode query against `sys.dm_db_index_physical_stats`, SQL Server uses a scan of the first intermediate level (index level 1) to analyze for the value: `avg_fragmentation_in_percent`. If your analysis/rebuild scripts use this to determine fragmentation than you'd be better off just doing a limited scan. What `SAMPLED` and `DETAILED` offer are page-specific details (page density, forwarding pointers, etc.) and if you're NOT using those (most people aren't using these during their automated maintenance process). So, don't waste time with a `SAMPLED` or `DETAILED` scan during your maintenance window!

Sys. dm-db-index-physical-stats



Good for avg-fragmentation-in-percent fragmentation?

SAMPLED } Avg page density, page fullness
detailed } row size

→ 1/100 of leaf / detailed reads all pages
all levels

FN like K%

rno > 6

mno < 5000

fn, mno, rno

Katie 6 4

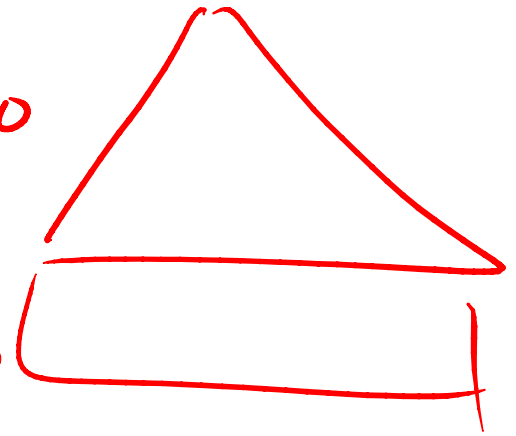
Katie 7892 6

Kiera

Kiera

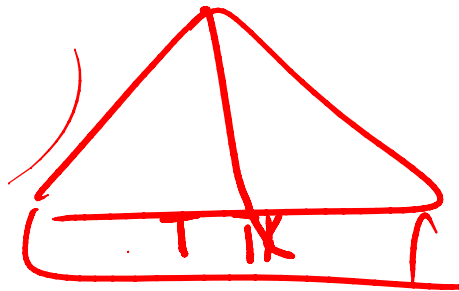
Kimberly

Kimberly

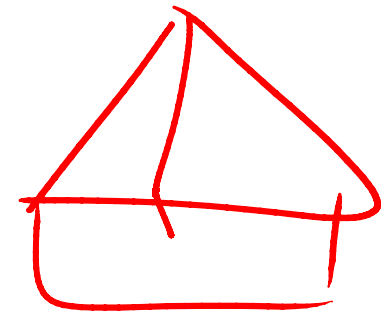


FN = Kimberly

LN = TRIPP



LN, FN



FN, LN

Adding more indexes

Here we were discussing the order of columns. If there are range-based predicates then it doesn't usually matter which column is second. You tend to want to put the most selective first (in terms of the PREDICATES supplied). If all of the predicates are equality-based then it doesn't really matter. You're best ordering them by the LEFT-based combination that's used most commonly.

KEY

Density_Vector

c1

c2

c3

c4

c2

c4

c2

c3

c3

c4

c2

c3

c4

Multi-column, column-level statistics

Only DTA recommends multi-column, column-level statistics...

If you are about to trust (and create) a “green hint” recommendation (which comes from the Missing Index DMVs) then you might want to first run the query through DTA. If you end up creating the index that DTA recommends then you should also create the recommended stats (for that same table). These statistics can be helpful to the optimizer to better understand non-left-based subsets of the index for other possible uses.