



SOLIDQ™

AUSTRALIA NEWS



APRIL 2009

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Come Learn with Us

SQL Server

[Advanced T-SQL Querying, Programming and Tuning for SQL Server 2005 & 2008](#)

June 1 – 5, Brisbane

June 29 – July 3, Melbourne

[Writing T-SQL Queries for SQL Server 2005 and 2008 \(NEW\)](#)

April 16 – 17, Melbourne

May 21 – 22, Sydney

August 3 – 4, Brisbane

April 2009

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TECH FEATURE

Configuring SQL Server 2008's Resource Governor

SolidQ mentor Greg Low has authored a new SQL Server Magazine article.

With SQL Server 2008's Resource Governor, you can take back control of your SQL Server system resources by allocating CPU and memory to applications and users. Governing your resources can prevent database problems, and even provide you with some information about which applications are being used in your SQL Server environment. Learn how to configure Resource Governor's resource pools, workload groups, and classifier functions.

[Click here](#) to download the article.

New Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide for SQL Server 2008

Over the past few months, SolidQ mentors' Greg Low and Steve Abraham co-authored several sections with a Microsoft team creating the first Infrastructure Planning and Design (IPD) guide for SQL Server 2008, part of the Microsoft Solution Accelerator series. The guide, whose main author is Melissa Stowe, covers everything from identifying needed SQL Server roles to server placement and fault tolerance configurations.

[Click here](#) to download the guide.

Making the Most of Fast Track Data Warehouse Architectures

In the new white paper "An Introduction to Fast Track Data Warehouse Architectures," SolidQ mentor Erik Veerman gives you the information you need to get started with Microsoft's new SQL Server Fast Track Data Warehouse reference architectures and use them to implement the best possible business intelligence (BI) solution for your organization.

The Fast Track reference architectures provide tested, pre-configured architectures and architectural guidance for a BI solution's database components and hardware systems, taking the guesswork out of hardware and architectural decisions for the database layer of SQL Server-based BI solutions. To help you get the most out of the Fast Track reference architectures, this paper includes:

Business Intelligence

Microsoft BI Bootcamp: SQL Server 2008, Office System 2007 and Performance Point Server 2007

April 27 – May 1, Sydney

July 20 - 24, Perth

July 27 – 31, Brisbane

Working with SQL Server 2008 Integration Services (NEW)

March 30 – 31, Sydney

SQLToTheMax Seminars

New Data Types (spatial, filestream, date/time, merge, table-valued parameters)

June 16, Melbourne

June 17, Brisbane

June 18, Sydney

June 19, Perth

High Availability

July 14, Melbourne

July 15, Brisbane

July 16, Sydney

July 17, Perth

Indexing and Query Tuning

August 11, Melbourne

August 12, Sydney

August 13, Brisbane

August 14, Perth

Integration Services

September 22, Melbourne

September 23, Brisbane

September 24, Sydney

September 25, Perth

SQL Server Security

October 5, Melbourne

October 6, Brisbane

October 7, Sydney

October 8, Perth

- An overview of the new Fast Track reference architectures
- A review of BI fundamentals and applicable hardware considerations
- The tested Fast Track reference architecture components and options
- Prescriptive guidance for designing and optimizing a solution
- Resources available to help you choose or create a new hardware configuration

If you are responsible for the ownership, management, planning, or design of a BI solution, this paper will give you the skills and resources you need to make the best decisions for your solution.

[Click here](#) to download the whitepaper.

For assistance with any SQL Server Issues please contact us

[ozinfo @solidq.com](mailto:ozinfo@solidq.com) or phone 1300SQLPRO (1300775776)

SPOTLIGHT

How Healthy Is Your SQL Server System? Here's How to Know

SolidQ provides a comprehensive Health Check service for systems using any version of Microsoft SQL Server. Much more than an assessment tool, the SolidQ Health Check for SQL Server is an advanced, specialized service that protects your investment in the Microsoft Data Platform.

Like your annual physical with a trusted physician, the Health Check provides peace of mind when systems are healthy as well as clear recommendations for continued wellness - giving you the information you need to make enhancements and further investments, if necessary. And if the SolidQ Health Check for SQL Server unearths any problems, our Mentors investigate the issues until we find the root causes, and then we identify how to resolve them.

As part of the SolidQ Health Check, we assess your entire system - hardware, operating system, SQL Server instance, and databases - and provide you with:

- A detailed report about your system's current status
- Suggested changes to system configurations for better resource utilization
- Possible security, availability, and performance risks
- Clear, customized recommendations about system upgrades that could enhance your system

[Click here](#) to learn more and schedule your health check.

SQL Server I/O, tempdb and Compression

December 15, Melbourne
December 16, Brisbane
December 17, Sydney
December 18, Perth

For more information or to register for these or other courses, see the Solid Q™ full course schedule. Need a different date or to schedule any of our courses as a private class at your premises? Contact ozinfo@solidq.com.

Free SQL Server 2008 System Views Map

SQL Server 2008 System Views Map

SolidQ's mentors and Microsoft have produced an updated systems views post for SQL Server 2008. Ron Talmage led the SolidQ mentors team.

The Microsoft SQL Server 2008 System Views Map shows the key system views included in SQL Server 2008, and the relationships between them.

To download this free System Views Map [click here](#).

TRAINING & MENTORING

In this tough economy, the complex process of budgeting for technology and training only gets more difficult. SolidQ can help your organization plan to weather these choppy financial waters while keeping your staff trained on the most important technologies.

Advanced Transact-SQL Querying, Programming and Tuning for SQL Server 2005 & 2008

1 – 5 June, 2009 | Brisbane
29 June – 3 July, 2009 | Melbourne

The course focuses on writing and tuning queries and programming with T-SQL in SQL Server 2005 and 2008. In this course you will learn the details and capabilities of T-SQL in the following areas: Logical Query Processing; Query Tuning; Subqueries, Ranking Functions, Joins and Set Operations; Aggregating and Pivoting Data; TOP and APPLY; Data Modification; Data Type Related Problems; Programmable Objects (Dynamic SQL, Views, User Defined Functions, Stored Procedures, Triggers, Transactions and Concurrency, Exception Handling); Graphs, Trees and Hierarchies.

The course was developed by Itzik Ben-Gan, a mentor and one of the founders of SolidQ mentor, author of several books about T-SQL, a columnist in SQL Server Magazine, and a regular speaker in SQL Server related events.

Writing T-SQL Queries for SQL Server 2005 and 2008 (NEW!)

16 – 17 April, 2009 | Melbourne
21 – 22 May, 2009 | Sydney
3 – 4 August, 2009 | Brisbane

This two day course is designed to provide coverage of the core skills involved in querying SQL Server using the T-SQL language. These are important skills for developers, DBAs and for those needing to write reports using SQL Server.

The course covers material applicable to both SQL Server 2005 and 2008 and enhancements only available in 2008 are clearly identified.

Microsoft BI Bootcamp: SQL Server 2008, Office System 2007 and Performance Point Server 2007

27 – 1 April/May, 2009 | Sydney
25 – 29 May, 2009 | Brisbane
20 – 24 July, 2009 | Perth

Business intelligence solutions provide the infrastructure that enables people at all levels of a business to make better decisions based on more accurate and up-to-date information. This workshop focuses on the teaching IT professionals the best practices and skills required to successfully design, build, deploy, and operate a business intelligence solution using SQL Server 2008. This course is also directly useful for those working with SQL Server 2005.

Events

Melbourne CBD SQL PASS Chapter

Working with Spatial Data in SQL Server 2008

April. 20, Melbourne – Greg Low
at 12:15-2:00pm

Location @ 257 Level 1, 257 Collins Street. Melbourne

The introduction of Spatial Data in SQL Server 2008 is just as significant a turning point in the product's evolution as was the introduction of OLAP services back in SQL Server 7.0. In this session Greg will provide coverage of the new spatial data types, will show how they map to the existing OGC standards, will show how to implement applications using these data types and how to improve spatial query performance via indexing.

RSVP if you're coming to
[info @ sqldownunder.com](mailto:info@sqldownunder.com)

For more information regarding the location
[click here.](#)

SQL Down Under Podcasts

Future of cloud based data services Presenter: Ryan Dunn

Microsoft Senior Technical Evangelist Ryan Dunn discusses SQL Services and SQL Data Services, the future of the cloud based data services, what is currently available and how to get started.

To download this free podcast
[click here.](#)

Working with SQL Server 2008 Integration Services (NEW!)

30 – 31 March, 2009 | Sydney

Data processing often consumes the largest portion of effort in business intelligence solutions. Having the skills to design and develop efficient and manageable extraction, transformation, and loading (ETL) processes will yield tremendous savings in time and ongoing support in any business intelligence environment. This workshop focuses on the teaching IT professionals the best practices and skills required to successfully design, build, deploy, and operate ETL processes using SQL Server 2008 Integration Services (SSIS).

SQLToTheMax Intense One-Day Deep Dive Seminars

Now is the time to maximise your investment in SQL Server. Our SQLToTheMax one-day seminar series is economical, to the point and in-depth. We're taking these seminars to the road and coming to a location near you, once per month!

[Click here](#) to learn more about any of these seminars.

Introducing SQL MAPS: A Two-Day "Best Practices" Offering for Managing SQL Server

Planning a SQL Server upgrade or consolidation project? Wanting to get a handle on your SQL Server systems for management or regulatory purposes?

SolidQ's new SQL MAPS offering can get you jumpstarted. This two-day best-practices offering documents all SQL Server instances on your network and features SolidQ mentor expert training on new SQL Server 2008 management features and best practices.

The two-day engagement begins with a MAPS automated discovery and documentation of all SQL Server instances, which generates reports about hardware specifications; OS and SQL Server details; licensing, security, and patch information; and possible upgrade paths. Unlike other inventory or management tools, MAPS is agent-less, collecting information from a single, networked computer.

SolidQ's world-class SQL Server experts - who built the MAPS training content for Microsoft - will then train your staff on new SQL Server 2008 components that support management best practices, including Resource Governor, Policy Based Management, and the Performance Data Collector. As long as you have one SQL Server 2008 server in place, you can take advantage of these features to manage all your SQL Server 2008, 2005, and 2000 servers. And our experienced Mentors will provide observations and recommendations for optimal management of your complete SQL Server environment.

[Click here](#) to learn more about any of these courses.
And contact [ozinfo @solidq.com](mailto:ozinfo@solidq.com) for scheduling information.

Bookings: [Download Booking Form](#) or phone 1-300-SQLPRO (1300775776)

News

Mentors Speaking at Microsoft TechDays 2009

Join SolidQ mentors at Microsoft's 24-hour worldwide virtual TechDays Developer event on April 1:

- Greg Low: "Answering the Queries Your Users Really Want to Ask"

- Eladio Rincon: "Improving the Access to Your Database" (Presented in Spanish)

- Ken Spencer: "Automating Task and Other Productivity Improvements for Windows Presentation Foundation Development"

[Click here](#) to learn more and register

TechEd USA

SolidQ will again be well represented amongst the speakers at TechEd USA in Los Angeles in May.

Local mentor Greg Low has been selected to present his session on "Answering the queries your users really want to ask, with Full Text Search in Microsoft SQL Server 2008".

Get to know our mentors



Andrew Kelly: When a Function Is Indeed a Constant

SolidQ mentor Andrew Kelly was recently collecting wait stats information for a client and ran across a peculiar situation. For a single SELECT statement, he received several different values for the GETDATE() column. GETDATE() or any other non-deterministic runtime constant scalar function should act as a constant for the life of the query execution, meaning these functions are evaluated once at the beginning of the query execution and that value is used for all resulting rows. So what was going on?

[Read the blog](#)

HOT LINKS

[Hitting Bookstores: *Inside Microsoft SQL Server 2008: T-SQL Querying*](#)

[Blog: Joe Chang, "Table Scan – Aggregate Cost Structure"](#)

[Blog: Jessica Moss, "SSIS Insert Statement Using an OLE DB Destination"](#)

[Webcast: Craig Utley on "Avoiding Common Analysis Design Problems"](#)

[Blog: Greg Low "Reports on Reporting Services"](#)