



**SOLIDQ**<sup>TM</sup>  
AUSTRALIA  
NEWS



JUNE 2009

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## Come Learn with Us

### SQL Server

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

July 6 – July 10, Melbourne

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

June 25 – 26, Melbourne

### Business Intelligence

#### [Microsoft BI Bootcamp: SQL Server 2008, Office System 2007 and Performance Point Server 2007](#)

July 20 - 24, Perth

September 28 – October 2, Brisbane

#### [SQL Server 2008 End to End Business Intelligence Workshop \(NEW\)](#)

October 5 - 9, Melbourne

November 30 – December 4, Sydney

June 2009

[www.solidq.com.au](http://www.solidq.com.au)

## TECH FEATURE

### SQL Server Failover Clustering Now Supported Under Virtualization for Production Use!

At a session we attended this year at TechEd US, Microsoft announced that SQL Server Failover Clustering is now supported under virtualization for production use. The [KB](#) article which details the support policy for SQL Server failover clusters was officially updated to include support for clustering guests/Virtual Machines including in production.

One of our US based mentors Alan Hirt recommends:

1. Don't put both of your guests under the same hypervisor. It creates a single point of failure for both of your cluster nodes. Nothing will stop you from doing this since both of your guests have no idea they are virtual machines.
2. Don't mix physical and virtual/guest nodes. Choose a single strategy. There is nothing that will prevent you from mixing node types, but it really makes no sense.

Remember that each of the virtual/guest nodes running under the hypervisor of your choice must also meet the requirements for Windows failover clustering as if they were nodes on physical hardware. That means they must have redundant everything, which goes back to my point #1.

Other helpful links which apply:

[KB943984](#) The Microsoft Support Policy for Windows Server 2008 Failover Clusters

[KB309395](#) The Microsoft support policy for server clusters, the Hardware Compatibility List, and the Windows Server Catalog (pre-Windows Server 2008)

[KB327518](#) The Microsoft SQL Server support policy for Microsoft Clustering

[Click here](#) to download Alan's session at TechEd on "Clustering Microsoft SQL Server 2008 with Windows Server 2008".

### Community Technology Preview of SQL Server 2008 R2

The next version of SQL Server will be called "SQL Server 2008 R2". SQL Server 2008

**Designing and Developing Solutions with SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services (NEW)**

July 14 - 17, Melbourne

**Solving Business Problems with MDX in SQL Server 2008 (NEW)**

September 23 - 25, Melbourne

**SQL Server Bootcamp for SharePoint Administrators (NEW)**

July 1 - 3, Melbourne

July 27 - 29, Perth

August 5 - 7, Sydney

**Working with SQL Server 2008 Integration Services (NEW)**

July 30 - 31, Perth

August 3 - 4, Melbourne

August 31 - September 1, Sydney

**SQL Server Reporting Services (NEW)**

August 21 - 22, Melbourne

**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.au**

R2 expands on the value delivered in SQL Server 2008 by providing a wealth of new features and capabilities that can benefit your entire organization. This release will further improve IT Efficiency with new and enhanced management capabilities and empower business users to access, integrate, analyze and share information using business intelligence tools they already know.

SQL Server 2008 R2 is scheduled to be released in 2010 and members of our local team are currently training on it in Seattle.

[Click here](#) to register for the Community Technical Preview when it becomes available.

**Service Broker: Performance and Scalability Techniques**

Microsoft have released a white paper on how SQL Server Service Broker provides support for building asynchronous messaging and queuing applications with the SQL Server Database Engine. This paper describes a large scale customer scenario and the techniques employed in scaling Service Broker to process tens of thousands of messages per second on one server.

[Click here](#) to download whitepaper.

**For assistance with any SQL Server Issues or advice on how SQL Server 2008 R2 will impact your organisation please contact us**

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

## SPOTLIGHT

### Special Event: US BI Specialist Rushabh Mehta coming down under!

Rushabh will be delivering the SQL Server 2008 End to End Business Intelligence Workshop in Melbourne (October 5th to 9th).



Rushabh has been working with Microsoft SQL Server since 1998, has been designing and developing large-scale BI systems on the Microsoft platform since 2001 and is the Executive Vice President of PASS (Professional Association of SQL Server).

Rushabh's courses are always highly rated, he will only be delivering one class in Australia, so don't miss this rare opportunity !

Business intelligence solutions provide the infrastructure that enables users at all levels of a business to make better decisions based on more accurate and up-to-date information. This workshop focuses on teaching IT professionals the best practices and skills required to successfully design, build, deploy, and operate a business intelligence solution using SQL Server 2008 Integration Services, Analysis Services and Reporting Services.

## Free eBook Dissecting SQL Server Execution Plans

Execution plans show you what's going on behind the scenes in SQL Server. They can provide you with a wealth of information on how your queries are being executed by SQL Server, including:

- Which indexes are getting used and where no indexes are being used at all.
- How the data is being retrieved, and joined, from the tables defined in your query.
- How aggregations in GROUP BY queries are put together.
- The anticipated load, and the estimated cost, that all these operations place upon the system.

All this information makes the execution plan a fairly important tool in the tool belt of database administrator, database developers, report writers, developers, and pretty much anyone who writes TSQL to access data in a SQL Server database.

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

## Events

### Melbourne CBD SQL PASS Chapter

[Understanding SQL Server Execution](#)

[Click here](#) for more details on this course.

**For assistance with any SQL Server Issues please contact us**

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

## 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.

### SQL Server Bootcamp for SharePoint Administrators

**1 - 3 July , 2009 | Melbourne**

**27 - 29 July , 2009 | Perth**

**5 - 7 August , 2009 | Sydney**

Many SharePoint administrators now find themselves (often reluctantly) involved in managing the SQL Server installation that supports their SharePoint farms. This intensive three day course covers the most important SQL Server administration concepts and techniques that are useful for SharePoint administrators.

Attendees will gain a working understanding of SQL Server administration as it applies to SharePoint, along with an understanding of common high availability options, performance monitoring and troubleshooting. The course targets both SQL Server 2005 and 2008.

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

**6 – 10 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.

### New courses!

We have also scheduled a number of other new or updated courses:

- Designing and Developing Solutions with SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services
- Solving Business Problems with MDX in SQL Server 2008
- Working with SQL Server 2008 Integration Services

### Plans

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

Location @ 257 Level 1, 257 Collins  
Street. Melbourne

SQL Server provides a wealth of information about how queries are being executed. Most developers and DBAs are looking to increase the performance of their queries and they know that execution plans are an important component of this. In this session, Greg Low will cover how to get started working with execution plans and building an understanding of what they are showing.

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

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

- Writing T-SQL Queries for SQL Server 2005 and 2008
- SQL Server Reporting Services

**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)

## Get to know our mentors

### **Jessica Moss: Dimension ETL from One Source Table**



SolidQ's mentor Jessica Moss talks about how in an ideal world, the source system for your data warehouse has the exact information you need to populate all the fields in your dimensions. In a less-than-ideal world

-- also known as the real world -- you need to cobble together pieces of data. You might even come across a scenario where all your dimension and fact information is in one large table. How do you handle this extraction, transformation, and loading (ETL) process in SQL Server Integration Services?

**Read the blog post**

## News

### **Best Practices Conference (Sharepoint and SQL Server)**

SolidQ will again be well represented amongst the speakers at Best Practices Conference USA in Washington in August.

Local mentor Greg Low has been selected to present his session on

“Why SQL Server 2008 Spatial Support is so important”

“Why SQL CLR Integration isn't scary”

“Why Integrated Full Text Search should be part of your SQL Server 2008 based application”.

Other SolidQ mentors who will be presenting include: Rushabh Mehta, Itzik Ben-Gan, Andrew Kelly and Erik Veerman.

## SOLIDQ'S MENTORS HOT LINKS

**Itzik Ben-Gan: Puzzled by T-SQL-Optimizing Aggregates with DISTINCT**

**Andrew Kelly: How dirty are your reads**

**Ron Talmage: SQL Server 2008 Partitioned Table and Index Strategies**

**Blog - Pinal Dave: Using SQL Server 2008 Extended Events – White paper by Jonathan Kehavias**

### **PASS Summit**

Local mentor Greg Low has been selected once again to present a Spotlight Session at the best SQL Server Conference in Seattle USA in November.

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