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SEPTEMBER 2008

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## Come Learn with Us

### SQL Server

#### [Introduction to Transact-SQL for SQL Server 2000 & 2005](#)

Sept. 22-24, Beaverton, OR - Itzik Ben-Gan  
Dec. 8-10, Bellevue, WA - Itzik Ben-Gan

#### [DIRECTIONS: Query & Index Tuning and Optimization, T-SQL Enhancements in SQL Server 2008](#)

Sept. 29-30, Alpharetta, GA - Itzik Ben-Gan

#### [SQL Server 2005 Integration Services for Database Professionals](#)

Oct. 6-10, Bellevue, WA - Andy Leonard  
Dec. 15-18, Beaverton, OR - Mentor TBD

#### [Advanced T-SQL Querying, Programming and Tuning for SQL Server 2000 & 2005](#)

Nov. 3-7, Minneapolis, MN - Itzik Ben-Gan  
Dec. 15-19, Beaverton, OR - Itzik Ben-Gan

[Microsoft SQL Server High](#)

September 2008

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

## TECH FEATURE

### Avoiding Common Analysis Services Design Problems by Craig Utley

SQL Server Analysis Services enables developers to create powerful cubes, but with this power comes complexity. After working with a wide array of customers, Solid Quality Mentors' Craig Utley has seen a number of common problems in cube design and implementation. In this webcast, Craig examines some of these frequent problems and how to solve them, giving developers the information they need to avoid such issues in their Analysis Services projects.

[Watch this webcast](#)

## SPOTLIGHT

### Solid Quality™ Directions: Intensive SQL Server Training Without an Intensive Time Commitment

What if you could attend a pre-conference seminar without attending a full conference? What if you could also keep travel costs and time away from work to a minimum? Solid Quality Mentors is launching Solid Quality™ Directions -- a unique technical learning event modeled after the pre-conference sessions found at technical conferences. The series begins in Atlanta and will continue across the country.

The Directions series, sponsored by NEC, features:

- Advanced (300-500 level) technical insight with real-world application
- A 2-day event that allows for a deeper dive than conferences offer
- "Rock star" speakers, including Itzik Ben-Gan and Erik Veerman
- Events hosted in different regions, making it easier and less expensive to attend

#### [Query and Index Tuning and Optimization & T-SQL Enhancements in SQL Server 2008](#)

by Itzik Ben-Gan  
Sept. 29-30, 9am-4pm  
Alpharetta, GA

[SQL Server BI: Scalability, Availability & Performance with 2008](#)

### Availability Bootcamp

Nov. 3-7, Beaverton, OR - Mentor TBD

### Microsoft SQL Server DBA Bootcamp

Nov. 10-14, Dallas, TX - Randy Dyess

### Query and Index Tuning in Microsoft SQL Server 2005 & 2008

Dec. 5, Montreal - Itzik Ben-Gan

### Microsoft SQL Server Performance Tuning Bootcamp

Dec. 8-12, Dallas, TX - Randy Dyess

### Query Tuning for SQL Server 2000 & 2005

Dec. 11-12, Bellevue, WA - Itzik Ben-Gan

## Business Intelligence

### DIRECTIONS: SQL Server BI - Scalability, Availability & Performance with 2008

Oct. 1-2, Alpharetta, GA - Erik Veerman

### Enterprise ETL with SQL Server 2005 Integration Services

Oct. 13-16, Beaverton, OR - Mentor TBD

Oct. 13-16, Minneapolis, MN - Andy Leonard

Nov. 17-20, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD

### Microsoft Office PerformancePoint Server 2007 End-to-End

Oct. 20-24, Sacramento, CA - Tim Peterson

Oct. 27-31, Minneapolis, MN - Tim Peterson

### SQL Server 2005 End-to-End Business Intelligence Workshop

Oct. 27-31, Sacramento, CA - Rushabh Mehta

Dec. 1-5, Beaverton, OR - Mentor TBD

### SQL Server 2005 Analysis Services

Nov. 10-13, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD

### Solving Business Problems in MDX

Nov. 10-12, Minneapolis, MN - Tim Peterson

### Microsoft BI Bootcamp: SQL Server 2005, Office System 2007 and PerformancePoint Server 2007

Dec. 8-12, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD

For more information or to register for these or other courses, see the Solid Quality™ Learning full course schedule.

Need a different date or to schedule any of our courses as a private class at your premises?

Contact [info@solidq.com](mailto:info@solidq.com).

by Erik Veerman  
Oct. 1-2, 9am-4pm  
Alpharetta, GA

**\$100 Amazon Gift Certificate** for every friend you sign up. For more information about offers, visit [www.solidq.com](http://www.solidq.com)!

## TRAINING & MENTORING

### "Think Private" for All Your Training Needs -- Large or Small

Private training is not only for large organizations that have a lot of students ready to take the same course at the same time in their own training facility. Solid Quality Mentors' highly valued training, provided by the top technologists and communicators in their field, is surprisingly affordable for as few as two or three students. In fact, it is about the same price to send three people to a public class as it is to have a Mentor come to you and train those three people at your facility.

Private classes can maximize your investment when you weigh the time, money, and value allocated to a training experience focused exclusively on your team and your specific learning needs within the time frame you need. So "Think Private" for all your training needs -- large or small!

Contact [info@solidq.com](mailto:info@solidq.com) or call +1 (800) 757-6543 for more information.

### Solid Quality Mentors, NEC Partnership Brings Mainframe-Class Capabilities to SQL Server Data Center

Solid Quality Mentors and NEC Corporation of America are working together to deliver the industry's first dynamic scale-up or scale-out solution for Microsoft SQL Server environments. The integrated solution offers new server-consolidation opportunities for environments suffering from server sprawl.

With Solid Quality Mentors' SQL Server consolidation expertise and NEC Express 5800/1000 Series servers' dynamic hardware partitioning capabilities for Windows Server 2008, the integrated solution provides new, flexible scaling options for SQL Server administrators and data center managers who are constrained by performance or system resources.

**Read more** about the scale-up/scale-out solution for SQL Server environments, and contact [info@solidq.com](mailto:info@solidq.com) with questions.

### Service Offerings: Performance Tuning, BI, Architecture & More

Need help with specific initiatives? Solid Quality Mentors brings world-class talent to you when your circumstances require the best. **Click here** for a brief listing of our service offerings in the categories of Performance Tuning, Business Intelligence, and Architecture. With more than 500 customers, there is little our Mentors haven't done for clients and couldn't do for you.

For more information about any of these service offerings, email [info@solidq.com](mailto:info@solidq.com).

## CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL

*"If I didn't know any better, I would have thought that Mr. Ben-Gan wrote SQL Server himself. I was truly envious of his depth of knowledge, and he did an excellent job of passing this on to the*

## Featured Course

### SQL Server Integration Services for Database Professionals

Solid Quality Mentors' Andy Leonard is bringing this intensive four-day course to Bellevue, Washington, in October and Beaverton, Oregon, in December. This course is designed for IT professionals who want to learn how to use SSIS to accomplish data integration and how to administer SQL Server 2005 Integration Services (SSIS) through the development life cycle to production.

In the current marketplace, data architecture and database administration skills must go beyond the maintenance and design of relational databases. The volume and complexity of data is always increasing, and data professionals need to know how to integrate, maintain, and process data for various purposes. This workshop prepares database professional with the skills they need to apply SQL Server 2005 Integration Services (SSIS) to enterprise DBA and data architecture tasks, including SSIS administration.

The course covers:

- SSIS overview and core topics
- Applying SSIS control flow and data flow components to common DBA duties
- Package administration and management
- Troubleshooting and optimization

**For more information about this course, including future dates, see the course schedule in this issue or [click here](#).**

## Get to Know Our Mentors

### Craig Utley: Been There, Photographed That

When it comes to business intelligence, there's little that Craig Utley hasn't seen

*class."*

## EVENTS

### Join Solid Quality Mentors at the Microsoft Business Intelligence Conference 2008

Don't miss sessions by Solid Quality Mentors' Rushabh Mehta and Craig Utley at the 2nd annual Microsoft Business Intelligence Conference 2008, Oct. 6-8, at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in downtown Seattle -- and make sure you stop by our booth to visit with our Mentors and check out our course and service offerings.

The conference -- showcasing Microsoft's business intelligence (BI) products, solution expertise, and customer successes -- is designed to educate customers and partners on every aspect of Microsoft's BI offerings. The event features educational tracks and sessions by Microsoft product and industry experts as well as customer best practices sessions, the second-annual Microsoft BI Customer Awards presentation, hands-on labs, and more. Don't miss these valuable sessions:

- Rushabh Mehta: "Mastering Data Cleansing in Integration Services"
- Craig Utley: "Avoiding Common SQL Server Analysis Services Mistakes"

#### Register for the conference

### PASS Summit 2008 to Feature 4 Pre-Cons by Solid Quality Mentors

Join Itzik Ben-Gan, Peter DeBetta, Andrew Kelly, and Erik Veerman for their pre-conference sessions at the PASS Community Summit 2008 in Seattle, Nov. 18-21. The Summit is expected to draw more than 3,000 users, SQL Server MVPs, developers, and Microsoft experts and will feature more than 130 technical sessions about SQL Server and business intelligence, as well as an Expo showcasing the latest SQL Server and BI technologies and solutions. Here are Solid Quality Mentors' pre-cons:

- Andrew Kelly: "System Performance Monitoring & Troubleshooting"
- Itzik Ben-Gan: "Advanced T-SQL Querying and Programming in Microsoft SQL Server 2005 & 2008"
- Peter DeBetta: "Securing SQL Server from Predators"
- Erik Veerman: "Designing, Planning, and Tuning a Scalable BI Solution"

Make sure you stop by our booth to meet your favorite Mentors, and check out conference sessions by Mentors Itzik Ben-Gan, Peter DeBetta, Randy Dyess, Andrew Kelly, Andy Leonard, Greg Low, Rushabh Mehta, Jessica Moss, Maciej Pilecki, Craig Utley, Erik Veerman, and Chris Webb.

**Use our registration discount code, SQM3D, here** to take advantage of PASS and Solid Quality Mentors promotions, including:

- \$100 discount off the current summit registration rate
- \$500 discount voucher to attend one future Solid Quality Mentors advanced public training course
- And more, including being entered for some great prizes!

#### Register now

Craig, a Mentor and senior architect with Solid Quality Mentors, has been working with Microsoft database technologies since 1993 and with Microsoft development tools since 1991. Recently named a SQL Server Most Valuable Professional (MVP), Craig was a C# MVP for three years and is a former Program Manager on the Microsoft SQL Server Customer Advisory Team (SQLCAT), where he worked with some of the world's largest Microsoft BI customers.

His Microsoft BI experience began when he was one of the authors of Microsoft's first data warehousing courseware in 1998. Since then, Craig has worked with more than 40 companies worldwide in various phases of their BI projects. An author of many books, articles, and white papers, Craig regularly speaks to user groups and at top conferences.

*Solid Quality™ News* recently talked to Craig, an avid photographer, about the projects and technologies he's excited about.

[Read the interview](#)

Meet other members of the [Solid Quality Mentors team](#)

## HOT LINKS

[Sept. 18 Pain-of-the-Week Webcast: "BI: Your Way to a Raise"](#)

[Andy Leonard on SQLServerCentral.com: "SSIS 101: Object Variables, ResultSets, and Foreach Loop Containers"](#)

[White Paper: "SQL Server 2005 Database Mirroring"](#)

[Blog: Chris Love's Professional ASP.NET: "Making Velocity Start When You Reboot"](#)

[Greg Low's SQL Down Under Podcast: Kent Tegels on SQL Server 2008's spatial data type](#)