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NOVEMBER 2008

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SQL Server

[Query and Index Tuning in Microsoft SQL Server 2005 & 2008](#)

Dec. 5, Montreal - Itzik Ben-Gan

[T-SQL Fundamentals](#)

Dec. 8-10, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD

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

Dec. 15-18, Beaverton, OR - Rushabh Mehta

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

Dec. 15-19, Beaverton, OR - Itzik Ben-Gan

[Microsoft SQL Server Performance Tuning Bootcamp](#)

Jan. 12-16, Dallas, TX - Randy Dyess

November 2008

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TECH FEATURE

Sneak Peak Excerpt from *Microsoft SQL Server 2008 T-SQL Fundamentals*

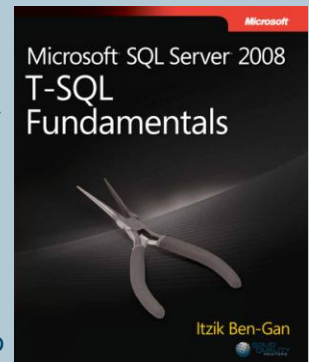
Microsoft SQL Server 2008 T-SQL Fundamentals -- the new book from Solid Quality Mentors' Itzik Ben-Gan -- walks you through your first steps in T-SQL, the Microsoft SQL Server dialect of the standard ANSI-SQL language. You'll learn the theory behind T-SQL querying and programming and how to develop T-SQL code to query and modify data. The book also gives you an overview of programmable objects.

Although this essential reference from Microsoft Press is intended for beginners, it is not merely a step-by-step book. It goes beyond the syntactical elements of T-SQL and explains the logic behind the language, helping you develop a true understanding of its elements and how to use them. You'll learn to think in terms of sets and follow real-world best practices for T-SQL programming.

[Click here](#) for excerpts from Chapter 3, "Joins," from the section covering outer joins. All the book's code samples are available for download from the [companion Web site](#).

You can order your copy of *T-SQL Fundamentals* from the following sellers:

- [Amazon.com](#)
- [Barnes and Noble](#)
- [Quantum Books](#)



SPOTLIGHT

Tips from the Field: Performance Dos and Don'ts

Can a SAN actually cause performance problems? Sure, says Solid Quality Mentors' Kevin Boles, a SQL Server MVP and performance-tuning expert. Kevin has seen it all when it comes to performance messes. In this article, he outlines the most common mistakes customers make, from failure to plan and test to poor server configuration and poor indexing strategies. Learn from these mistakes and optimize your systems' performance.

[Read the article](#)

Want to make sure you're maximizing your current hardware and making the right purchasing decisions? Check out Solid Quality Mentors' [SQL Server Performance Tuning & Optimization and Hardware Expansion Assessment service offerings!](#)

Business Intelligence

**SQL Server 2005 End-to-End
Business Intelligence Workshop** Dec.
1-5, Beaverton, OR - Peter Myers

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

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

**Enterprise ETL with SQL Server 2008
Integration Services**

Jan. 26-29, Minneapolis, MN - Erik Veerman

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.

Featured Course

Microsoft SQL Server Performance Tuning Bootcamp

Solid Quality Mentors' Randy Dyess brings this intensive five-day course to Dallas Jan. 12-16. Designed to give attendees a broad look at the performance tuning concepts and methods in SQL Server 2008 and SQL Server 2005, this course prepares SQL Server DBAs for a transition to SQL Server 2008 or SQL Server 2005 while discussing best practices for a variety of performance topics that DBAs face in their day-to-day job functions.

The comprehensive bootcamp covers the following topics:

SQL Server architecture; SQL Server performance tools; SQL Server CPU and memory configurations, monitoring, and tuning; SQL Server concurrency introduction and monitoring; SQL Server indexing and index maintenance; SQL Server query processor, execution plans, and common query coding practices that cause poor performance; plan guides, query hints, user-defined functions, and computed columns; disk subsystem terminology, architecture, RAID levels, SQL Server files, filegroups, and disk subsystem performance monitoring and tuning; working with the SQL Server transaction log, tempdb, and partitioning (database

TRAINING & MENTORING

New Course: SQL Server 2008 Reporting Services for Developers

Solid Quality Mentors' new course "SQL Server 2008 Reporting Services for Developers" covers SSRS 2008's main extensibility points. You will learn how to enhance and extend the product's functionality by creating custom controls and developing data processing extensions. You will also see how to supplement the security infrastructure using security extensions, develop new delivery and rendering options, and how to introduce more advanced techniques into the report design experience through custom and embedded Microsoft .NET code. In addition, the course covers interaction with the Report Server Web service and how to integrate an SSRS experience directly into your custom business applications.

After completing the course, you will be able to design reports and extend the functionality of those reports to present data in forms not possible with custom coding. You will also be able to use your knowledge to develop solutions that fill in gaps in the current functionality, enabling you to more directly address business and development challenges.

[Click here](#) to learn more about this course. And contact info@solidq.com for scheduling information.

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 has launched Solid Quality™ Directions -- a unique technical learning event modeled after the pre-conference sessions found at technical conferences. The series began in Atlanta this fall 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

[Click here](#) for information upcoming Directions events.

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL

"Joe [Chang] was able to reduce the storage space of all indexes by half, and in turn, we got a ton of disk space and improved performance. We also got 1.5 extra years of equipment before having to purchase more. And he left us with a game plan of advice and good reports."

SURVEY

What Are Your IT Training Plans for 2009?

In this tough economy, the complex process of budgeting for technology and training

and table); and SQL Server database maintenance.

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

Events

Meet One-on-One with Your Favorite Mentor at PASS This Week

Just give us a call to set up a private 10-minute session with one of our Mentors at the PASS Community Summit 2008 in Seattle, Nov. 18-21. Mentors including Itzik Ben-Gan, Peter DeBetta, Randy Dyess, Andrew Kelly, Haidong Ji, Greg Low, Rushabh Mehta, Jessica Moss, Maciej Pilecki, Craig Utley, Erik Veerman, and others will be at the conference and scheduling time in the Solid Quality Mentors booth.

Mentors will be available to hash over that technical problem that has you scratching your head or provide real-world feedback about technologies or solutions you are considering.

Call 813-645-1646 today to set up your private mentoring session.

And don't forget to use our registration discount code, SQM3D, [here](#) to take advantage of these 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
- Mentoring services discount
- PASS party invitations
- Raffles for great prizes

[Register now](#)

only gets more difficult. How is your organization planning to weather these choppy financial waters while keeping up with the technologies that can help your company survive and even thrive?

[Click here](#) to tell us what you think.

HOT LINKS

[Webcast: Greg Low on "Avoiding Stored Procedure Recompiles"](#)

[White Paper: "Working with SQL Server Integration Services"](#)

[Blog: Chris Love's Professional ASP.NET: "A Quick and Dirty Bar Code Image httpHandler"](#)

[Blog: Ken Spencer: "ObservableCollection"](#)

[SQL Server Magazine: Ken Spencer on "Efficient Data Binding with Windows Presentation Foundation and Visual Studio 2008"](#)