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February 2009

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TECH FEATURES

FEBRUARY 2009

SCHEDULED COURSES

FEATURED COURSE: Guru's SQL Server Database Administration

EVENTS: Connections and SSWUG.org SQL Server Virtual Conference

TECH FEATURES: PPS Changes Signal Big BI Savings, Download New System Views Map

SPOTLIGHT: SQL MAPS -- A Management Best-Practices Offering

TRAINING & MENTORING: Live Online Courses

MENTOR FOCUS: Low Receives Global Impact Award

Come Learn with Us

SQL Server

[Live Online Course: SQL Server Database Administration for the Experienced DBA](#)

Mar. 9-13, via Microsoft Office Live Meeting - Randy Dyess

[T-SQL Fundamentals](#)

Mar. 9-12, Beaverton, OR - Ron Talmage

[SQL Server 2008 Integration Services for Database Professionals](#)

Mar. 23-26, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD

[Live Online Course: Guru's SQL Server Database Administration](#)

Mar. 23-27, via Microsoft Office Live Meeting - Randy Dyess

[Live Online Course: Microsoft SQL Server Performance Tuning Bootcamp](#)

Mar. 30-April 3, via Microsoft Office Live Meeting - Randy Dyess

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

April 13-17, Minneapolis, MN - Itzik Ben-Gan
May 4-8, Sacramento, CA - Itzik Ben-Gan

PerformancePoint Changes Signal Big BI Savings

With Microsoft consolidating Office PerformancePoint Server (PPS) functionality into Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (MOSS), Solid Quality Mentors' business intelligence (BI) experts see exciting opportunities for organizations to save money, reduce complexity, and increase adoption as they roll out BI solutions powered by SQL Server.

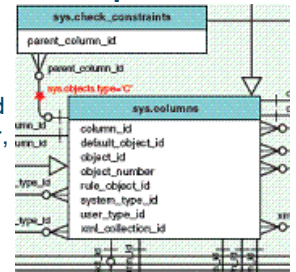
In a move that lets BI customers take advantage of their investments in Microsoft Office Excel and MOSS, Microsoft announced in late January that it's consolidating PPS's scorecard, dashboard, and analytical capabilities into MOSS, making these capabilities available as PerformancePoint Services for SharePoint. MOSS and SQL Server are deployed to more than 100 million people worldwide, according to Microsoft.

"I'm delighted at Microsoft's direction to consolidate PPS into MOSS," says SQL Server MVP Rushabh Mehta, Managing Director, Solid Quality India. "This change makes the Monitoring and Analytics functionality accessible to a much larger customer base that has already made significant investments in SharePoint. The reduced total cost of ownership of BI solutions powered by SQL Server and delivered through Microsoft Office System will make it easy for more customers to better analyze data and gain valuable insight."

[Read full story](#)

Download the New SQL Server 2008 System Views Map

The detailed SQL Server 2008 System Views Map, created by Solid Quality Mentors' Ron Talmage and Microsoft's Boris Baryshnikov in collaboration with *SQL Server Magazine*, is now available as a free PDF or XPS download from Microsoft. Previously available only as a printed poster, the map shows SQL Server 2008's key system views and functions and the relationships between them.



Similar to the [SQL Server 2005 System Views Map](#), this

updated version includes new features such as Resource Governor, extended events, and full-text search. The map visually shows the relationships between SQL Server 2008's dynamic management views (DMVs), dynamic management functions (DMFs), and catalog views. It includes diagrammed relationship types, showing referential integrity, dependency, inheritance, and function calls as well as columns involved in relationships and whether the system view is at the server or database level.

Created by developers for developers, the map groups system views and functions into the following major regions: Objects, Types, and Indexes; Trace and Eventing; Linked Servers; Common Language Runtime; Partitioning; Databases and Storage; Execution Environment; Database Mirroring; Endpoints; Full Text Search; Service Broker; Security; Transaction Information; Resource Governor; Server-Wide Information; and Extended Events.

[Download the map today](#)

Business Intelligence

SQL Server 2008 End-to-End Business Intelligence Workshop

Mar. 9-13, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD

Solving Business Problems with MDX in SQL Server 2008

April 6-8, Minneapolis, MN - Tim Peterson

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

April 6-10, Beaverton, OR - Mentor TBD

Enterprise ETL with SQL Server 2008 Integration Services

April 20-23, Minneapolis, MN - Mentor TBD
May 26-29, Beaverton, OR - Mentor TBD

Designing and Developing Solutions with SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services

May 4-7, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD

TechEd Pre-Con: Building an End-to-End Microsoft Business Intelligence Solution with Microsoft SQL Server 2008 and Microsoft Office PerformancePoint Server 2007

May 10, Los Angeles, CA - Peter Myers

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

Live Online Course: Guru's SQL Server Database Administration

SQL Server guru Randy Dyess launches this 5-day, advanced-level course via Solid Quality Mentors' Live Online format, enabling you to attend from your desk March 23-27 via



Microsoft Office Live Meeting. This intense seminar is designed for database administrators and developers who need to manage large, complex databases or perform advanced-level troubleshooting. Covering both SQL Server 2008 and 2005, the course shows how SQL Server interacts with the hardware and how the database engine works behind the scenes. If you want to go beyond the basics, gain a deep understanding of SQL Server internals, and learn advanced database

SPOTLIGHT

Introducing SQL MAPS: A 2-Day "Best Practices" Offering for Managing SQL Server

Planning a SQL Server upgrade or consolidation project, or just wanting to get a handle on your SQL Server systems for management or regulatory purposes? Solid Quality Mentors' new SQL MAPS offering can get you jumpstarted. This 2-day best-practices offering documents all SQL Server instances on your network and features Solid Quality Mentors' expert training on new SQL Server 2008 management features and best practices.

The 2-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.

Solid Quality Mentors' world-class SQL Server experts -- who built the MAPS training content for Microsoft -- 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 2000, 2005, and 2008 servers. And our experienced Mentors will provide observations and recommendations for optimal management of your complete SQL Server environment.

The \$2,950 offering is also available for remote delivery. For more information or to schedule your engagement, contact us at info@solidq.com or 800-757-6543.

TRAINING & MENTORING

Save Time and Money: Join Our Expert Mentors for Live Online Courses

Solid Quality Mentors' new Live Online training courses use the same expert instructors, content, and materials as our traditional classroom setting, but save you travel time and money. With Microsoft Office Live Meeting, you can take advantage of the same exceptional learning opportunity from our SQL Server experts, without traveling away from home or work. Live Online courses offer you the highest quality training available at a lower cost to you and your company. In addition to our currently scheduled Live Online deliveries, below, all of our courses are also available for Live Online delivery to a group of students from your company in a private-class setting.

Save even more with our [introductory pricing offer](#), good for the next 30 days for the following Live Online courses:

- [SQL Server Database Administration for the Experienced DBA](#), Mar. 9-13 - Randy Dyess
- [Guru's SQL Server Database Administration](#), Mar. 23-27 - Randy Dyess
- [Microsoft SQL Server Performance Tuning Bootcamp](#), Mar. 30-April 3 - Randy Dyess

[Contact us](#) today for more information about these deliveries and any other courses you're interested in taking Live Online.

New Course: Designing and Developing Solutions with SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services

Solid Quality Mentors introduces a new 4-day course that walks you through design and development best practices as you build a fully working, high-performance analytical solution using SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services (SSAS).

administration best practices, tips, and tricks, this course is for you.

[Learn more and register](#)

Customer Testimonial

"Solid Quality Mentors brought very deep knowledge of how to set up the hardware -- the I/O subsystem and the low-level hardware configurations -- to maximize SQL Server's performance. During the engagement, my knowledge and experience grew dramatically. I learned things that I know I wouldn't have from the other consulting sources we considered. The next time we need help or training with SQL Server, Solid Quality Mentors will be our first call."

Events

SQL Server Connections: Utley on "Avoiding Common Analysis Services Mistakes"

Join Craig Utley at SQL Server Connections March 22-25 in Orlando, FL, for his session on how to avoid common SQL Server Analysis Services (SSAS) mistakes. Many companies new to business intelligence (BI) with SSAS make the same mistakes over and over, building poor performing cubes or ones that don't give users the best analytic experience. Drawing on his experience in helping more than 30 companies worldwide overcome SSAS design and implementation issues, Craig examines the most common design problems with SSAS cubes and BI solutions, sharing practical advice about how to avoid or resolve them.

[Learn more and register](#)

Don't Leave Your Desk: Visit Solid Quality Mentors at SSWUG.org's SQL Server

With SSAS, you can rapidly build and deploy powerful analytical solutions that let business users analyze business data and achieve competitive advantage. Not only does SSAS enable rapid application development, but it also increases performance and functionality and reduces operational costs and complexity. After completing this course, you'll be able to:

- Evaluate the costs and benefits of a BI system for your organization
- Understand the differences between relational and multidimensional systems and how to use each
- Turn analytical requirements into a system model
- Understand dimensional modeling, design, and implementation
- Select the appropriate data structure for the warehouse
- Understand the appropriate use of data mining
- Design effective BI systems

This course is scheduled for May 4-7 in Bellevue, WA, and is available for private delivery at your site and on your schedule.

[Learn more and register](#)

GET TO KNOW OUR MENTORS

Greg Low Receives Gold-Level Global Impact Award

Greg Low, Solid Quality Mentors' Managing Director, Australia, has received a prestigious 2008 Gold Medal Global Impact Award for his work as a Microsoft Regional Director (RD). "The RDs are one of the most amazing groups of people I deal with, and I'm honoured and humbled to be a member of the group," he writes in his blog, "The Bit Bucket." In his blog entry, Greg -- a SQL Server Most Valuable Professional (MVP) and internationally known developer and trainer -- shares links to RSS feeds of high quality RD posts on the hottest technical topics. Make sure you subscribe to them!

[Read the blog](#)



Hot Links

White Paper: Ron Talmage's "Database Snapshot Performance Considerations Under I/O-Intensive Workloads"

SQL Down Under Podcast: Solid Quality Mentors' Jessica Moss Digs into SQL Server 2008 Reporting Services

Blog: Greg Low, "Much Ado About Logins and SIDs"

Blog: Chris Love, "Where Does Silverlight and WPF Belong?"

Virtual Conference

Solid Quality Mentors is a sponsor of the spring 2009 SSWUG.org SQL Server Virtual Conference, April 22-24. The conference is designed to bring useful technical sessions to your desktop and to enable live interaction with speakers and exhibitors. The conference features a new basics track, all new session content from industry-leading speakers, and an upgraded high-definition format.

[Learn more and register](#)