



SOLID QUALITY NEWS™



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MAY 2009

SCHEDULED COURSES

FEATURED COURSE: SQL Server
2008 End-to-End BI Workshop

EVENTS: Tech Ed 2009

TECH FEATURE: Free T-SQL Querying
Excerpt

SPOTLIGHT: Save with Semi-Private
Training

TRAINING & MENTORING: Bringing
the Best to You

SERVICE OFFERINGS: Let Us Help
Jumpstart Your Initiatives

Come Learn with Us

SQL Server

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

May 4-8, Sacramento, CA - Itzik Ben-Gan
July 6-10, Minneapolis, MN - Itzik Ben-Gan

T-SQL Fundamentals

June 1-4, Bellevue, WA - Ron Talmage

May 2009

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TECH FEATURES

Free Excerpt!

Inside Microsoft SQL Server 2008: T-SQL Querying

Don't miss this sneak peek inside the latest book from Solid Quality Mentors' Itzik Ben-Gan, *Inside Microsoft SQL Server 2008: T-SQL Querying* (MSPress, 2009). In this book, Itzik -- joined by co-authors Steve Kass, Lubor Kollar, and Solid Quality Mentors' Dejan Sarka -- focuses on set-based querying and query tuning.



T-SQL Querying discusses practical solutions to common problems and gives you polished techniques that will enhance your toolbox, expand your coding vocabulary, and boost your productivity. "SQL is a very powerful language, but I believe only a minority of developers really know how to get the most out of it," writes César Galindo-Legaria, Ph.D., manager of the Microsoft SQL Server Query Optimization Team, in the book's Forward. "Using SQL well can mean code that is 10 times more efficient, more scalable, and more maintainable. *Inside Microsoft SQL Server 2008: T-SQL Querying* tells you how."

Read the excerpt, "Aggregating and Pivoting Data"
Order your copy today

New Training Kit Preps You for BI Exam 70-448

Solid Quality Mentors' Erik Veerman and Dejan Sarka, along with co-author Teo Lachev, share their business intelligence (BI) expertise in Microsoft Press's new two-in-one self-paced training kit, designed to prepare you for Exam 70-448. The exam is required for the new MCTS: Microsoft SQL Server 2008 - Business Intelligence Implementation and Maintenance certification.

MCTS Self-Paced Training Kit (Exam 70-448): Microsoft® SQL Server® 2008 - Business Intelligence Development and Maintenance includes the official in-depth Microsoft study guide, plus practice tests on CD to help you assess your skills. It also provides real-world scenarios, case study examples, and troubleshooting labs to help you master skills that you can immediately apply on the job. In addition, you get an evaluation version of SQL Server 2008 and an exam discount voucher.

Learn more and order your copy today

Business Intelligence

Tech Ed 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

SQL Server 2008 End-to-End Business Intelligence Workshop

May 11-15, Vancouver, Canada - Rushabh Mehta
June 29-July 3, Minneapolis, MN - Mentor TBD

Enterprise ETL with SQL Server 2008 Integration Services

May 26-29, Beaverton, OR - Mentor TBD
June 29-July 3, Minneapolis, MN - 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.

Featured Course

SQL Server 2008 End-to-End Business Intelligence Workshop

Written and presented by Solid Quality Mentors' business intelligence (BI) experts, this intensive five-day workshop -- coming to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, May 11-15 -- teaches IT professionals the best practices and skills required to successfully design, build, deploy, and operate a BI solution using SQL Server 2008 Integration Services, Analysis Services, and Reporting Services.

Presented by SQL Server MVP Rushabh Mehta, the workshop begins with an introduction to BI and SQL Server's BI technologies, walks you through the creation of an effective BI solution using those technologies, and ends with a look at other technologies

SQL Server 2008 Partitioned Table and Index Strategies

When a database table grows to hundreds of gigabytes or more in size, loading new data, removing old data, and maintaining indexes becomes more difficult. But SQL Server 2008's table partitioning can make very large tables and indexes easier to manage and improve the performance of appropriately filtered queries.

"Partitioned Table and Index Strategies Using SQL Server 2008," a new 65-page white paper by Solid Quality Mentors' Ron Talmage and tech reviewed by colleagues Greg Low and Herbert Albert, covers strategies for partitioning tables, including the required partition functions and partition schemes. The paper also explores the benefits of partition elimination, partition parallelism, and index partition maintenance and applies these strategies to various partitioning scenarios such as the sliding window scenario, data archiving, and partition consolidation and movement.

[Read the paper](#)

SPOTLIGHT

Semi-Private Training: Save Big by Sharing the Costs

Want the benefits of private training but don't have the funds for a class with only a few people? Consider semi-private training, which delivers the advantages of private training while spreading costs between two or more organizations.

Any of our courses can be modified for a semi-private training approach that not only gives your team a deep-dive educational experience, but also allows the Mentor to teach based on your company's specific needs and interests. And as with private courses, semi-private training keeps T&E costs to a minimum and eliminates the vulnerability that many companies face when their dev/ops team travels to public classes.

Contact us at info@solidq.com or 800-757-6543 to see how semi-private classes can maximize your training investment and to coordinate a course in your area.

For a complete list of our courses, see the following practice areas on our Web site:

- [Data Management](#)
- [Collaboration](#)
- [Business Intelligence](#)

TRAINING & MENTORING

We Bring the Best to You

At Solid Quality Mentors, we learn from the best -- and train the best. We've worked with more than 80 certified Microsoft partners worldwide, supplementing their teams with our expertise. And we are constantly working with and learning from elite Microsoft teams and sharing that insight and experience with you through our public and private training courses and our one-on-one mentoring services.

for reporting against the Unified Dimensional Model, including ProClarity, Excel Services, SharePoint Server, Business Scorecard Manager, and PerformancePoint Server.

[Learn more and register](#)

Customer Testimonial

"The [Advanced T-SQL] course was exactly what I needed, and the content was excellent. I've already been able to apply it by tuning a long-running query, bringing it down from several minutes to just a few seconds. The satisfaction was immense, and I simply did not know how to tackle this before the course. Needless to say, I have been recommending the course to many others."

Events

See You at Tech Ed 2009!

Join Solid Quality Mentors for in-depth training and invaluable networking at Microsoft Tech Ed 2009, May 11-15 in Los Angeles.

To kick things off, Peter Myers will be delivering a day-long pre-conference seminar, "[Building an End-to-End Microsoft Business Intelligence Solution with Microsoft SQL Server 2008 and Microsoft Office PerformancePoint Server 2007](#)," on May 10.

And don't miss these deep-dive technical sessions from our Mentors:

When you need the best, turn to the company the experts trust:

- [Public courses](#)
- [Live Online training](#)
- [Private training](#)
- [Mentoring](#)

Microsoft Selects SolidQ for Nationwide Series on SSAS and Data Mining

Solid Quality Mentors has been selected to create and deliver a 2-day seminar series in various Microsoft Districts across the country this spring. Based on the latest information from Microsoft and Solid Quality's leading-edge experience developing client solutions, this seminar series aims to educate and excite attendees about the capabilities, features, and potential of SQL Server Analysis Services (SSAS) - OLAP and Data Mining.

[Learn more](#)

Plus, check out 2 new SolidQ courses:

- [SQL Server 2008 Reporting Services Design and Operation](#)
- [SQL Server 2008 Reporting Services for Developers](#)

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Jumpstart Your Initiatives with Our Fast, Focused Services

Give us a day -- or two -- and we'll get you started down the right path. Our experienced Mentors and proven processes can help you efficiently overcome challenges, shorten your team's learning curve, and get it right the first time -- keys to success in our current global economy. Our new lineup of 1-to-2-day service engagements can even be conducted onsite or delivered remotely:

- **Data Mining Proof-of-Concept.** This 1-day engagement is designed to help you develop a proof-of-concept (POC) data mining solution based on a specific business need.
- **BI Architecture/Strategy.** This 2-day engagement helps you determine the mission-critical needs a BI solution can meet for your business, key technologies required to deliver the intended result, and how the solution should be planned and deployed over time.
- **Upgrade Strategy.** This 1-day engagement documents your current SQL Server environment (leveraging the MAPS tool) and then provides specific recommendations for optimizing your use of SQL Server, including version-specific upgrade strategies.

Contact us at info@solidq.com or 800-757-6543 to learn more and schedule your engagement. [Click here](#) to see our full slate of Service Offerings.

Itzik Ben-Gan, "Inside T-SQL - Enhancements, Techniques, Tips & Tricks" and "Using the HIERARCHYID Datatype in SQL Server 2008 to Maintain and Query Hierarchies"

Alan Hirt, "Tips and Tricks for Successful Database Mirroring Deployments with SQL Server"

Greg Low, "Answering the Queries Your Users Really Want to Ask, with iFTS in SQL Server 2008"

Peter Myers, "Taking Your Application Design to the Next Level with Data Mining"

[Register today!](#)

GET TO KNOW OUR MENTORS



Andrew Kelly: Sometimes You Just Have to Break It Up

Many developers have a hard time splitting up a query into more manageable pieces, especially if a temp table is involved. But Solid Quality Mentors' Andrew Kelly recently broke up an unwieldy query in a stored procedure, and his changes resulted in dramatic performance gains.

[Read the blog](#)

Low, Ben-Gan Top Speakers at DevWeek 2009

Attendees at [DevWeek 2009](#) in London rated Solid Quality Mentors' Greg Low top conference speaker, with colleague Itzik Ben-Gan -- last year's favorite speaker -- coming in a close second. A longtime sponsor of the developer conference, Solid Quality Mentors delivered all the sessions in one of the event's two popular SQL Server development tracks.

Hot Links

[Jessica Moss: SSIS Designer Tip](#)

[Pinal Dave: Introduction to SQL Server Encryption and Symmetric Key Encryption](#)

[Greg Low: Avoid Early Filtering on Resource Usage When Profiling SQL](#)

[New Infrastructure Planning and Design Guide for SQL Server 2008](#)

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