



SOLID QUALITY NEWS™



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SQL Server

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

June 8-12, Beaverton, OR - Itzik Ben-Gan

July 6-10, Minneapolis, MN - Itzik Ben-Gan (Remote learning available)

[SQL Server 2005 & 2008 Integration Services for Database Professionals](#)

June 2009

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TECH FEATURE

New "Velocity" Caching Technology Speeds High-Volume Apps by Jay Hackney

I recently worked on a project using Microsoft's new distributed cache technology, code-named *Velocity*. Velocity runs as a service on one or more cooperative servers to create a massively high-performance and fault-tolerant cache on relatively inexpensive hardware. You can use such a cache to reduce the load on a busy database or to build a large-scale application when a database cannot reasonably satisfy the required rate of read requests. Caching technology such as Velocity makes high-volume applications like MySpace and LinkedIn possible.

[Read the article](#)

[Learn more about Velocity](#)



SPOTLIGHT

Get on the Fast Track to SQL Server 2008 Data Warehousing

Microsoft's SQL Server Fast Track Data Warehouse reference architectures take the guess work out of setting up a SQL Server 2008 infrastructure optimized for data warehousing, providing hardware and software configurations for a scale-up data warehouse database, targeted at up to 15TB of data.

Now, Solid Quality Mentors' new **Fast Track to SQL Server** solution offerings can help you take advantage of the Fast Track reference architectures as quickly as possible. Whether you have an existing data warehouse solution (running on SQL Server or another platform) or a new data warehouse project, we can help you through the entire Fast Track process from planning and selection to setup and testing.

In the end, you'll achieve the best performance possible from a reasonably-priced hardware platform -- and save time, hardware costs, and troubleshooting headaches!

- **[Fast Track to SQL Server:](#)** This 2-phase solution offering begins with initial evaluation, planning, and acquisition assistance. We then work with your IT

June 29-July 2, Beaverton, OR - Mentor TBD

Live Online: Microsoft SQL Server Performance Tuning Bootcamp

July 27-31, via Microsoft Office Live Meeting - Randy Dyess

Live Online: Guru's SQL Server Database Administration

Aug. 3-7, via Microsoft Office Live Meeting - Randy Dyess

T-SQL Fundamentals

Aug. 31-Sept. 3, Beaverton, OR - Ron Talmage

Business Intelligence

Microsoft BI Bootcamp: SQL Server 2008, Office System 2007 and PerformancePoint Server 2007
June 22-26, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD

Enterprise ETL with SQL Server Integration Services 2005 & 2008

July 27-30, Minneapolis, MN - Erik Veerman
(Remote learning available)

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

Designing and Developing Solutions with SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services

July 27-30, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD

Solving Business Problems with MDX in SQL Server 2008

Aug. 3-5, Minneapolis, MN - Tim Peterson (Remote learning available)

SQL Server 2008 End-to-End Business Intelligence Workshop

Aug. 31-Sept. 4, Minneapolis, MN - Jessica Moss
(Remote learning available)

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 Courses

Live Online Training: Same Quality Lower Cost

resources to correctly set up the hardware, storage, OS layer, and SQL Server as well as the initial data warehouse databases and SQL Server files. At the end of the project, we perform final testing and document the setup.

- **Migration Planning and Implementation:** Whether you are moving from a non-SQL Server database platform or your existing data warehouse is currently using SQL Server, we can direct you in the best approach for migrating your databases to the SQL Server 2008 Fast Track platform and make sure that the core data tables are optimized for the new Fast Track environment.
- **SQL Server 2008 Data Warehouse Competitive Benchmark:** This solution offering gives you an apples-to-apples cost and performance evaluation of SQL Server 2008 against your Teradata, Oracle, or DB2 data warehouse solution. The 2-3 week benchmark involves using your organization's data warehouse data, migrated to SQL Server 2008, and implemented on a scale-up SQL Server Fast Track architecture or a scale-out SQL Server Madison platform.

Contact us at info@solidq.com or 800-757-6543 to schedule your Fast Track engagement today, and see [Service Offerings](#) for our full slate of offerings.

TRAINING & MENTORING

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 just 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 gives your team a deep-dive educational experience while allowing 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](#)

Check Out These New SolidQ Courses:

- [SQL Server 2005 & 2008 Integration Services for Database Professionals](#)
- [Designing and Developing Solutions with SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services](#)
- [Deploying, Operating, and Tuning an Analysis Services 2008 Solution](#)

SERVICE OFFERINGS

Solid Quality Mentors' [Live Online](#) training courses use the same expert class instructor, quality content, and comprehensive materials as in our traditional classroom setting. But with Microsoft Office Live Meeting, you don't have to travel away from home or work.

Using your computer on a high-speed Internet connection, you connect to a group session in Microsoft Office Live Meeting, led by an instructor who encourages full participation from the students. You can follow along with the instructor presentation, ask questions and have them answered publicly or via private chat, view application demonstrations, share applications, and practice what is learned in hands-on exercises.

This training format offers 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 available for Live Online delivery to a group of students from your company in a private-class setting:

- [Live Online: Microsoft SQL Server Performance Tuning Bootcamp](#)
- [Live Online: Guru's SQL Server Database Administration](#)

Customer Testimonial

"I wish we would have had you guys out here earlier -- it would have kept me from wasting weeks of time trying to figure this stuff out."

Pinpoint Performance Problems

Through our lineup of Performance Tuning and Optimization (PTO) service offerings, our experienced Mentors can quickly pinpoint the root cause of current or future application performance issues, identify opportunities for immediate performance improvements, and implement solutions:

- **SQL Server Performance Tuning & Optimization:** Identify root cause of performance issues within a specific application and/or SQL Server instance(s) and recommend solutions
- **SSAS Performance Tuning & Optimization:** Assess SSAS environment and make recommendations for optimal performance
- **.NET Performance Tuning & Optimization:** Assess application (code) and make performance recommendations using best practices and automated tools
- **Hardware Expansion Assessment:** Identify opportunities to improve application performance before purchasing new or additional hardware, and if new hardware is still needed, we make specific recommendations

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Best Practices Conference: Doing Things the Right Way

Avoid pitfalls, cut costs, and gain competitive edge with insights from top Solid Quality Mentors experts and other industry leaders at the Best Practices Conference in Washington, D.C., August 24-26.

"Best practices is about doing things the right way -- the best method to accomplish a task, no matter how large or small," notes Solid Quality Mentors' Brian Moran, speaker manager for the conference's SQL Server track. "There are many technology conferences, but I'm excited to be part of this unique event focused solely on best practices."

The conference, covering both SQL Server and SharePoint best practices, features nine Mentors: Itzik Ben-Gan, Randy Dyess, Allan Hirt, Andrew Kelly, Greg Low, Rushabh Mehta, Douglas McDowell, Craig Utley, and Erik Veerman.

"For any organization planning to deploy or that has already deployed SQL Server, Business Intelligence, and SharePoint Server technologies, there is no better conference to attend this year," says Mark Elgersma, Best Practices Conference director. "You can be assured that sending your team, or attending yourself, will help your organization achieve a greater ROI on your technology investment, experience a more pervasive, thoughtful use of Microsoft technologies, and allow your users to work smarter, be more productive, and be more agile in making better decisions in the coming year."

[Learn more and register](#)

Plus:

Our Mentors

Jessica Moss: Dimension ETL from One Source Table

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](#)

Veerman Session "Best of Show" at SSWUG BI Virtual Conference

Congratulations to Solid Quality Mentors' Erik Veerman, whose session "Dimension Table Design 101" won Best of Show at the [Spring 2009 SSWUG.org BI Virtual Conference](#).

Two of Erik's other sessions -- "Dimensional Modeling 101" and "Fact Table Design 101" -- were runners up for top honors. Also speaking at the vConference was Craig Utley, who presented his popular Analysis Services sessions.

- Learn from Jessica Moss at [DevTeach/SQLTeach](#), June 8-12, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- Join Solid Quality Mentors at [PASS Summit 2009](#), Nov. 2-5, in Seattle, WA. Enter "[The Best Thing I Learned at PASS](#)" contest, and you could win a free registration!

HOT LINKS

[Itzik Ben-Gan: Puzzled by T-SQL-Optimizing Aggregates with DISTINCT](#)

[Andrew Kelly: How Dirty Are Your Reads?](#)

[SQL Server 2008 Partitioned Table and Index Strategies](#)

[MCTS Self-Paced Training Kit \(Exam 70-448\): Microsoft SQL Server 2008 - Business Intelligence Development and Maintenance](#)

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