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DECEMBER 2008

Scheduled Courses

Performance Tuning Bootcamp

Events: Directions Seminars

Tech Feature: SQL Server 2008 Upgrade Guide

Reusable SSIS Framework

New Course: SSAS 2008

McDowell Elected to PASS Board

Come Learn with Us

SQL Server

Microsoft SQL Server Performance Tuning Bootcamp

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

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

Itzik Ben-Gan:
Feb. 23-26, Bellevue, WA
Apr. 13-17, Minneapolis, MN
May 4-8, Sacramento, CA

T-SQL Fundamentals

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

Business Intelligence

Enterprise ETL with SQL Server 2008 Integration Services

Jan. 26-29, Minneapolis, MN - Erik Veerman
Feb. 16-19, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD
May 26-29, Beaverton, OR - Mentor TBD

Designing and Developing Solutions with SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services

Feb. 2-5, Beaverton, OR - Mentor TBD
May 4-7, Bellevue, WA - Mentor TBD

SQL Server 2008 End-to-End Business

Intelligence Workshop

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

TechEd Pre-Con: Building an End-to-End Microsoft Business Intelligence Solution with Microsoft

December 2008

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TECH FEATURE

"SQL Server 2008 Upgrade Technical Reference Guide" Stresses Planning, Best Practices

Solid Quality Mentors and Microsoft have produced a comprehensive, 490-page guide that provides the information you need to ensure a smooth and trouble-free upgrade to SQL Server 2008. Preparation is the mantra throughout the freely downloadable "SQL Server 2008 Upgrade Technical Reference Guide," which stresses best practices and sufficient planning to match the complexity of your database application.

The 2008 upgrade guide, a follow-up to Solid Quality Mentors and Microsoft's popular "SQL Server 2005 Upgrade Technical Reference Guide," covers the essential preparation, upgrade, and post-upgrade tasks involved in upgrading existing SQL Server 2000 and 2005 instances to SQL Server 2008. Following this guidance -- and planning appropriately for the upgrade -- will reduce the risk of costly and stressful errors and upgrade problems. The 2008 upgrade guide covers the following topics:

- Overview of the technical issues and decisions involved in the upgrade and recommendations for planning and deploying an upgrade
- Upgrading to SQL Server 2008 management tools
- Upgrade issues related to SQL Server relational databases
- Upgrading to SQL Server 2008 Express
- Upgrading to the SQL Server 2008 Business Intelligence components: Analysis Services, Data Mining, Integration Services, and Reporting Services
- Implications of upgrading to SQL Server 2008 for other Microsoft applications and platforms
- Allowable SQL Server 2008 version and edition upgrade paths and an upgrade planning checklist

Ron Talmage led the Solid Quality Mentors author team, joined by subject experts Steven Abraham, Pablo Ahumada, Herbert Albert, Larry Barnes, Allan Hirt, Aaron Johal, Greg Low, Dejan Sarka, Antonio Soto, Craig Utley, and Joe Webb.

[Download the "SQL Server 2008 Upgrade Technical Reference Guide"](#)

[Download the "SQL Server 2005 Upgrade Technical Reference Guide"](#)

[Check out Solid Quality Mentors' SQL Server Upgrade \(Assessment and Planning\) Service Offering](#)

SPOTLIGHT

Speed Development and Improve Performance with SSIS Framework Service Offering

Solid Quality Mentors has launched a new SSIS Framework service as part of its comprehensive Business Intelligence (BI) Service Offerings. Through this SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS) offering, our Mentors show you how to establish a reusable

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

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 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](#).

Customer Testimonial

"The perspective that Solid Quality Mentors has from being in the training space really

extraction, transformation, and loading (ETL) framework to speed development and improve performance.

Watch Mentors Jessica Moss and Rushabh Mehta's free Webcast, "[Introduction to SQL Server 2008 Integration Services](#)," which discusses and demonstrates the role that SSIS can play in an organization and in BI solutions. Then, visit our [Service Offerings](#) site or contact us at info@solidq.com for more information about the SSIS Framework and other service offerings.

TRAINING & MENTORING

New Course: Deploying, Operating, and Tuning an Analysis Services 2008 Solution

During this new three-day Solid Quality Mentors course, you'll learn to deploy, operate, and tune a SQL Server 2008 Analysis Services (SSAS) solution. After learning how to prepare for the successful deployment of an SSAS solution, you'll see how to update data in a production environment while minimizing its impact on performance. Then, you'll learn how to collect and analyze data to improve processing and querying performance.

The course covers SSAS, Network Load Balancing, SQL Server Profiler, and SQL Server Management Data Warehouse. After completing this course, you'll be able to deploy an SSAS project from development to test and production; synchronize changes over time between development, test, and production; determine appropriate hardware resources and software versions for your production environment; plan for security and availability requirements; update dimension and partition data while minimizing the impact on availability and performance; troubleshoot deployment and processing errors; use a scale-out architecture for availability and performance; monitor an SSAS solution for availability, performance, and usage; and diagnose and resolve query and processing performance issues.

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

GET TO KNOW OUR MENTORS

Douglas McDowell Elected to PASS Board

Solid Quality Mentors' CEO, North America, Douglas McDowell has been elected to the Professional Association for SQL Server (PASS) Board of Directors. McDowell, elected to the board during the PASS Community Summit 2008 in late November, joins colleagues Rushabh Mehta, who serves as one of the PASS board's three elected executives in his position as Executive Vice President, Finance and Technology, and Greg Low, who is Director of Chapters on the PASS board.



McDowell, a SQL Server Most Valuable Professional (MVP) who co-founded the thriving Atlanta chapter of PASS, ran for the board on a platform of empowering local chapters. After moving to Maryland in 2006, he became a charter member of the PASS Regional Mentor program, serving 18 PASS chapters in the Eastern US as the personal liaison to PASS for each chapter leader. In that capacity, he created an infrastructure that facilitated peer-networking of chapter leaders within the region through quarterly calls and a regional newsletter.

[Read the full story](#)

Greg Low Now Microsoft Certified Master: SQL Server 2008

Greg Low, Solid Quality Mentors' Managing Director, Australia, has achieved a rare level of SQL Server certification, passing the new Microsoft Certified Master: Microsoft SQL Server 2008 exams. The Microsoft Certified Master program for SQL Server 2008 provides the most in-depth and comprehensive training available today for SQL Server 2008. This three-week training program is delivered by recognized experts from

closes the gap for clients. It helps them see that you're not just tactical consultants - you're educators and leaders."

Microsoft and Microsoft Partner organizations, including Greg and other Solid Quality Mentors such as Andrew Kelly and Ron Talmage. Greg describes the intense experience of becoming a Microsoft Certified Master in his blog, "The Bit Bucket."
[Read the full story](#)

Hot Links

Events

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 and "rock star" speakers, including Itzik Ben-Gan and Erik Veerman. The two-day regional events also allow for a deeper dive than conferences can offer and are easier and less expensive to attend.

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

Webcast: Erik Veerman on "Choosing and Configuring a Scalable BI Infrastructure"

Microsoft's Steve Seow Interviews Solid Quality Mentors' Ken Spencer

Webcast: Craig Utley on "Avoiding Common Analysis Services Mistakes"

Blog: Chris Love's Professional ASP.NET: "Having Problems Registering Client Scripts with the ClientScript Object? Try the ScriptManager"

Greg Low's SQL Down Under Podcast: Microsoft Senior Technical Evangelist Ryan Dunn on SQL Data Services

Pain-of-the-Week Webcast: SQLServerPedia.com: The Definitive SQL Server Knowledge Base