

Get on the Fast Track to SQL Server 2008 Data Warehousing

Fast Track Solution Offering Overview

You need to take several steps to take advantage of the Fast Track reference architectures, and we can assist in all the steps of the process--or jump in where you need help:

1. **Planning and estimation** to determine the volume and performance needs of your data warehouse solution
2. **Hardware selection** of existing hardware, new hardware, or a combination of both
3. **Hardware component configuration** exactly as specified by the Fast Track configurations
4. **Windows Server setup** and settings for optimal throughput
5. **SQL Server 2008 installation** and configuration of server-level settings and system database optimization
6. **Database setup** for production data warehouse and staging environments
7. **Testing of I/O throughput** to simulate SQL Server data warehouse workloads
8. **Documentation** of configuration, installation, and settings

If you don't have the budget for new servers but would like to know whether your existing hardware is Fast Track-compliant, we can evaluate and determine if the hardware will sufficiently support the Fast Track configuration you need.

Two-Phase Approach

Getting to a fully implemented SQL Server 2008 Fast Track hardware platform requires initial upfront planning and then proper configuration and implementation of the platform. To facilitate this, our solution offering is divided into two phases:

- **Initial evaluation, planning, and acquisition assistance (3-5 days).** This phase begins with the evaluation of your planned data warehouse volume, concurrency, and workloads. It then translates your needs into the recommended Fast Track hardware configurations to meet those needs and coordinates with your preferred vendor on the system purchase.
- **Configuration, installation, and testing (5-8 days).** The second phase involves working with your IT resources to correctly set up the hardware and storage as specified in the Fast Track configurations. We then make sure the OS layer and SQL Server 2008 are correctly set up and configured for optimal throughput, as dictated by the Fast Track

configurations. In this phase, we also set up the initial data warehouse databases and SQL Server files to take advantage of the Fast Track hardware and then perform final testing and documentation to assure the correct configuration and record the setup for maintenance and support.

Migration Planning and Implementation Offering

In addition to getting you started with the Fast Track configurations, we can help plan and execute your migration to the Fast Track platform. Whether you are moving from a non-SQL Server database platform or your existing data warehouse is currently on a version of SQL Server, we can help 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.

Benchmark Service Offering

The Microsoft Fast Track configurations have been thoroughly tested to provide optimal performance for a scale-up data warehouse solution. You may be surprised at how well the platform performs compared to the current relational database or platform you are on—at a fraction of the cost. Ask about our Fast Track competitive benchmark and how we can give you an apples-to-apples comparison of your data on the Fast Track platform, which has the potential of saving you millions of dollars in hardware, software, and support costs over time.

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

Solid Quality Mentors – www.solidq.com

SQL Server 2008 Fast Track Data Warehouse Architectures - www.microsoft.com/fasttrack