

I'm It - Survival Techniques for the Lone DBA

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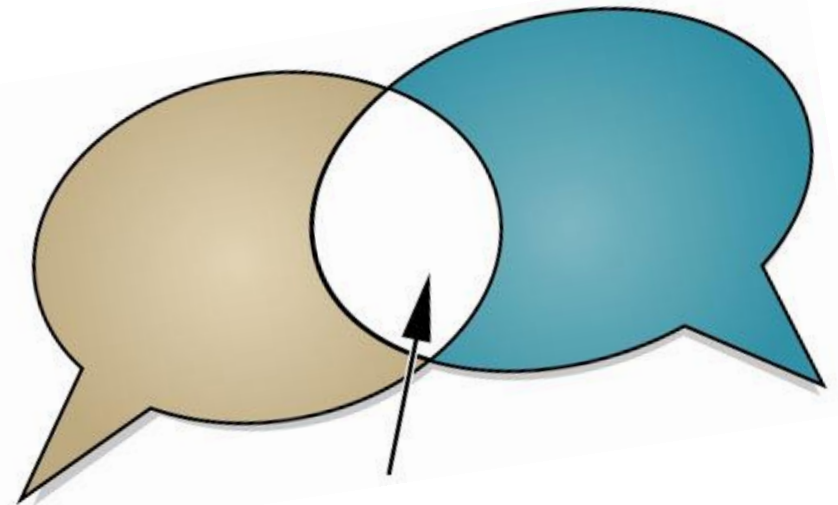
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@SQLEspresso

Presentation Rules

- Always ask questions
- Interrupt me
- This is a two way conversation, let's learn from each other's experiences



This is the good stuff

Topics

- I'm It!
- Master of None
- How to Use Outside Resources
- Get a Second Set of Eyes
- Managing Company Expectations
- Life Balance Struggles
- Admit You Can't Do Everything
- Monkey Instructions
- Document Code
- Avoid Customizations
- Be an Octopus
- See it's Not So Bad!
- Homework!

I'm It!

- Lone DBA for 15 years
- My Environments
 - Port of Virginia
 - 56 SQL Instances, 40 Servers, 2 Oracle
 - Massimo Zanetti
 - 12 Instances, 11 Servers, 1 Oracle
- My Knowledge Base
 - Everything But The Kitchen Sink



Master of None

- Create Broad Skill Set
 - Self Teach
 - Virtual Conferences
 - Virtual User Groups
 - SQL Saturday's
 - PASS Summit
- Learn Only What You Need
- Being a Master of Anything is Impossible
- Learn to Accept Not Knowing Everything



How to Use Outside Resources

• Power of Twitter

- How To Start & Build Your Name
- One DBA = Thousands of Co-workers
- #SQLHelp



• Blogs

- Brent Ozar Unlimited - <http://www.brentozar.com/blog/>
- SQL Skills - <http://http://www.sqlskills.com/blogs>
- SQLBlog.com- <http://sqlblog.com/blogs/default.aspx>
- Thomas LaRock's Rockstar Bloggers <http://thomaslarock.com/rankings/>



• Resource Sites

- **JUST GOOGLE IT! (but don't blindly trust it)**
- SQL Server Central - <http://www.sqlservercentral.com/>
- DBA Exchange Stack - <http://dba.stackexchange.com/>
- MSSQL Tips - <https://www.mssqltips.com/>



Get a Second Set of Eyes

- Get Some “Go To” Experts
 - How To Find Them
 - Start Building Your Network
 - Get Involved in Community
- Experts in Each Specialty
 - Internals
 - Storage
 - PoSh
 - Disaster Recovery
 - Performance Tuning
- Code Reviewers
- Brain Storming



Managing Company Expectations

- Work Load Management
- Don't Let Them Burn You Out
- Make Them Train You & Get Tools You Need
- Use Your Boss as a “Shield”



Life Balance Struggles

- You're Always On Call
- Vacation What's That?
- Make Sure Your Boss is Aware of Your Time
- Ask For Flex Time
- Ask to Work Remotely from Time to Time



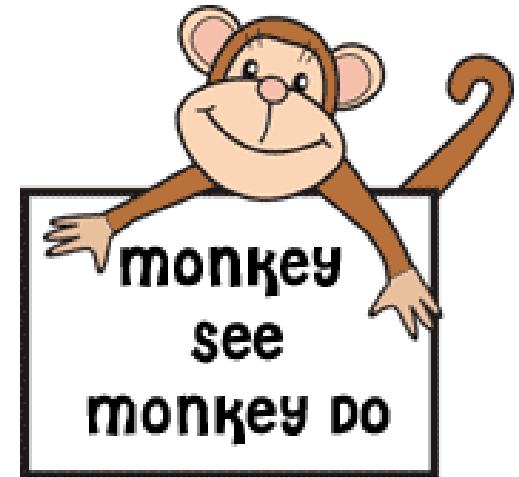
Admit You Can't Do Everything

- Hire Consultants
 - Frees Your Plate Up
 - Give Them Tedious Work
 - Give Them Big Projects
- Doesn't Mean You Can't Do The Work
 - Your "In House" Knowledge is Your Safety Net
- Gotcha's
 - Giving Up Stuff You Love Doing
 - Handholding the Consultants



Monkey Instructions

- Make a Hit-By-a-Bus Handbook
 - Step by Step Instructions
 - Diagrams
 - Plain English
- Share Your Knowledge
- Don't Build in Job Security



Document Your Code

- Document Your Code
 - What It Does
 - What Calls It
 - Why It Was Created



```
/*
Name:
Programmer:
Date Created:
Description:
Called By: Reports-
           Applications-
           Jobs-
Parameters:
Tables Used:
Run:
Modifications:
Date:          Ticket          Programmer:          Desc:
*/
```

Avoid Customizations



- Implement Techniques Widely Used in Database Community
 - Glenn Berry's Scripts for Performance
 - <https://sqlserverperformance.wordpress.com/2014/09/17/sql-server-diagnostic-information-queries-for-september-2014>
 - Ola Hallengren's Scripts for Indexes
 - <https://ola.hallengren.com/>
 - Brent Ozar's sql_blitz for SQL Health
 - <http://www.brentozar.com/first-aid/>
- Don't Bake Your Own Monitoring Tools!

Be an Octopus

- Multitasking is Key
 - Stay Organized
 - Be Flexible
- Use SQL Tools as Extra Arms



Use	Idera	Red-Gate	SQL Sentry
Monitoring	Diagnostic Manager	SQL Monitor	Performance Advisor
Admin Work	Admin Tool Set	SQL Tool Belt	
Performance Tuning			Plan Explorer Pro
Health Overviews	SQL Doctor		
Scripting & Code		SQL Prompt	
Comparisons		SQL Compare	
Backup & Restores	Virtual Database		

Admin Tool Set

ideraTM
TOOLS FOR SQL SERVERTM

Launchpad
File Tools Help

Idera SQL admin toolset
Incredibly useful tools for SQL Server people

Diagnostics

- Backup Status**: Check whether your databases are backed up
- SQL Search**: Search for text anywhere you have SQL code (stored procs, functions, triggers etc)
- Object Search**: Find objects by name anywhere they are hiding in your SQL Servers
- SQL Discovery**: Find the SQL Servers lurking on your network
- Password Checker**: Check the strength of your SQL Server passwords
- Connection Check**: Check common issues surrounding SQL Server connectivity problems

Administration

- Multi Query**: Execute and manage queries across multiple SQL Servers
- Database Mover**: Move or copy databases and their associated logins within or between SQL Servers
- Login Copy**: Copy server logins from one SQL Server to another
- User Clone**: Create a new SQL Server login using an existing login as a template
- Job Mover**: Move and copy jobs between SQL Servers
- Job Editor**: View and edit jobs across multiple SQL Servers
- Quick Reindex**: Review fragmentation levels and rebuild the indexes on your SQL Servers
- Server Configuration**: Compare and update the server configuration for one or more SQL Servers
- Database Configuration**: Compare and update the configuration for one or more databases
- Partition Generator**: Examine existing partition information and generate new partitions
- Connection String**: Create connection strings easily by picking and choosing from the available options
- Linked Server Copy**: Copy linked servers from one SQL Server to another

Analytics

- Inventory Reporter**: List and report on important computer and SQL Server configuration information
- Patch Analyzer**: Find out if your SQL Servers are up to date with the latest available patches
- Index Analyzer**: View and analyze statistics for your columns and indexes
- Space Analyzer**: Analyze the space usage of your SQL Server by drive or database
- Server Statistics**: View statistics and counts about your SQL Servers
- Server Ping**: Continuously monitor the status and availability of your SQL Servers

Buttons: Edit SQL admin toolset Options..., Manage Server Groups..., SQL admin toolset Help

SQL virtual database
Access data in SQL Server backup files without restoring

Welcome!

Welcome to Idera SQL virtual database, a powerful new patent-pending technology that lets you interact with SQL Server backup files as though they were live databases!

Getting started is easy!
Simply select 'Attach Full Backup' or 'Attach Multiple Backups' from the menu on the right hand side.

After the files are attached, you can use any native or third-party tool to access the database.

It's that easy!

- Attach Full Backup**: Create a virtual database from a full backup
- Attach Multiple Backups**: Create a virtual database up to an exact point in time
- Run Queries**: Access your virtual database using SQL Server Management Studio.
- Tips & Tricks**: Get tips and tricks about using your virtual database
- Help & More**: Change your product setup, access online Help, and more!

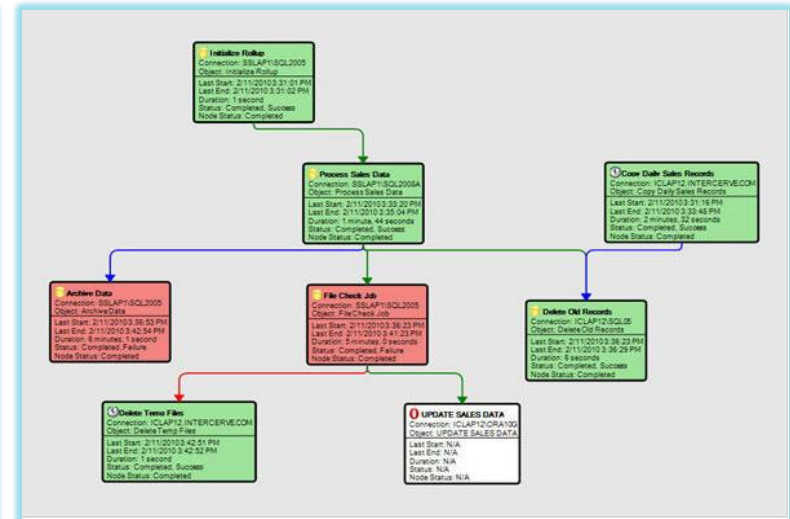
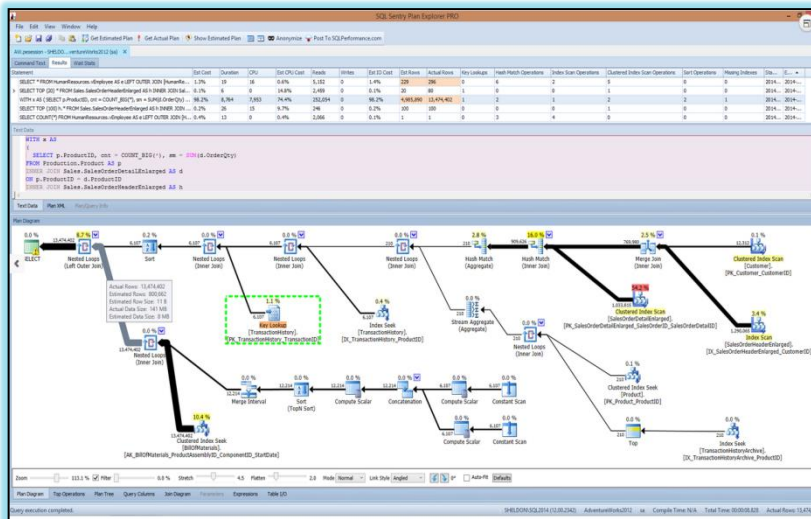
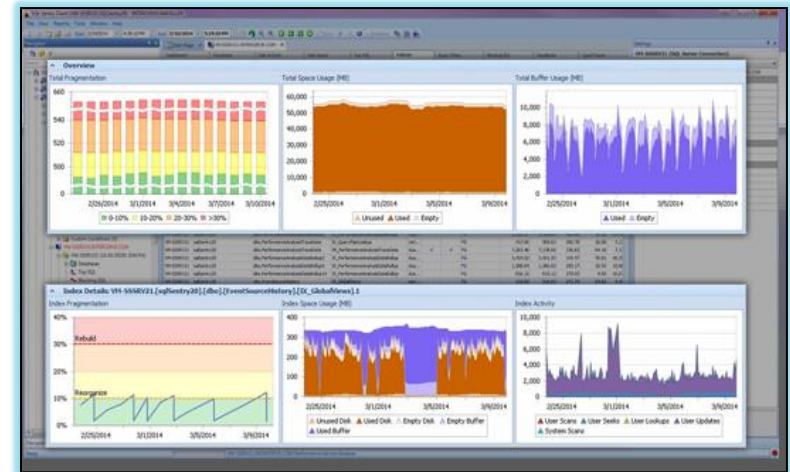
Idera SQL doctor
Analyze. Diagnose. Fix.

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 9:39 AM

All Servers Analysis History

SERVER	Analysis Type	Started on	Duration	Recommendation Summary	Category	Estimated Priority
SERVER_1	General Health Check	Mon, Jan 16, 2012 1:40:51 PM	00h 04m 07s	AI (40) Disaster Recovery (39) Database Configuration (1)	AI (40) Disaster Recovery (39) Database Configuration (1)	High
SERVER_2	General Health Check	Tue, Jan 17, 2012 1:14:12 PM	00h 05m 17s	AI (414) Processor (2) Blocking Processes (1) Index Optimization (258)	AI (414) Processor (2) Blocking Processes (1) Index Optimization (258)	High
SERVER_3	General Health Check	Mon, Jan 16, 2012 2:10:06 PM	00h 25m 11s	AI (1338) Disk (15) Processor (1) Index Optimization (871) Blocking Processes (2)	AI (1338) Disk (15) Processor (1) Index Optimization (871) Blocking Processes (2)	High
SERVER_4	General Health Check	Mon, Jan 16, 2012 4:47:02 PM	00h 01m 06s	AI (2) Memory (2)	AI (2) Memory (2)	High
SERVER_5	General Health Check	Tue, Jan 17, 2012 5:00:33 PM	00h 02m 21s	AI (0)	AI (0)	High
SERVER_6	General Health Check	Mon, Jan 16, 2012 9:09:38 AM	00h 03m 31s	AI (508) Memory (7) Disk (3) Disaster Recovery (123) Processor (2)	AI (508) Memory (7) Disk (3) Disaster Recovery (123) Processor (2)	High

Performance Advisor, Fragmentation Manager, Job Chaining & Plan Explorer



SQL Tool-belt, SQL Prompt & SQL Compare

redgate
ingeniously simple tools



[SQL Source Control](#)



[SQL Compare Pro](#)



[SQL Data Compare Pro](#)



[SQL Prompt](#)



[SQL Dependency Tracker](#)



[SQL Backup Pro](#)



[SQL Monitor](#)



[SQL Search](#)



[SQL Multi Script Unlimited](#)



[SQL Test](#)



[SQL Comparison SDK](#)



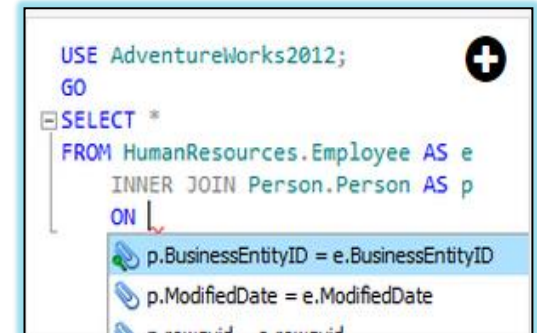
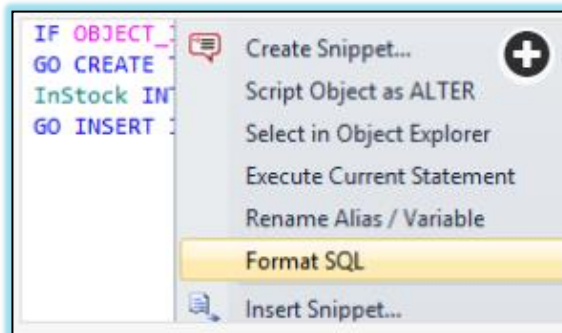
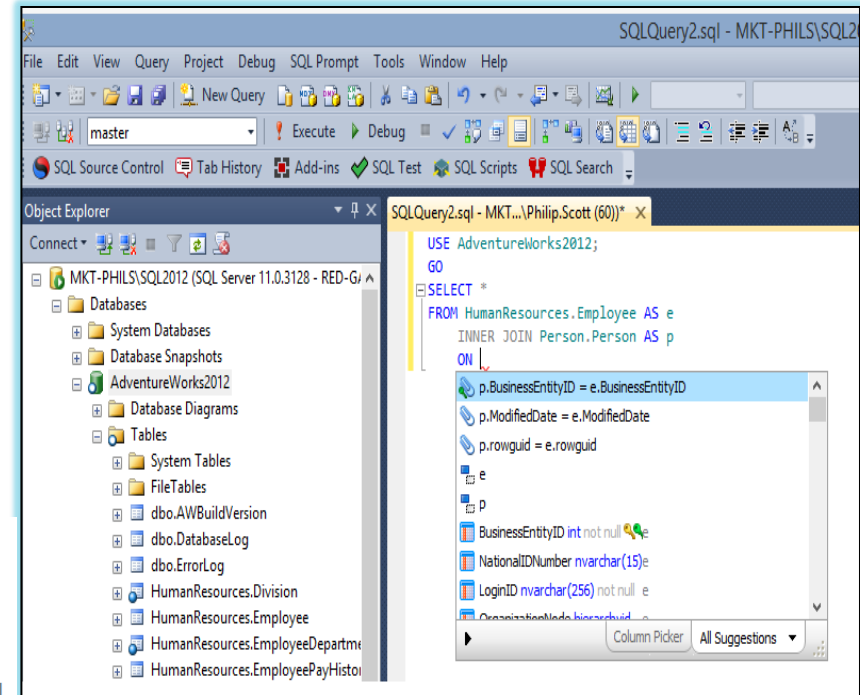
[DLM Dashboard](#)



[SQL Doc](#)



[SQL Data Generator](#)



No Budget, Use the Free Tools

- SQL Sentry Plan Explorer
 - <http://www.sqlsentry.com/products/plan-explorer/sql-server-query-view>
- Redgate SQL Search
 - <http://www.red-gate.com/products/free-tools>
- Brent Ozar's First Aid Kit
 - <http://www.brentozar.com/first-aid/sql-server-downloads>
- Adam Mechanic's sp_whoisactive
 - http://sqlblog.com/blogs/adam_machanic/archive/2012/03/22/released-who-is-active-v11-11.aspx



See it's Not So Bad!

- You Get to Make the Rules
- You Are the “GO TO” SQL Authority
- You Get to Do So Many Different Things in Day\Career
- Never Bored
- Flexible Schedules
- Constantly Learning New Things
- You Become “Very Marketable”

Home Work!

Start to Build Your Survival Kit

- Get a Twitter Account
 - “SQL Guru’s” List
- Get Some SQL Tools
 - Free Tools
- Start Documenting
- **Network! Network! Network!**
 - SUMMIT
 - SQL Saturdays
 - User Groups

Thank You!



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