

April 16, 2008



Community Connector

A Biweekly Newsletter for SQL Server Professionals

DATABASE TRENDS AND APPLICATIONS

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Dear Sandy,

2008 PASS Community Summit

Microsoft SQL Server and BI Users Conference and Expo

November 18-21, 2008 • Seattle, WA
Washington State Convention & Trade Center

Guest Editorial



Denise McInerney
NJ SQL Server User Group Leader & member of the PASS BI Program Committee

Ken Henderson was the well-known author of the "Guru's Guide..." books as well as several other titles on SQL Server. He was a good friend to PASS and regularly spoke at the PASS Community Summit. Sadly, Ken Henderson passed away in January of this year.

Below are excerpts from a tribute to Ken written by PASS past-President Kevin Kline and published in the January/February edition of "SQL Server Standard."



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A Tribute to Ken Henderson, 1967 - 2008

Those who knew him well could deliver a dozen different tributes to Ken's life and each would be true. In one, you could describe his deep and effusive love for his wife and young children. In another, you could extol his comedic exploits.

You could go down so many paths and explore the different aspects of his life in each - Ken the religious philosopher, Ken the friend, Ken the hard-core console gamer, Ken the teacher and mentor, Ken the IT professional, Ken the small-town boy in the big city. In the few years I got to know Ken well, I came to see all of these threads intertwined within Ken. Today, I'd like to tell you about Ken the SQL Server guru.

Ken started out with a more typical IT background than many people expect, working in large corporate IT shops with a variety of development and database roles.

As the years moved on, Ken's skill set outgrew the traditional IT shop he was working. He was ready for something new - and Microsoft was beckoning. This was his opportunity to take his ever expanding intellect into the deepest waters of SQL Server. When Ken became enraptured with something new, which happened frequently, his enthusiasm was boundless and extremely productive. As he dove into new areas, he would consume every aspect of it, learning as much as he could about not only the direct ins and outs of the topic, but also its history and context. Despite his desire to take in more, Ken was also a world-class sharer. He didn't like the idea of working for Microsoft without also being able to share his new experiences and so, before signing on with Microsoft, he was given special permission to continue to write and share his knowledge.

He didn't want others to hold back sharing either. As the Las Colinas support lab staffed up and more stellar talents like Bob Dorr and Bob Ward joined the group, Ken would encourage his friends on the SQL Server PSS staff to get into the sharing business too. "You've got incredible knowledge that nobody else does, why keep it to yourself?" he would say, "I'm nervous," they'd say. "Don't worry, these people already love you," he'd reply. It wasn't an easy sell, but they bought in, in a big way. And so, the PSS team tremulously opened a special PSS Hands-on Lab at the PASS 2003 Summit, only to discover it was one of the most popular offerings at the event, and started to present sessions at PASS and for other SQL Server enthusiasts, like the SQL Server MVPs. "This is great," he'd say again and again to me in his understated way. And it was great - the free problem solving for the SQL Server community was

great, the reduced number of calls to the PSS support line great, the growing confidence of his brilliant teammates on the PSS team was great, the sharing of support was great, and fun and camaraderie was great.

Fun and camaraderie had a special place in Ken's heart and he thrilled at the well-designed practical joke. One outstanding joke relayed to me by Bob Ward occurred back in the spring of 2005. As Bob says...

"Ken came by one day at my desk and asked me what I wanted to present at the PASS Summit that year. Over the past few months, I had been involved in planning efforts for SQL Server 2008 (called Katmai back then) so I told him perhaps I could talk about future directions of SQL Server including our thinking around Katmai. I told Ken to not say anything to PASS until I got approval from the product team. Later that week on Friday Ken called me and said he had made a big mistake. He told PASS what I might be speaking on and they had already posted this on their main website. He sent me an email with a URL hyperlink to look at it. When I selected the link, up came the main page of PASS. On it was a "lead story" that Bob Ward would be speaking about Katmai at the PASS 2005 Community Summit in Grapevine, Texas. I couldn't believe it and had already begun to think about how I could really get in trouble over this. Not many people even knew the codename Katmai at that time. Visibly stressed, I started to get mad at Ken and asked him to call PASS immediately and have it removed. He said he already called and that the main web administrator was gone for the weekend and it couldn't be changed until Monday. I really began to think I could get fired over this. As I continued to get mad at him over the phone I heard a slight chuckle. Ken asked me to read the URL hyperlink he sent me. It was a local server at Microsoft and not to the real PASS site. Ken had spent hours the night before mocking up the PASS website page and posted it on a local server at our office to create the illusion. I fell for this so easily as I did for just about all the other practical jokes Ken pulled (and he pulled a bunch). If you ever met Ken, you would never take him for one that loves this sort of thing, which is perhaps why he was so good at it. "

He didn't like to work hard on something without good cause. And he always wanted to extend the hard work he did to the benefit of many. So he would take the time to build toolkits and shortcuts at every opportunity and make them public for everyone to use. One example you might have experienced personally was created during Ken's days as a Microsoft PSS engineer. In those days, Ken and the team dealt with constant pain of collecting data from customer sites using the poorly documented Windows PerformanceMonitor (PerfMon). Rather than tell customers to go through an elaborate

performance data collection process using PerfMon for all eternity, Ken developed a full-featured tool called PSSDiag (now available as SQLDiag) to make collecting the data simple, direct, and easy. And true to his spirit as a sharer and teacher, the team made it public.

When the PASS 2007 Summit came around, I was surprised to find that he hadn't submitted any abstracts for the event. So I gave him a call to see what was the matter. "I just don't have time to build a full slide deck and then spend a lot of time doing free consulting on software projects afterwards," and he started laughing. Ken called the Q&A sessions after his presentations "free consulting" because he wasn't just a software developer; he was a *software lover*, as he was of so many other things...

Many of the things in Ken's life were par excellence, but his celebrity within the SQL Server world surprised him. He was a totally humble, genuine and authentic person.

Ken had a passion for technology and the caring heart of a good teacher. But of all the thrills in his life the Henderson family was the root of all of his joy. When I last saw him in Denver, he told me how happy he was to speak at the PASS

Summit and, on the other hand, minimize his time away from home. "I can't wait to get back," he said. And he meant it. There was nowhere else that he wanted to be more.

Ken's life, in many ways, was contradictory. He was outspoken yet understated, stubborn yet rational, humble yet famous, a leader yet a servant.

I'm holding his book now, a book full of wisdom. It is a book that richly deserves its reputation as among the best, but it has been enriched by an even more splendid life. He did not live nearly long enough, but he made sure that his life lessons of sharing and caring permeated every aspect of his work and his writing.

The call to Speakers for the PASS 2008 Community Summit is now Closed.

Thanks to everyone who has submitted an abstract!

Speakers will be notified by May 30th regarding the status of their

abstract submissions.

DBA SIG Live Meeting Event

April 23, 2008 - Noon Eastern

On the theory that "the third time's the charm", the DBA SIG will try again to have a live meeting event presented by TJay Belt. Our February attempt ran into problems with the live meeting server, and our March attempt ran into human communication problems! April is going to work!

TJay Belt will give a talk about SQL Server Logical Query Processing.

Abstract: The first noticeable aspect of SQL that is different from other programming languages is the order in which the code is processed. In most programming languages, the code is processed in the order in which it is written. In SQL, the first clause that is processed is the FROM clause, while the SELECT clause, which appears first, is processed almost last. The presentation will be a brief description of the different logical steps applied in both SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server 2005. You'll also see a demonstration of SQL code written by Itzik Ben-Gan from his book Inside Microsoft® SQL Server™ 2005 T-SQL Querying.

TJay Belt is a Database Administrator for the Accounts Payable division of Affiliated Computer Services. He has studied computer science at BYU and developed in and administered databases his entire career. TJay has used SQL Server versions 7, 2000 and 2005 since 1998, and has been a DBA for 5-1/2 + years. TJay has enjoyed delivering presentations for Microsoft, Affiliated Computer Services, and local SQL Server User groups. He is the founder and PASS chapter leader of the Utah County SQL Server user group.

TJay truly enjoys working with and administering database, and his real passion lies in creating solutions.

To attend the meeting, you will need:

- An Internet connection for the presentation
- A telephone connection for the audio

The URL for the meeting is:

<https://www.livemeeting.com/rm/microsoft/join>

The Meeting ID is SIGS

The Meeting Key is SGISSIGS

The location is: <https://www112.livemeeting.com/cc/microsoft>

Audio Conferencing (Toll-free): +1 (866) 500-6738 Participant Code: 4048733

When attending the meeting, please observe the following common courtesies:

1. If you are using a speaker phone, please mute it unless you are asking a question. That way, other participants will not be disturbed by the noise in your environment.
2. If you need to leave the meeting temporarily, please hang up and call us back, unless your phone is silent when on hold. Your hold music and/or message is disturbing to other participants.

FIRST TIME USERS:

To save time before the meeting, check your system to make sure it is compatible with Microsoft Office Live Meeting:

<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=52354>

If you have any questions, please contact sharond@voicenet.com

Volunteer at Microsoft Launch Events!

March - June 2008

Microsoft has invited PASS to exhibit in its booth at the 61-city "Heroes Happen Here" launch road show and **we need you!**

We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help man the PASS table, spread the word about PASS, and sign up new members. **As a thank you, every volunteer will receive a special, limited-edition PASS golf shirt AND a chance to win 1 of 2 Zunes!**

Check out the Heroes Happen Here website at

<http://www.microsoft.com/heroeshappenhere/register/default.msp>

and email Hazel at hazel.maxwell@sqlpass.org to advise which city you can attend. Thank you for your support!



SQLSaturday #3 is a free one day training event that will be held in Jacksonville Florida on May 3, 2008 at the University of North Florida. [Registration](#) and [call for speakers](#) is now open! This event is being organized by the Jacksonville SQL Server Users Group. Click

[here](#) for more information.

PASS Organization & Mission

PASS was founded by Microsoft and CA to provide users of SQL Server a peer network and to help build a body of expertise to help educate millions of SQL Server users around the world.

Currently, PASS is a global community for more than 25,000 SQL Server professionals. It is the first independent, user-run, not-for-profit association dedicated to providing SQL Server users around the world with the tools and knowledge to achieve unparalleled business results.

Our Mission:

- Provide a forum for SQL Server education
- Build and grow the SQL Server Community
- Facilitate member networking & provide an infrastructure to enable the exchange of information within SQL Server disciplines- DBA/Developers, BI Professionals, etc.
- Work with Microsoft to influence the direction of the SQL Server product and services
- Publish high quality technical materials including the Connector & the SQL Server Standard Magazine
- Build the largest archive of user created SQL Server and Business Intelligence reference material

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