

February 20, 2008



Community Connector

A Biweekly Newsletter for SQL Server Professionals



Dear Sandy,

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Maximizing Your Launch Event Experience

Guest Editorial

Melissa Demcsak

NJ SQL Server User Group Leader and member of the PASS BI Program Committee

As SQL Server professionals, we have the opportunity to celebrate our chosen trade every day. But, every few years when Microsoft releases a new version of SQL Server, we get to join in on one Big Party, the Launch Party!!!

Beginning February 27th, Microsoft Launch Events are planned for cities worldwide. For information on Launch Events, see

<http://www.microsoft.com/heroeshappenhere/default.aspx>.

As an attendee of a launch event, you will have access to 3 types of resources:

- Informational Sessions on 2008 products
- Access to Microsoft and local community technical experts
- Networking opportunities with other local technical professionals

It is possible to educate yourself on SQL Server 2008 using others resources such as books, webcasts and user group events, but the value of being able to talk with SQL Server Experts and your peers can not be replicated by attending any other free one day event. When else do you have the opportunity to have the exposure to all these local SQL techies?

So, plan to make your Launch Event experience the best it can be.

**European PASS
Conference
2008**

April 14 – 16
Neuss, Germany



Register Now!

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Hints for Preparing for the Launch Event:

- This may sound silly, but don't forget to register for a local Launch Event. These types of events fill up very quickly.
- Dust off your business cards. Is your contact information up-to-date? Do you have enough business cards for the event?
- If you have any specific SQL Server 2008 questions, take a little time and research the issue before attending the Launch Event. This way, when you have the opportunity to ask Microsoft or local community technical experts your question, you can do so in a concise manner. This will increase your probability of receiving a helpful answer.

Hints for making the most of your Launch Event Experience:

- Plan to arrive early at the Launch Event venue. This will allow you to get through the registration line faster. As the event start time draws near, crowds will get larger.
- Once you have registered at the event, scope out the venue and determine where the "Ask the Experts" area is, locate the room(s) for your selected track (i.e. Data Platform IT Pro Track) and find the PASS and/or User Group tables.
- Take time to meet some local community leaders at the PASS and/or Local User Group tables. They can be invaluable resources for your future dilemmas.
- Remember, you have a HUGE networking opportunity at a Launch Event. Don't just sit there. Introduce yourself to others and find out about other companies in your area. When times are lean, these are some of the best contacts!
- Plan to spend extra time in the "Ask the Experts" area. Seek out Microsoft and local community experts to answer your questions. Remember, these experts want to help you solve your technical issues, but may not be specialized in all areas of SQL Server. If you don't get answers to your questions, ask if they have any contacts who could address your issue (this is where business cards come in handy).

It's your career. Why not enjoy the ride!!

**2008 PASS Community Summit [Call to Speakers](#)
is Open!**

Join other industry professionals and help build the SQL

Server community as a 2008 PASS Community Summit speaker in Seattle, Washington, November 18-21. Act now and submit an abstract by the **March 28th Deadline**.

All speakers receive:

- Complimentary registration to the 2008 PASS Community Summit
- Industry recognition
- Networking opportunities with thousands of attendees

Microsoft employees are encouraged to submit presentations using the online submission website. Please note that any Microsoft submissions will be reviewed and abstract status will be determined by Microsoft.

For more information, please visit our [Call To Speakers](#) website at <http://calltospeakers.sqlpass.org/> or e-mail any questions to calltospeakers@sqlpass.org.

DBA SIG Live Meeting Event

February 27, 2008
Noon Eastern

Our February live meeting event will feature TJay Belt. TJay 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

Women in Technology SIG

The Women in Tech SIG is looking for contributors to our [website](#). Do you have an idea for an article or essay or an interesting person you'd like to interview? If you have something to say, we want to hear from you. For more information, contact [Denise McInerney](#).

New Books Available for Review

The following books are now available to be reviewed on a first come first serve basis. Login into <http://sigs.sqlpass.org/> and transverse down to Resources->Book Reviews->Books Available for Review.

- "Professional SQL Server 2005 CLR Programming"
- "Sams Teach Yourself SQL Server TSQL"
- "Pro TSQL 2005 Programmer's Guide"
- "Pro SQL Server 2005 Service Broker"
- "SQL Server 2005: Stored Procedure Programming in TSQL & .NET"
- "SQL Server 2005: Database Essentials (Step by Step)"

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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