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## Community Connector

A Biweekly Newsletter for SQL Server Professionals



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Dear Sandy,

### The World We Live In

Chuck Heinzelman

Director of Technical Publications



As I am writing this, we (my family and I) are waiting for an impending winter storm. Those of you who know me know that I live in Wisconsin - the Milwaukee area to be specific. Winter snow is normally not a big deal to us. It is not unusual to go to bed and wake up to 4 inches of snow on any given day.

However, this storm is a little different. When I was watching the news this morning, they were projecting anywhere from 8 to 12 inches of snow over the next 36 hours. By 3:00 this afternoon, that estimate had been changed to between 14 and 18 inches, with certain areas getting upwards of 20 inches! This kind of snow will bring even Wisconsin to a grinding halt. I heard an estimate this afternoon that about 75% of businesses were not planning to open tomorrow.

That 75% number got me thinking. 20 years ago 75% of businesses being closed would mean that almost nothing was going to get done. Today, however, I'm guessing that while the businesses may have the doors to their office closed, plenty of work will be getting done.

One of the guys who supports the network infrastructure where I work was going around to everyone's desk today asking if they needed the VPN information to get on to the network if they couldn't make it in to work tomorrow. I live fairly close to the office so I will probably be able to make it in, but I'll bet that many people just choose to work from home tomorrow. In our industry, it is sometimes easier to work from a place other than the

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office - depending on your situation you might even get more done that way.

How flexible have you found your employer to be with working off-site - even when the weather is not a problem? Are there a lot of companies who offer this "benefit" to their technology-based employees? I'd love to hear from you. Drop me a line at [chuck.heinzelman@sqlpass.org](mailto:chuck.heinzelman@sqlpass.org).

### DBA SIG

The next DBA SIG live meeting event will be held Wednesday, February 27th at Noon Eastern time.

Our speaker is TJBelt, who will give a talk about SQL Server Logical Query Processing.

Abstract: The first noticeable aspect of SQL that is different than 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.

### 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](#).

## Book Review SIG

A number of books have been added to the [list of books available for review](#). Please look them over. If you're interested in writing a review of one of the books, just supply us with your name and address. The book will be rushed out to you. All you have to do is read it and rush the review back to us.



## SQL Saturday! in Tampa, Florida

February 16th, 2008

[Register](#) now to participate in a one day free training event for SQL Server Professionals.

There will be over 25 technical sessions, lots of raffle prizes, and... free lunch!

The [call for speakers](#) closes on January 14th, so if you are interested in presenting, contact them today.

SQL Saturday will be held at Doubletree Hotel Westshore in Tampa, Florida.

For more information, check out their website:

[www.sqlsaturday.com](http://www.sqlsaturday.com)

## PASS Exhibitor Interview - Part 10

Business Intelligence Network

### **Tell us about the Business Intelligence Network.**

The Business Intelligence Network is literally a network of sites. The Network delivers industry-based content hosted by domain experts and industry leaders in business intelligence, business performance management, data warehousing and information quality. The Business Intelligence Network serves these communities with

unparalleled industry coverage and resources. Our main site, [www.BeyeNETWORK.com](http://www.BeyeNETWORK.com) utilizes the most advanced technology available for delivery of content over the web which includes RSS feeds, expert hosted blogs, audio driven interviews and podcasting. [www.BeyeSEARCH.com](http://www.BeyeSEARCH.com) the only BI and DW specific search engine on the web, [www.BeyeBLOGS.com](http://www.BeyeBLOGS.com) a community blogging site, [www.BeyeRESEARCH.com](http://www.BeyeRESEARCH.com) a resource site for industry specific surveys and research. We also have sites all over the world - [www.BeyeNETWORK.co.uk](http://www.BeyeNETWORK.co.uk) is a site for BI professional in the UK, [www.BeyeNETWORK.de](http://www.BeyeNETWORK.de) is our German language site and we had 11 French language sites headed up by [www.decideo.com](http://www.decideo.com). For information on ALL of our sites, check out [www.BeyeNETWORK.com/global](http://www.BeyeNETWORK.com/global).

### **Who are your sites intended to help?**

Anyone in the BI/DW and related industries. Our sites feature many educational and newsworthy materials - articles, white papers, blogs, podcasts and research written by experts such as Bill Inmon, Claudia Imhoff, Colin White, Jill Dyché, Craig Schiff and many many others. We also segment our content by industry, making it even more focused and relevant for the user. For instance, if there is a data architect working for a company in the healthcare industry, we have an outlet just for them!

### **What is the most significant advantage your sites offer to its users?**

We know the type of content that today's busy executive wants and we give it to them in as many different outlets as possible. Users can read an article, listen to it, or download it to their mp3 player. They can segment the information by industry, topic or expert. These are just a couple of examples! And all of our content is 100% free.

### **What's your vision for these offerings? What's it going to do in the future that it doesn't do now?**

We are always searching for new ways to bring information to our audience. For instance, we recently launched a radio podcast show, The BeyePERSPECTIVE where industry experts get together once per month to discuss industry news and trends. It's been a lot of fun so far and the feedback we have received has been very positive. Check it out [here](#).

### Where can we find out more about it?

A good starting point is [www.BeyeNETWORK.com](http://www.BeyeNETWORK.com).  
Subscribe to a [newsletter](#), catch up on [news](#), ready expert written [articles](#) and more!

### 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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