

June 25, 2008



Community Connector

A Biweekly Newsletter for SQL Server Professionals

DATABASE TRENDS AND APPLICATIONS

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Dear Sandy,

Behind the Scenes of SQLServerBeta.com

Sarah Barela, Manager of Database Services

Maximum ASP www.maximumasp.com

When SQL Server 2005 was released, I was caught unprepared by all of the new features in the release. I didn't have the time or hardware resources to test the new version before it was released and didn't want to fall behind other colleagues taking advantage of the new functionality 2005 provided. Many DBAs have shared with me a similar story and I found this to be a common problem for the busy DBA. With this in mind, PASS and MaximumASP wanted to create an environment where SQL Server professionals could preview the new features of SQL 2008 without having to take the time and resources to set up a test environment of their own.

However, creating a test environment that could support thousands of users and databases was not a simple task. Fortunately, Dell and Intel were able to assist in creating an infrastructure that could easily handle the needs of SQL Server Beta. To avoid users having to install pre-release client tools on their local machines, we set up a Microsoft Hyper-V environment on a Dell 2950 with dual quad core Intel processors and 64 GB of RAM. This server hosts several terminal server machines that provide access to the latest release of SQL Server Studio Manager and Business Intelligence Development Studio. Even with this server supporting all client access, we soon found it was performing better than we expected and wanted to expand our offerings by adding 2 more virtual machines instances to host our SQL Server 2008 Reporting Servers. A duplicate Hyper-V Server provides redundancy.

When sizing the SQL Servers, we made a few assumptions on how users of the Beta would behave. We expected to see periods of moderate resource activity while new users tested the new features of SQL 2008, followed by periods with little activity as users became more familiar with the release. We wanted to have enough resources that multiple users could experiment with the server simultaneously. We settled on Dell 2950s with Dual Quad Core Intel Processors with 32 GB of RAM and an AIX150 storage solution. With this hardware, we have been able to allow users of the Beta to



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intensely test the new features of SQL 2008.

The Beta has proven to be very popular since we publicly launched in November 2007. To date we have 2,500+ sign-ups and we plan to continue offering free hosted Beta accounts of SQL Server 2008 until the final release.

PASS Community Summit 2008

Early Bird Discount



The early bird discount for the [PASS Community Summit 2008](#) is fast approaching! [Register](#) by Monday, June 30, 2008 to receive the discounted rate of just \$1,395 - that's SAVINGS of US\$800 off the regular rate of US\$2,195!

The PASS Community Summit 2008 is the largest gathering of Microsoft SQL Server professionals in the world. This year's Summit will be at the Washington State and Convention Center in Seattle, Washington on Nov 18-21, 2008. Expecting over 3000 attendees, you will gain expert advice on the best ways to develop, deploy and manage your entire SQL Server environment. With over [130 in-depth technical and skills development sessions](#), you'll be able to take home information and tips that can be implemented as soon as you return to the office. These sessions will include product roadmaps, best practices, case studies and outstanding [keynotes and speakers](#). In addition, for the first time ever, we will be hosting the SQL Server Heroes Unite Event which will be a great chance to network with your peers.

[Register](#) now to guarantee your place and to save hundreds of dollars on the full registration rate. Registration is fast and simple.

Remember, there's only a few days left to take advantage of this substantial discount. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

DBA SIGS

General News

Well, just when we thought we had the Live Meeting events running smoothly, reality intervened once again when our presenter for May found himself in a location with no network connectivity. We have rescheduled his presentation for July. I know we keep promising the recordings of past Live Meeting events and we are still working on this project. Hopefully, we'll have something to announce in the next connector.

Upcoming Live Meeting Events:

Connection information for both of these events will be provided at a later date.

Sharon Dooley, June 25th, Noon Eastern

Sharon Dooley will present "New DBA Toys in SQL Server 2008 - Part 1". SQL Server 2008 introduces four major new capabilities: policy-based management, the Resource Governor, Performance Data Warehouse and auditing. This talk focuses on the first two. Part 2, which will be presented at a later date, covers the last two. Policy-based management allows you to enforce rules for how things should be on one or more servers. The terminology is complex, and the capabilities are immense. The Resource Governor allows you to define workloads and specify the resources, including cpu, memory and i/o bandwidth, a specific workload should have. In this demo-rich presentation, you'll get an introduction to the capabilities of both of these new features and learn how you can make them work for you. This presentation assumes a solid knowledge of Transact-SQL, a good understanding of SQL Server database engine features, as well as an understanding of the performance requirements of different types of queries.

Sharon Dooley (MCP, former SQL Server MVP) has worked with SQL Server since its first release. Her major areas of specialization are database design and performance tuning, though she also does a lot of administration. She has a consulting practice and teaches and writes courses for Learning Tree International, where she is SQL Server Curriculum Manager. She's currently hard at work developing Learning Tree's SQL 2008 Admin course. Ms. Dooley is the author of SQL Server 7.0 Essential Reference (New Riders) and the lead author of Professional SQL Server 6.5 Administration (Wrox). Sharon is an active member of PASS (The Professional Organization for SQL Server) and has presented at numerous conferences. She was named a Microsoft MVP in 2001 and was an MVP for SQL Server until 2004. In her spare time, she enjoys being bossed around by her cats.

James Luetkehoelter, July 23rd, Noon Eastern

James Luetkehoelter will give a presentation titled SQL Server Disaster Recovery: Recovery/Backup Planning. Disaster recovery planning has essentially two phases: mitigation (trying to prevent or minimize the effect of a disaster) and response (actually recovering from a disaster). In the SQL Server world, the response phase is dominated by the backup and recovery process. When planning for the backup and recovery process, it is imperative to actually think about the process in reverse. Whatever backup scheme you end up using should be driven by the recovery needs the business requires. We'll look at various business cases and discuss possible recovery/backup schemes that might satisfy them.

James Luetkehoelter is an MSCE, MSCD, MCDBA, MCT, and Oracle Certified Professional who has been working in the database field for more than a decade. He is currently the principle consultant and owner of Spyglass LLC, a data-centric consulting company and the author of Pro SQL Server Disaster Recovery published by Apress. James is a frequent presenter at SQL Server conferences, both in the US and in Europe. His teaching and presenting style is best described as "eclectic", though some may say "just plain goofy". In his spare time he catalogues the various pronunciations of "Luetkehoelter". He is currently at 2,017 distinct variations.

Live Meeting Presenters Needed

Interested in presenting at one of our Live Meeting events? Choice of topic is yours. If you're interested, contact sharond@voicenet.com.

BI SIGS

The Business Intelligence Special Interest Group is being resurrected. This special interest group will be diving into areas and SQL Server technologies such as Dimensional Data Modeling, ETL using Integration Services, Analysis Services, Data Mining, Reporting Services and Performance Point. The BI SIG is a place for BI professionals to network with others and share information that may help others with challenges they are experiencing.

We are currently looking for volunteers to kick start the group into high gear by sharing their knowledge and experiences in any of the above mentioned areas. Current plans are to have a kickoff Live Meeting in mid-July.

If you would like to be a BI SIG volunteer, Please feel free to contact me, Amy Lewis, at amylewis_az@hotmail.com.

Please stay tuned... Current plans are to have a kickoff Live Meeting in mid-July. Information about the BI SIG Kickoff meeting will be in the next issue of the Connector.

May 2008 Survey Winner!

Survey Query: What type of sessions should PASS offer at its annual Community Summit?



**Congratulations Pat Mong!
Grand prize winner of a \$200 AMEX gift card!**

In May 2008, a survey was sent out to the Community asking for feedback on what PASS should offer at its annual Community Summit. The survey was a success and we received 388 responses which will greatly assist us in the selection of educational content for future PASS Community Summits.

Congratulations again to Pat Mong, winner of the survey draw, and a big thank you to everyone that participated. We appreciate your support and hope to see you at this year's Summit.

[PASS Community Summit 2008](#)

November 18-21, 2008

Washington State Convention & Trade Center, Seattle WA.

Information from Microsoft

[Win a Windows Home Server!](#)

Evalu'08 and you could win! Download a free trial or take a Virtual Lab of Windows Server 2008, Visual Studio 2008, SQL Server 2008 or other Microsoft Server products and be entered for a chance to win an HP MediaSmart Server powered by Windows Home Server software.

To sign up and for the official rules, visit [Evalu'08](#).

[Knowledge Base Article: How to extend the Windows Server 2008 evaluation period](#)

This article describes how to extend, or re-arm, the windows Server 2008 evaluation period up to 240 days.

[Test Drive Windows Server 2008](#)

The Windows Server 2008 test drive allows you to try the latest release from Microsoft instantly. By simply logging onto our test-drive environment using your web browser, you will be able to experience Windows Server 2008 first hand through a collection of short virtual labs and video walk-throughs.

[Webcast Series: 24 Hours of Windows Server 2008](#)

Watch these 90-minute Windows Server 2008 webcasts and learn how your organization can leverage the enhancements in Windows Server 2008 improve your organization's networking infrastructure and security, server performance and reliability, remote resource access, and client deployment. Subject matter experts break down what these upgrades mean for your environment and how to take advantage of them. Tune in for live webcasts and stream or download webcasts for on-demand viewing.

PASS Organization

Professional Association for SQL Server (PASS) is the only independent, user-run, not-for-profit association dedicated to the SQL Server community. Our goal is to provide you with the definitive resource to network with your peers, exchange tips and tricks, and gain access to the latest in SQL Server and BI education, information and news. PASS also engages Microsoft product teams, developers, technical fellows, MVPs and others to help develop programs, educational content, speakers and speakers to meet the needs of our community. For more information on membership benefits and the 2008 PASS Community Summit, visit www.sqlpass.org.

Our Mission:

The Professional Association for SQL Server (PASS) is an independent, not-for-profit association, dedicated to supporting, educating, and promoting the SQL Server and business intelligence (BI) community. User-run, PASS facilitates networking, information exchange, and education for SQL Server IT and BI professionals around the world through annual Community Summits, special interest groups, forums, webcasts, technical publications and newsletters, and over 100 Official PASS Chapters and PASS Affiliated Groups.

PASS also engages Microsoft product teams, developers, technical fellows, MVPs and others to help develop programs, educational content, speakers and speakers to meet the needs of our community and to provide a conduit of user feedback to Microsoft on product/feature sets.

We aim to:

- Provide an effective forum for SQL Server and BI education
- Facilitate member networking & enable the free exchange of information
- Work directly with Microsoft to influence the direction of SQL Server & BI products and services
- Build and grow the SQL Server & BI community
- Publish high quality technical materials (Journal/Online Newsletter)
- Maintain an archive of high quality, user generated SQL Server & BI reference material for member use

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