I'm It - Survival Techniques for the Lone DBA

Monica Rathbun

Consultant
Denny Cherry & Associates Consulting

PASS Mid-Atlantic Regional Mentor
User Group Leader: Hampton Roads SQL Server User Group
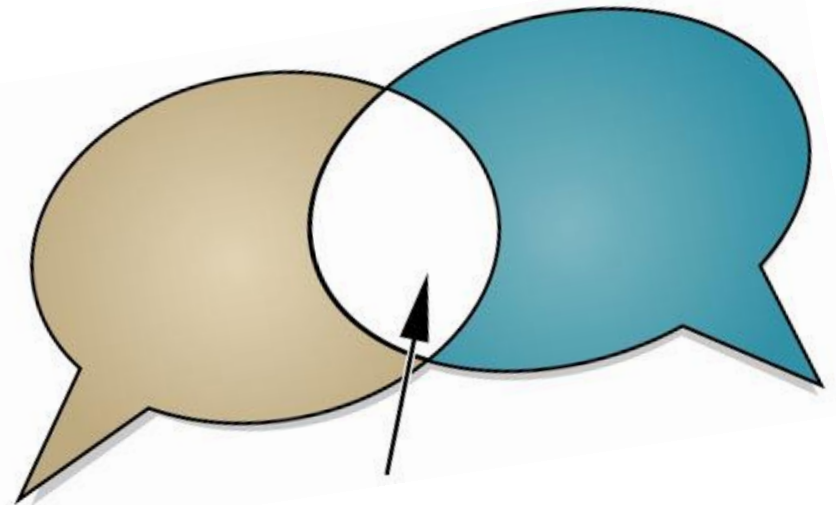
MRathbun@sqlespresso.com   http://www.sqlespresso.com

@SQLEspresso   http://www.linkedin.com/in /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 16 years

- My Environments
  - Port of Virginia
    - 56 SQL Instances, 40 Servers, 2 Oracle
  - Massimo Zanetti
    - 16 Instances, 15 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 & Slack
  - How To Start & Build Your Name
  - One DBA = Thousands of Co-workers
  - #SQLHelp
  - sqlcommunity.slack.com

- ## Blogs
  - Denny Cherry & Associates - https://www.dcac.co/syndication
  - 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
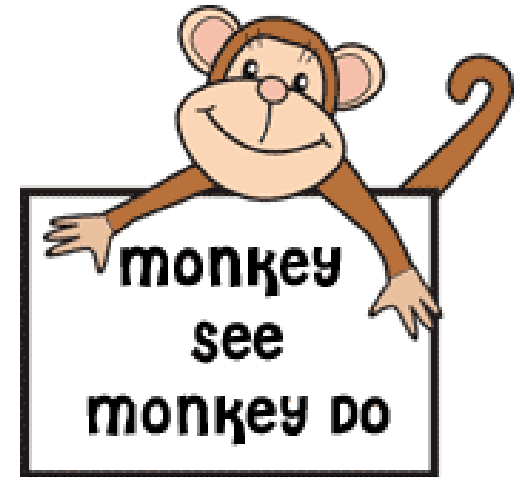
Document Your Code

- 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://www.sqlskills.com/blogs/glenn/category/dmv-queries/

  ◦ 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	Sentry One
Monitoring	Diagnostic Manager	SQL Monitor	Performance Advisor
Admin Work	Admin Tool Set	SQL Tool Belt	
Performance Tuning			Plan Explorer
Health Overviews	SQL Doctor		
Scripting & Code		SQL Prompt	
Comparisons	Comparison Tool Set	SQL Compare	
Backup & Restores	Virtual Database		

Admin Tool Set

Performance Advisor, Fragmentation Manager, Job Chaining & Plan Explorer
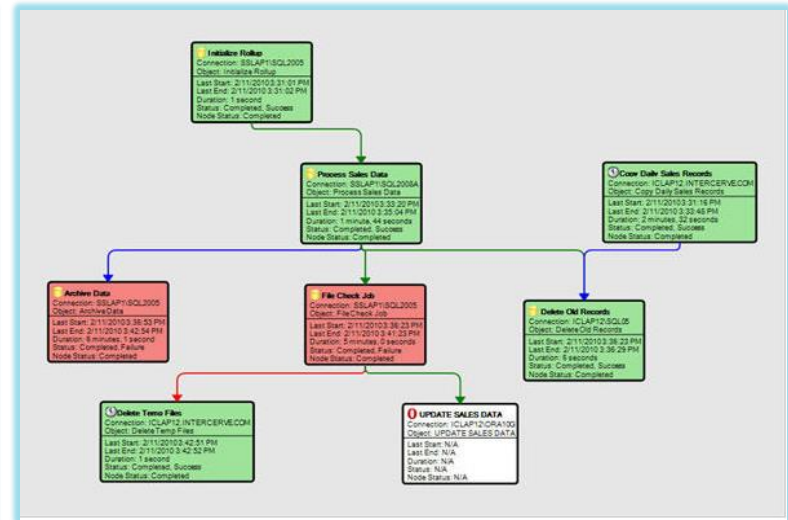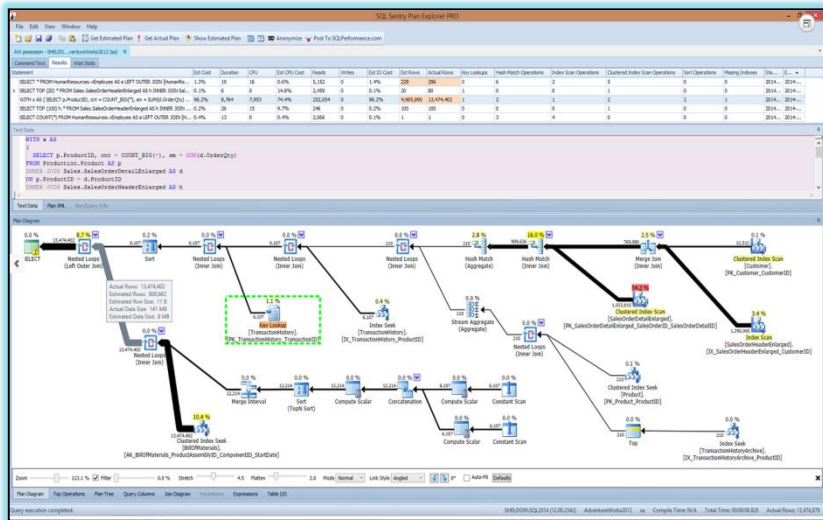
SQL Tool-belt, SQL Prompt & SQL Compare

redgate

ingeniously simple tools
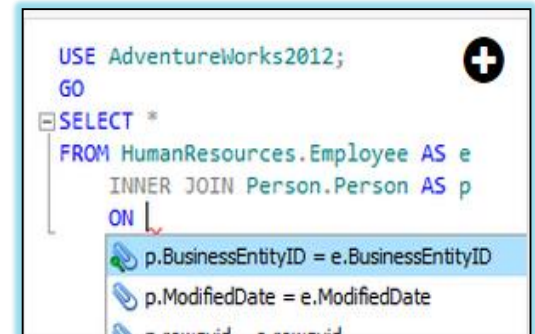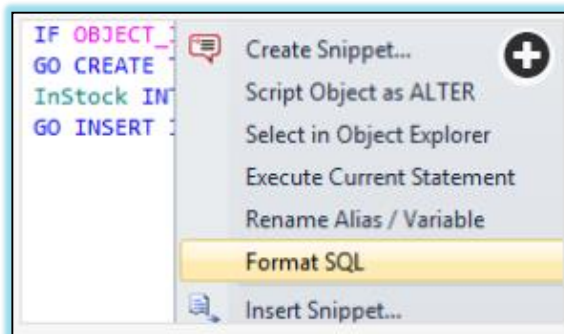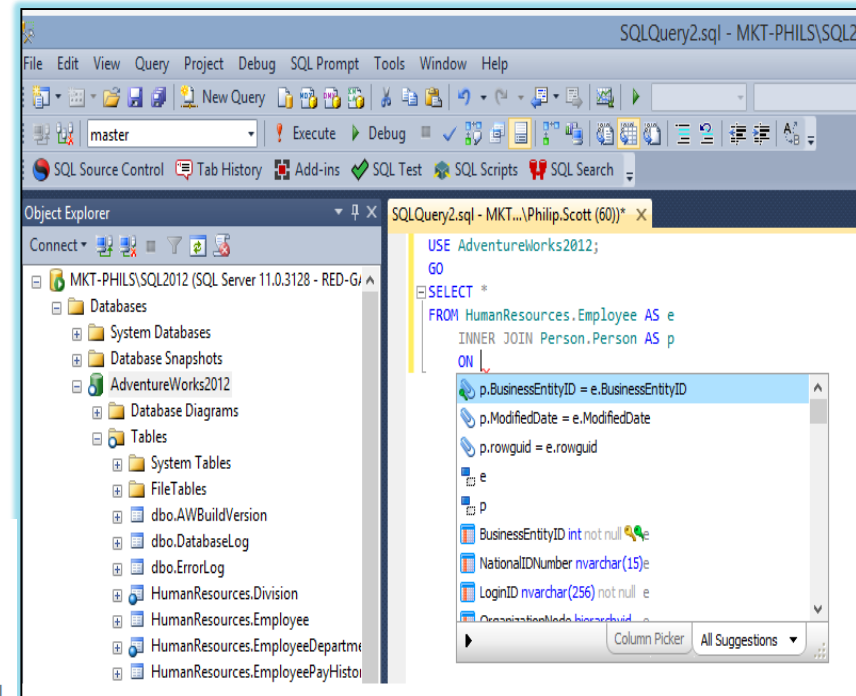
No Budget, Use the Free Tools

- Sentry One Plan Explorer - PRO NOW FREE!
  - 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 Machanic's sp_whoisactive
  - http://whoisactive.com/downloads/

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

survive & thrive

Thank You!

✉ MRathbun@sqlespresso.com   🅱 http://www.sqlespresso.com

🇹 @SQLEspresso   in http://www.linkedin.com/in/sqlespresso

DCAC

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Q&A