Beginning SQL Server 2008 Express for Developers

From Novice to Professional

Robin Dewson

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Beginning SQL Server 2008 Express for Developers: From Novice to Professional

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This book I dedicate to my family. To my three kids, Cameron, Ellen, and Scott, who have been brilliant and wonderful and whom I am very, VERY proud of in many ways. And they are such great kids because they have what can only be termed the best mother kids can have, right there, helping, loving, and, yes, screaming at them when needed. Julie, I love you more than I love my Irn-Bru, rugby, and lemon meringue pie . . . and you know how much those mean to me! This book is wholly dedicated to these people.

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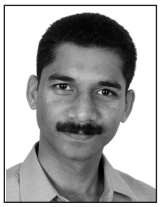
About the Author

ROBIN DEWSON has been hooked on programming ever since he bought his first computer in 1980, a Sinclair ZX80. His first major application of his own was a Visual FoxPro program that could be used to run a fantasy league system. It was at this point he met up with a great help in his PC development life, Jon Silver at Step One Technologies. In return for training, Robin helped Jon with some other Visual FoxPro applications. From there, realizing that the marketplace for Visual FoxPro was limited, he decided to learn Visual Basic and SQL Server.

Starting out with SQL Server 6.5, Robin soon moved to SQL Server 7 and Visual Basic 5, and became involved in developing several applications for clients both in the United Kingdom and in the United States. From there, he moved to SQL Server 2000 and now SQL Server 2008 and to Visual Basic 6 and now VS .NET, specializing in C# and VB .NET. Robin is also the coauthor of *Pro SQL Server 2005 Assemblies* (Apress, 2005), along with several other Apress books. Robin can be contacted at `robin@fat-belly.com` or at `http://www.fat-belly.com`.

About the Technical Reviewer



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He lives with his beloved wife, Rupali, and lovely daughter, Vamika ("Pearly"). He believes that nothing will turn into a reality without them. He is a follower of the concept "no pain, no gain" and believes that his wife is his greatest strength. He is a bibliophile; when he is not working on technical stuff, he likes to be with his family and also enjoys reading spiritual and occult science books. He blogs at `http://dotnetpassion.blogspot.com` and can also be reached at `vidya_mct@yahoo.com`.

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Introduction

Beginning SQL Server 2008 Express for Developers is for those people who see themselves as becoming either developers, database administrators, or a mixture of both but have yet to tread that path with SQL Server 2008. This edition of my book is for readers who want to learn and develop on the free version of SQL Server 2008, SQL Server 2008 Express Edition.

Whether you have no knowledge of databases, have knowledge of desktop databases such as Microsoft Access, or even come from a server-based background such as Oracle, this book will provide you with the insight to get up and running with SQL Server 2008 Express Edition.

Right from the start, your basic knowledge will be expanded, and you will soon be moving from a perceived beginner to a competent and professional developer. It is the aim of this book to cater to a wide range of developers, from those who prefer to use the graphical interface for as much work as possible to those who want to become more adept at using SQL Server 2008 Express Edition's programming language, T-SQL. Where practical, each method of using SQL Server 2008 Express Edition is demonstrated, explained, and expanded so that you can evaluate what works best in your situation.

This book has plenty of examples of every action along with details about the security of your data. You will also learn the best way to complete a task and even learn how to make the correct decision when there are two or more choices that could be made.

Once you reach the end of this book, you will be able to design and create solid and reliable database solutions competently and proficiently.

Who This Book Is For

This book is ideal for anyone starting out with SQL Server who prefers to use the free but very powerful Express Edition of SQL Server 2008. There is no prerequisite of any development of databases or programming and is ideal for anyone who wants to get up to speed with SQL Server quickly but professionally.

How This Book Is Structured

Beginning SQL Server 2008 Express for Developers starts with downloading and installing the product. It then moves on to an overview of the product and the GUI tool, SQL Server Management Studio Express, that can be used to develop database solutions. From there it covers all the fundamental concepts and techniques you need to develop databases and complete database solutions.

Downloading the Code

The source code for this book is available to readers at `http://www.apress.com` in the Source Code/Downloads section. Please feel free to visit the Apress web site and download all the code there. You can also check for errata and find related titles from Apress.

Contacting the Author

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