Beginning SQL Server 2008 for Developers

From Novice to Professional

Robin Dewson

Apress®

Beginning SQL Server 2008 for Developers: From Novice to Professional

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This book, as many of my books are, is dedicated to my family. First, to my mum and dad whom I love very much and who made me what I am today. Without their help, understanding, and patience when it came to my use of the television for the Sinclair ZX80 and the Sinclair ZX81, and without helping me find and organize my further education, I probably would have wasted a great opportunity. To my three kids—Ellen, Cameron, 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 who 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!*

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About the Author

ROBIN DEWSON has been hooked on programming ever since he bought his first computer, a Sinclair ZX80, in 1980. His first major application was a Visual FoxPro program that could be used to run a fantasy league system. It was at this point that he met someone who would become a great help in the development of his PC 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, Robin decided to learn Visual Basic and SQL Server.

Starting out with SQL Server 6.5, Robin soon moved to SQL Server 7, accessing the database via Visual Basic 5. He became involved in developing several applications for clients both in the UK and in the United States. From there, he moved through SQL Server 2000 and 2005 and through Visual Basic 6 and C#. Robin now specializes in using Visual Studio .NET to write C# applications against SQL Server 2008.

Robin has several Apress books on SQL Server available. You can contact him at `robin@fat-belly.com` or at `http://www.fat-belly.com`.

About the Technical Reviewer

JASPER SMITH is an independent SQL Server consultant specializing in scalability, availability, and manageability, and he has worked with SQL Server for the past eight years. He is a Microsoft SQL Server Most Valued Professional (MVP) and is a frequent speaker at Professional Association for SQL Server (PASS) conferences. He runs and authors content for his web site, `http://www.sqldbatips.com`, which specializes in free SQL Server tools such as Reporting Services Scripter, ExpressMaint, and SQL 2005 Service Manager.

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Introduction

Beginning SQL Server 2008 for Developers is for those who see themselves as becoming developers, database administrators, or a mixture of both but have yet to tread that path with SQL Server 2008. 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.

Right from the start, this book will expand your basic knowledge, and you will soon find yourself moving from a beginner toward a competent and professional developer. This book aims to cater to a wide range of developers, from those who prefer to use a graphical interface for as much work as possible, to those who want to become more adept at using SQL Server 2008's programming language, Transact SQL (T-SQL). Where practical, this book demonstrates, explains, and expands upon each method of using SQL Server 2008 so that you can evaluate which works best in your situation.

This book contains plenty of examples that let you see how areas of SQL Server work and how you can apply the technology in your own work. You will learn the best way to complete a task, and you'll even learn how to make the correct decision when presented with two or more choices. 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 developers starting out with SQL Server 2008 or for those looking at becoming database administrators. The book is laid out so that it works well with both of these camps.

How This Book Is Structured

The book helps you decide which version of SQL Server 2008 to buy, shows you how to install and configure SQL Server 2008, and explains how to use the graphical user interface (GUI) tool, SQL Server Management Studio. You will use this tool to work through a fully functional database example that is built from a design covered within the book, using graphical and code-based try-it-out exercises. You'll then learn about the security of your database and how to enforce a secure and reliable database setup. Once you back up your database, you'll learn how to work with the data. You'll start with simple coding techniques and move on to more complex ones. Your final task will allow you to build and produce reports on your database. Throughout the book, I explain each item, informing you of what is happening and ensuring that as you progress through the book, you're building on knowledge gained from previous chapters. You'll be building your expertise in a clear and structured manner.

Prerequisites

You will need to have either an evaluation or full version of SQL Server 2008 Developer Edition. In addition, it's ideal, but not compulsory, to have either the Windows Vista Ultimate or Business version if you want to alter security settings for specific Windows logins.

Downloading the Code

Example code from this book is available via the Apress web site (`http://www.apress.com`). Navigate to the book's home page, then look in the left sidebar for the section called "Book Extras." You'll find the link to the code examples there.

Contacting the Author

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