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UNLIMITED®

Lab 2: CPU-Intensive Workload

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Choose your own adventure

Easy: tune `usp_GetUsersByLocation` to use less CPU. Use the default parameter values, measure its CPU usage, get it to use <50ms CPU.

Harder: `SQLQueryStress` calling `usp_ServerLab2`: workload of CPU issues, and when fixed, CPU should drop from 80-100% to 20-40%



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Setting up for the lab

1. Restart the SQL Server service (clears stats)
2. Restore your StackOverflow database
3. Copy & run the setup script, will take 60-90 seconds: BrentOzar.com/go/serverlab2
4. Optionally, to start SQLQueryStress:
 1. File Explorer, D:\Labs, run SQLQueryStress.exe
 2. Click File, Open, D:\Labs\ServerLab2.json
 3. Click Go



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What the setup script does

Creates some stored procedures

Changes some database structures
(drops some indexes, changes some tables)

Sets MAXDOP = 1
(because we're not ready to cover parallelism yet)



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Just like real life...

Our end users are yelling at us to make it go faster.

I'm doing the best I can to fend them off.

They don't wanna make changes to production.

When you wanna change something:

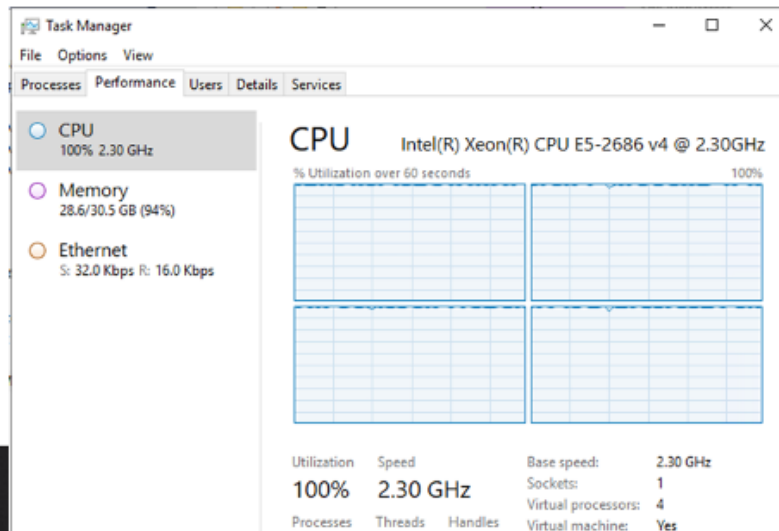
- Explain what you're going to change, and why
- Explain the difference you expect to see

You don't have to wait for my approval, though.



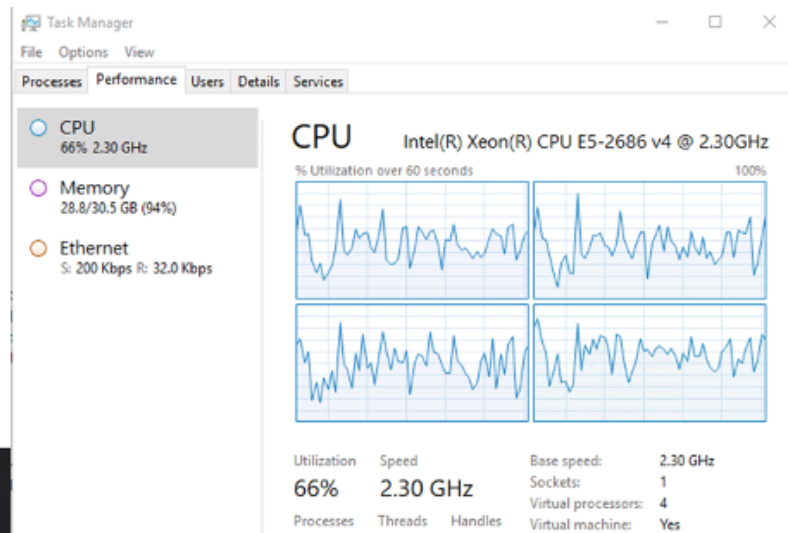
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The way your server will look



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But if you do an awesome job...



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The load will finish in ~60 secs.

The screenshot shows the SQLQueryStress application window. The left pane contains the query: `1 EXEC usp_ServerLab2`. The right pane displays various controls and real-time metrics.

Configuration and Controls:

- Buttons:** Clean Buffers, Free Cache, GO, Cancel.
- Database:** (Dropdown menu)
- Parameter Substitution:** (Dropdown menu)
- Number of Iterations:** 50
- Number of Threads:** 6
- Delay between queries (ms):** 1000

Real-time Metrics (all values in green):

- Elapsed Time:** 00:01:00.5510
- Iterations Completed:** 300
- Client Seconds/Iteration (Avg):** 0.1492
- Total Exceptions:** 0
- CPU Seconds/Iteration (Avg):** 0.3609
- Logical Reads/Iteration (Avg):** 13251.9467
- Actual Seconds/Iteration (Avg):** 0.4418

A dark grey box in the bottom right corner of the application window displays the text **1.6 p10**.

How I'd budget time

5 minutes: server review. Run `sp_Blitz` for a quick health check, then `sp_BlitzFirst` to check your waits.

25 minutes: mitigation round 1. Stop the load test, and either focus on queries, OR indexes. Just pick one. Design the change you want to make, put it in Slack.

Make the change, start the load test again, and repeat the process. Report your success in Slack.

Your goal: a ~60-second run with lower CPU.



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Turning in your homework

In Slack, click the lightning bolt, Create Text Snippet.

Paste in:

- The changes you made, in T-SQL
- The difference you're seeing
- If you're tuning a single query, include a link to the actual plan using [PasteThePlan.com](https://PastethePlan.com)



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To use PasteThePlan.com

Run your query with actual query plans turned on

Right-click in the actual query plan, click View XML

Highlight it all (control-A), copy (control-C)

Go to [PasteThePlan.com](https://PastethePlan.com)

Paste it in

Get the URL in your browser



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