

# SQL Assessment Transcript

Thursday, February 2, 2023 7:50 PM

In this session, we'll talk about the benefit and how to enable and configure this feature, and start assessment runs at scale.

Just a side note, the tool works in different ways:

SQL Assessment API GA'd in Nov 2019 basically an api as part of SMO (Server Management Objects) and PS commandlets as part of SQL server PS module.

The API is also available as an extension in ADS if you prefer GUI

Public preview June 2020 it doesn't have the full functionality yet as I tested but is has enough to get started using it.

As we all know, we do have handful of SQL Servers on Azure VMs, and as SQL DBA our primary goal is to ensure that all SQL servers are configured correctly and following best practices and guidelines. Hardened and built for success. We are here to simplify and automate this task using this feature.

BPA for SQL Server performs a comprehensive evaluation on Operating system, SQL Server instances, and databases. Proactively identifies any risks that SQL Server deployments may be running into, SQL Server and database configurations, performance, index strategy, trace flags, disaster recovery, high availability, latest CU and many more.

Once the [assessment is enabled and executed](#), BPA will provide a comprehensive report with a prioritized list of the risks detected, the impacted objects, and step-by-step guidance on how to mitigate the risks reported.

Mitigating these risks will result in improved availability and performance thus optimizing your operational costs running your SQL Server workloads. This promotes managing and operating SQL Server health.

Assessment results are uploaded to your [Log Analytics workspace](#) using [Microsoft Monitoring Agent \(MMA\)](#). If your VM is already configured to use Log Analytics, the SQL best practices assessment feature uses the existing connection. Otherwise, the MMA extension is installed to the SQL Server VM and connected to the specified Log Analytics workspace.

Assessment run time depends on your environment (number of databases, objects, and so on), with a duration from a few minutes, up to an hour. Similarly, the size of the assessment result also depends on your environment. Assessment runs against your instance and all databases on that instance. In our testing, we observed that an assessment run can have up to 5-10% CPU impact on the machine. In these tests, the assessment was done while a TPC-C like application was running against the SQL Server.