

using the new Procedure Cache Object, which SQL Server 6.5 adds to the NT Performance Monitor. Check out the "SQL Server-Procedure Cache Object" chapter in *SQL Server Books Online* for detailed information.

Q: How do I create a Seagate Crystal Reports 5.0 report with a subreport based on a SQL Server 6.5 view, and run it from Visual Basic (VB)?

A: If you go into the properties of Crystal Reports, you can check a box that lets you use a stored procedure as a data source for a report and pass parameters from VB. Set up a stored procedure that defines the view, and include parameters that constrain the view your application requires.

Q: How does SQL Server device mirroring relate to NT's hardware RAID?

A: Microsoft seems to discourage use of SQL Server device mirroring. A recent TechNet article, "Designing a Fault-tolerant SQL Server," mentions that developers implemented device mirroring when drive costs were still relatively high, and we guess SQL Server 7.0 may not support device mirroring. Hardware RAID is definitely the way to go, and Windows NT RAID is probably better tested than SQL RAID anyway. We don't know of anyone who uses the SQL RAID. If any of you have any experience with it, please let us know.

Resources

Sample data. Need sample data? Banner Software's DATAMaker 2.0 (go to <http://www.datamaker.com>) has generated as much as 14 million rows of test data for one client. You can use DATAMaker to generate German and British English data, and to test Year 2000 readiness. DATAMaker is not a new product; it has generated test data for mainframe environments for years. DATAMaker is now available on Windows 95 and Windows NT, starting at \$650.

(LogicWorks and Bluecurve also have products that generate sample data.)

Upsizing tools. Looking for tools to upsize Access databases to SQL Server? The upsizing tools depend on which version of Access you have. Access 2.0, Access 95, and Access 97 all have different file structures, and therefore, different upsizing needs. Unfortunately, you may need more than one of the three, depending on your migration path. You can still obtain the original upsizing tool (SKU 077-051-455) for upsizing Access 2.0 to SQL Server 4.21 databases from Microsoft's fulfillment for \$99. But if you have Microsoft Developer Network (MSDN) 14 or the April 1996 MSDN CD-ROM, you can access the upsizing tool for free in Product Tools & Utilities/Windows Tools/Access Upsizing Tools directory. You can find the tools for upsizing Access 95 and Access 97 databases to SQL Server 6.5 at <http://www.microsoft.com/AccessDev>; these tools don't have a commercial equivalent.

SQL Server Online. It finally went live. We're referring to <http://www.sqlserver.com>, a site that had displayed a single placeholder page with a strange warning to Netscape browser users, for more than a year. Produced by TechKnowQuest, the Web site offers forums, reviews, hints and tips, and articles about SQL Server.

Resource kit. Order this now! That's our advice on the new *SQL Server Resource Kit*, which Microsoft includes in the *BackOffice Resource Kit, Part 2* (ISBN 1057231-5342, \$129.99). The kit, including all utilities, now also ships on TechNet.

Here are two tips that grabbed us: a series of Excel macros that put a GUI wrapper around SQL Trace output and a LoadSim utility that lets you simulate running a SQL script using up to 64 concurrent connections. The kit also includes a helpful new stored procedure, `sp_help_sourcetext`, that addresses formatting problems encountered with the system stored procedure `sp_helptext`. This procedure lets you view source code stored in the `syscomments` table, providing you didn't save it in encrypted

format. Because SQL Server stores the text as a series of 255-byte segments, `sp_helptext` treats the arbitrary 255-byte boundaries as new lines, breaking up the displayed source in an annoying fashion.

Don't confuse the *BackOffice Resource Kit* with the free *SQL Server Developers' Resource Kit*. You can download the latter kit from <http://www.microsoft.com/sql/reskit.htm>, or you can call 888-877-9085 and order part number 098-69255. The SQL Server Developers' Resource Kit is a series of white papers on topics such as Open Database Connectivity (ODBC), Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) database, and migrating to SQL Server. If you'd rather have the kit in hard copy, scroll to the bottom of the page to submit your online order. The hard copy is free, too, to US and Canadian addresses.

Enterprise Edition. Fair warning: You've heard about the forthcoming Enterprise Edition of SQL Server 6.5 that will be an interim upgrade while we wait for the Big One (SQL Server 7.0—code-named Sphinx). What you might not have heard is that the Enterprise Edition won't run on NT 3.51. One more reason to upgrade to NT 4.0, if you haven't already.

That's it for this month. Remember to send questions, tips, and, of course, fan mail! You can send them to us individually at our respective email addresses or collectively to sqlqa@winntmag.com. We'll do our best to answer your questions and will even use the best ones in future columns! Let us know if we can print your name and email address. ▲

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Karen Watterson is an independent San Diego-based writer and consultant specializing in client/server and warehousing issues. She's editor of the monthly SQL Server Professional newsletter, writes a monthly column for Data Management Review, and has written two books. You can reach her at karen_watterson@msn.com. **Brian Moran**, president of the Capital-area SQL Server Users Group, is an author and a chief architect with the Spectrum Technology Group. He is a Microsoft-certified Windows NT and SQL Server trainer, an MCSE, and an MCSD. You can reach him at brian@spectrumtech.com. Karen and Brian are contributing editors for Windows NT Magazine.