An introduction to Extended Events

Are you ready to dive into the awesome world of MSSQL Extended Events! In this presentation, we'll explore this great feature in Microsoft SQL Server that helps you monitor and troubleshoot database performance.

We'll start by understanding what Extended Events are and when they come to the rescue. You'll learn how to set them up step-by-step, customizing them to capture the data you need and show you how to look into the results.

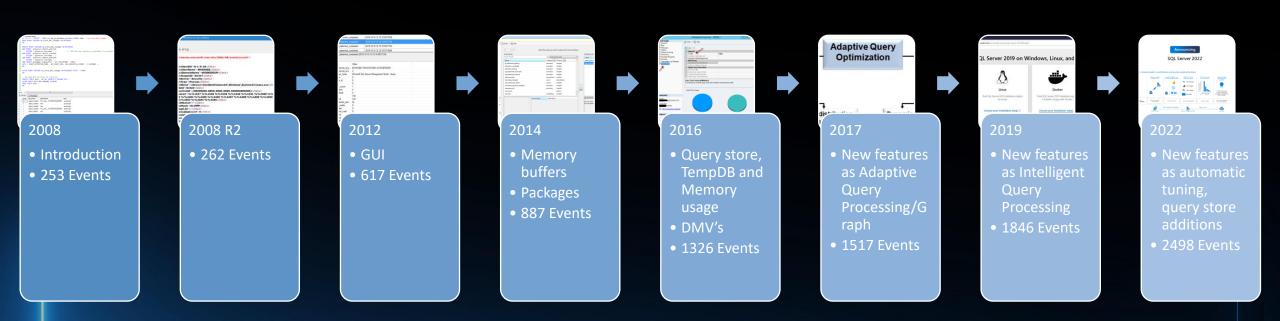
But wait, there's more! We'll also compare Extended Events with the traditional SQL Server Profiler, so you'll know which one to pick for different situations. Plus, we'll share some nifty scripts to start with them right away.



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- https://github.com/peterkruis

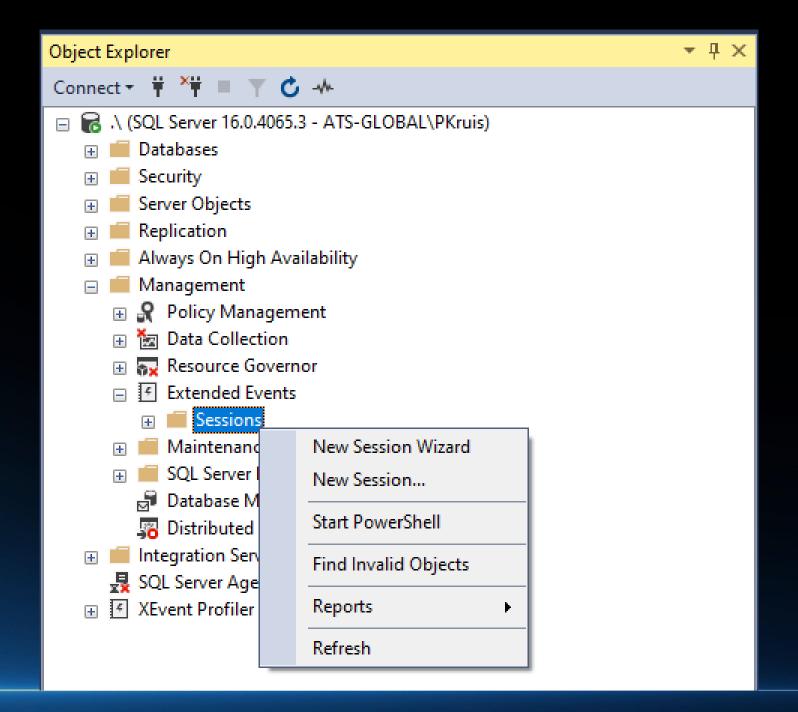
Extended Events

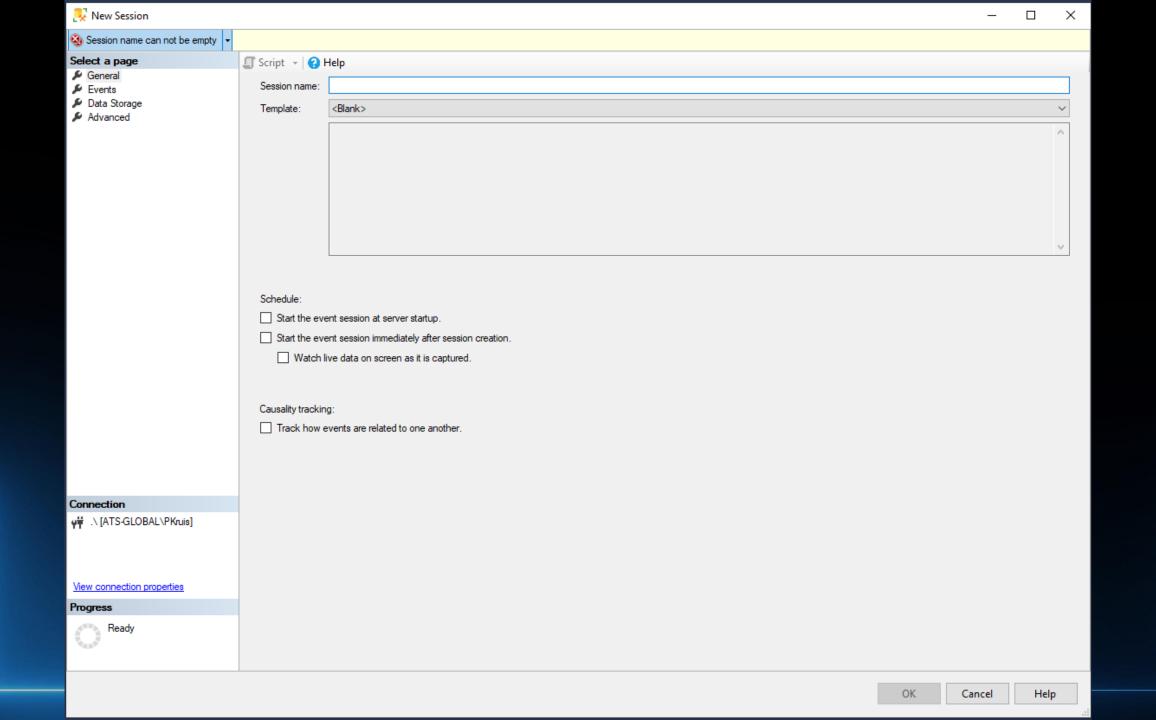


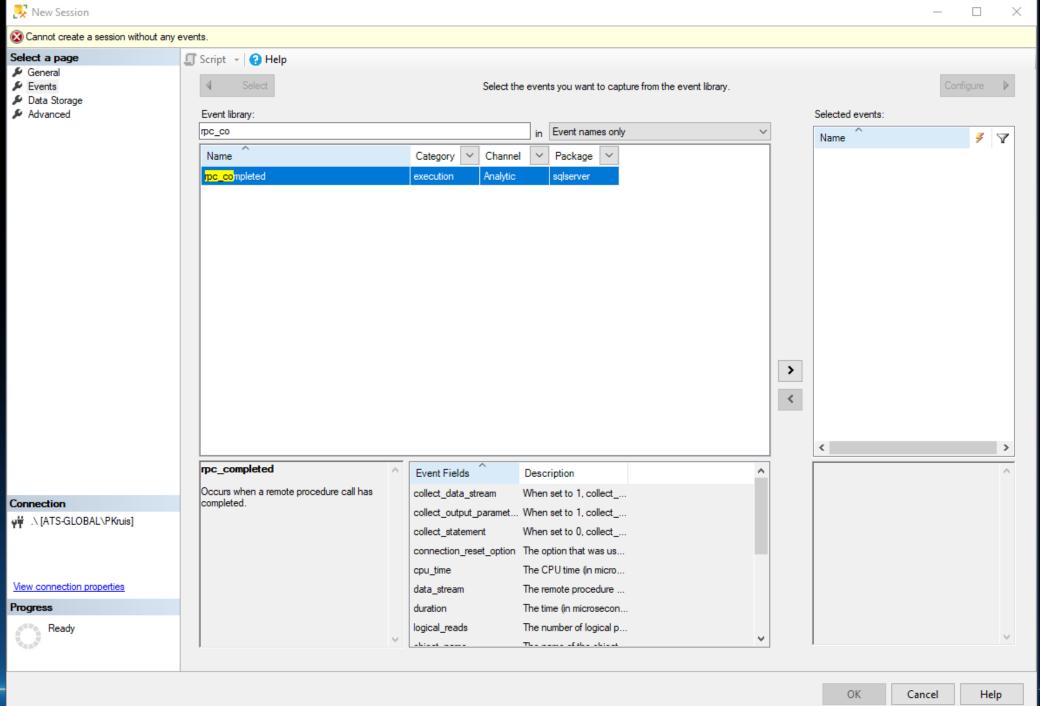
XE vs Profiler

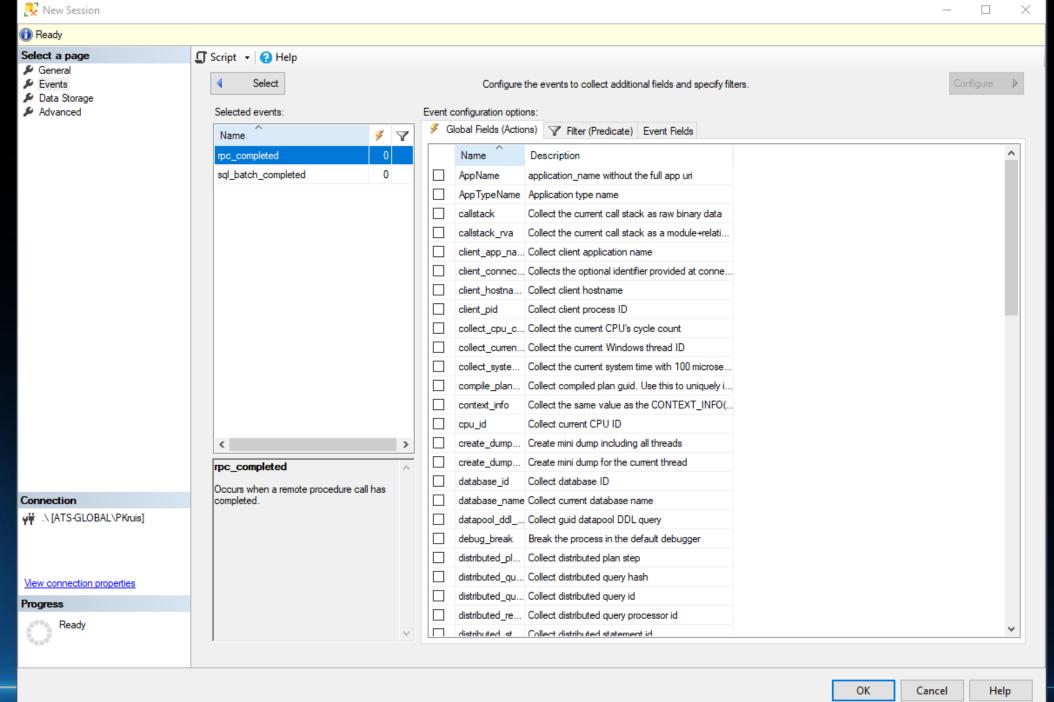
Item	SQL Server Trace SQL Server Extended Events		
GUI Pre-2012	Classic GUI	No GUI, Query should be done through XML	
GUI	Classic GUI	GUI with options as Grouping, Filtering, Differences between grid and details	
Overhead	Synchronous capture Much more overhead	Asynchronous capture Less overhead	
Server/Client	Only for you	Everybody can see and use your trace	
Events	No new ones since 2012, so stuck at 180 events	Added each version of SQL (SQL Server 202 has almost 2500 events!) Azure	
Causality Tracking	No 🕾	Yes! ☺	
Configure by SQL	More complex syntax	Better granular control	
Built-in Replay You need to use other to		You need to use other tools	
Combine with perfmon	Available	Not available	

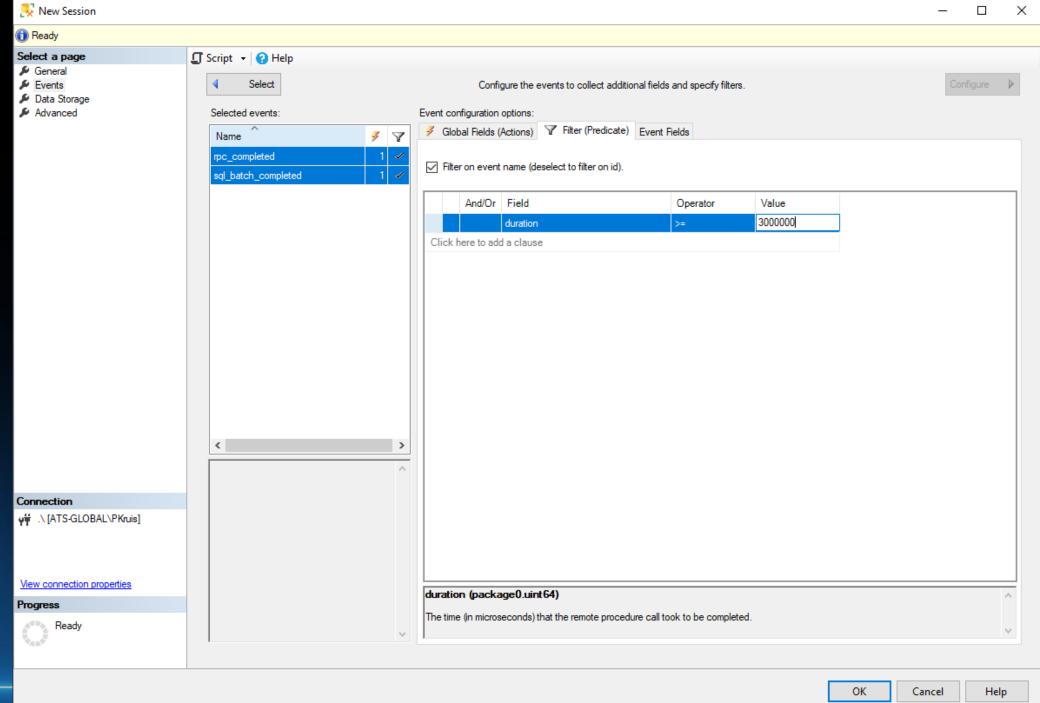
Set up an Extended Event

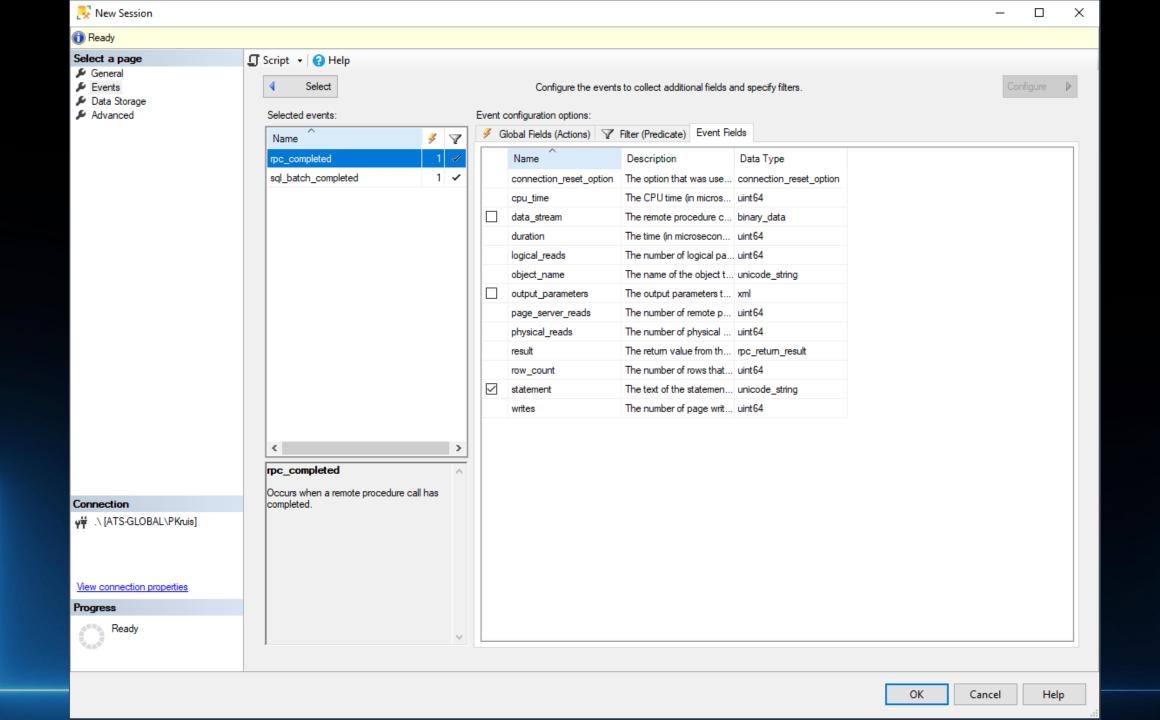


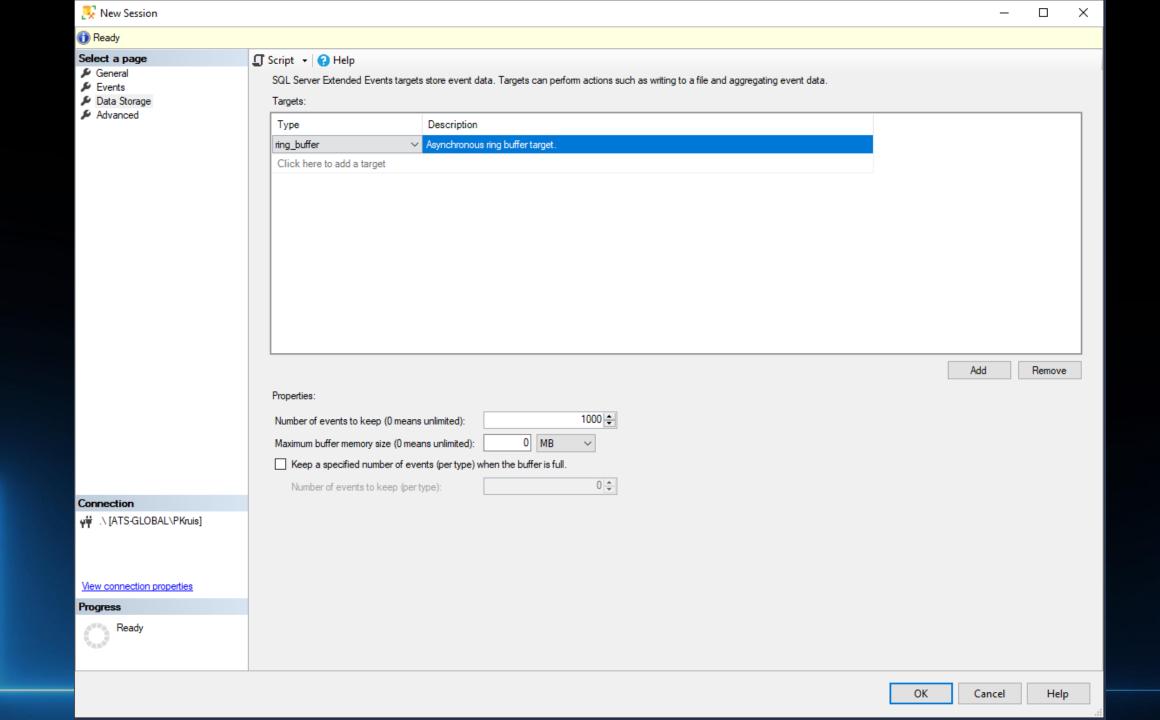


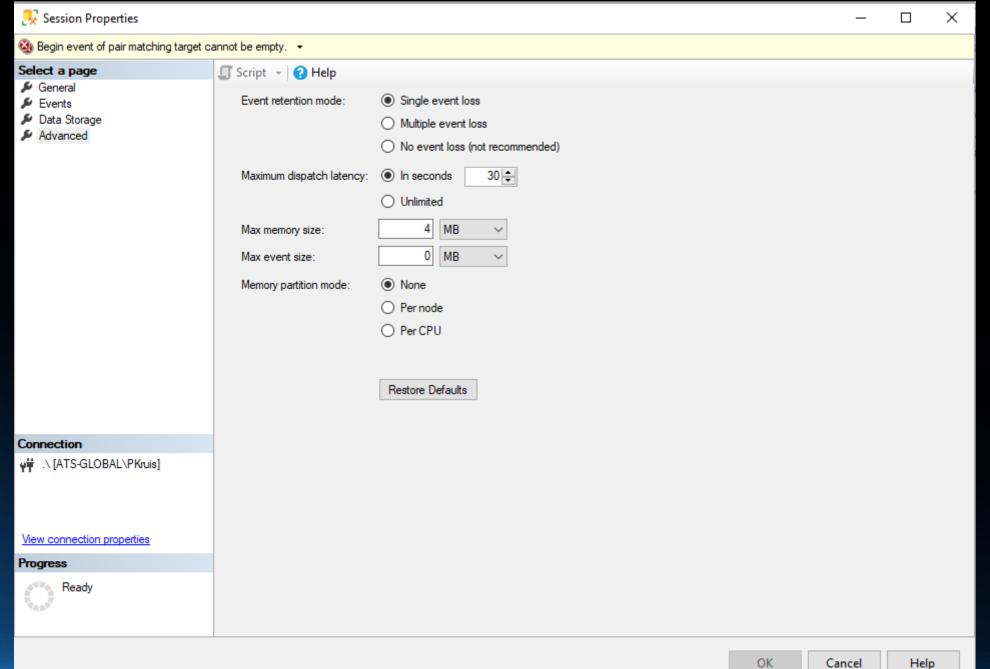












```
CREATE EVENT SESSION [MySession]
   ON SERVER
   ADD EVENT sqlserver.rpc_completed
   (SET collect_statement = (1)
    ACTION (
              sqlserver.session id
    WHERE ([Duration] >= (3000000))
   ),
   ADD EVENT sqlserver.sql_batch_completed
   (ACTION (
              sqlserver.session id
    WHERE ([Duration] >= (3000000))
   ADD TARGET package0.event file
   (SET filename = N'MySession'),
   ADD TARGET package0.ring_buffer
   WITH (
           MAX MEMORY = 4096KB,
           EVENT_RETENTION_MODE = ALLOW_SINGLE_EVENT_LOSS,
           MAX_DISPATCH_LATENCY = 30 SECONDS,
           MAX EVENT SIZE = 0KB,
           MEMORY_PARTITION_MODE = NONE,
           TRACK_CAUSALITY = ON,
           STARTUP\_STATE = OFF
        );
G0
```

```
CREATE EVENT SESSION [MySession]

ON SERVER

ADD EVENT sqlserver.rpc_completed

(SET collect_statement = (1)

ACTION (

sqlserver.session_id

)

WHERE ([Duration] >= (3000000))
),
```

```
ADD TARGET package0.event_file
(SET filename = N'MySession'),
```

ADD TARGET package0.ring_buffer

```
WITH (

MAX_MEMORY = 4096KB,

EVENT_RETENTION_MODE = ALLOW_SINGLE_EVENT_LOSS,

MAX_DISPATCH_LATENCY = 30 SECONDS,

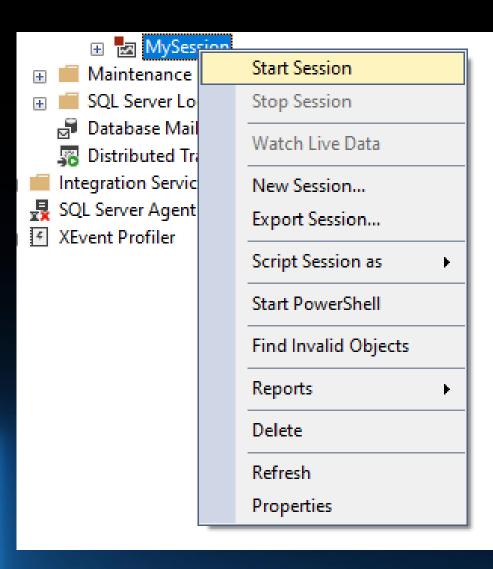
MAX_EVENT_SIZE = 0KB,

MEMORY_PARTITION_MODE = NONE,

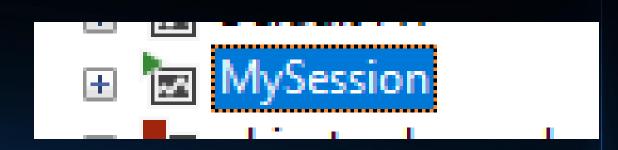
TRACK_CAUSALITY = 0N,

STARTUP_STATE = 0FF

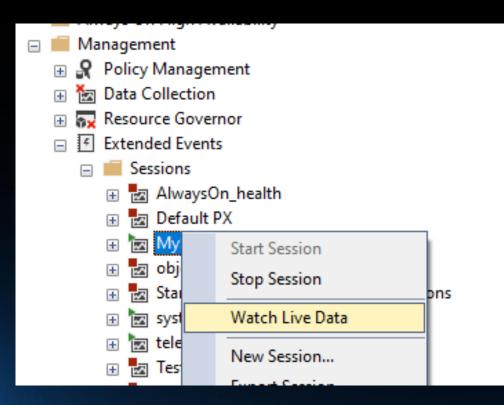
);
```

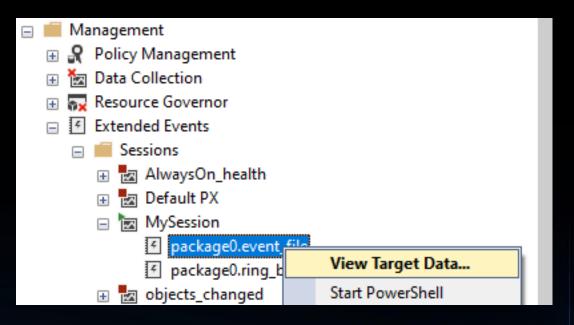


ALTER EVENT SESSION [MySession] ON SERVER STATE = START;



Show output (GUI)





.\ - My	.\ - MySession: Live Data → X				
Retriev	ing event information from server.				
	name	timestamp			

.\ - MySession: Live Data → ×

Displaying 3 Events

	name	timestamp
	sql_batch_completed	2023-09-25 14:38:04.0502469
Þ.	sql_batch_completed	2023-09-25 14:38:10.3543459
	sql_batch_completed	2023-09-25 14:39:21.5765351

Event:sql_batch_completed (2023-09-25 14:38:10.3543459)

Details

Field	Value	
attach_activity_id.g	B0C37F10-CBAE-42F4-8259-5F20DAE3E01E	
attach_activity_id.s	1	
attach_activity_id	CC9F8108-640D-4FFC-AF2E-5F257342B981	
attach_activity_id	0	
batch_text	SELECT * FROM dbo.GB_RSum_Data AS grsd WHERE grsd.I	
cpu_time	0	
duration	31010512	
logical_reads	14	
page_server_reads	0	
physical_reads	0	
result	OK	
row_count	0	
session_id	62	
spills	0	
writes	0	

.\ - MySession: Live Data → ×

Displaying 3 Events

	name	timestamp
	sql_batch_completed	2023-09-25 14:38:04.0502469
Þ.	sql_batch_completed	2023-09-25 14:38:10.3543459
	sql_batch_completed	2023-09-25 14:39:21.5765351

Event:sql_batch_completed (2023-09-25 14:38:10.3543459)

Details

Field	Value			
attach_activity_id.g	B0C37F10-CBAE-42F4-8	259-5F20DAE3E01E		
attach_activity_id.s	1			
attach_activity_id	CC9F8108-640D-4FFC-A	F2E-5F257342B981		
attach_activity_id	0			
batch_text	SELECT * FROM dbo.G	B_RSum_Data AS grsd WHERE grsd.l		
cpu_time	0	0		
duration	31010512	31010512		
logical_reads	14	Show Column in Table		
page_server_reads	0	Hide Column from Table		
physical_reads	0	Cami		
result	OK	Сору		
row_count	0			
session_id	62			
spills	0			
writes	0			
	U			

.\ - MySession: Live Data 💠 🗙

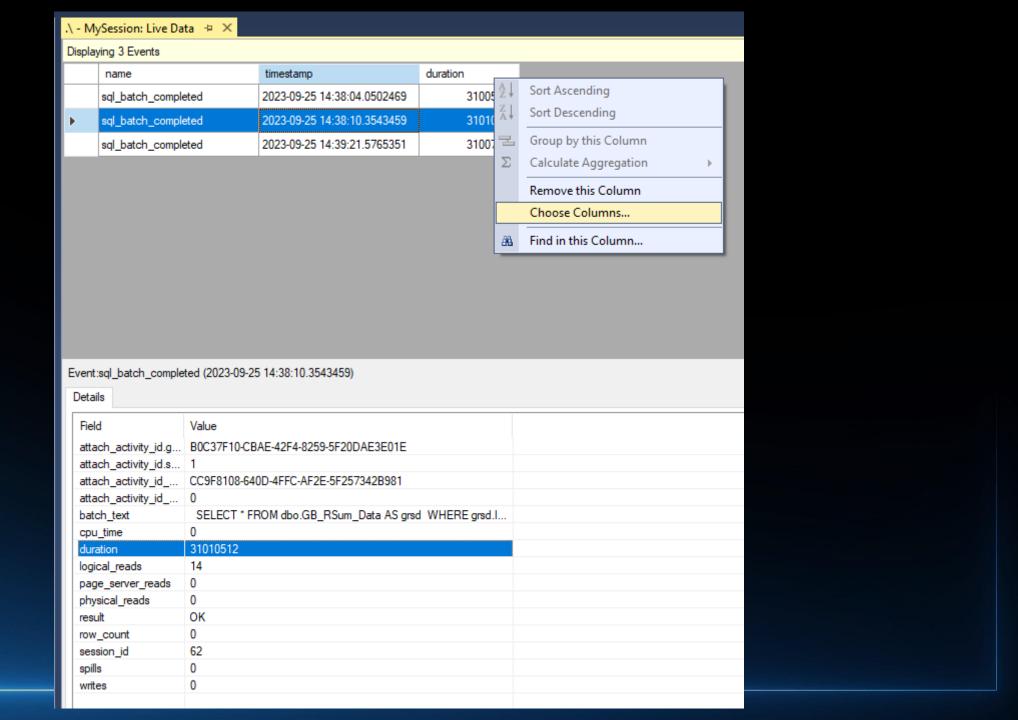
Displaying 3 Events

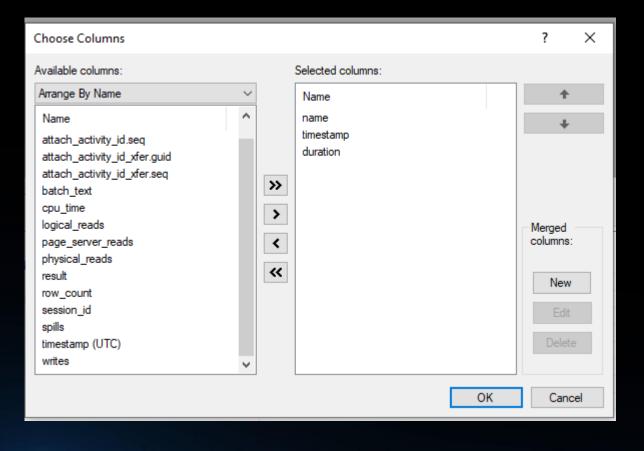
	name	timestamp	duration
	sql_batch_completed	2023-09-25 14:38:04.0502469	31005278
Þ.	sql_batch_completed	2023-09-25 14:38:10.3543459	31010512
	sql_batch_completed	2023-09-25 14:39:21.5765351	31007921

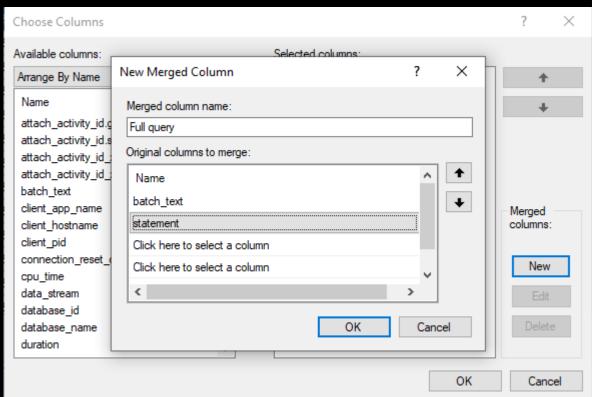
Event:sql_batch_completed (2023-09-25 14:38:10.3543459)

Details

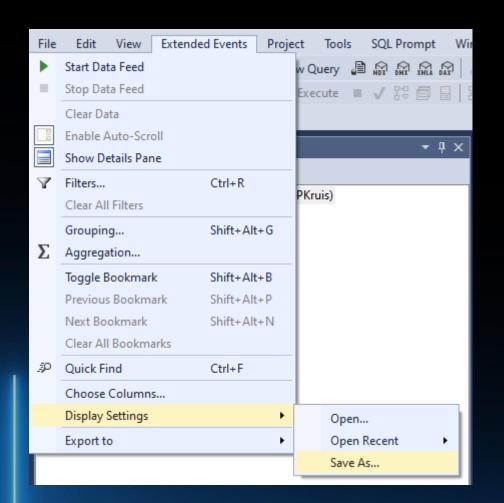
Field	Value	
attach_activity_id.g	B0C37F10-CBAE-42F4-8259-5F20DAE3E01E	
attach_activity_id.s	1	
attach_activity_id	CC9F8108-640D-4FFC-AF2E-5F257342B981	
attach_activity_id	0	
batch_text	SELECT * FROM dbo.GB_RSum_Data AS grad WHERE grad.I	
cpu_time	0	
duration	31010512	
logical_reads	14	
page_server_reads	0	
physical_reads	0	
result	OK	
row_count	0	
session_id	62	
spills	0	
writes	0	

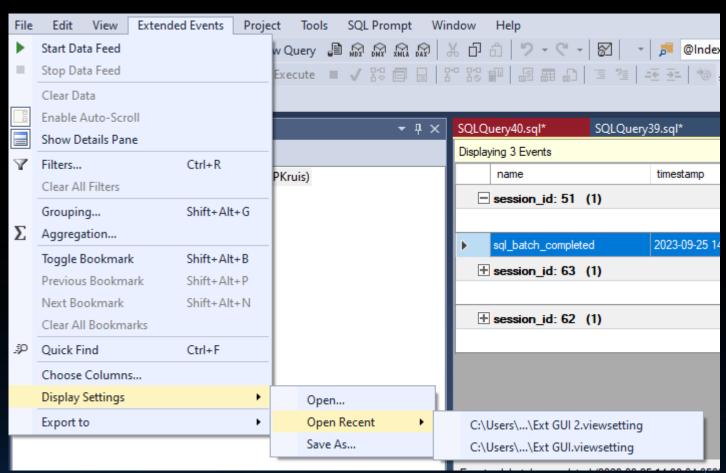


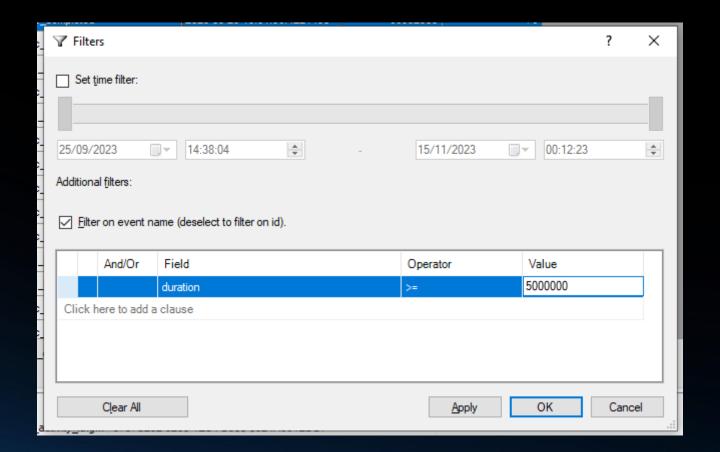


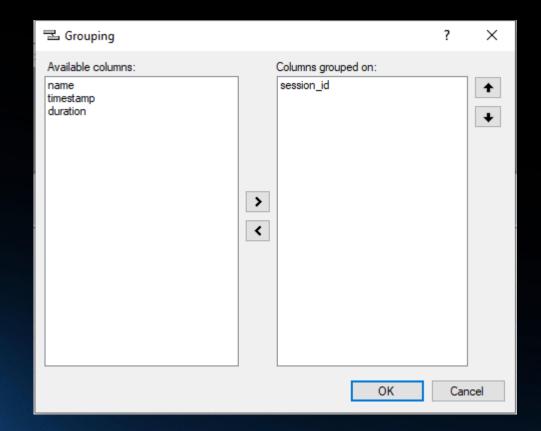


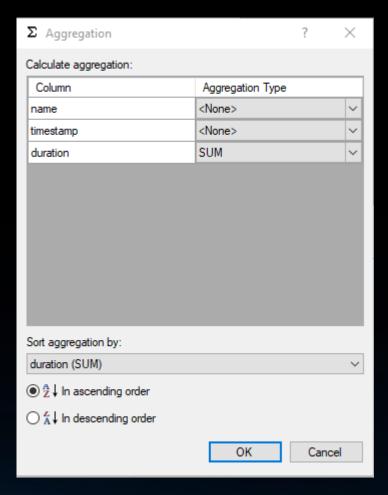












Display	Displaying 3 Events					
	name	timestamp	duration session_id			
session_id: 51 (1)						
			SUM: 31005278			
	sql_batch_completed	2023-09-25 14:38:04.0502469	31005278	51		
±	session_id: 63 (1)					
			SUM: 31007921			
+	session_id: 62 (1)					
			SUM: 31010512			

Output (Script)

	event_data	object_name	file_name	file_offset	timestamp_utc
1	<pre><event batch="" completed"="" name="sql batch completed" package="sqlserver" pre="" rpc="" sql="" ti<=""></event></pre>	rpc_completed	$\label{lem:c:program} {\sf C:\Program\ Files\Microsoft\ SQL\ Server\MSSQL15.MSS}}$	12288	2023-09-25 13:30:12.6840000
5	<pre><event name="rpc_completed" package="sqlserver" pre="" ti<=""></event></pre>	rpc_completed	$\hbox{C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.MSS}$	13312	2023-09-25 13:31:56.4220000
6	<pre><event name="rpc_completed" package="sqlserver" pre="" ti<=""></event></pre>	rpc_completed	$\hbox{C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.MSS}$	14336	2023-09-25 22:52:35.3100000
7	<pre><event name="rpc_completed" package="sqlserver" pre="" ti<=""></event></pre>	rpc_completed	$\hbox{C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.MSS}$	10240	2023-09-25 13:30:12.6840000
8	<pre><event name="rpc_completed" package="sqlserver" pre="" ti<=""></event></pre>	rpc_completed	$\hbox{C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.MSS}$	11264	2023-09-25 13:31:56.4220000
9	<pre><event name="rpc_completed" package="sqlserver" pre="" ti<=""></event></pre>	rpc_completed	$\label{lem:c:program} \mbox{C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.MSS}$	12288	2023-09-25 22:52:35.3100000
10	<pre><event name="rpc_completed" package="sqlserver" pre="" ti<=""></event></pre>	rpc_completed	$\hbox{C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.MSS}$	10240	2023-09-26 06:50:49.3950000
11	<pre><event name="rpc_completed" package="sqlserver" pre="" ti<=""></event></pre>	rpc_completed	$\hbox{C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.MSS}$	11264	2023-09-26 07:08:48.4460000
12	<pre><event block"="" name="sql batch completed" package="sqlse</pre></td><td>sql_batch_completed</td><td><math display=">\hbox{C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.MSS}</event></pre>	12288	2023-09-28 06:03:08.7650000		
13	<pre><event block"="" name="sql batch completed" package="sqlse</pre></td><td>sql_batch_completed</td><td><math display=">\label{lem:c:program} \mbox{C:\Program Files\Microsoft SQL Server\MSSQL15.MSS}</event></pre>	12288	2023-09-28 06:03:08.8180000		
14	<pre><event block"="" name="sql batch completed" package="sqlse</pre></td><td>sql_batch_completed</td><td><math display=">\label{lem:c:program} {\sf C:\Program\ Files\Microsoft\ SQL\ Server\MSSQL15.MSS}</event></pre>	15872	2023-09-28 10:52:56.6750000		
15	<pre><event batch="" block"="" completed"="" name="sql batch completed" package="sqlse</pre></td><td>sql_batch_completed</td><td><math display=" sql="">\label{lem:c:program} {\sf C:\Program\ Files\Microsoft\ SQL\ Server\MSSQL15.MSS}}</event></pre>	23040	2023-10-02 07:46:16.9730000		
19	<pre><event batch="" completed"="" name="sql batch completed" package="sqlserver" rpc_completed"="" sql="" td="" ti<=""><td>rpc_completed</td><td>$\label{lem:c:program} {\sf C:\Program\ Files\Microsoft\ SQL\ Server\MSSQL15.MSS}$</td><td>10752</td><td>2023-10-19 17:45:34.6190000</td></event></pre>	rpc_completed	$\label{lem:c:program} {\sf C:\Program\ Files\Microsoft\ SQL\ Server\MSSQL15.MSS}$	10752	2023-10-19 17:45:34.6190000

```
SELECT
    module_guid,
    event_data = CONVERT(XML, event_data),
    file_name,
    file_offset,
    timestamp_utc
INTO #RetrievedData
FROM sys.fn_xe_file_target_read_file(N'MySession*.xel', NULL, NULL);
```

```
SELECT
     ts = rd.event data.value(N'(event/@timestamp)[1]', N'datetime'),
     batch text = rd.event data.value(
                                        N'(event/data[@name="batch text"]/value)[1]',
                                        N'nvarchar(max)'
                                      ),
     statement = rd.event data.value(
                                       N'(event/data[@name="statement"]/value)[1]',
                                       N'nvarchar(max)'
                                    ),
     spid = rd.event_data.value(
                                  N'(event/action[@name="session_id"]/value)[1]',
                                  N'int'
     duration = rd.event_data.value(
                                      N'(event/data[@name="duration"]/value)[1]',
                                      N'bigint'
     dxoc.description AS duration description /*some might contain other duration units*/
FROM #RetrievedData AS rd
     LEFT JOIN sys.dm xe object columns AS dxoc ON dxoc.name = 'duration'
                                                    AND dxoc.object name = rd.object name;
```

	ts	batch_text	statement	spid	duration	duration_description
1	2023-09-25 12:38:04.050	SELECT * FROM dbo.GB_RSum_Data AS grsd WAITFOR	NULL	51	31005278	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat
2	2023-09-25 12:38:10.353	SELECT * FROM dbo.GB_RSum_Data AS grsd WHERE gr	NULL	62	31010512	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat
3	2023-09-25 12:39:21.577	SELECT SUM(grsd.RSum_ID), grsd.Var_ld FRO	NULL	63	31007921	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat
4	2023-09-25 13:30:12.683	NULL	exec sp_executesql N'SELECT type, data FROM sys	76	9957200	The time (in microseconds) that the remote proce
5	2023-09-25 13:31:56.423	NULL	exec sp_executesql N'SELECT type, data FROM sys	76	66932985	The time (in microseconds) that the remote proce
6	2023-09-25 22:52:35.310	NULL	exec sp_executesql N'SELECT type, data FROM sys	67	37052956761	The time (in microseconds) that the remote proce
7	2023-09-25 13:30:12.683	NULL	exec sp_executesql N'SELECT type, data FROM sys	76	9957200	The time (in microseconds) that the remote proce
8	2023-09-25 13:31:56.423	NULL	exec sp_executesql N'SELECT type, data FROM sys	76	66932985	The time (in microseconds) that the remote proce
9	2023-09-25 22:52:35.310	NULL	exec sp_executesql N'SELECT type, data FROM sys	67	37052956761	The time (in microseconds) that the remote proce
10	2023-09-26 06:50:49.397	NULL	exec sp_executesql N'SELECT type, data FROM sys	56	100127685	The time (in microseconds) that the remote proce
11	2023-09-26 07:08:48.447	NULL	exec sp_executesql N'SELECT type, data FROM sys	56	1022221435	The time (in microseconds) that the remote proce
12	2023-09-28 06:03:08.767	WITH txt (id, text) AS (${\sf SELECT}{\sf o.id}, {\sf o.text}{\sf FROM}$ (${\sf S}$	NULL	64	3692932	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat
13	2023-09-28 06:03:08.817	WITH txt (id, text) AS ($\mbox{SELECT o.id}, \mbox{o.text FROM}$ (\mbox{S}	NULL	67	3742235	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat
14	2023-09-28 10:52:56.677	SELECT db_id() AS database_id, c.system_type	NULL	51	5487505	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat
15	2023-09-28 10:53:02.130	SELECT db_id() AS database_id, c.system_type	NULL	51	5452264	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat
16	2023-09-28 10:53:29.953	WITH CTE AS (SELECT DISTINCT i.object_id oid,	NULL	51	6794044	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat \ldots
17	2023-09-28 10:53:36.890	WITH CTE AS (SELECT DISTINCT i.object_id oid,	NULL	51	6935059	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat
18	2023-10-02 07:46:16.973	SELECT db_id() AS database_id, c.system_type	NULL	52	10029260	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat \ldots
19	2023-10-02 07:46:25.560	SELECT db_id() AS database_id, c.system_type	NULL	52	8586950	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat \ldots
20	2023-10-02 07:47:04.837	WITH CTE AS (SELECT DISTINCT i.object_id oid,	NULL	52	10001400	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat \ldots
21	2023-10-02 07:47:14.853	WITH CTE AS (SELECT DISTINCT i.object_id oid,	NULL	52	10014423	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat \ldots
22	2023-10-19 17:40:45.387	SELECT * FROM dbo.MyTable AS mt WAITFOR DELAY '00	NULL	58	4015926	The amount of time (in microseconds) that the bat \ldots
23	2023-10-19 17:45:34.620	NULL	exec sp_executesql N'SELECT type, data FROM sys	52	3737950	The time (in microseconds) that the remote proce

```
WITH cte

AS (SELECT ed = CONVERT(XML, target_data)

FROM sys.dm_xe_session_targets xet

INNER JOIN sys.dm_xe_sessions xe ON xe.[address] = xet.event_session_address

WHERE xe.name = N'MySession'

AND xet.target_name = N'ring_buffer')

SELECT event_data = x.ed.query('.')

FROM cte

CROSS APPLY cte.ed.nodes(N'RingBufferTarget/event') AS x(ed);
```

event_data

<event name="sql batch completed" package="sqlserver" timestamp="2023-10-19T17:40:45.388Z"><data name="cpu time"><type name="uint64" package="package0" /><value>0</value></data><data name="duration"><type name="...</p>

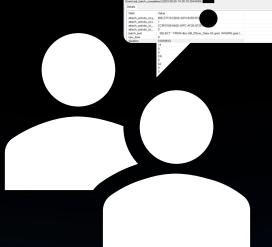
<event name="rpc completed" package="sqlserver" timestamp="2023-10-19T17:45:34.619Z"><data name="cpu time"><type name="uint64" package="package0" /><value></data><data name="duration"><type name="uint64"...</p>

Scripts

Github.com/peterkruis

An introduction to Extended Events

Any questions?



Peter Kruis



