

SQL Server Plan Caching and Query Store

Module 8

Learning Units covered in this Module

- Lesson 1: SQL Server Plan Cache
- Lesson 2: SQL Server Query Store

Lesson 1: SQL Server Plan Cache

Objectives

After completing this learning, you will be able to:

- Describe the purpose and contents of the plan cache.
- · Query the plan cache using Dynamic Management Objects.
- · Discuss the pros and cons of plan reuse.
- · Explain why ad hoc SQL statements can be especially problematic.



The Plan Cache

A pool of memory used to store query execution plans

Used by all databases in a SQL Server instance

Exists to avoid repeated optimization and compilation

Reuse of reduce optimization and compilation costs

Size and contents vary over time.



With a fixed amount of memory, when the plan cache grows the buffer pool shrinks and viceversa

Plan Cache Contents

Object plans:

• Stored procedures, functions, triggers

SQL Plans:

• Prepared plans and *ad hoc* plans

Other:

• Bound trees and extended stored procedure references

Granularity:

Execution plans are per-statement (not object).

Plans per Statement:

• Multiple plans for a single statement may exist if differing execution contexts were used or if a parallel plan was generated.

Dynamic Management Views and Functions

Category	Description
sys.dm_exec_%	Execution and connection information
sys.dm_os_%	Operating system related information
sys.dm_tran_%	Transaction management information
sys.dm_io_%	I/O related information
sys.dm_db_%	Database information

Dynamic Management Objects

sys.dm_exec_cached_plans

Plan type, size and handle

sys.dm_exec_query_stats

Execution metrics for individual statements

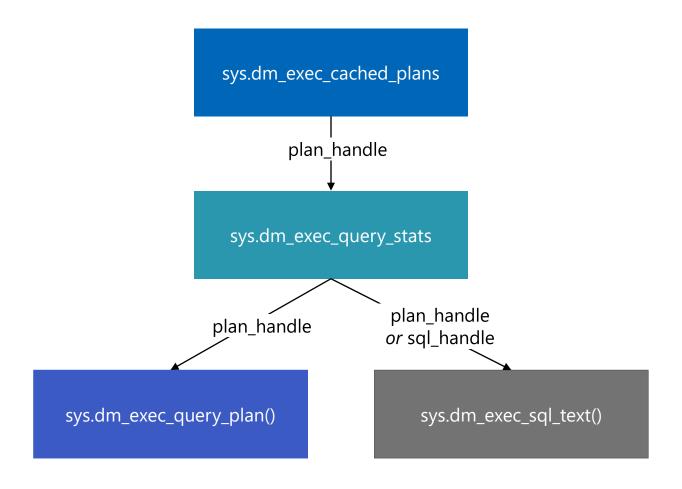
sys.dm_exec_query_plan()

 Takes a plan_handle and returns the associated XML plan

sys.dm_exec_sql_text()

 Takes a plan_handle or sql_handle and returns the associated SQL batch

Relationships between DMOs



Captured Metrics (sys.dm_exec_query_stats)

Partial listing

Execution count Worker time Physical read Total Logical reads Aggregate Last statistics • Min Elapsed time Max Row count Memory consumption Spills

Compute Average: Avg = Total / Execution count

Mining the Plan Cache with T-SQL

Top 10 plans by logical reads

```
SELECT CASE st.dbid WHEN 32767 THEN 'resourcedb'
        WHEN NULL THEN 'NA' ELSE DB NAME(st.dbid)END AS [database], OBJECT NAME(st.objectid) AS object name,
        SUBSTRING( st.text, ( qs.statement start offset / 2 ) + 1,
         (( CASE qs.statement end offset WHEN -1 THEN DATALENGTH(st.text)
     exec_count avg_logical_reads avg_CPU_ms
                                                                                                                        avg_time ms
          database
                           object name
                                      sql statement
FRO
          AdventureWorksPTO
                           NULL
                                       SELECT * FROM [Production].[BillOfMaterials]
                                                                                             22
                                                                                                                        298
                                                                                   3
                                                                                                             3
          AdventureWorksPTO NULL
                                       SELECT * FROM [Production].[BillOfMaterials] WHER... 2
                                                                                                                        449
                                                                                             22
                                                                                                            12
          AdventureWorksPTO NULL
                                       SELECT * FROM [Production].[BillOfMaterials] WHER... 2
                                                                                              15
                                                                                                            1
                                                                                                                         3
          AdventureWorksPTO NULL
                                       SELECT * FROM [Production].[Product] WHERE Name ... 1
                                                                                             12
          AdventureWorksPTO NULL
                                       SELECT * FROM [HumanResources].[Employee]
                                                                                                                        219
                                                                                                            6
          AdventureWorksPTO NULL
                                       SELECT * FROM [Production].[Product] WHERE [Produ... 1
                                                                                                            0
                                                                                                                         6
          AdventureWorksPTO NULL
                                       SELECT * FROM [sales].[salesorderheader] WHERE [S... 10
                                                                                                             0
                                       SELECT * FROM [sales].[salesorderdetail] WHERE [Sal... 5
          AdventureWorksPTO NULL
                                                                                                            0
       ORDER BY (total logical reads / execution count) DESC) AS qs
     CROSS APPLY sys.dm_exec_sql_text(qs.plan_handle) st
     CROSS APPLY sys.dm exec query plan(qs.plan handle) qp
ORDER BY qs.avg_logical_reads DESC
OPTION ( RECOMPILE );
```

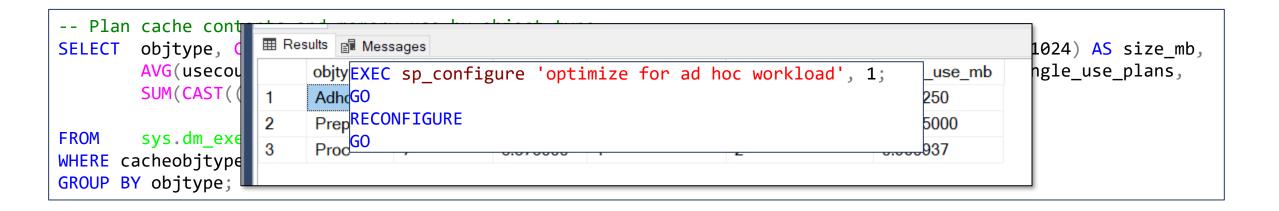
Cache Plan Bloat

Caused by ad hoc SQL

Heavy *ad hoc* workloads can bloat the plan cache

No benefit to caching single-use, ad hoc plans

Enable "optimize for ad hoc workload" to keep single-use plans out of the cache



Clearing the Plan Cache

Not always the best option!

The entire plan cache – all databases

• DBCC FREEPROCCACHE;

All plans of a specific type

DBCC FREESYSTEMCACHE ('SQL Plans');

All plans for a single database

 ALTER DATABASE SCOPED CONFIGURATION CLEAR PROCEDURE_CACHE;

A specific plan

 ALTER DATABASE SCOPED CONFIGURATION CLEAR PROCEDURE_CACHE(<plan_handle>);

Performance impact as new plans are compiled

Clearing the Plan Cache

Not your first option!

```
SQLQuery19.sql -...ERICA\sammes (60))* 

SQLQuery12.sql -...ERICA\sammes (72))*
                                                     SQLQuery10.sql -...ERICA\sammes (51))*
                                                                                SQLQuery15.sql -...ERICA\saam
           SELECT plan handle, st.text
              FROM sys.dm exec cached plans
              CROSS APPLY sys.dm exec sql text(plan handle) AS st
              WHERE text LIKE N'SELECT * FROM Person.Address%';
■ Results ■ Messages
    plan handle text
```

Plan Reuse

Requires that SQL statements match exactly

• <u>Any</u> difference in casing, white space or literal values will affect a hashed value

Less likely for *ad hoc* SQL statements

• Simple (on by default) or Forced Parameterization can improve reuse

Most easily achieved using:

- Stored procedures, Functions, Triggers
- Prepared statements and parameterized queries (sp_executesql)

```
-- Small changes in case or white space yield differing hashes SELECT HASHBYTES('MD5','SELECT * FROM Person.Person') UNION ALL SELECT HASHBYTES('MD5','SELECT * FROM Person.Person') UNION ALL SELECT HASHBYTES('MD5','SELECT * FROM Person.Person')

/*

0xF2D4F28DA93156A5BB487B019F1F0191

0x76F700BB3DC09FF482E1E4A77C7392E8

0xB1D875A858F4D410D9E866C40E523683

*/
```

Plan Reuse

Benefit

Improved performance as reuse saves time and CPU

Drawback

 Degraded performance when reused plan is not optimal for all parameter values

Parameter Sniffing

- Optimizer's ability to see (sniff) parameter values at compile time and so create a cost-effective execution plan.
- This is generally beneficial.
- Only problematic when compile parameters aren't representative

Recompile hints

- Prevent caching of plans at the object or statement (preferred) level
- sp_recompile <object_name> to manually force recompilation

Parameter Sniffing

```
1 SELECT SalesOrderDetailID, OrderQty
                                                                             MERCY INALESCONICHERALISMI, FORGASSILI FROM INALEST. INALESTRIBATIVALLY WORSE (PRODUCTION "4).
     FROM Sales Sales Order Detail
    WHERE ProductID = 897
                                                                                                      Cress 1.4
 5 SELECT SalesOrderDetailID, OrderOty
                                                                             Query 21 Query cork (pagetable to the hatch) : 375
                                                                             MELECT | Hallandering Senat | 1701, (Sedan Con) | FROS | Halland | College Senat | World (Prosect 211-8)
     FROM Sales SalesOrderDetail
                                                                                      Stocked Longs in
                                                                                                   Inthe Seri- (Bot Ludoced)
     WHERE ProductID = 945
                                                                                                  She Darker (Clarison)
                                                                                                      P081 78 %
 9 SELECT SalesOrderDetailID, OrderQty
                                                                             Gency of Guerry cort inclusive to the neacher His
10 FROM Sales Sales Order Detail
                                                                             HELECT [Balancedon des DetailED], [Coder Gig! FROM [Balan]; [Salancedon description 1] WHIRE [From mod 1] - 81
                                                                             Windley Tomas (Depart 59.5552); (What Nowlingtonian Johns Lobers of Windley Inches, ground, or it in
11 WHERE ProductID = 870
                                                                              MIACT
                                                                             TOWN TO A
                                                                          Results 🗐 Messages 🕯 Execution plan
 1 CREATE PROCEDURE Get_OrderQuantity
                                                                          Query 1: Query cost (relative to the batch): 100%
     (@ProductID int)
                                                                          SELECT SalesOrderDetailID, OrderQty FROM Sales.SalesOrderDe
 3
    AS
                                                                          Missing Index (Impact 99.5852): CREATE NONCLUSTERED INDEX
 4 SELECT SalesOrderDetailID, OrderQty
                                                                                           Clustered Index Scan (Clustered)
 5 FROM Sales Sales Order Detail
                                                                                         [SalesOrderDetail].[PK_SalesOrderDe_
                                                                                                    Cost: 100 %
 6 WHERE ProductID = @ProductID
```

Demonstration

Caching and Parameter sniffing

- Caching and reuse of ad hoc vs. stored procedure query plans
- Parameter sniffing
- Querying the plan cache



Questions?



Knowledge Check

Is the size of the plan cache fixed?

How long do query plans remain in the plan cache?

Why is plan caching helpful?

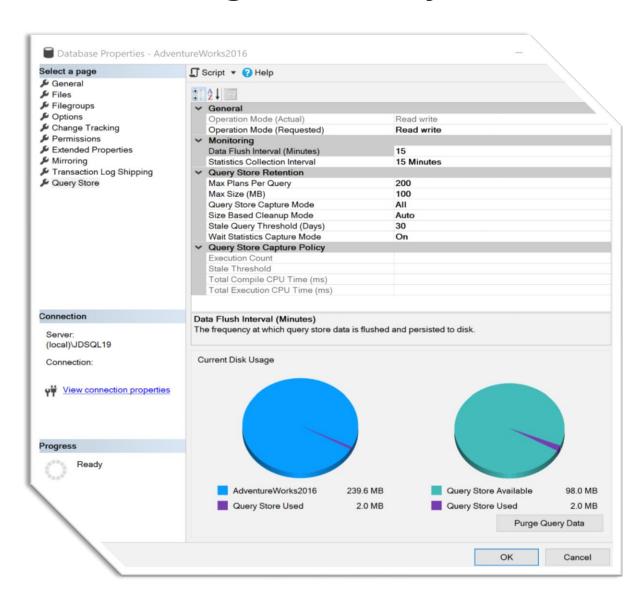
Why are ad hoc query plans sometimes problematic?

What can be done to lessen the impact of an ad hoc workload?

What can be done to address a parameter sniffing issue?

Lesson 2: SQL Server Query Store

Introducing the Query Store



Query Store is set at the database level

Cannot be used for Master or TempDB system databases but can be enabled for the Model and MSDB system databases.

The user database stores the data in internal tables that can be accessed by using built-in Query Store views.

SQL Server retains this data until the space allocated to Query Store is full or manually purged.

Why use Query Store?

Before Query Store

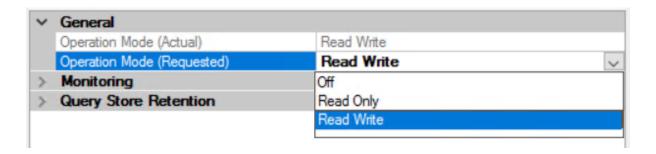
- Requires manual proactive monitoring to identify execution plan problems.
- Only the latest plan was stored in the procedure cache
- Restart caused data to be lost
- Frequent recompiles of procedures or use of DBCC FREEPROCACHE
- No history or aggregated gathering of data available.

With Query Store

- It stores the history of the execution plans for each query
- It establishes a performance baseline for each plan over time
- It identifies queries that may have regressed
- It is possible to force plans quickly and easily
- It works across server restarts, upgrades, and query recompilation

Query Store Operation Modes

Operation Mode can be set under database properties



Operation Mode can be enabled two ways using T-SQL. If only using the ON option, the Mode defaults to **Read_Write**

```
ALTER DATABASE [AdventureWorks2016] SET QUERY_STORE = ON;

ALTER DATABASE [AdventureWorks2016] SET QUERY_STORE

(OPERATION_MODE = READ_WRITE);
```

Query Store Monitoring Settings

Data Flush Interval determines the frequency at which data written to the query store is persisted to disk. (Default is **15 Minutes**).

∨ Monitoring			
	Data Flush Interval (Minutes)	15	
	Statistics Collection Interval	1 Hour	

```
ALTER DATABASE [AdventureWorks2016] SET QUERY_STORE (INTERVAL_LENGTH_MINUTES = 1, DATA_FLUSH_INTERVAL_SECONDS = 60)
```

Query Store Monitoring Settings

Statistics Collection Interval determines the time interval at which runtime execution statistics data is aggregated into the query store. Only the values of 1, 5, 10, 15, 60, and 1440 minutes is allowed. (Default is **60**).

✓ Monitoring		
	Data Flush Interval (Minutes)	15
	Statistics Collection Interval	1 Hour

```
ALTER DATABASE [AdventureWorks2016] SET QUERY_STORE (INTERVAL_LENGTH_MINUTES = 1, DATA_FLUSH_INTERVAL_SECONDS = 60)
```

Max Plans Per Query is a new retention setting introduced in SQL Server 2017 and is an integer representing the maximum number of plans maintained for each query. (Default is **200**).

▼ Query Store Retention		
	Max Plans Per Query	200
	Max Size (MB)	100
	Query Store Capture Mode	Custom
	Size Based Cleanup Mode	Auto
	Stale Query Threshold (Days)	30
	Wait Statistics Capture Mode	On

```
ALTER DATABASE AdventureWorks2016 SET QUERY_STORE

(MAX_PLANS_PER_QUERY = 200,

MAX_STORAGE_SIZE_MB = 100,

QUERY_CAPTURE_MODE = AUTO,

SIZE_BASED_CLEANUP_MODE = AUTO,

CLEANUP_POLICY = (STALE_QUERY_THRESHOLD_DAYS = 367),

WAIT_STATS_CAPTURE_MODE = ON);

GO
```

Max Size (MB) configures the maximum storage size for the query store. (Default is **100MB**) When the query store limit is reached, query store changes the state from read-write to read-only.

∨ Qu	ery Store Retention	
Ma	x Plans Per Query	200
Ma	x Size (MB)	100
Qu	ery Store Capture Mode	Custom
Siz	e Based Cleanup Mode	Auto
Sta	ale Query Threshold (Days)	30
Wa	it Statistics Capture Mode	On

```
ALTER DATABASE AdventureWorks2016 SET QUERY_STORE

(MAX_PLANS_PER_QUERY = 200,

MAX_STORAGE_SIZE_MB = 100,

QUERY_CAPTURE_MODE = AUTO,

SIZE_BASED_CLEANUP_MODE = AUTO,

CLEANUP_POLICY = (STALE_QUERY_THRESHOLD_DAYS = 367),

WAIT_STATS_CAPTURE_MODE = ON);

GO
```

Query Store Capture Mode determines to capture all the queries (Default is **ALL**), or relevant queries based on execution count and resource consumption (**AUTO**) or stop capturing queries (**NONE**). SQL Server 2019 introduces an additional (**CUSTOM**) setting.

✓ Query Store Retention	
Max Plans Per Query	200
Max Size (MB)	100
Query Store Capture Mode	Custom
Size Based Cleanup Mode	Auto
Stale Query Threshold (Days)	30
Wait Statistics Capture Mode	On

```
ALTER DATABASE AdventureWorks2016 SET QUERY_STORE

(MAX_PLANS_PER_QUERY = 200,
    MAX_STORAGE_SIZE_MB = 100,

QUERY_CAPTURE_MODE = AUTO,
    SIZE_BASED_CLEANUP_MODE = AUTO,
    CLEANUP_POLICY = (STALE_QUERY_THRESHOLD_DAYS = 367),
    WAIT_STATS_CAPTURE_MODE = ON);

GO
```

Size Based Cleanup Mode determines whether the cleanup process will be automatically activated when the total amount of data gets close to the maximum size. (Default is **Auto**).

Y	Query Store Retention	
	Max Plans Per Query	200
	Max Size (MB)	100
	Query Store Capture Mode	Custom
	Size Based Cleanup Mode	Auto
	Stale Query Threshold (Days)	30
	Wait Statistics Capture Mode	On

```
ALTER DATABASE AdventureWorks2016 SET QUERY_STORE

(MAX_PLANS_PER_QUERY = 200,
    MAX_STORAGE_SIZE_MB = 100,
    QUERY_CAPTURE_MODE = AUTO,

SIZE_BASED_CLEANUP_MODE = AUTO,
    CLEANUP_POLICY = (STALE_QUERY_THRESHOLD_DAYS = 367),
    WAIT_STATS_CAPTURE_MODE = ON);

GO
```

Stale Query Threshold (Days) determines the number of days to retain data in the query store. (Default is **30 days** and Maximum is **367 days**).

Y	Query Store Retention	
	Max Plans Per Query	200
	Max Size (MB)	100
	Query Store Capture Mode	Custom
	Size Based Cleanup Mode	Auto
	Stale Query Threshold (Days)	30
	Wait Statistics Capture Mode	On

```
ALTER DATABASE AdventureWorks2016 SET QUERY_STORE

(MAX_PLANS_PER_QUERY = 200,
    MAX_STORAGE_SIZE_MB = 100,
    QUERY_CAPTURE_MODE = AUTO,
    SIZE_BASED_CLEANUP_MODE = AUTO,

CLEANUP_POLICY = (STALE_QUERY_THRESHOLD_DAYS = 367),
    WAIT_STATS_CAPTURE_MODE = ON);

GO
```

Wait Statistics Capture Mode is a new retention setting introduced in SQL Server 2017 that controls if Query Store captures wait statistics information.

(Default = \mathbf{ON}).

Y	Query Store Retention		
	Max Plans Per Query	200	
	Max Size (MB)	100	
	Query Store Capture Mode	Custom	
	Size Based Cleanup Mode	Auto	
	Stale Query Threshold (Days)	30	
	Wait Statistics Capture Mode	On	

```
ALTER DATABASE AdventureWorks2016 SET QUERY_STORE

(MAX_PLANS_PER_QUERY = 200,

MAX_STORAGE_SIZE_MB = 100,

QUERY_CAPTURE_MODE = AUTO,

SIZE_BASED_CLEANUP_MODE = AUTO,

CLEANUP_POLICY = (STALE_QUERY_THRESHOLD_DAYS = 367),

WAIT_STATS_CAPTURE_MODE = ON);

GO
```

Introduced in SQL Server 2019 and available if the Query Store Capture Mode setting has been set to **CUSTOM**.

The value for the **EXECUTION COUNT** is the value a query must exceed within the Stale Threshold time period to be captured by the Query Store.

✓ Query Store Capture Policy		
	Execution Count	30
	Stale Threshold	1 Hour
	Total Compile CPU Time (ms)	1000
	Total Execution CPU Time (ms)	100

```
ALTER DATABASE AdventureWorks2016 SET QUERY_STORE

(QUERY_CAPTURE_POLICY =

    (EXECUTION_COUNT = 100,

    STALE_CAPTURE_POLICY_THRESHOLD = 24 Hours,

    TOTAL_COMPILE_CPU_TIME_MS = 2000,

    TOTAL_EXECUTION_CPU_TIME_MS = 1000));

GO
```

Introduced in SQL Server 2019 and available if the Query Store Capture Mode setting has been set to **CUSTOM**.

The value for the **Stale Threshold** can be from 1 hour up to 7 days. This setting specifies the time given to exceed the values of the three other settings for a query to be captured.

✓ Query Store Capture Policy		
	Execution Count	30
	Stale Threshold	1 Hour
	Total Compile CPU Time (ms)	1000
	Total Execution CPU Time (ms)	100

```
ALTER DATABASE AdventureWorks2016 SET QUERY_STORE

(QUERY_CAPTURE_POLICY =
  (EXECUTION_COUNT = 100,

STALE_CAPTURE_POLICY_THRESHOLD = 24 Hours,

TOTAL_COMPILE_CPU_TIME_MS = 2000,

TOTAL_EXECUTION_CPU_TIME_MS = 1000));

GO
```

Introduced in SQL Server 2019 and available if the Query Store Capture Mode setting has been set to **CUSTOM**.

The value for the **Total Compile CPU Time (ms)** is the value in milliseconds that a query must exceed within the **Stale Threshold** time period to be captured by the Query Store.

~	Query Store Capture Policy	
	Execution Count	30
	Stale Threshold	1 Hour
	Total Compile CPU Time (ms)	1000
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ALTER DATABASE AdventureWorks2016 SET QUERY_STORE

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  TOTAL_COMPILE_CPU_TIME_MS = 2000,
  TOTAL_EXECUTION_CPU_TIME_MS = 1000));

GO
```

Introduced in SQL Server 2019 and available if the Query Store Capture Mode setting has been set to **CUSTOM**.

The value for the **Total Execution CPU Time (ms)** is the value in milliseconds that a query must exceed within the **Stale Threshold** time period to be captured by the Query Store.

~	Query Store Capture Policy		
	Execution Count	30	
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	Total Execution CPU Time (ms)	100	

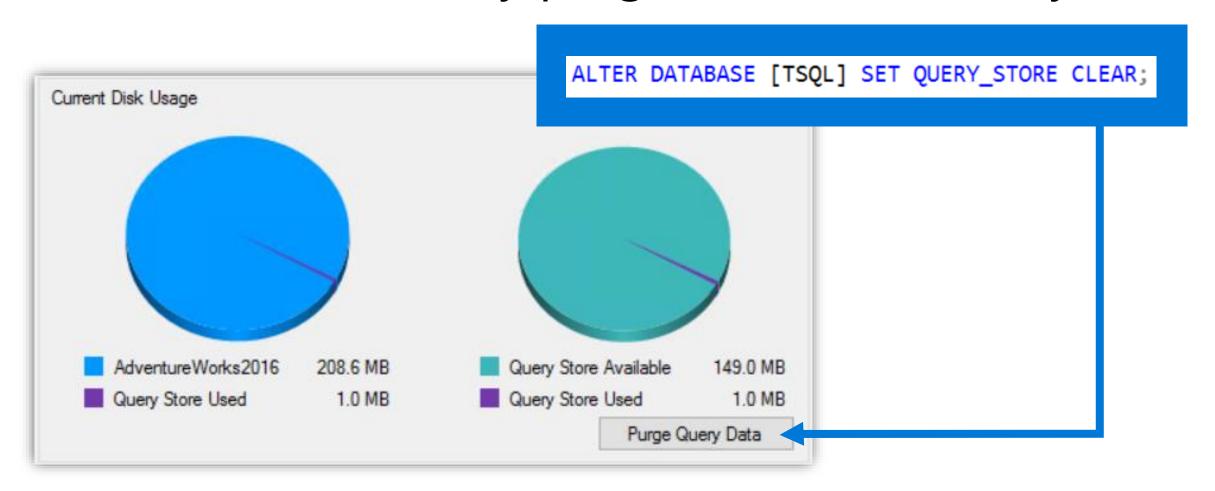
```
ALTER DATABASE AdventureWorks2016 SET QUERY_STORE

(QUERY_CAPTURE_POLICY =
    (EXECUTION_COUNT = 100,
    STALE_CAPTURE_POLICY_THRESHOLD = 24 Hours,
    TOTAL_COMPILE_CPU_TIME_MS = 2000,
    TOTAL_EXECUTION_CPU_TIME_MS = 1000));

GO
```

Purge Query Data

Data can be manually purged from the Query Store.



Regressed Queries: Use this dashboard to review queries that might have regressed because of execution plan changes

- Query Store
 - Regressed Queries
 - Overall Resource Consumption
 - Top Resource Consuming Queries
 - Queries With Forced Plans
 - **Queries With High Variation**
 - Query Wait Statistics
 - Tracked Queries

Overall Resource Consumption: Use this dashboard to visualize overall resource consumption during the last month in four charts: duration, execution count, CPU time, and logical reads

Query Store
Regressed Queries
Overall Resource Consumption
Top Resource Consuming Queries
Queries With Forced Plans
Queries With High Variation
Query Wait Statistics

Tracked Queries

Top Resource Consuming Queries: Use this dashboard to review queries in the set of top 25 resource consumers during the last hour

Query Store
Regressed Queries
Overall Resource Consumption
Top Resource Consuming Queries
Queries With Forced Plans
Queries With High Variation
Query Wait Statistics
Tracked Queries

Queries With Forced Plans: Used to isolate queries that have been given a forced plan. Requires SQL Server 2016 SP1 or later.

- Query Store
 Regressed Queries
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 Queries With High Variation
 - Tracked Queries

Query Wait Statistics

Queries With High Variation: Used to locate queries with high variation in query execution. Useful to locate queries with parameterization problems. Requires SQL Server 2016 SP1 or later.

- 🗏 📕 Query Store
 - Regressed Queries
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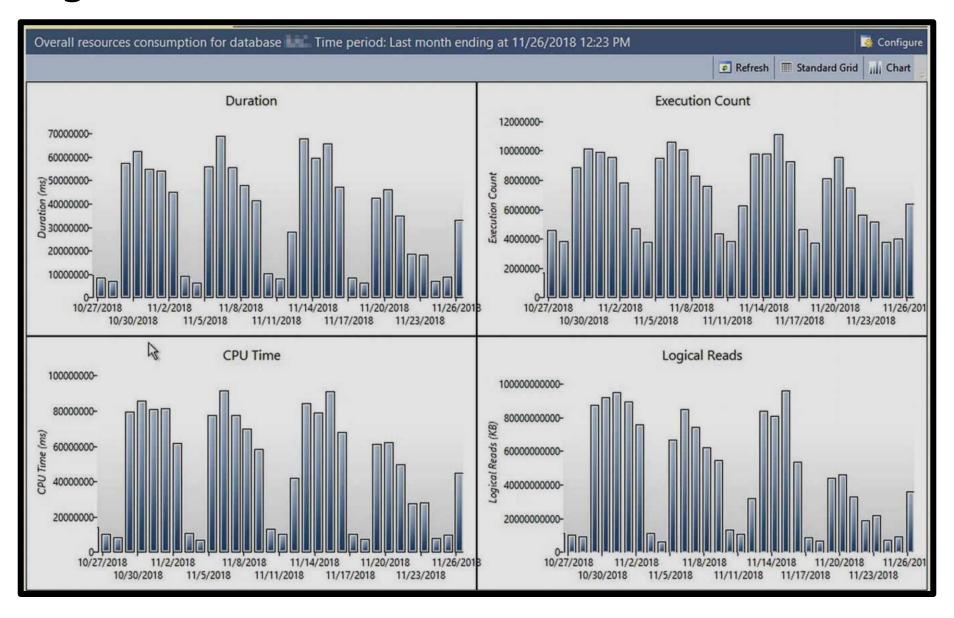
Query Wait Statistics shows a bar chart containing the top wait categories in the Query Store. Use the drop down at the top to select an aggregate criteria for the wait time: avg, max, min, std dev, and **total** (default). Requires SQL Server 2017.

- □ Query Store
 - Regressed Queries
 - Overall Resource Consumption
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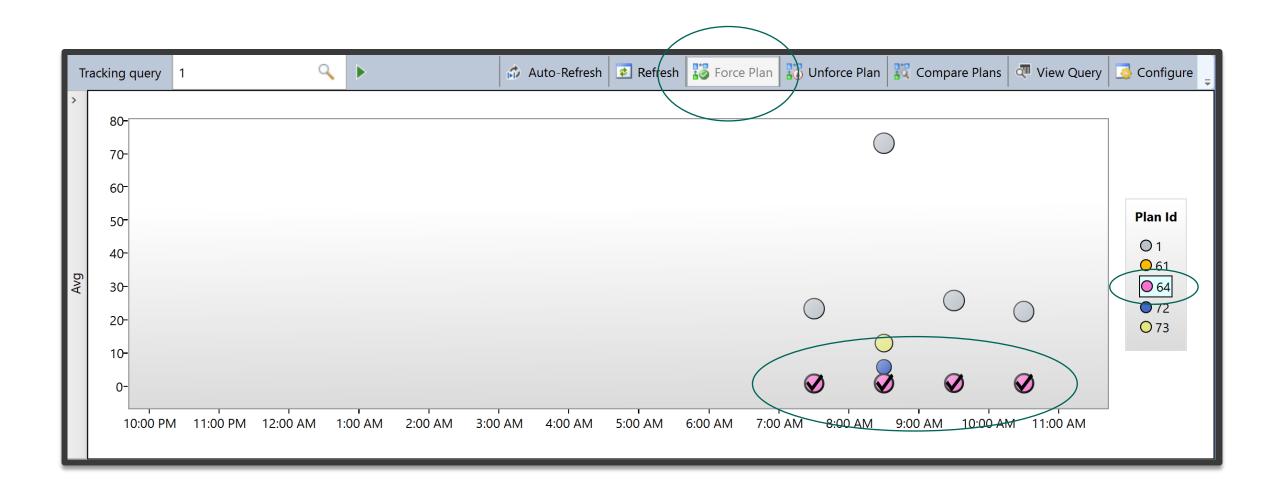
Tracked Queries: Use this dashboard to monitor the execution plans and regression of a specify query

- Query Store
 - Regressed Queries
 - @ Overall Resource Consumption
 - Top Resource Consuming Queries
 - **Queries With Forced Plans**
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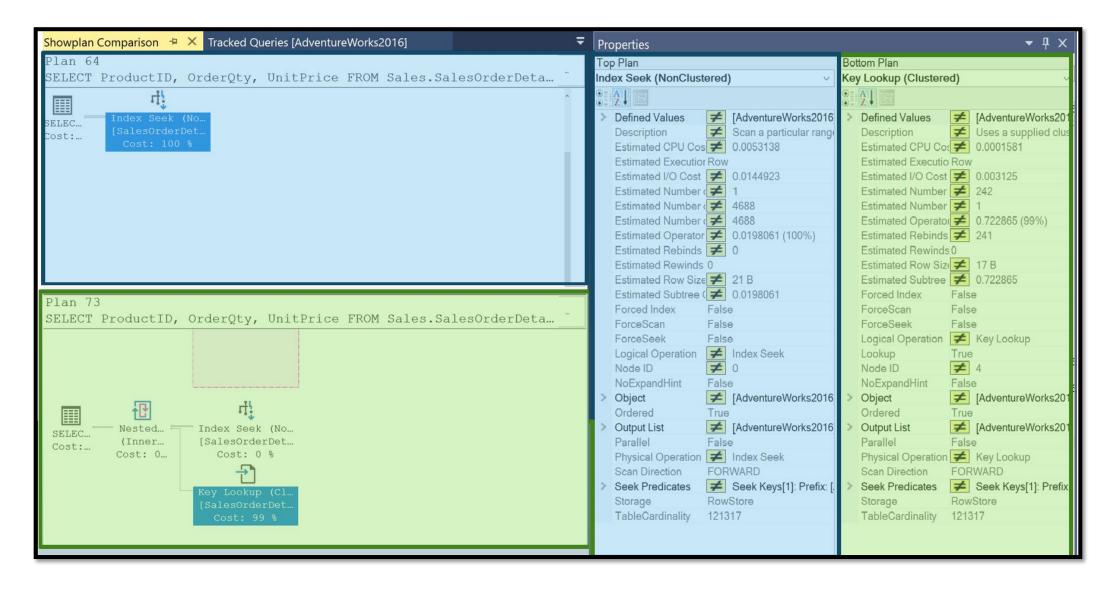
Establishing a Baseline



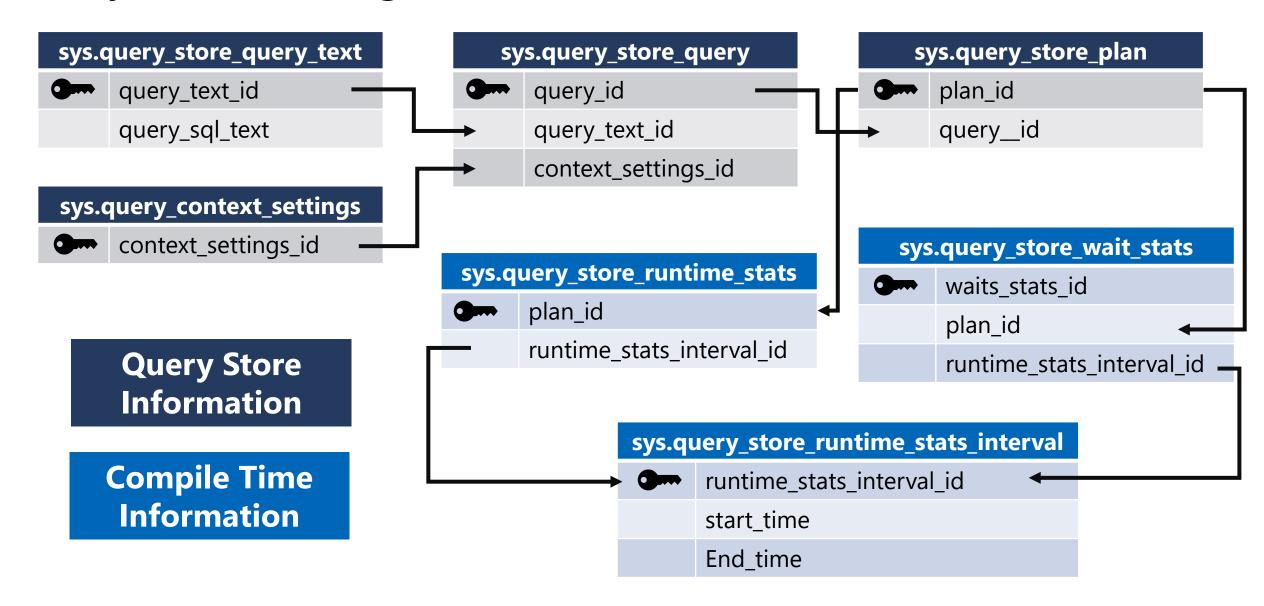
Force Plan



Plan Compare



Query Store Catalog Views



Using Query Store Catalog Views

Finding the TOP 10 most frequently executed SQL Server Queries in the Query Store.

```
SELECT TOP 10 t.query_sql_text, q.query_id
FROM sys.query_store_query text as t
JOIN sys.query store query as q
ON t.query_text_id = q.query text id
JOIN sys.query store plan as p
ON q.query id = p.query id
JOIN sys.query_store_runtime_stats as rs
ON p.plan id = rs.plan id
WHERE rs.count executions >1
GROUP BY t.query_sql_text, q.query_id
ORDER BY SUM(rs.count executions)
```

Troubleshooting Using the Query Store



Questions?



Knowledge Check

If upgrading from SQL Server 2012 to 2019. Which report should figure prominently in your upgrade plans?

In a report's bar chart what does each bar represent?

Which report can help troubleshoot a parameter sniffing issue?

Querying the wait statistics DMV it returns high PAGEIOLATCH waits. Which report can help identify queries with high IO wait times?

Someone has dropped an index needed by a forced plan. What happens the next time the query executes? What happens if the index is recreated?

