

# SQLintersection

Optimizing for OSFA:  
Catch-All-Queries in One-Size-Fits-All Procedures

Kimberly L. Tripp  
President / Founder, SQLskills.com  
Kimberly@SQLskills.com  
@KimberlyLTripp



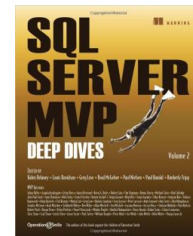
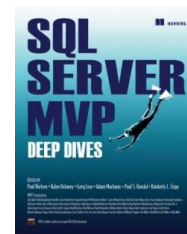
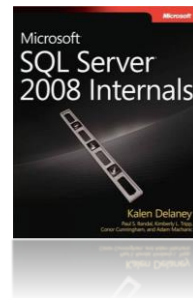
SQL  
*intersection*



# Author/Instructor: Kimberly L. Tripp



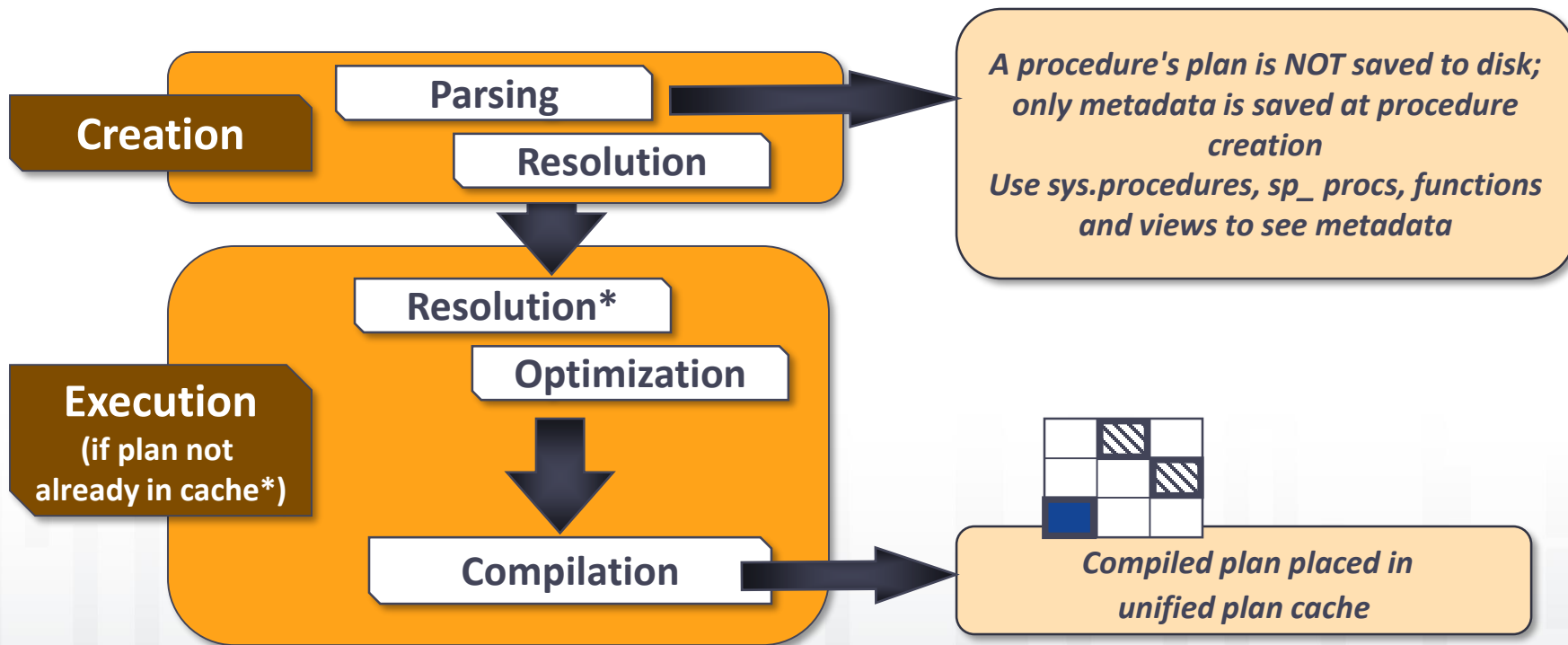
- Consultant/Trainer/Speaker/Writer
- President/Founder, SYSolutions, Inc.
  - e-mail: [Kimberly@SQLskills.com](mailto:Kimberly@SQLskills.com)
  - blog: <http://www.SQLskills.com/blogs/Kimberly>
  - Twitter: @KimberlyLTripp
- Author/Instructor for SQL Server Immersion Events
- Instructor for multiple rotations of both the SQL MCM & Sharepoint MCM
- Author/Manager of SQL Server 2005 & 2008 Launch Content
- Author/Speaker at Microsoft TechEd, SQLPASS, ITForum, TechDays, SQLIntersection
- Author of several SQL Server Whitepapers on MSDN/TechNet: Partitioning, Snapshot Isolation, Manageability, SQLCLR for DBAs
- Author/Presenter for more than 25 online webcasts on MSDN and TechNet
- Author/Presenter for multiple online courses at Pluralsight
- Co-author MPress Title: SQL Server 2008 Internals, the SQL Server MVP Project (1 & 2), and SQL Server 2000 High Availability
- Owner and Technical Content Manager of the SQLIntersection conference



# Session Overview

- Processing stored procedures
- Plan invalidation
- Plan caching and reuse
- Multipurpose procedures defined
- Define, discuss, and demo parameter sniffing
- Define, discuss, and demo when parameter sniffing goes horribly wrong (parameter sniffing problems = PSP)

# Processing Stored Procedures



# Session Settings and Client Connectivity

SET Options	Required for Perf Features	Default Server Value	SSMS	SQLCMD	SQL Server Agent	Default OLE DB and ODBC Value	Default DB-Library Value	.NET / Your App
ANSI_DEFAULTS <sup>2</sup>	NO	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	?
ANSI_NULL_DFLT_ON <sup>2</sup>	NO	<b>OFF</b>	ON	ON	ON	ON	<b>OFF</b>	?
ANSI_NULLS <sup>1,3</sup>	YES = ON	<b>OFF</b>	ON	ON	ON	ON	<b>OFF</b>	?
ANSI_PADDING <sup>2,3</sup>	YES = ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	ON	<b>OFF</b>	?
ANSI_WARNINGS <sup>2</sup>	YES = ON	<b>OFF</b>	ON	ON	ON	ON	<b>OFF</b>	?
ARITHABORT <sup>2</sup>	YES = ON	ON	ON	<b>OFF</b>	<b>OFF</b>	<b>OFF</b>	<b>OFF</b>	?
CONCAT_NULL_YIELDS_NULL <sup>2,3</sup>	YES = ON	<b>OFF</b>	ON	ON	ON	ON	<b>OFF</b>	?
NUMERIC_ROUNDABORT <sup>2</sup>	YES = OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	OFF	?
QUOTED_IDENTIFIER <sup>1</sup>	YES = ON	<b>OFF</b>	ON	<b>OFF</b>	<b>OFF</b>	ON	<b>OFF</b>	?

- (1) The only state that's important is how it's set when the stored procedure is CREATED; the runtime setting is irrelevant.
- (2) If different than existing plan in cache, will be recompiled and added to the plan cache; performance may vary at execution.
- (3) In a future version of SQL Server, these options will always be ON and any applications that explicitly set the option to OFF will produce an error. Avoid using this feature in new development work and plan to modify applications that currently use this feature.

# Stored Procedure Plan Reuse

- Plan is generated when no plan already exists in cache
- Plans are never saved on disk and can “fall out” of cache
  - Forced out through:
    - Server restart | some configuration changes | some database-level changes
    - DBCC FREEPROCCACHE | DBCC FLUSHPROCINDB | sp\_recompile
  - Aged out through non-use
  - Schema of base object changes
  - Statistics of base objects change
    - See next slide for details specific to version
- When a plan exists in cache, subsequent executions use that plan
- Plans are not regenerated for subsequent executions (even when statistics are added – use sp\_recompile after adding statistics)

# Plan Invalidation – A Painful History

- As of SQL Server 2012, statistics updates only cause plan invalidation IF the data has changed (what defines data change? At least ONE row has changed...)
- In prior versions (SQL Server 2008R2, 2008, 2005)
  - If database option: auto\_update\_stats is ON
    - Updating statistics runs and always caused plan invalidation
  - If database option: auto\_update\_stats is OFF
    - Updating statistics always ran but does NOT cause plan invalidation
- **Recommendations:**
  - In earlier versions, use sp\_recompile after updating stats against a table
  - In SQL 2012, only update stats (programmatically) if / when data has changed...
    - Also, use sp\_recompile after adding indexes
- **NOTE:** Check out the resources slide for some blog posts on this issue


# Procedure Caching – Isn't that the Point?

- Reusing plans can be good
  - When different parameters don't warrant a plan change to execute optimally, then saving and reusing is excellent!
  - SQL Server saves time in compilation
- Reusing plans can be **VERY** bad
  - When different parameters wildly change the size of the result set and their optimal plans vary, then reusing the plan can be horribly bad
    - Don't worry, I'll show you how to see this...
    - Don't worry, I'll show you a few options to control / fix this!
- To do this, I'll explain this in the context of a “multipurpose procedure”



# The Multipurpose Procedure

## Customer Lookup



Customer Number:

Customer Last Name:

Customer First Name:

Customer Middle Initial:

Customer Email Address:

Region:

Customer Type:

Enter any combination of criteria for searching. Searches for a customer Number, a full name without wildcards, or an email should be fast. Wildcard matches may be slow and inefficient; grab a cup of coffee!

## Demo

### Multipurpose Procedures

#WorkGreatInDev

#DontScaleInProd



**SQL**  
*intersection*

# Demo: Key Points

- What runs well in development might not scale unless someone's looking at the plans and understanding how they're generated
- Data size and data quality DO MATTER in development / [and, especially] test
- The parameters that generate the plan define the performance characteristics for subsequent executions
  - Depending on the execution characteristics of your workload, some plans in cache aren't nearly as bad as others (and won't be noticeable)
  - Some plans can cause tremendous performance problems LATER but with these data sizes...
- You can see the current plan in cache vs. a [potentially] more optimal plan for a combination of parameters by using EXECUTE WITH RECOMPILE (sadly, not always the best plan)
- You have to look at the plans; know the pitfalls of COMPILED value vs. RUNTIME value

# If no one's there, does it make a sound?

Query	Query 1 / 5 / 10	Query 2	Query 3	Query 4*		Query 8	Query 11		Query 13	Query 14	
1	50	78	293	114		79	126		926	369	
2	90035	78	90278	91981	Spilled	79	126	Spilled	926	369	Spilled
3	90035	90063	293	91981	Spilled	91946	91993	Spilled	926	369	
4	3152	90063	37517	507		91946	3300		926	38376	Spilled
5	50	78	293	114		79	126		926	369	
6	90035	90063	293	91981	Spilled	91946	91993	Spilled	926	369	
7	90035	90063	3392	91981	Spilled	91946	91993	Spilled	926	3540	
8	90035	345	90278	91981	Spilled	359	406	Spilled	926	649	Spilled
9	90035	90063	293	91981	Spilled	91946	91993	Spilled	926	369	
10	50	78	293	114		79	126		926	369	
11	3152	4635	37517	507		4739	271		926	2257	Spilled
12	90035	90063	293	91981	Spilled	91946	91993	Spilled	926	369	
13	90035	25512	17702	91981	Spilled	26050	26097	Spilled	926	5834	
14	90035	25512	1178	91981	Spilled	26050	26097	Spilled	926	646	
				Two worktables			Two worktables			Two worktables	

# Is There No Hope?

- What do we do?
  - Execute everything WITH RECOMPILE?
    - To be honest, this doesn't even get us the best plan...
  - Try sp\_recompile to kick the plan out of cache and HOPE that the next execution is the “more common” plan for our workload?
  - Update statistics?
    - Sadly, this is a common “solution” and often has desirable results because of the side effect that the plan is invalidated (but, at the price of having updated the statistics)
  - Add OPTION (RECOMPILE) to the code?
    - Come on, I KNOW you've heard this...

# Plan Quality Problems

RECOMPILATION = OPTIMIZATION

OPTIMIZATION = RECOMPILATION

- Questions to consider?
  - ❑ When do you want to recompile?
  - ❑ What options do you have for recompilation – and, at what granularity?
  - ❑ How do you know you need to recompile?
  - ❑ Do you want to recompile the entire procedure or only part of it?
  - ❑ Can you test it? (and, what are we looking for?)

# When to Recompile?

- When the plan for a statement within a procedure is not optimal as parameters change
- Cost of recompilation might be significantly less than the execution cost of a bad plan!
- Why?
  - Most of your time is in execution
    - Better plan mean MUCH faster execution
  - Some plans just don't work for a wide variety of execution cases
    - Some plans should NEVER be saved
- **Do you want to do this for every procedure?**
  - No, but start with the highest priority / expensive procedures that aren't performing well first – and test!!

## Demo

# Multipurpose Procedures: The QUICK & EASY Fix!

#WorkGreatInDev

#ScalesWellInProd



**SQL**  
*intersection*



# Demo: The QUICK & EASY Fix

Query	With OPTION (RECOMPILE)
1	3
2	5
3	6
4	413
5	3
6	6
7	926
8	19
9	6
10	3
11	31
12	6
13	926
14	363

- OK, I know – it looks AMAZING
- Yes, it's SUPER easy
- Yes, I know you want to change all of your code RIGHT now...
- Do NOT RUN OUT OF THE ROOM
- Do NOT IMMEDIATELY CONNECT TO PRODUCTION and start changing code (well, OK, this might be a good idea for a few of your procedures 😊)
- For longer term scalability, I have yet another (and, often BETTER) way to solve this

# Demo: Key Problem...

- You can get HUGE benefits just by switching to `OPTION(RECOMPILE)`
  - Yes, but you can't do this everywhere – you'll use too much CPU
  - GREAT starting point and a fantastic (but temporary) fix
- A better solution would be to use a hybrid approach
  - Stable plans are cached
    - Saving time AND CPUs
  - Unstable plans are recompiled
    - Only requiring the added CPU where needed
  - Depending on your workload this might be a smaller percentage of the executions

# Other Options for Recompilation

- CREATE ... WITH RECOMPILE
- EXECUTE ... WITH RECOMPILE
- sp\_recompile objname
- Statement-level recompilation
  - Modularized code (break different options into separate procedures [not just conditional statements within the same procedure]); this works in all versions incl. SQL Server 2000
  - SQL Server 2005+: OPTION(RECOMPILE)
  - SQL Server 2005+:  
    OPTION (OPTIMIZE FOR (@variable\_name = constant, ...))
  - SQL Server 2008+: OPTION (OPTIMIZE FOR UNKNOWN)
  - Dynamic string execution (statement is built dynamically and then treated as an ad hoc statement); this works in all versions incl. SQL Server 2000

For more information/examples,  
check out the Pluralsight Course:  
**SQL Server: Optimizing Stored  
Procedure Performance**

# Quick Notes

- Do NOT use CREATE WITH RECOMPILE
- Use these for testing and troubleshooting
  - EXECUTE with RECOMPILE
  - sp\_recompile
- Look toward more granular options
  - If you WANT to recompile for EVERY execution
    - OPTION (RECOMPILE)
      - Simple, easy syntax, preferred and recommended option for recompilation
    - Dynamic strings – executed with EXEC (@ExecStr)
      - More complicated to write / troubleshoot / tune, need to be tested thoroughly to ensure SQLinjection potential is eliminated (only possible with certain patterns – such as the one we're looking at)
  - If you have VERY specific and known patterns you can use the others

# The Checkered Past of OPTION (RECOMPILE)

- FYI – VERY RARE BUG w/FIX: Incorrect result when you execute a query that uses WITH RECOMPILE option in SQL Server 2012 or SQL Server 2014. KB2965069 Fixed in:
  - [Cumulative Update 4 for SQL Server 2014](#)
  - [Cumulative Update 2 for SQL Server 2012 SP2](#)
  - [Cumulative Update 11 for SQL Server 2012 SP1](#)
- SQL Server 2008 CU4 and SQL Server 2008 R2 CU1 fixed similar problem: KB article 968693 FIX
  - SQL Server 2008 R2 SP1 fixed:
    - Problems where special performance-related features that should have been accessible with OPTION (RECOMPILE) were not
- If I ever run into problems with OPTION (RECOMPILE), I always consider using a dynamic string instead – this always works!

# When Is Recompilation Required

- Specific types of code cannot support a single plan or perform well with one that's cached
  - Filters
    - SQL Server cannot save a single plan based on filtered indexes
    - SQL Server won't use a filtered index unless recompilation is performed:
      - Using `OPTION (RECOMPILE)`: this is the most safe as it forces the statement to be recompiled and is not affected by the database setting for parameterization
      - Using a dynamically constructed string (unless forced parameterization is on)
  - Partitioned Views
    - SQL Server CAN do partition elimination correctly (even if the first execution is only against one partition)
    - You will get the correct data
    - However, the first execution will set the “estimates” for the plan – which could vary [significantly] across the sets

# Multipurpose Procedures

- Stored procedures with n parameters where any combination of these parameters can be supplied
- Often the code looks like this:  
WHERE ...  
(column1 = @variable1 OR @variable1 IS NULL)  
AND (column2 = @variable2 OR @variable2 IS NULL)  
... AND (columnN = @variableN OR @variableN IS NULL)
- These are very difficult for the optimizer to “generalize” and what often happens is a generally bad plan
- How do you fix it?
  - Concatenate ONLY when the variable is NOT NULL
  - Use sp\_executesql... but with a twist!
    - Add OPTION (RECOMPILE) for cases where plan stability varies

# Summary

Different parameter combinations can be handled EASILY AND EFFECTIVELY with a relatively easy change to procedure coding practices

- Each sale take less time (get better performance)
  - Sell more widgets
- Save CPU and scale more
  - Sell more widgets
- Save power, save money
- Save the world!



# New Blog Post Series from SQLskills

- Introducing SQLskills SQL101
  - Blog posts to get you back to the basics
  - Relatively short posts with key points on topics we see often implemented incorrectly
  - The FIRST post – STORED PROCEDURES!
    - [www.sqlskills.com/blogs/kimberly/sqlskills-sql101-stored-procedures](http://www.sqlskills.com/blogs/kimberly/sqlskills-sql101-stored-procedures)
  - Aggregated posts from the entire SQLskills team:
    - [www.sqlskills.com/help/SQL101](http://www.sqlskills.com/help/SQL101)
- Improve your SQL skills with SQLskills 😊
- Stay tuned; we're just getting started!

# Optimizing Procedural Code on PASStv

- PASS session-related (and very detailed) blog post (with sample code):
  - Building High Performance Stored Procedures
  - <http://www.sqlskills.com/blogs/kimberly/high-performance-procedures/>
- PASS Summit 2014 on PASStv
  - <http://www.sqlpass.org/summit/2014/passtv.aspx>
  - See, Day 1 at 4:30pm
    - Dealing with Multipurpose Procs and PSP the RIGHT Way! - Kimberly Tripp



- Watch this course first:
  - **SQL Server: Optimizing Ad Hoc Statement Performance**
    - <http://pluralsight.com/training/Courses/Description/sqlserver-optimizing-adhoc-statement-performance>
    - Just over 7 hours on ad hoc statement execution and plan caching
- Then, watch this course:
  - **SQL Server: Optimizing Stored Procedure Performance (Part 1)**
    - <http://pluralsight.com/training/Courses/Description/sqlserver-optimizing-stored-procedure-performance>
    - Just over 7 hours on procedure caching and recompilation
- Then, watch this course
- **SQL Server: Optimizing Stored Procedure Performance – Part 2**
  - <https://www.pluralsight.com/courses/sqlserver-optimizing-stored-procedure-performance-part2>
  - Just under 4 hours on session settings and caching

# Stored Procedure Resources

## Whitepapers, Blog Posts, KB Articles

- Plan Caching and Recompilation in SQL Server 2012
  - <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dn148262.aspx>
- Plan Caching in SQL Server 2008
  - <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ee343986.aspx>
- Batch Compilation, Recompilation, and Plan Caching Issues in SQL Server 2005
  - <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/sql/2005/recomp.mspix>
- PSS SQL Server Engine Blog
  - <http://blogs.msdn.com/psssql/default.aspx>
- KB 243586: Troubleshooting Stored Procedure Recompilation

# Plan Cache Pollution Resources

- Blog posts:
  - [Plan cache and optimizing for adhoc workloads](#)
  - [Plan cache, adhoc workloads and clearing the single-use plan cache bloat](#)
  - [Clearing the cache - are there other options?](#)
  - [Statement execution and why you should use stored procedures](#)
  - Category: Optimizing Procedural Code
    - <http://www.sqlskills.com/BLOGS/KIMBERLY/category/Optimizing-Procedural-Code.aspx>
- MSDN Article: How Data Access Code Affects Database Performance, Bob Beauchemin
  - <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/magazine/ee236412.aspx>

# Questions?



Don't forget to complete an online evaluation on EventBoard!

## Optimizing for OSFA: Catch-All-Queries in One-Size-Fits-All Procedures

*Session by Kimberly L. Tripp*

Your evaluation helps organizers build better conferences  
and helps speakers improve their sessions.



**SQL**  
*intersection*

# Thank you!