1. Use instant file initialization for data files (does not have to zero out the file). Helps with reducing time taken to auto-grow. Reduces time to restore from backups by a lot. Zeroing-out of file cannot be skipped for log files.
2. Use multiple files of equal size per file group (between 4 to 8 files per file group. 4 is a decent default) and equal auto-growth.
3. Although write to log are sequential, but if you place multiple logs files (from different databases) on the same volume (shouldn’t it be filegroup?), then the performance might come down (because trying to write to multiple of these log files at the same time would result in random IO). But it should not matter for SSD drives as they are efficient for random accesses?? Even though SSDs solve the random access performance, we will have contention issues (IO throughput) on that drive if log file from multiple databases are stored on the same drive and being written to concurrently.
4. Data compression maybe is not suitable for OLTP workloads. CPU vs IO trade-off.
5. De-fragmentation can also reduce space used. Worthwhile to enable backup compression.
6. Use sp\_estimate\_data\_compression\_savings to estimate compression savings before turning on data compression.
7. Row compression makes everything variable length where possible (e.g. char to varchar). Page compression, loosely explained, extracts common substrings and stores them once and references them where needed.
8. Number of tempdb data files should be = no. of cores of cores<8 and =8 if no. of cores >8 (and keep increasing by 4 if still seeing contention). But PFS latch contention is fixed in SQL 2019. So only 1 data file for tempdb should work?? But SQL Server still created 8 data files by default on my 8 core machine. Should the extra tempdb data files be created on separate filegroups?
9. Versioning isolations (RCSI and Snapshot Isolation) will remove blocking for readers (not for writers). We can also have replication to have subscribers handle read queries. In that case, the queries served by subscribers can block the replication and vice-versa. Having versioning isolation on subscribers can also reduce blocking.
10. Use RCSI as default for new on-prem dbs (it is the default in Azure).