Execution Plan shows Restricted Text instead of query text

Last updated by | Radhika Shah | Sep 2, 2022 at 8:02 PM PDT
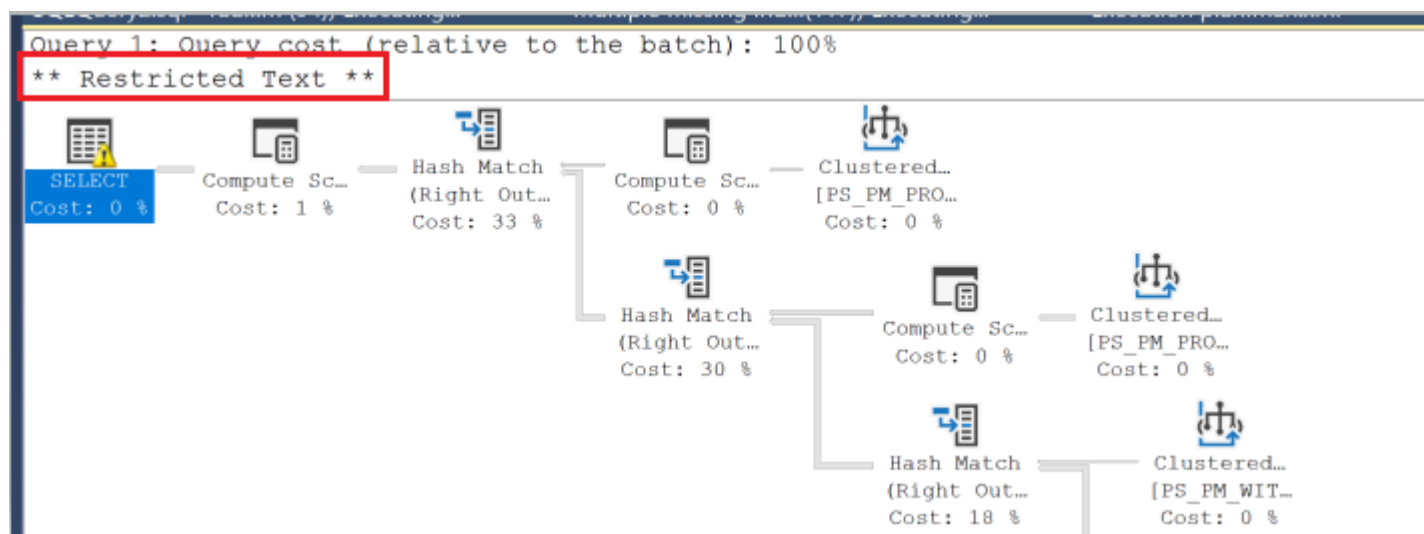
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Issue

When trying to look up query text for a query hash in the query plan xml, customers see the `**Restricted Text**` instead of the actual query text that got executed.

For example:

Investigation/Analysis

The `**Restricted Text**` replacement is a security feature. This is **by design** behavior of SQL Server. There are a few cases where the client tools will obfuscate the query text, in different tools, depending on version:

1. The use of `sp_password`
2. The creation of a login `WITH PASSWORD`
3. The `WITH ENCRYPTION` option
4. Certain encryption / decryption functions

However, even when the query text is replaced with this obfuscation, it shouldn't block any missing indexes recommendations from showing up (if any applies). It's the *query text* that is getting blocked out, not the

missing index suggestion.

For example:
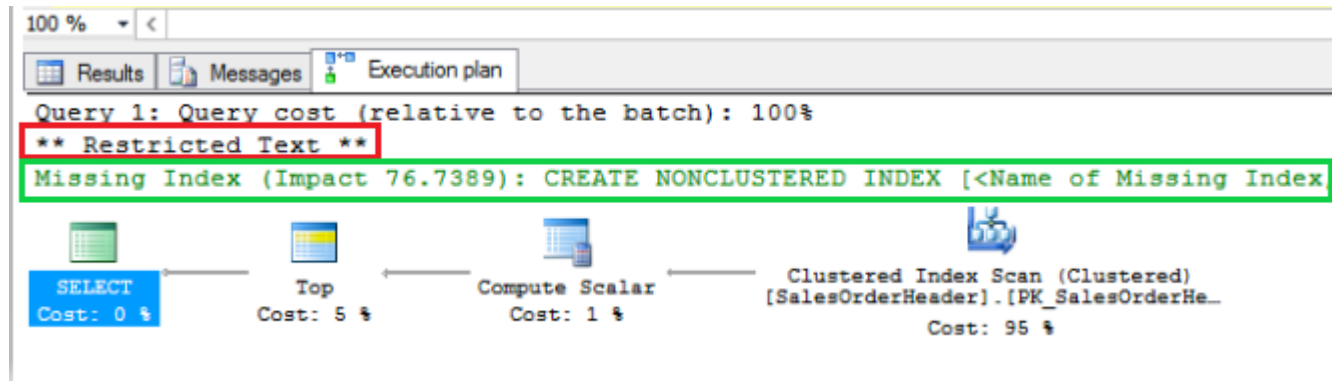
Customers can still investigate the execution plan for query tuning purposes.

For instance, if this query is responsible for high CPU, customer can leverage the missing index recommendation. Furthermore, they can check the tables involved in the query by looking at the execution plan xml, and update statistics, look for any implicit conversions occurring, etc. for query tuning purposes.

If customer is using encrypted columns ⧉ as part of the query, customer cannot get the actual query text, this is by design as explained above.

As a workaround, to get the query text for queries involving encrypted columns, customer can exclude the encrypted columns from the query or opt to remove the encryption temporarily to be able to see the query text.

Internal Reference

ICM 329290167 ⧉

ICM 329713067 ⧉

External Reference

** Restricted Text ** when Reviewing Execution Plan in SQL Server Management Studio ⧉

View missing index recommendations ⧉

How good have you found this content?

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