SQL Server: Myths and Misconceptions

Module 1: Introduction

Paul S. Randal

Paul@SQLskills.com

pluralsight
hardcore developer training

Introduction

- **SQL Server is a large and complicated server system**
    - Nobody can be an expert in every facet of SQL Server

- **Huge amount of information available in books and online**
    - Who do you trust when you see conflicting information?
    - Anyone can write a blog post or article
    - Just because the author is from Microsoft or a SQL Server MVP, doesn't mean the information is correct…

- **Often the information you may find is partly or wholly incorrect**

Why is Some Information Incorrect?

- **SQL Server's behavior has changed**
  - Blog posts and articles from many years ago are still around

- **'Best practice' that isn't applicable to everyone**
  - What works for one person may not work for everyone else

- **Misunderstandings about how things work**
  - Just plain wrong

- **Regurgitating incorrect information**
  - Reinforcing incorrect information makes it seem correct

Why Does Incorrect Information Cause Problems?

- **Following incorrect advice can cause:**
    - Poor performance
    - Increased downtime
    - Higher costs

- **The existence of conflicting information can cause:**
    - Confusion and arguments
    - Wasted time and resources

Summary

- **Beware of information you read online**
  - Corroborate information from several reputable sources
  - Try to find an 'official' source from the Microsoft SQL Server team

- **If something seems fishy, it probably is!**
  - Try to prove something for yourself

- **Test procedures and changes before production**
  - Avoid costly mistakes

Course Structure

- Debunking and explaining more than 80 myths and misconceptions
- Module 2: Performance
- Module 3: Transaction log
- Module 4: Indexing
- Module 5: Locking
- Module 6: Transact-SQL
- Module 7: Backup
- Module 8: Restore
- Module 9: Corruption
- Module 10: High availability