Gems to help you troubleshoot query performance

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14+ years with SQL Server

Session Objectives And Takeaways

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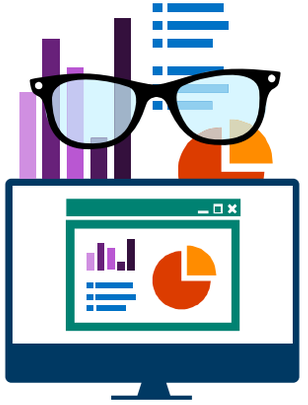

Show new diagnostics improvements for SQL Server engine

Learn how to use the new diagnostics to troubleshoot common performance issues

When was the last time you dealt with a **query** performance issue?

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Query Performance Troubleshooting Fundamentals

Why does a query slow down?

- Excessive resource consumption
- Poor indexing strategy
- Lack of useful statistics
- Lack of useful partitioning
- Consequence of blocked queries
- Incorrect server configurations

Context for Slow-Running Query Analysis

- Is the performance problem related to a component other than queries?
  - **For example, is the problem slow network performance?**
  - **Are there any other components that might be causing or contributing to performance degradation?**
- If the performance issue is related to queries, which query or set of queries is involved?
- Was the query optimized with useful statistics?
- Are suitable indexes available?
- Are there any data or index hot spots?
- If you have a large volume of data, do you need to partition it?
- Is the Query Optimizer provided with the best opportunity to optimize a complex query?

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How do I analyze the performance of a slow-running query?

Some tools we will use today

- SHOWPLAN XML (a.k.a. Actual Execution Plan)
- Query Store
- Plan Comparison Tool
- Live Query Stats
- xEvents
- … and more ☺

A map to the execution context

- Query plans include:
  - How data is accessed
  - How data is joined
  - Sequence of operations
  - Use of temporary worktables and sorts
  - Estimated rowcounts, iterations, and costs from each step
  - Actual rowcounts and iterations
  - How data is aggregated
  - Use of parallelism
  - Query execution warnings
  - Query execution stats
  - Hardware/Resource stats

Query and Query Plan Fingerprints

- Query Fingerprint
  - query_hash
  - Explicitly identifies a specific query in the cache.
  - *sys.dm_exec_requests*
  - *sys.dm_exec_query_stats*
- SQL Handle
  - sql_handle
  - Token for the SQL text that relates to a batch.
  - *sys.dm_exec_sql_text*
  - *sys.dm_exec_query_stats*
  - *sys.dm_exec_query_memory_grants*
- Query Plan Fingerprints
  - query_plan_hash
  - Useful to determine queries that share the same execution plan.
  - Can be used to determine if the query plan has changed.
  - *sys.dm_exec_requests*
  - *sys.dm_exec_query_stats*
- Plan Handle
  - plan_handle
  - Token for a cached execution plan.
  - *sys.dm_exec_query_plan*
  - *sys.dm_exec_cached_plans*

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Diagnostic and Troubleshooting Enhancements

The pain of joining DMVs and xEvents

- *query_hash* and *query_plan_hash* actions in xEvents
  - Not the same data types as respective columns in DMVs *sys.dm_exec_requests* and *sys.dm_exec_query_stats*
  - That makes it difficult to correlate the information
- In SQL Server 2016 RTM and 2014 SP2
  - New actions *query_hash_signed* and *query_plan_hash_signed* allow you to join these DMVs with xEvents such as *rpc_completed* and *sql_batch_completed*

	Name	Description
☐	query_hash	Collect query hash. Use this to identify queries with similar logic. You can use the query hash to determine the aggregate resource usage for queries that differ only by literal
☑	query_hash_signed	Collect query hash. Use this to identify queries with similar logic. You can use the query hash to determine the aggregate resource usage for queries that differ only by literal
☐	query_plan_hash	Collect query plan hash. Use this to identify similar query execution plans. You can use query plan hash to find the cumulative cost of queries with similar execution plans
☑	query_plan_hash_signed	Collect query plan hash. Use this to identify similar query execution plans. You can use query plan hash to find the cumulative cost of queries with similar execution plans

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It's all about avoiding roundtrips to collect additional information.

Missing perf insights on query plan nodes

- Per operator performance statistics for node and threads
- Showplan extended to include *RunTimeCountersPerThread*
- Node costs for parent and children:
  - Cumulative values for Row mode operators
  - Singleton values for Batch mode operators

Runtime Info	Up to SQL 2016	SQL 2016 / SQL 2014 SP2
ActualRows	X	X
ActualRowsRead		X
Batches		X
ActualEndOfScans	X	X
ActualExecutions	X	X
ActualExecutionMode		X
ActualElapsedms		X
ActualCPUms		X
ActualScans		X
ActualLogicalReads		X
ActualPhysicalReads		X
ActualReadAheads		X
ActualLobLogicalReads		X
ActualLobPhysicalReads		X
ActualLobReadAheads		X
InputMemoryGrant		
OutputMemoryGrant		
UsedMemoryGrant		

M on query plan nodes

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Properties

Clustered Index Scan (Clustered)

Misc	
Actual Execution Mode	Row
Actual I/O Statistics	
Actual Lob Logical Reads	0
Actual Lob Physical Reads	0
Actual Lob Read Aheads	0
Actual Logical Reads	1345
Actual Physical Reads	3
Actual Read Aheads	1376
Actual Scans	5
Actual Number of Batches	0
Actual Number of Rows	121317
Thread 0	0
Thread 1	40604
Thread 2	17684
Thread 3	27027
Thread 4	36002
Actual Rebinds	0
Actual Rewinds	0
Actual Time Statistics	
Actual Elapsed CPU Time (ms)	74
Actual Elapsed Time (ms)	456

```
<RunTimeInformation>
<RunTimeCountersPerThread Thread="0" ActualRows="121317"
ActualRowsRead="10000000" Batches="0" ActualEndOfScans="3"
ActualExecutions="1" ActualExecutionMode="Row"
ActualElapsedms="456" ActualCPUms="74" ActualScans="3"
ActualLogicalReads="1345" ActualPhysicalReads="3"
ActualReadAheads="1376" ActualLobLogicalReads="0"
ActualLobPhysicalReads="0" ActualLobReadAheads="0" />
</RunTimeInformation>
```

SET STATISTICS IO not needed

SET STATISTICS TIME not needed

Per-operator level performance stats xEvent

New Extended Event query_thread_profile

Showplan time scale = milliseconds

xEvent time scale = microseconds for CPU and total time.

Name	Category	Channel
query_thread_profile	execution	Debug

query_thread_profile

Reports the performance of each node and thread of a query plan after execution

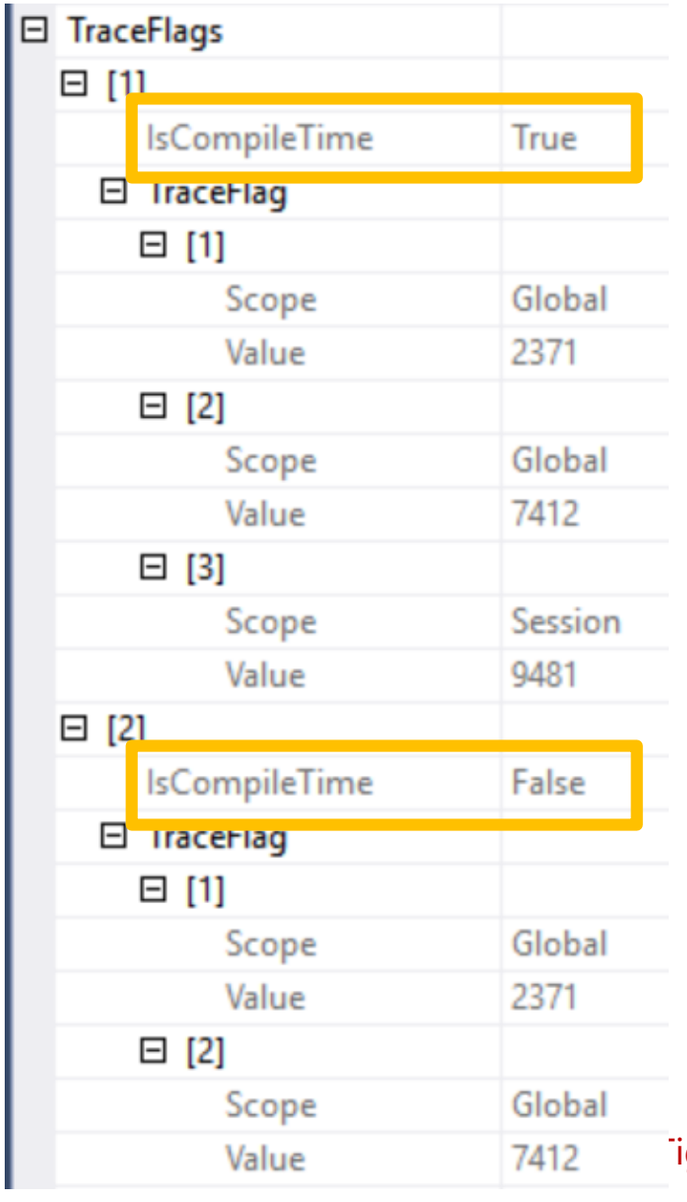
Event Fields	Description
actual_batches	Number of batches processed by this thread
actual_execution_mode	Execution mode of the thread. 0 indicates row mode, 1 indicates batch mode
actual_logical_reads	Number of logical pages read
actual_physical_reads	Number of physical pages read
actual_ra_reads	Number of read-ahead pages read
actual_rebinds	Number of rebinds for this thread
actual_rewinds	Number of rewinds for this thread
actual_rows	Number of rows processed by this thread
actual_writes	Number of pages written
cpu_time_us	CPU time in microseconds
io_reported	Is IO reported?
node_id	The ID of the node in the query plan
thread_id	The ID of the thread running in this node
total_time_us	Cumulative time in microseconds, including waits

Getting all context info in Showplan: Trace Flags

Shows list of active trace flags:

- Query
- Session
- Global

Useful to understand if active Trace Flags influence execution context



All-up Trace Flag list

http://aka.ms/traceflags

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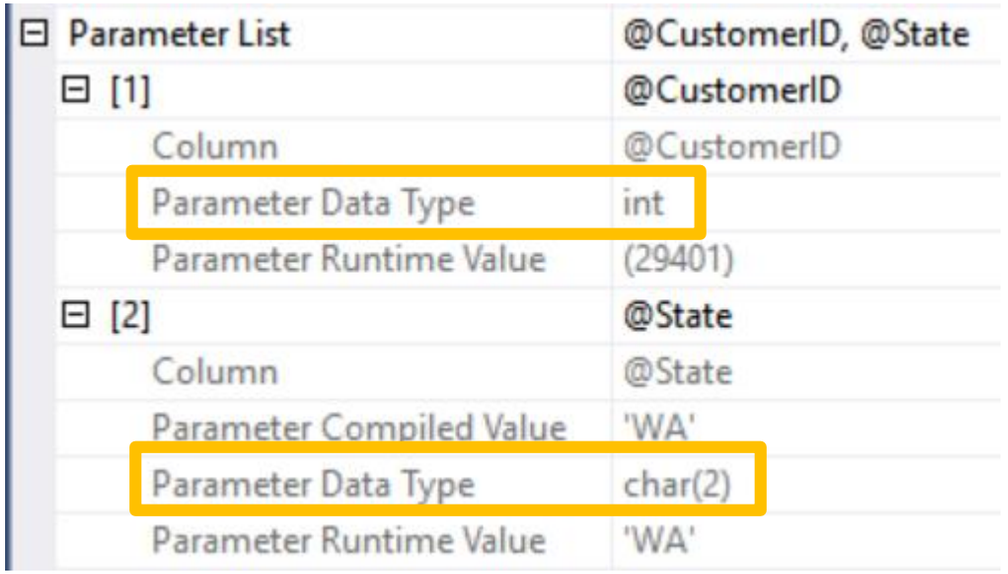
Getting all context info in Showplan: Waits

Shows top 10 waits from sys.dm_exec_session_wait_stats

WaitStats	
[1]	
WaitCount	1049
WaitTimeMs	1
WaitType	RESERVED_MEMORY_ALLOCATION_
[2]	
WaitCount	1347
WaitTimeMs	2
WaitType	MEMORY_ALLOCATION_EXT
[3]	
WaitCount	6
WaitTimeMs	31
WaitType	PAGEIOLATCH_SH
[4]	
WaitCount	19
WaitTimeMs	154
WaitType	ASYNC_NETWORK_IO

Getting all context info in Showplan: Parameter Data Types

Easier detection of type conversion issues



Getting all context info in Showplan: Times

Persisting information on elapsed and CPU times

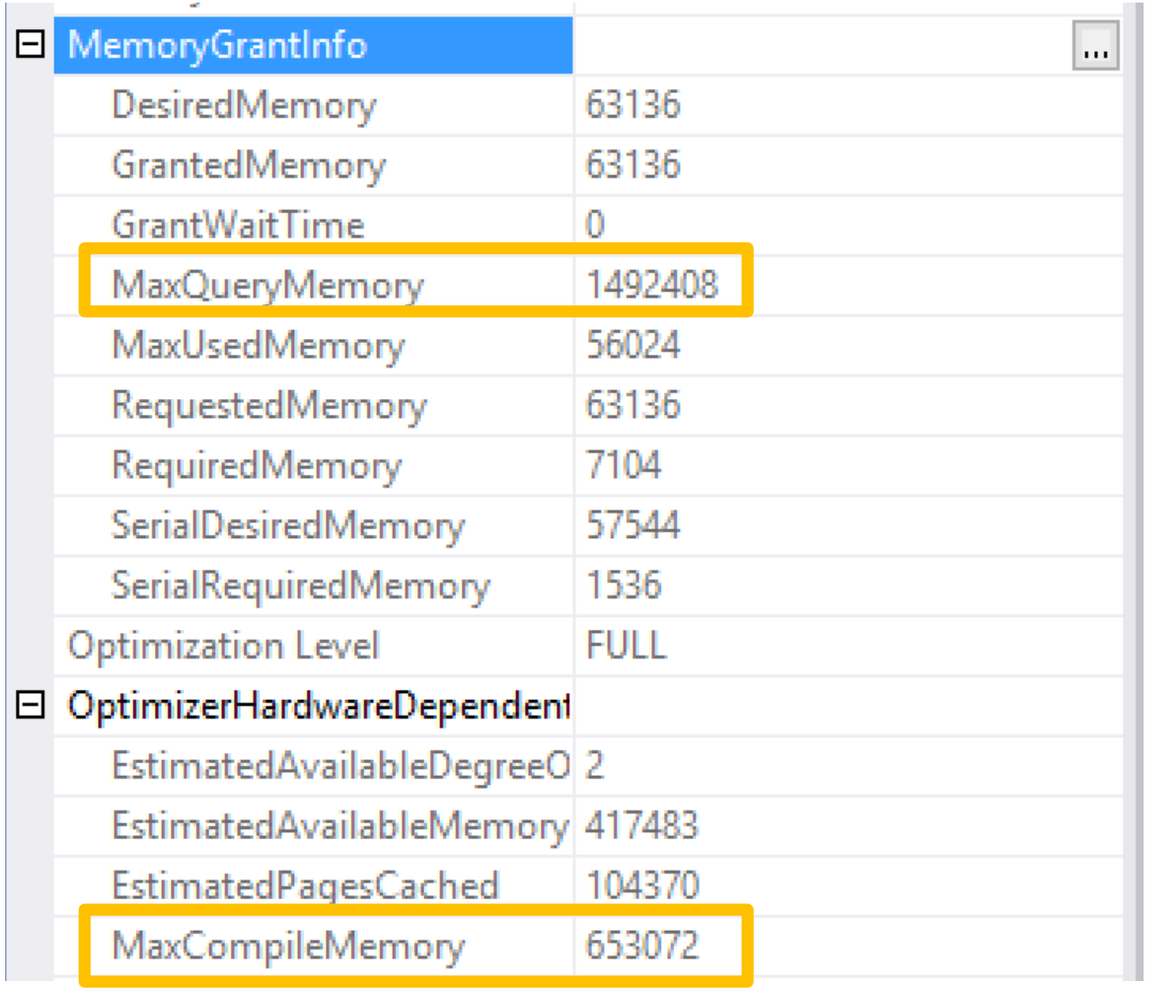
QueryTimeStats	
CpuTime	89
ElapsedTime	274

QueryTimeStats	
CpuTime	91903
ElapsedTime	92330

Getting all context info in Showplan: RG info

List attributes of Resource Governor Settings

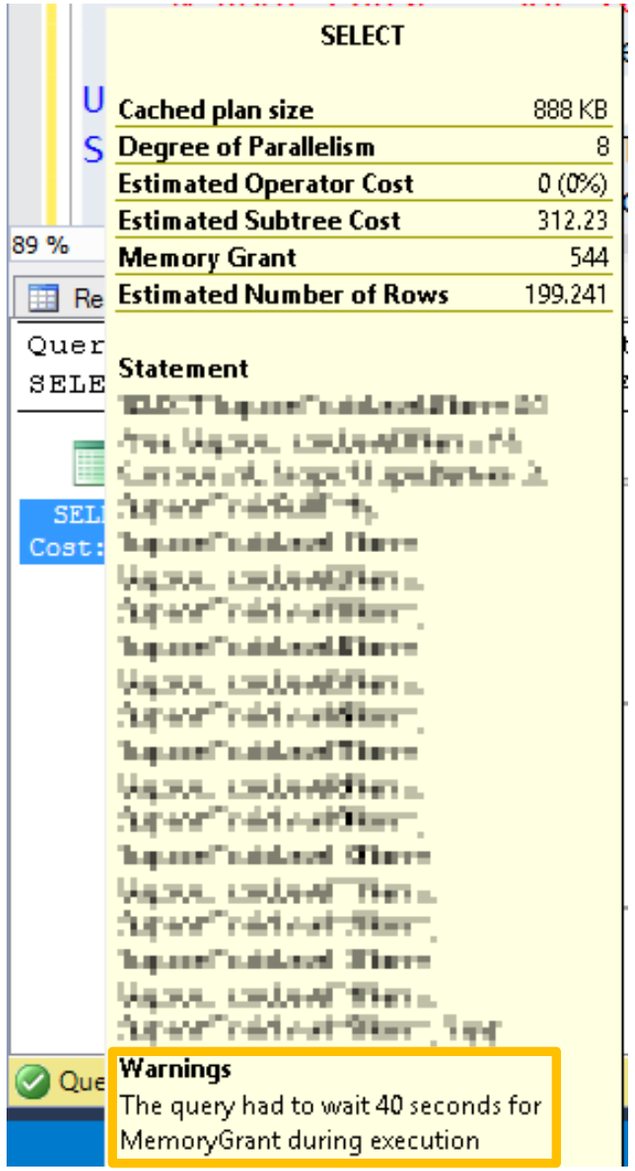
- MaxCompileMemory for maximum query optimizer memory in KB during compile under RG
- MaxQueryMemory for maximum query memory grant under RG MAX_MEMORY_PERCENT hint



Demo

Per-operator level performance stats

Memory Grant Wait Showplan Warning



- Occurs when a T-SQL statement or stored procedure waits more than one second for a memory grant or when the initial attempt to get memory fails.
- Since SQL Server 2012

Understanding memory usage per execution

New columns in *sys.dm_exec_query_stats*

total_grant_kb	last_grant_kb	min_grant_kb	max_grant_kb	total_used_grant_kb	last_used_grant_kb
783288	783288	783288	783288	0	0

min_used_grant_kb	max_used_grant_kb	total_ideal_grant_kb	last_ideal_grant_kb	min_ideal_grant_kb	max_ideal_grant_kb
0	0	28592000	28592000	28592000	28592000

Showplan extended to include grant usage per thread and iterator

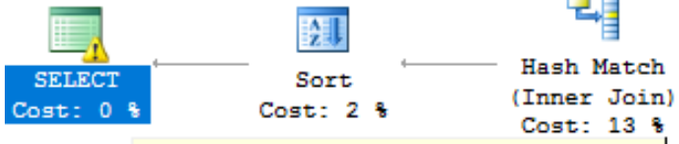
Memory Grant	783288
⊟ MemoryGrantInfo	
DesiredMemory	28592000
GrantedMemory	783288
GrantWaitTime	0
MaxUsedMemory	0
RequestedMemory	783288
RequiredMemory	4064
SerialDesiredMemory	28588448
SerialRequiredMemory	512

New Memory Grant Showplan Warning

SQL Server 2014 SP2 and SQL Server 2016 SP1

- 3 conditions:
  - **Excessive Grant**: when max used memory is too small compared to the granted memory. This scenario can cause blocking and less efficient usage when large grants exist and a fraction of that memory was used.

KB
3172997



SELECT

Actual Number of Rows	0
Cached plan size	64 KB
Degree of Parallelism	0
Estimated Operator Cost	0 (0%)
Estimated Subtree Cost	0.205452
Memory Grant	67808
Estimated Number of Rows	89.3525

Statement

```
SELECT
[fo].[Order Key], [fo].[Description]
FROM    [Fact].[Order] AS [fo]
INNER HASH JOIN [Dimension].[Stock
Item] AS [si]
ON [fo].[Stock Item Key] = [si].[Stock Item
Key]
WHERE   [fo].[Lineage Key] =
@LineageKey
AND [si].[Lead Time Days] > 0
ORDER BY [fo].[Stock Item Key], [fo].[Order
Date Key] DESC
OPTION (MAXDOP 1)
```

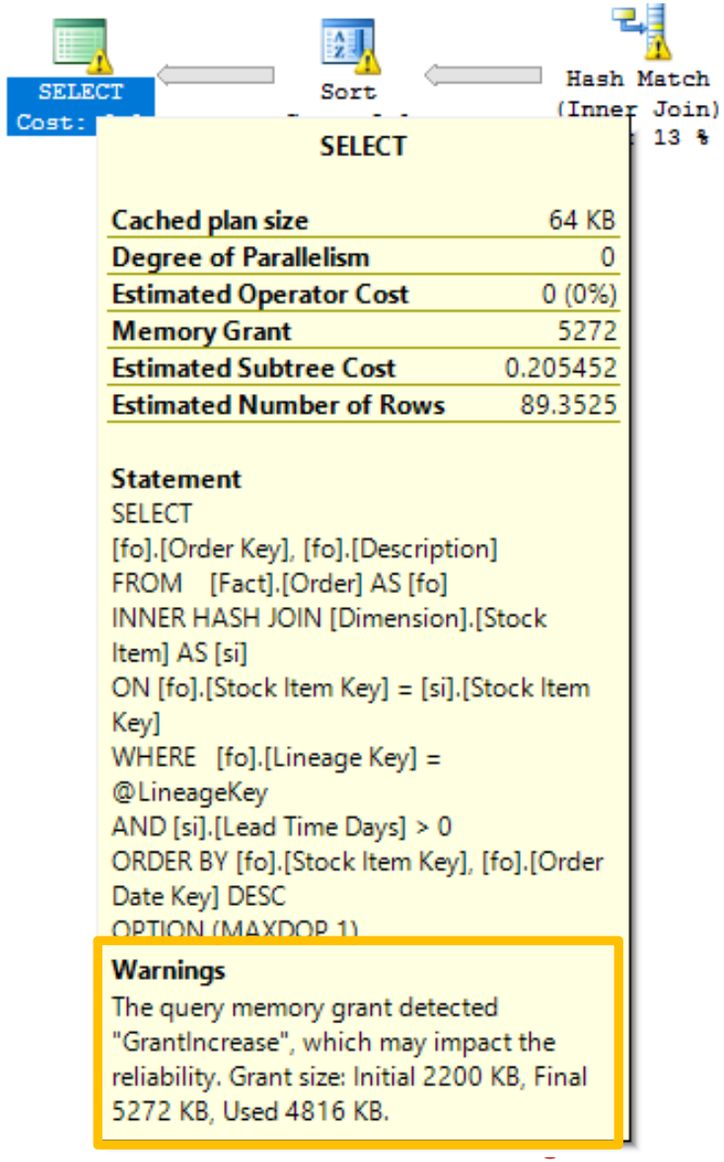
Warnings

The query memory grant detected "ExcessiveGrant", which may impact the reliability. Grant size: Initial 67808 KB, Final 67808 KB, Used 1024 KB.

New Memory Grant Showplan Warning

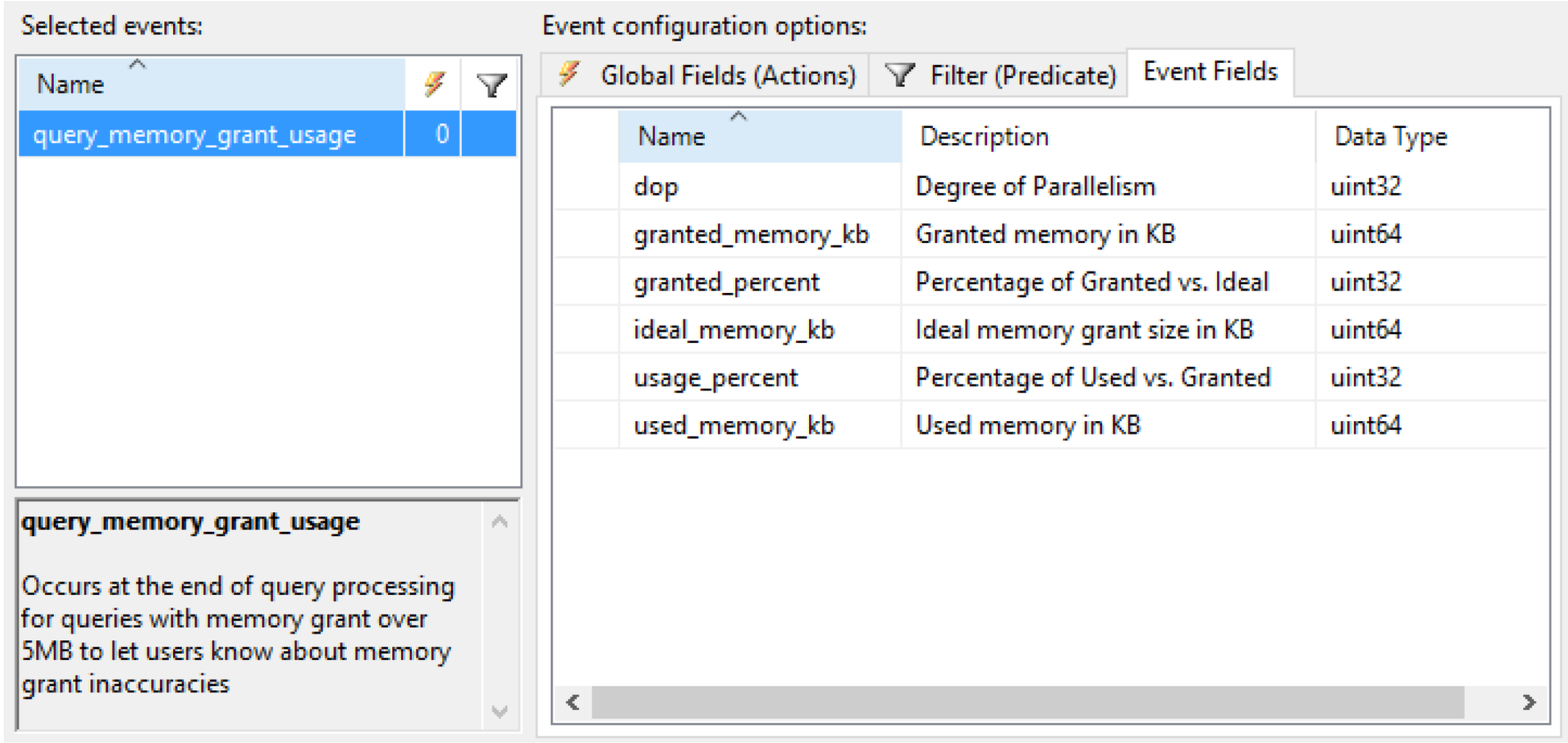
SQL Server 2014 SP2 and SQL Server 2016 SP1

- 3 conditions:
  - **Excessive Grant**: when max used memory is too small compared to the granted memory. This scenario can cause blocking and less efficient usage when large grants exist and a fraction of that memory was used.
  - **Grant Increase**: when the dynamic grant starts to increase too much, based on the ratio between the max used memory and initial request memory. This scenario can cause server instability and unpredictable workload performance.
  - **Used More Than Granted**: when the max used memory exceeds the granted memory. This scenario can cause OOM conditions on the server.



New Memory Grant xEvent

- Query_memory_grant_usage XE in SQL Server 2016
  - Detect inaccurate or insufficient memory grant, when grant is >5MB as minimum



min and max query memory grant option

SQL Server 2016 and SQL Server 2014 SP2

- User control over min and max grant size in percentages
  - OPTION (MAX_GRANT_PERCENT=0.1), meaning 0.1% of max allowed query memory under Resource Governor
  - The valid value is between 0 and 100%
  - MAX_GRANT_PERCENT >= MIN_GRANT_PERCENT
- Why use a floating point value?
  - On a high end machine with 1 TB of memory, 1% can be already 10GB

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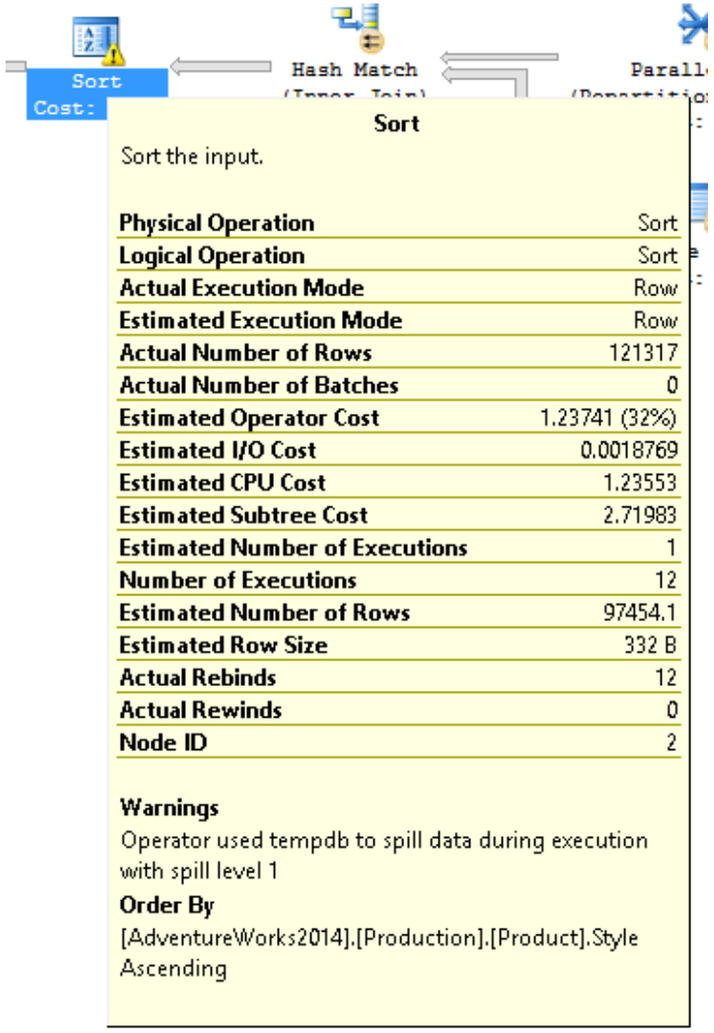
Demo

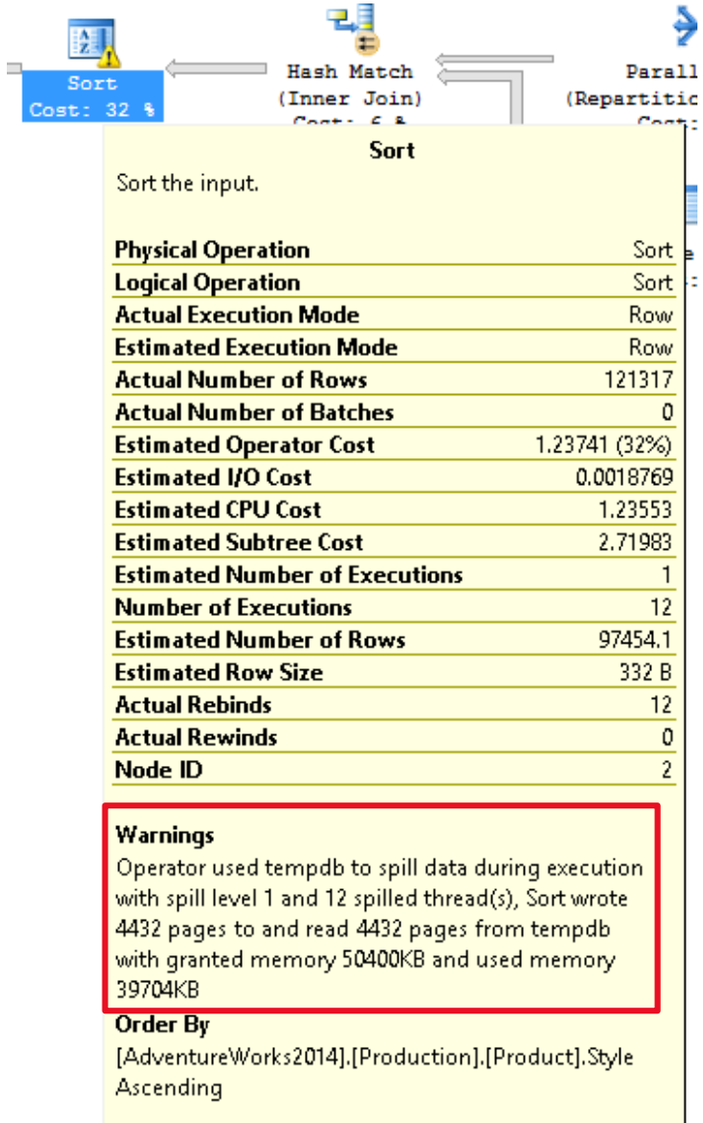
Memory grant issue detection

New Spills Warnings - Sort

Up to SQL Server 2016



SQL Server 2016 and 2014 SP2



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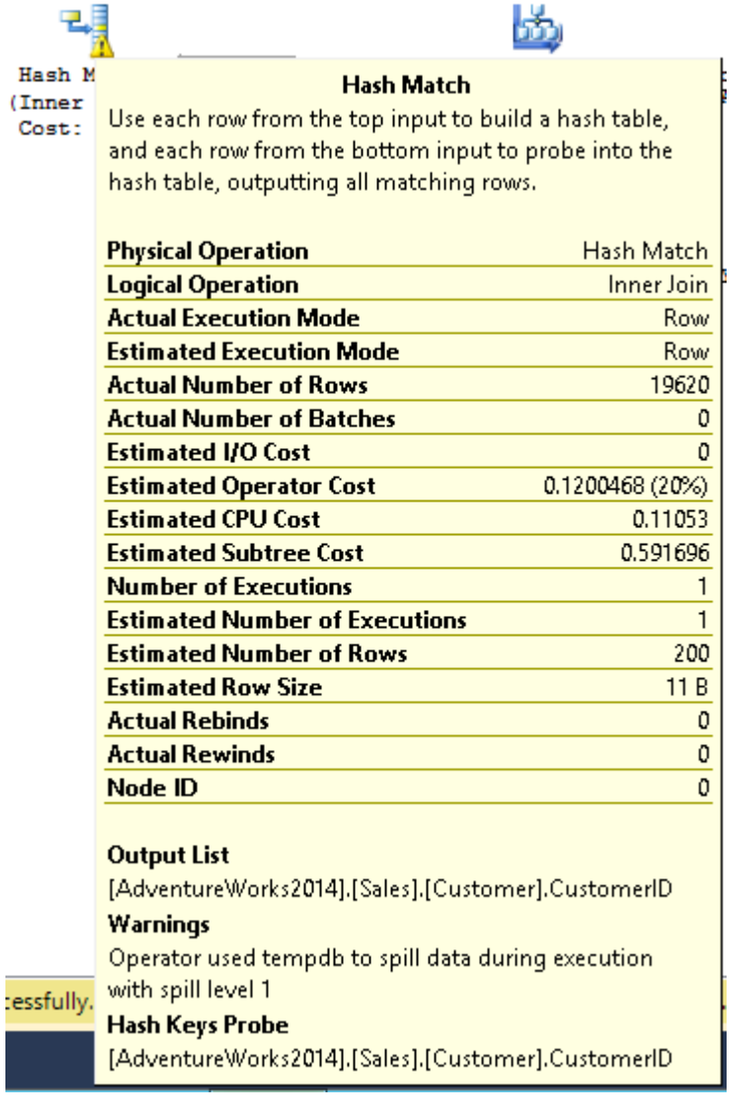
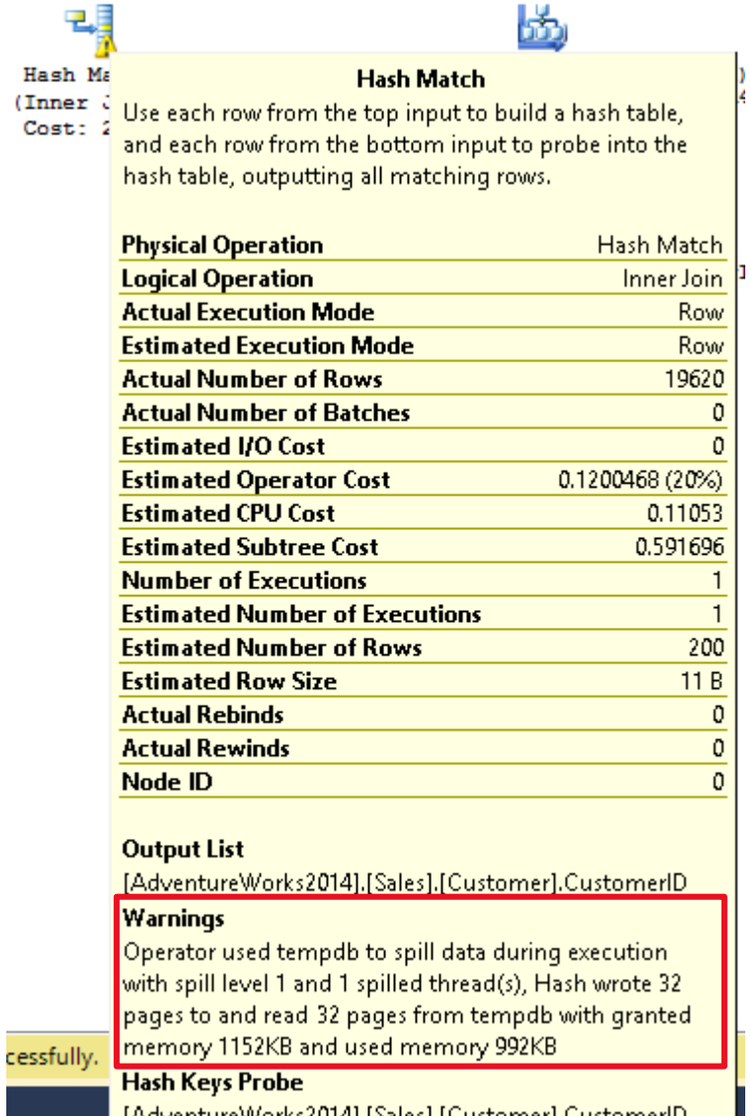
New Spills Warnings - Hash

Up to SQL Server 2016

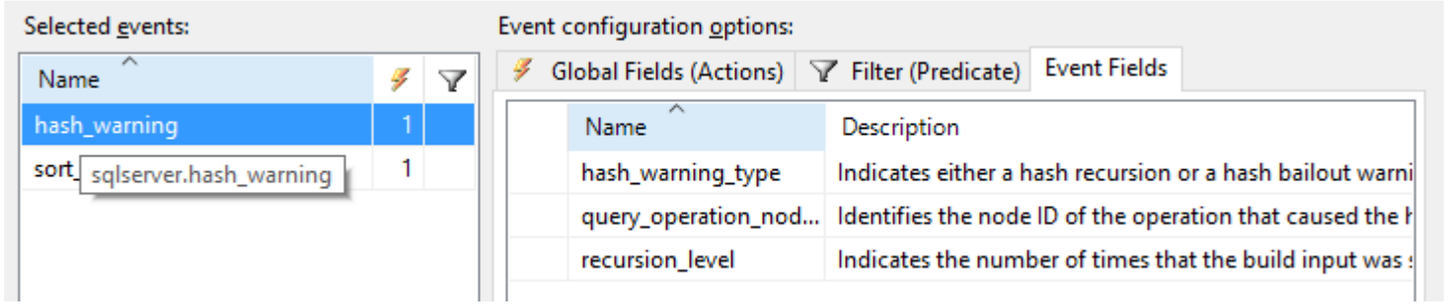


SQL Server 2016 and 2014 SP2

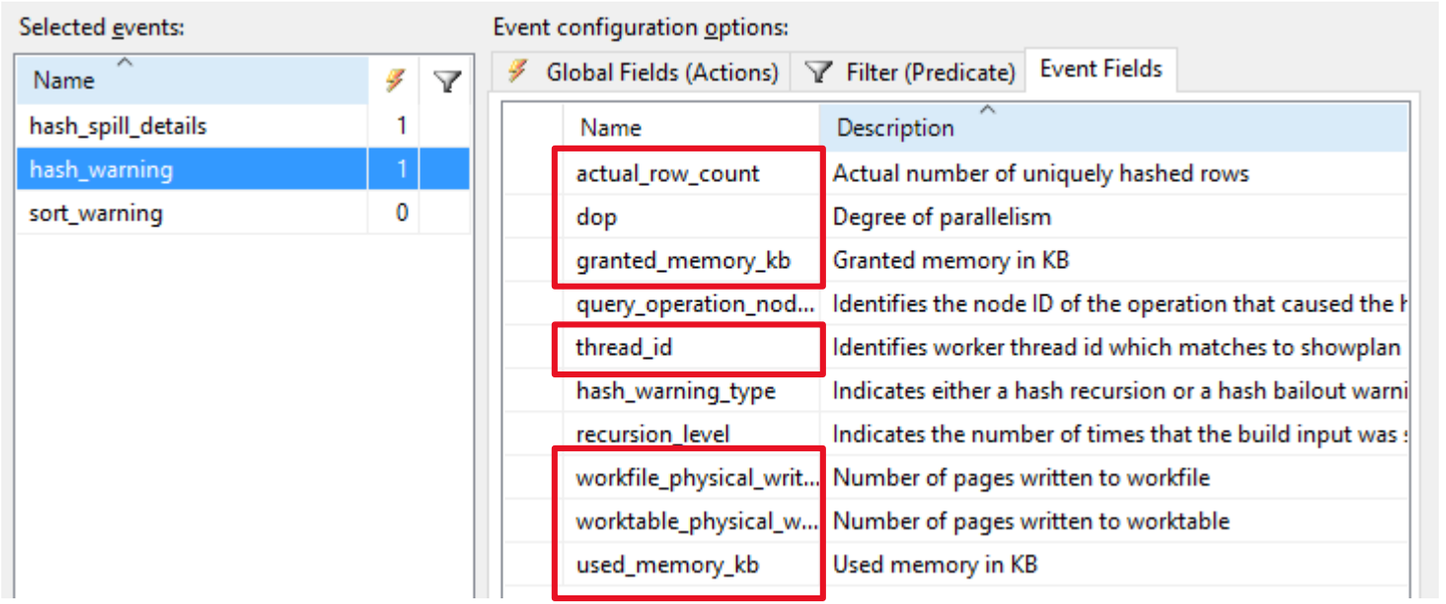


Spill xEvents - Hash Warning

Up to SQL Server 2016

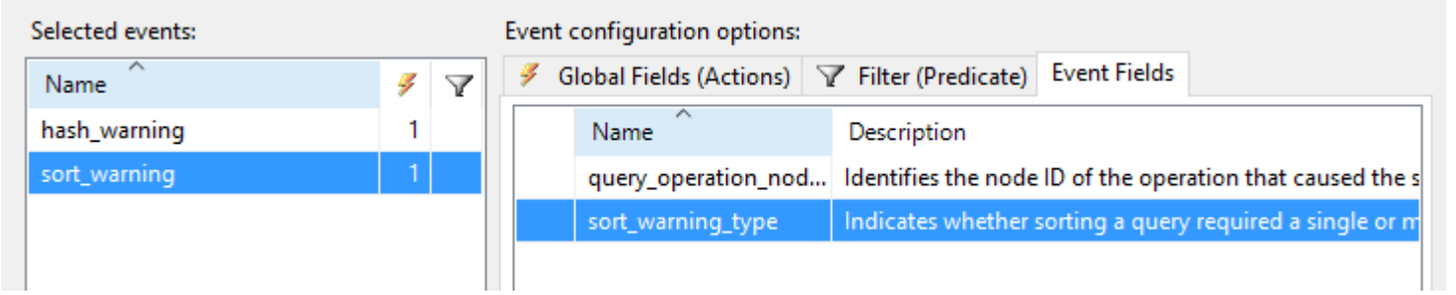


SQL Server 2016
SQL Server 2014 SP2

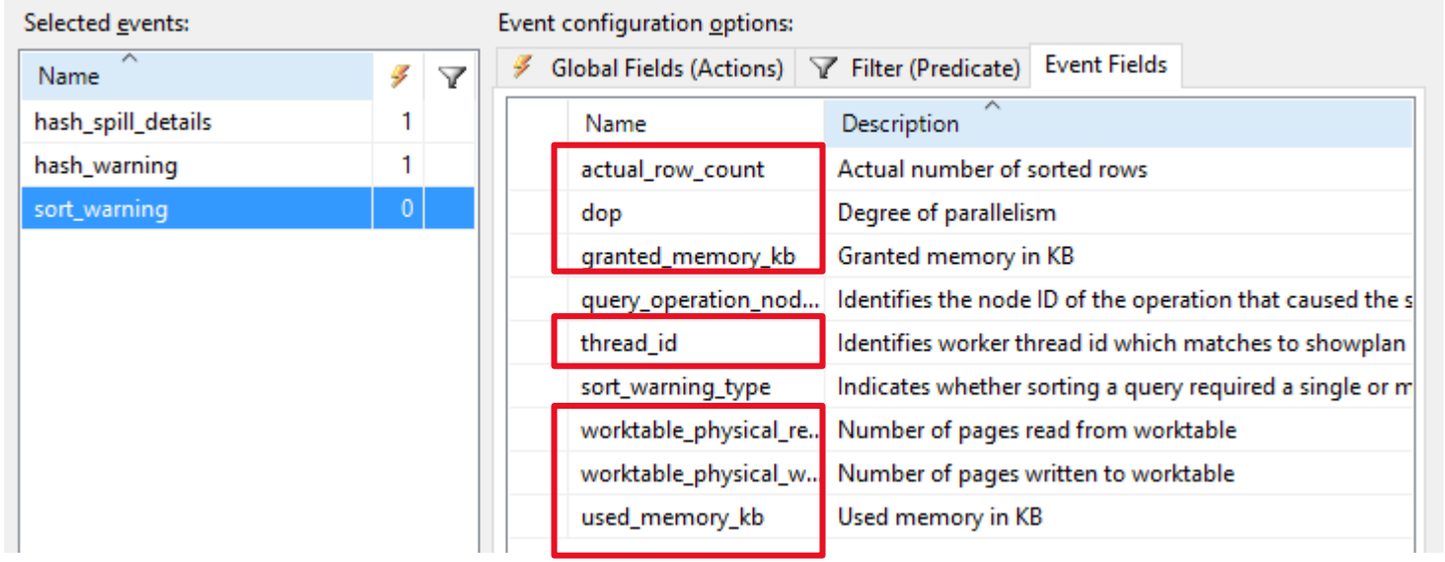


Spill xEvents - Sort Warning

Up to SQL Server 2016



SQL Server 2016
SQL Server 2014 SP2



Detecting predicate search inefficiencies?

Actual number of rows returned are rows after the predicate is applied.

- Not the actual number of rows that are scanned from a table or index.

Scenario hidden from an actual execution plan:

- SCAN or SEEK returns only 10 rows, why is it taking so long?
- You see high CPU or many logical reads, but the query plan doesn't reflect that.

Now what?? ☹

Searching without pushdown


```
SELECT [ProductID]
FROM [Sales].[SalesOrderDetail]
WHERE [ModifiedDate] BETWEEN '2011-01-01' AND '2012-01-01'
AND [OrderQty] >= 10
```

Sales.SalesOrderDetail

ModifiedDate	ProductID	Store		lesAmount
2010-12-31	106	01		30
2011-01-07	103	04		17
2011-01-07	109	04	7	
2011-02-12	103	03	5	
2011-03-08	106	05	7	25
2011-04-16	**106**	02	10	40
2011-07-20	**102**	02	12	50
2011-10-21	**106**	03	16	55
2011-12-15	**103**	03	20	55
(...)	**(...)**	(...)	(...)	(...)
2012-01-01	**109**	01	11	16
2012-01-11	102	05	5	10

Actual Rows

Filter

Range Scan

Result Set

ModifiedDate	ProductID	StoreID	OrderQty	SalesAmount
2011-04-16	106	02	10	40
2011-07-20	102	02	12	
2011-10-21	106	03	16	
2011-12-15	103	03	20	
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Sales.SalesOrderDetail

ModifiedDate	ProductID	StoreID	OrderQty	SalesAmount
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Range Scan

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(...)	(...)	(...)	(...)	(...)
2012-01-01	109	01	11	16

Demo

Predicate Pushdown in Showplan

Production Alert: Application is slow!

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Run data collection tools:
PSSDiag
xEvents
Profiler
…
All after the fact

Take the data:
Repro
Analyze
Deploy mitigation

Production Alert: Query Perf Issues!

What if I could do live query troubleshooting?

- To have in-flight query execution statistics, the *query execution statistics profile infrastructure* must be enabled **on demand**.
- But cost overhead goes up to 75%.
  - It makes bad things worse if running all the time.
  - This is why customers still revert back to previous pattern.

Unleash Lightweight Profiling

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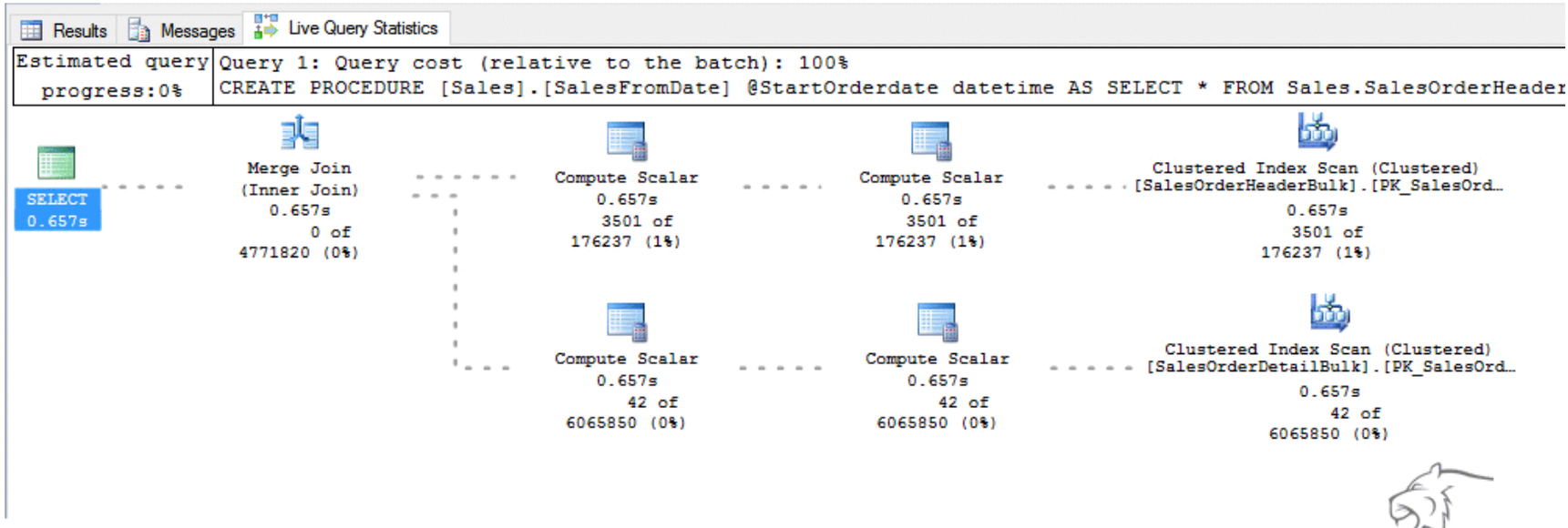
Tap to in-flight execution
Find the hotspot
Deploy mitigation



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Tracking query progress (estimated)

- To have in-flight query execution statistics, the ***query execution statistics profile infrastructure*** must be enabled on demand.
- Can be enabled for a target session:
  - Specifying Include Live Query Statistics in SSMS.
  - SET STATISTICS XML ON
  - SET STATISTICS PROFILE ON
- Or globally to view the LQS from other sessions (such as from Activity Monitor):
  - Enabling *query_post_execution_showplan* extended event.
- **High overhead** (75% with TPC-C like workload)

Lightweight Tracking query progress (estimated)

- Lightweight query execution profiling **dramatically reduces performance overhead** of continuously collecting per-operator query execution statistics (such as actual number of rows)
- Can be enabled by:
  - Using global TF 7412.
  - Enabling *query_thread_profile* extended event.
  - When lightweight profiling is on, *sys.dm_exec_query_profiles* is also populated for all sessions.

- This enables usage of LQS feature in SSMS (including Activity Monitor) and of the new DMF **sys.dm_exec_query_statistics_xml**.
- The following still use regular profiling infra:
  - SET STATISTICS XML (or Include Actual Plan).
  - *query_post_execution_showplan* extended event.

What is the impact of live query troubleshooting?

Query Execution Statistics Profiling Infrastructure tests with TPC-C like workloads

	Overhead percent (up to)	
Infra Type	**no active xEvents**	**Active xEvent query_post_execution_showplan**
Legacy	**75.5**	93.17
Lightweight in SQL Server 2014 SP2/2016	3.5	62.02
Lightweight in SQL Server 2016 SP1	**2**	14.3

Demo

Live Query Troubleshooting

What Diagnostic choices do you have?

Regular Profiling

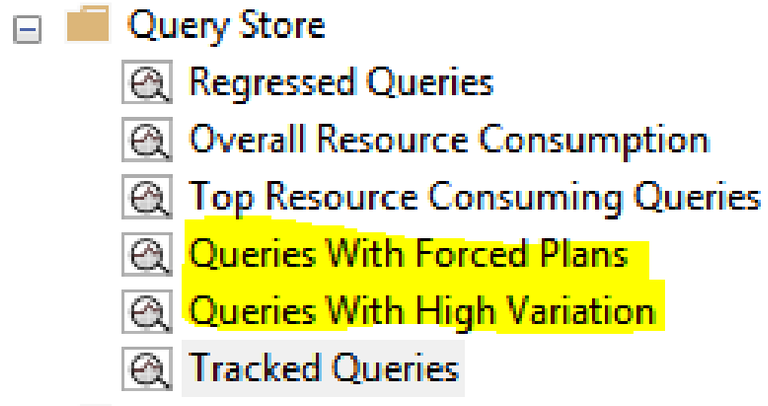
- Full runtime statistics for a query plan
- Most expensive overhead
- Can be enabled per session or globally
- Consume data from live queries or post execution

Lightweight Profiling

- Limited runtime statistics in query plan (no CPU tracking)
- Least expensive overhead
- Only enabled globally
- Consume data from live queries or post execution
- More optimized in SQL Server 2016 SP1

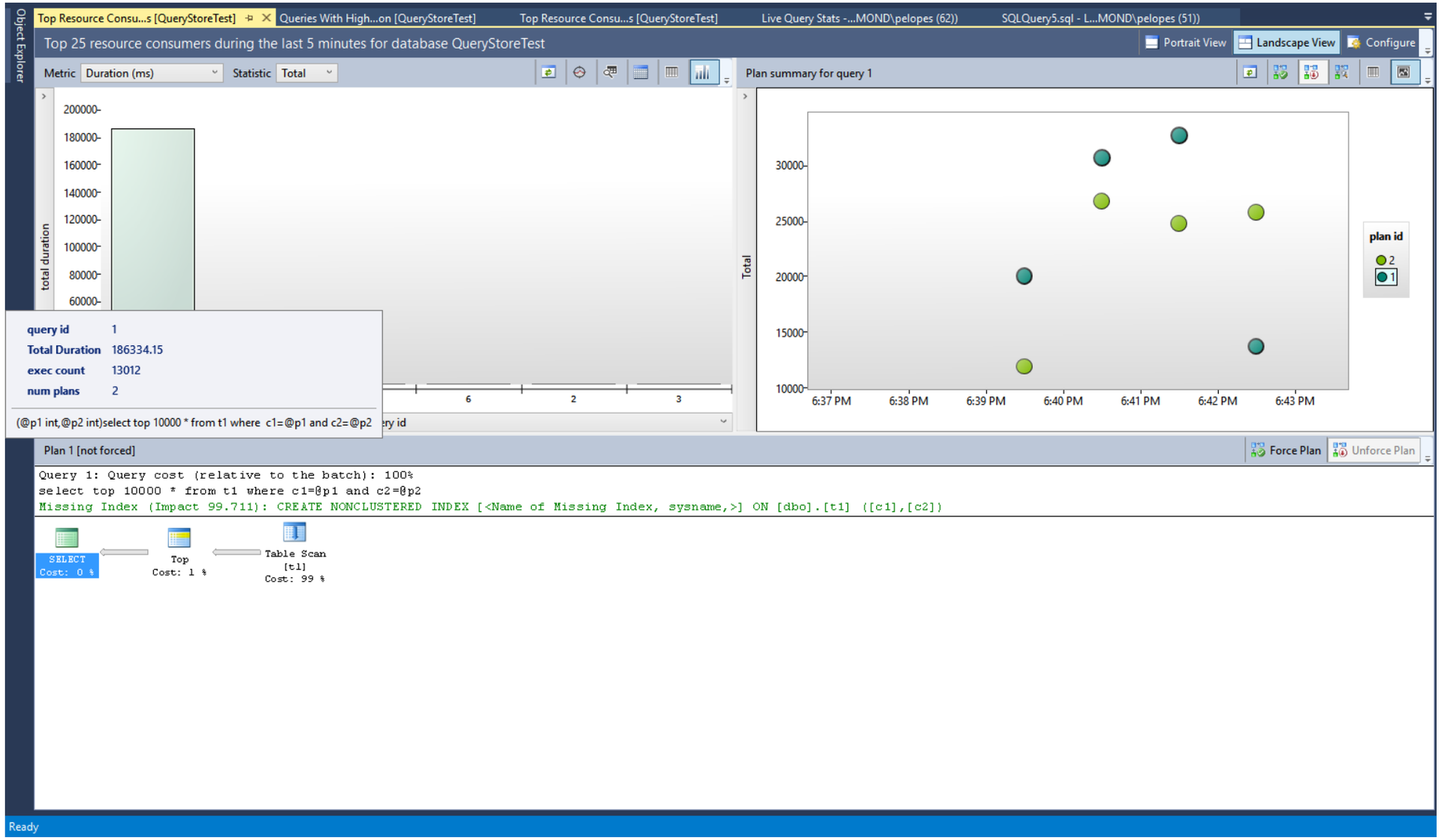
Query performance insights in SSMS

- Still in last v16:
  - Support for multi-statement showplan comparison
  - Per-operator level performance stats in showplan Properties window
  - Query Store
    - Filter by number of different plans
- New with v17:
  - Query Store: new reports
  - Query analysis scenarios: Introduces CE diff search

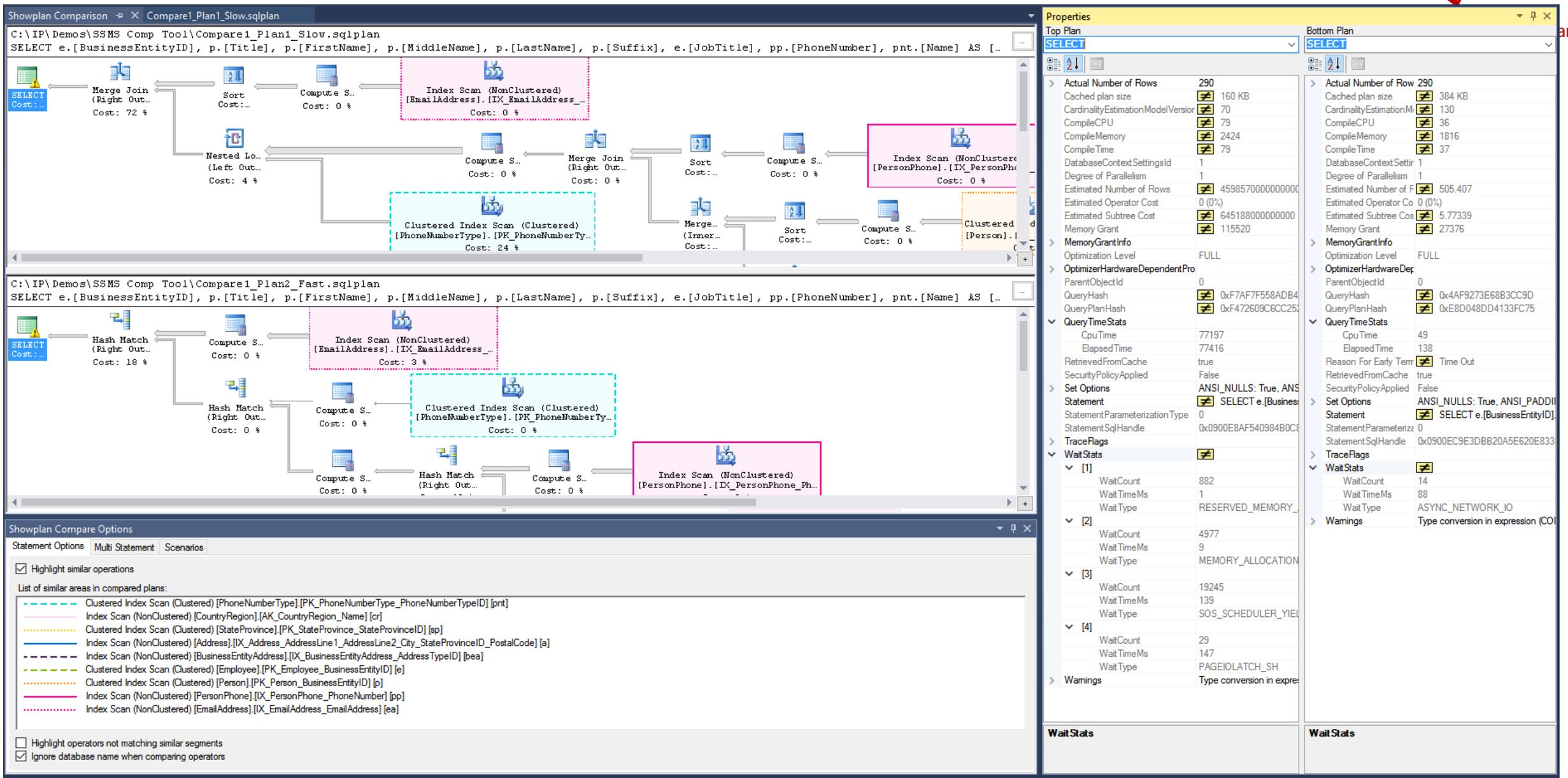


Query Store UI

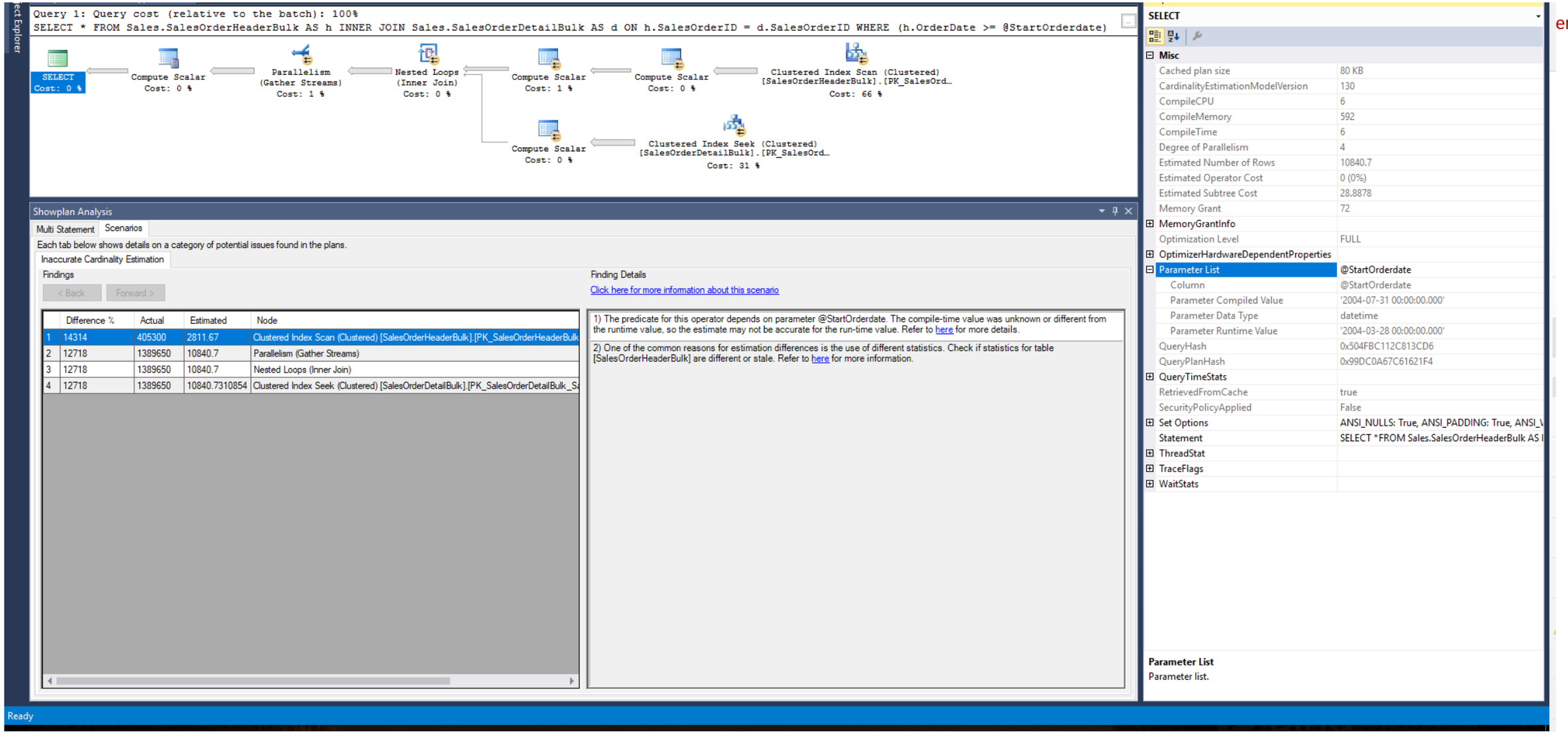
The query store feature provides DBAs with insight on query plan choice and performance



SSMS Plan Comparison



SSMS Plan Analysis



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Demo

Query Store UI and Plan Comparison

Plan Analysis

In Review: Objectives And Takeaways

SQL Server Tiger Team

Learn about new diagnostics improvements for SQL Server engine

Learn how to use the new diagnostics to troubleshoot common performance issues

Bookmarks

SQL Server Tiger Team Blog	http://aka.ms/sqlserverteam
Tiger Toolbox GitHub	http://aka.ms/tigertoolbox
SQL Server Release Blog	http://aka.ms/sqlreleases
BP Check	http://aka.ms/bpcheck
SQL Server Standards Support	http://aka.ms/sqlstandards
Trace Flags	http://aka.ms/traceflags
SQL Server Support lifecycle	http://aka.ms/sqllifecycle
SQL Server Updates	http://aka.ms/sqlupdates
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