Chapter 18 – Life Without Partners

Don't simply retire from something; have something to retire to.   
[Harry Emerson Fosdick](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/h/harryemers100810.html)

If this is my retirement it’s a pretty good way to spend every day. As I write this, it’s been two years since I transitioned from working for myself and my partners to working for Red Gate Software. My job hasn’t really changed in that time, and have been able to move some of my workload to other members of the Simple Talk Publishing team at Red Gate.

Yet I get busier every year.

In some ways nothing changed as I moved on. Andy, Brian, and I continued to have business interests together with QSL Shre (formerly End to End Training) and had fairly regular calls about how to keep that business going. Newsletters went out every day, new aritlces arrived regulary, and the PASS Summit was a highlight of my job every year.

There were changes, however, and they were subtle. When you work with partners, you have a shared vision and investment in your enterprise. You have the same negotiations for money, same arguments or debates about the direction in which you move, the discussions about decisions in the direction of the business.

But it’s different.

When you own the company, you not only have a stake in the decisions, it’s personal. When you work for a company, even one in which you are invested, it just doesn’t feel the same. It’s not a big difference, but it is different and it affects your attitude.

I find myself more detached about how the site is run, or how the image of SQLServerCentral presents itself to users. Small things about the placement of advertisements, promotions, even the addition of new features, just don’t matter as much. I continue to advocate the side of the reader, even passionatlely making a case for a community that I love, but it’s not the same. I can feel it’s not the same, especially when I lose arguments. I let it go quicker, and move on.

I think it’s only natural as I move on in life, and in my career.

The stewardship of QSLServerCEntal is something I still take seriously, and enjoy immensely, but it’s just a part of my life. Ultiamtely it’s someone else’s community and I’m replaceable.