SQL Server: Introduction to Extended Events

Module 5: SQL Server 2008 SSMS Add-in

Jonathan M. Kehayias

Jonathan@SQLskills.com

pluralsight
hardcore developer training

Introduction

- **The lack of UI support for Extended Events in SQL Server 2008 lead to the development of an open source project known as the Extended Events SSMS Add-in**
  - http://extendedeventmanager.codeplex.com
- **Provides basic UI support for Extended Events in SQL Server 2008 and 2008R2 as an SSMS Add-in**
- **The underlying library DLL can be loaded in PowerShell to allow management of Extended Events through PowerShell**

- **In this module we'll cover:**
  - Installing the add-in
  - Using the add-in
  - Configuring add-in options

Metadata Viewer

- **Allows browsing the Extended Events metadata contained inside the SQL Server engine**

- **Metadata is organized in the tree view by package and object type**

- **Clicking on an object will display additional information about the object in the text box to the right of the tree view**

- **Objects with additional information (like targets and events) will have additional levels in the tree view with data about the columns and fields available**

Session Editor Dialog

- **Provides the ability to create and edit event sessions without having to manually write DDL statements**
  - Add and remove events
  - Configure targets and their respective options
  - Configure event session options
- **Event session definitions and changes can be scripted to a new SSMS query window for review**

Target Data Viewer

- Removes the need to write XQuery to read the data contained in targets

- Target-specific information is displayed above the grid view containing the event data that has been collected by the session

- Information about the selected row is displayed in the text window below the grid view and functions similar to SQL Profiler for displaying event information

- Allows the target data to be incrementally refreshed from the server

Add-in Options

- **Allows enable/disable of default behaviors for the add-in**
    - Automatic update checks
    - Warnings before dropping an active event session
- **Default session options can be configured for all new event sessions created using the add-in**

Summary

- **The lack of backwards compatibility of the UI integration in SQL Server 2012 makes the SSMS Add-in for SQL Server 2008 and 2008R2 a useful addition to SQL Server**

- **The add-in provides similar functionality for most of the features in the UI integration in SQL Server 2012**

- **Bugs and feedback can be reported through the Codeplex site for the add-in, or integrated directly to the open source code**

- **The next module will look at:**
  - Defining event sessions