November 2018 Newsletter

PASS Summit was once again a fantastic week of learning, networking, and catching up with old friends. The highlight for our group was the WIT Luncheon featuring Lauri Bingham, Director of Technology, Engineering Project Management at T-Mobile. You can see the recording of the session here.

Lauri is one of three women who started the gender diversity program at T-Mobile. In just a few short years, they were able to grow the impressive program from small lunch meetings to hosting STEM events for kids and sending employees attend and speak at WIT and diversity conferences. Her session was quite inspiring, and I hope that many of you were able to get ideas about things you can do at your own companies.

Kathi and Rie talk about the WIT group at the luncheon

Lauri Bingham, the WIT keynote speaker

Now that we are past the Summit, we are planning for Women's History Month. We would like to host at least three webinars in March. Please reach out if you are interested in speaking for us.

One of the main goals of this group is to help women in our community become speakers at events like SQLSaturday and PASS Summit. Being a frequent speaker has so many benefits to your career. Who knows, you may even become an MVP some day! As women, we are working hard every day; we have so much knowledge to share with the community. Please reach out to us (wit@pass.org) if you ever want to talk about how to get started as a speaker or technical writer.

Each month we feature a blogger, and this month it is [Mala Mahadevan](). Mala is the 2016 winner of the PASSion award and the author of [Data Professionals at Work]().

Interested in starting your own blog? We can help get you started. Just send us a note at [wit@pass.org]().

Once again, we would like to thank our sponsors for supporting our group. They provide funds that make virtual groups possible. We also award a gift certificate at each webinar to one lucky attendee thanks to the funds provided.

Take part in Redgate's [2019 State of Database DevOps survey]() for a chance to win a $250 Amazon voucher. Everyone who completes the survey before 30th November will receive an early preview of the 2019 State of Database DevOps Report, full of insights into adoption rates of DevOps practices among SQL Server database professionals.

Be sure to sign up for the final [SQL in the City Streamed]() of 2018. Hear Data Platform MVPs Kendra Little, Grant Fritchey, Steve Jones and Kathi Kellenberger talk about the Journey to Compliant Database DevOps!

Ever been caught off guard by insufficient data storage space? Join SentryOne Director of Advanced Analytics, Steve Wright to learn how you can produce daily storage usage forecasts for all logical disks on your Windows servers. [Register]() to reserve your seat at the Dec. 11th webinar or watch it on demand.

Thought that you were adhering to best practices, but still encountering performance problems? SentryOne Principal Solutions Engineer, Richard Douglas will teach you simple but effective tricks to better design your database objects and write optimized code during his Dec. 13th webinar. [Register]() to join or watch it on demand.

--Rie and Kathi

Always Connected to Work

We just had our big Thanksgiving holiday in the US. It's supposed to be a day we spend with family, eating way too much, and watching a parade or football game. Of course, being thankful for the good things in our lives is part of that day, too. This year, when thinking about Thanksgiving, I tried to list the people who have jobs where they are expected to be at work instead of with their families. This list included first responders, caregivers and staff at hospitals and nursing homes, military men and women, and so many more. Unfortunately, it's become common to begin Black Friday (the official start of Christmas shopping) on Thanksgiving Day. Many people working in retail stores had to miss out on family dinners so that others could shop for bargains.

Many of this newsletter's readers, especially the DBAs, may have had the day off but had to be on-call and available just in case of unexpected performance, security or other server issues. It's also possible that some companies took advantage of the long holiday weekend to roll out a software upgrade that involved your expertise. For many of you, it's difficult to ever truly be away from work. And, family responsibilities make things even harder when on call or doing weekend project work.

I am truly fortunate at this point in my career. I am now an editor, responsible for working with authors, editing articles, and producing a newsletter every two weeks. I no longer worry about getting a frantic phone call about a server being down or a performance problem. I can step away and completely forget about my job.

Of course, it hasn't always been this way for me. I remember so many times that I had to connect to the company network for planned or unplanned work because I was the "one" DBA in a 1.3 DBA team. Looking back, I realize that it was a great job, and most of the time I wasn't called and could enjoy my time off. I'm happy I had that experience and that I did make a difference for the firm. But, now that I've paid my dues, I'm going to enjoy forgetting about my job when I'm off work from now on.

Great Links

We are always looking for input from our members. Please drop us a line at wit@pass.org if you have a link you would like to share, would like to write an article for the newsletter, or if you would like to present a webinar. We are looking for any topic that would be interesting to the WIT group and data platform topics presented by women. This is a great way to get experience as a speaker.

[Do You Get Paid for Being on Call?](#)
[The Strain of Always Being on Call](#)

Webinar Schedule

Date	Session	Speaker
Nov 28, 2018	[Using Azure Databricks, a Scalable Data Solution](#)	Ginger Grant
Nov 29, 2018	[Busy is a Four-Letter Word](#) Professional Dev Group	Jes Borland
Dec 4, 2018	[Data Compression 101](#) DBA Fundamentals Group	Jess Pomfret
Dec 5, 2018	[Performance Monitoring of SSAS Tabular](#)	Shabnam Watson
Dec 11, 2018	[Introduction and Use Cases for Working with Azure Databricks](#) DBA Fundamentals Group	Ginger Grant
Dec 19, 2018	Introduction to Azure Search	Julie Smith
Jan 3, 2019	[Get Inspired: Celebrate the Careers of Three DevOps Heroes](#) Sponsored by Redgate Software	Kendra Little
Jan 8, 2019	[Plan Stability Through Plan Forcing](#) DBA Fundamentals Group	Erin Stellato
Feb 12, 2019	[Winning the Head Game in 2019](#)	Bobbi Jo Brighton

Mar 5, 2019	Stored Procedure Optimization Techniques DBA Fundamentals Group			Kimberly Tripp

SQL Saturdays

Event	Location	Date	Session Tile	Presenter
SQL Saturday #782	Slovenia	12-8-2018	Compelling data stories using Power BI	Prathy Kamasani
SQL Saturday #782	Slovenia	12-8-2018	Shipping Data Science products with R and Docker	Stephanie Locke
SQL Saturday #782	Slovenia	12-8-2018	Azure Analysis Services - An important step for BI in the cloud?	Gabi Munster
SQL Saturday #814	Washington DC	12-8-2018	What is Power BI?	Angela Henry
SQL Saturday #814	Washington DC	12-8-2018	Using distributed AGs for your migrations	Elizabeth Noble
SQL Saturday #814	Washington DC	12-8-2018	Always Encrypted for Beginners	Monica Rathbun
SQL Saturday #814	Washington DC	12-8-2018	Data Types Do Matter	Angela Henry