

Get Involved!

Ed Leighton-Dick

I am...

- ... a proud father
- ... a runner
- ... a certified SQL Server DBA
- ... the leader of a PASS chapter
- ... a speaker
- ... a member of the SQL Community



Microsoft®
SQL Server™



 **I-380PASS**



The "SQL
Community"
is...



 **SQL**
saturday



What We'll Discuss

- Ways anyone can become involved
- Why it is important to become involved
- How to get started

Connect



Connect

- Networking = Conversation!
- Usually in person

Connect

- How to start a networking conversation:
 - Smile
 - Make eye contact
 - Introduce yourself
 - Give your “elevator pitch”
 - Exchange business cards (if available)
- RESOURCE: Don Gabor

Connect

- An elevator pitch includes:
 - Your name
 - Your employer
 - What *you* do
- An elevator pitch is:
 - Short
 - Interesting
 - Open-ended
 - An invitation to continue the conversation

EXERCISE

Networking practice

Connect

- Places to connect
 - Ask a coworker to lunch
 - Take a class
 - Attend a user group
 - PASS Local Chapters
 - PASS Virtual Chapters
 - Attend a conference
 - SQL Saturday
 - PASS Summit
 - PASS Business Analytics Conference
 - Connections
 - SQL Intersection

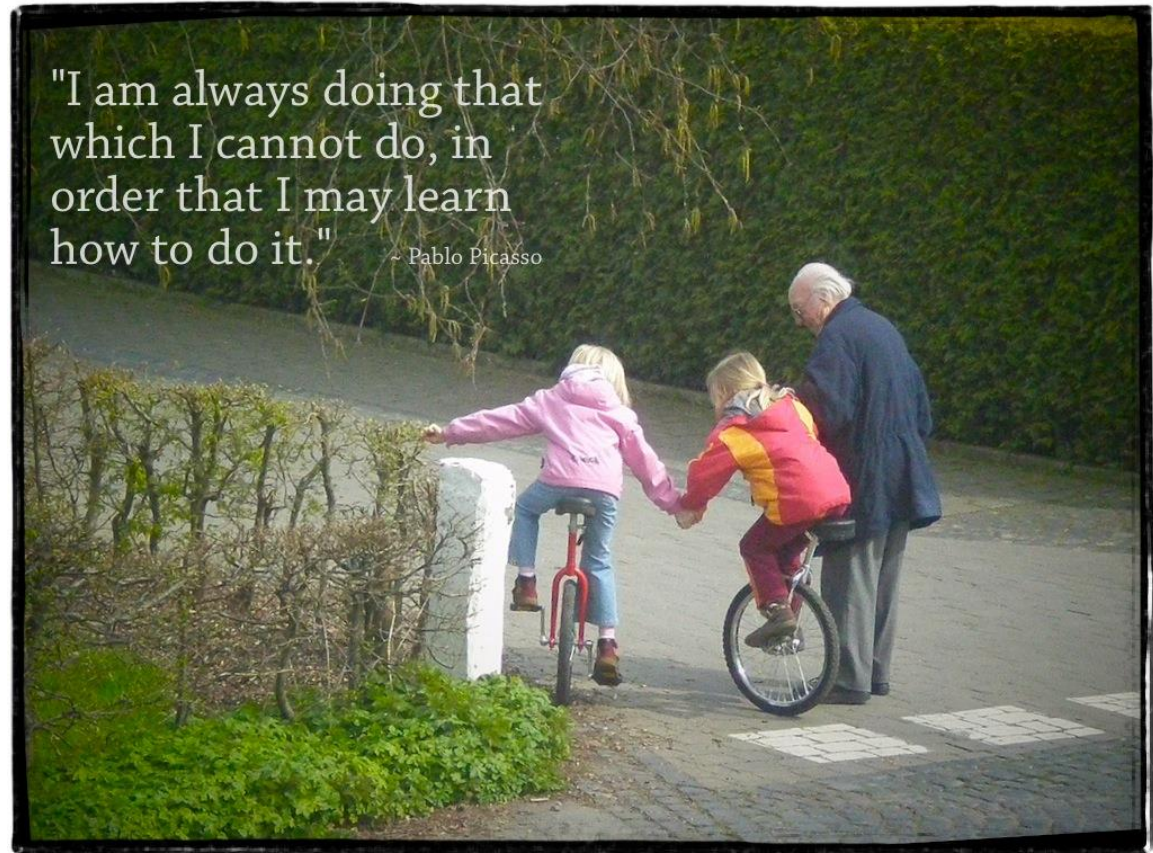
DEMO

- Finding user group and virtual chapter information

EXERCISE

- List three places you will go in the next month to meet people
- List three people you would like to meet

Learn



Learn

- Read blogs
- Watch podcasts

Learn

- Ask questions
 - MSDN Forums
 - Stack Exchange network
 - Stack Overflow
 - ServerFault
 - dba.stackexchange.com
 - SQLServerCentral
 - answers.sqlperformance.com
 - Twitter: #sqlhelp, #ssrshelp

DEMO

- Forums and Twitter

Learn

- How to ask good questions
 - There are no stupid questions!
 - But...
 - Search for the answer first!
 - Make sure the answer isn't easy to find
 - Make sure the question hasn't already been asked
 - Don't ask someone else to do your work for you
 - Ask intelligently and completely
 - Be as specific as you can
 - Remain calm
 - Respond promptly and respectfully to replies
 - Acknowledge working solutions
- RESOURCE: [Buck Woody post](#)



Paul Randal

@PaulRandal



Following

Email: Can X do Y? I don't know much about that feature, have you read the docs? Yes, they say X can do Y. Ok, what's your question then?

← Reply ↺ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More

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RETWEETS



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Learn

- Attend a user group meeting
- Attend a PASS virtual chapter meeting

Learn

- Attend a conference
 - SQL Saturday
 - PASS Summit
 - PASS Business Analytics Conference
 - Connections
 - SQL Intersection

Learn

- Get a mentor
 - Ask someone you admire or respect
 - Ask your user group for suggestions
 - The Mentoring Experiment

Learn

- Study for a certification
 - Take a class
 - Find a study group
 - Form a study group

Learn

- Join an open-source project
- Volunteer your services to a nonprofit or small business

EXERCISE

- List three topics you are going to learn more about

Share



Share

- Sharing is the best way to learn!
 - There is no better way to cement what you've learned than to explain it to someone else
- Someone else probably has the same questions
- You have a different way of explaining a topic that may resonate with someone else

Share

- Answer questions
 - MSDN Forums
 - Stack Exchange network
 - Stack Overflow
 - ServerFault
 - dba.stackexchange.com
 - SQLServerCentral
 - answers.sqlperformance.com
 - Twitter: [#sqlhelp](https://twitter.com/sqlhelp), [#ssrshelp](https://twitter.com/ssrshelp)

Share

- How to answer questions well
 - Remember: There are no stupid questions!
 - Answer intelligently and completely
 - Be respectful
 - “If you can’t say anything nice, don’t say anything at all”
 - Cite your sources
 - If someone else wrote it, give credit where it’s due
 - If you wrote it, include a disclaimer

EXERCISE

- List three topics on which you can answer questions

Share

- Be a mentor
 - Does not have to be formal

Share

- Attend a user group meeting
- Host a “lunch and learn” at work

Share

- Speak
 - At a user group meeting
 - At a SQL Saturday
 - At PASS Summit

Share

- Write
 - An internal knowledge base article
 - A comment on a blog post
 - A guest post on a blog
 - Your own blog!
- RESOURCE: Brent Ozar posts

Share

- Create podcasts
- Organize a Google Hangout
- Create a group on Facebook/LinkedIn/Google+

Share

- Lead
 - Someone has to do it; why not you?
 - PASS always needs help!
 - Speakers
 - User group officers/leaders
 - Local SQL Saturday committees
 - PASS Summit/BAC committees
 - PASS Summit Program Committee
 - PASS Nominating Committee
 - Conference volunteers
 - “Birds of a Feather” table hosts at conferences

EXERCISE

List one way in which you will share with others
in the next three months

Why Is Getting Involved Important?

- Personal Fulfillment
- Personal Growth
- Career Advancement

How Can I Get Started?

1. Choose one thing to try
2. Share what you do
3. Repeat

Wrap-Up

- The bottom line: **We all have something to offer!**

HOMEWORK

- Connect with five new people today after this session
- Find out if you have a nearby user group and the time of their next meeting
- Browse the list of virtual chapters

Q & A



Resources

For a full list of resources, please visit my website,

<http://edleightondick.com>

and click on “Presentations”.

You can find me at...

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Blog: www.edleightondick.com

Please fill out your comment cards!