

The logo for the 2010 PASS Summit is a stylized shield shape with a jagged, flame-like border. The text "2010" is in yellow, "PASS" is in red, and "SUMMIT" is in white. The background of the shield is dark blue with orange and yellow lines radiating from the center.

2010
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www.sqlpass.org/na2010



How to Get the Most Out of the Maintenance Plan Wizard

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My Assumptions About You

You may be a DBA Administrator or DBA Developer.

You may be a part-time or full-time DBA.

You probably have less than one year's experience as a SQL Server DBA.

You want to learn how to create effective database maintenance plans using the Maintenance Plan Wizard.



What We Are Going to Learn Today

Why Database Maintenance is Important

What is the Maintenance Plan Wizard

Pros and Cons of Using the Maintenance Plan Wizard

What Can the Maintenance Plan Wizard Do

What Can't the Maintenance Plan Wizard Do

Extensive Demo of Using the Maintenance Plan Wizard

Quick Peak at the Maintenance Plan Designer



Database Maintenance is Important

Database maintenance includes a defined set of proactive tasks that DBAs need to perform on a periodic basis to help ensure that their databases:

- Perform Optimally
- Maintain High Availability

Database maintenance can be performed several different ways:

- Database Maintenance Wizard/Designer
- T-SQL (custom or freeware)
- PowerShell Scripts (custom or freeware)



What is the Maintenance Plan Wizard

The Maintenance Plan Wizard is a GUI-based tool that leads you through the process of *creating* a *limited* database maintenance plan.

Once you have completed the Wizard, a SSIS package is created (which includes the steps you selected), and also creates SQL Server Agent jobs scheduled to run at the times you have specified.

If you want to *modify* an existing maintenance plan, or enhance it, you must use the Maintenance Plan Designer.



Pros of Using the Maintenance Plan Wizard

Using the Wizard requires no knowledge of T-SQL.

Maintenance plans can be created very quickly, assuming you know which options to select.

Includes core database maintenance functionality.

The Wizard is best suited for use when:

- Managing a small number of instances (10 or less)
- The number of simultaneous users is small (less than 100)
- Databases are small (100 GB or smaller)
- Database aren't mission critical (24/7 uptime not required)
- Standard Edition or lower is used
- There is no experienced, full-time DBA available



Cons of Using the Maintenance Plan Wizard

While the Wizard is designed with the “novice” in mind, unfortunately:

- It is harder to use than it appears to be
- It is not very flexible
- It can't perform all necessary maintenance tasks
- It allows DBAs to create maintenance plans that can:
 - Significantly hurt the performance of SQL Server
 - Give a false sense of security in regard to availability



What Can the Maintenance Plan Wizard Do

Backup Database (full, differential, log)

Check Database Integrity

Reorganize Indexes

Rebuild Indexes

Update Statistics

Clean Up History

Maintenance Cleanup Task

Shrink Database

Execute SQL Server Agent Job



What Can't the Maintenance Plan Wizard Do

Identify, remove, or prevent physical file fragmentation

Database and log file management

TEMPDB file management

Ensure indexing is optimal

Verify backups are good

Ensure backups are stored safely offsite

Ensure high availability

Monitor disk space

Monitor performance

Monitor SQL Server and OS error messages

And much, much more



Before You Use the Maintenance Wizard

Set up database mail so that alerts can be sent.

Set up operators to receive the alerts.

While these two steps aren't required, I highly recommend them as they help you to be a more proactive DBA, and to be alerted when a maintenance job runs, letting you know if they succeed or fail.

DEMO



Extensive Demo of Using the Maintenance Plan Wizard

Most of the rest of this session will be a complete demo of how to use the Maintenance Plan Wizard, with an extensive discussion of each available option.



Quick Peak at the Maintenance Plan Designer

Once you have mastered the Maintenance Plan Wizard, you will want to learn how to use the Maintenance Plan Designer.

The Maintenance Plan Designer allows you to modify existing maintenance plans, along with creating maintenance plans from scratch that have more flexibility than that offered by the Maintenance Plan Wizard.

Short DEMO



Take Aways From This Session

Keep in mind that the Wizard's features are limited and not very flexible.

If you use the Wizard, it is very important to fully understand each and every option.

The Wizard is best used for smaller SQL Server environments.

If you have a large SQL Server environment, then you should consider using T-SQL or PowerShell scripts to perform all of your database maintenance.



Find Out More

Free E-Books:

- www.sqlservercentral.com/Books

Check these out:

- www.SQLServerCentral.com
- www.Simple-Talk.com

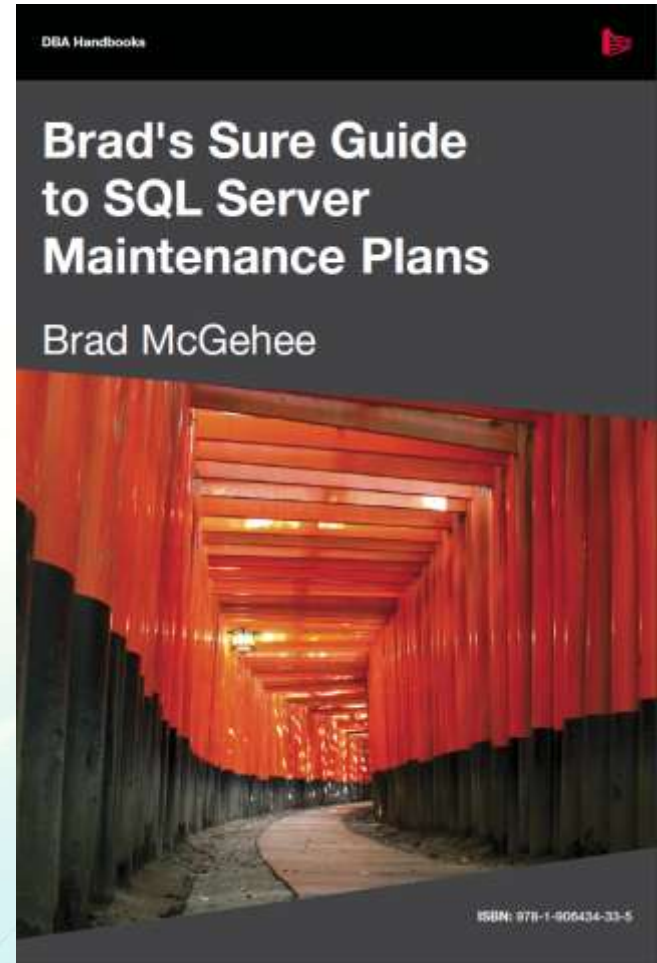
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Thank you

for attending this session and the
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