

- Q. How does SQL doctor extract performance information? Is there a way to see what's going on "underneath" the covers?**
- A.** SQL doctor leverages performance counters, wait stats, DMV, DMF, WMI, SQL Profiler traces and standard SQL to gather the information needed to produce the recommendations.
- Q. How does SQL doctor determine what to recommend?**
- A.** SQL doctor utilizes an intelligent algorithm developed by our own SQL Server performance experts which leverages years of proven performance information and industry standard best practices from Microsoft Corporation.
- Q. Now that SQL doctor is here, do I need SQL diagnostic manager? Is SQL doctor a replacement for SQL diagnostic manager?**
- A.** SQL doctor is **not** a replacement for SQL diagnostic manager. SQL doctor is a "point and shoot" solution that will only identify your worst performing queries, objects, configuration settings for a particular point in time, and offer recommendations to improve them. SQL doctor will not run "round the clock" as DM does. Yes! You need them both; neither product is a replacement for the other. They complement each other.
- Q. I am reluctant to run SQL doctor in production. Will it do any harm?**
- A.** No, SQL doctor will not harm your system during the analysis phase. There will be some low CPU utilization during the analysis phase. however, we suggest you use some discretion during high utilization timeframes.
- Q. Are there also plans to integrate SQL doctor with any other products like SQL safe, SQL defrag, or SQL virtual database?**
- A.** As SQL doctor provides recommendations about the customer's environment, there are "tentacles" that extend to our other solutions which offer assistance for resolving the exceptions or performance issues identified by SQL doctor. We will pursue product integrations when and where it makes sense to do so at the appropriate time based on customer feedback.

**Q. How does SQL doctor schedule its analysis?**

**A.** SQL doctor uses the Windows task scheduler to facilitate a "scheduled" analysis.

**Q. I am running SQL Server 2000 on 100+ servers with mission-critical legacy applications that could desperately use some help from SQL doctor. When will SQL doctor support SQL Server 2000?**

**A.** We have received several requests to support SQL Server 2000. However, Microsoft no longer provides mainstream support for it and extended support currently ends April, 2013. We do not have any plans to support SQL 2000 at this time.

**Q. Does SQL doctor use Microsoft Best Practice Analyzer tests or should run MSBPA as well?**

**A.** SQL doctor is not a replacement for MSBPA, there is some degree of overlap between MSBPA and SQL doctor. The main difference is that SQL doctor is a performance analysis/recommendation tool that finds your most urgent SQL Server problems (query, network, memory, objects..etc) and offers detailed suggestions for resolving those problems. MSBPA is designed for administrators who want to determine the overall conformance of their SQL Server instances and topology with established best practices for system events, settings and login permissions.

**Q. Can recommendation(s) be saved or emailed?**

**A.** Yes, SQL doctor maintains a history of the SQL Server analysis and recommendations that you can retrieve at anytime for review. You can also export "selected" recommendations to an excel spreadsheet that you can store & email.

**Q. Does SQL doctor support analyzing proprietary ERP applications like SharePoint, SAP, Empower?**

**A.** SQL doctor will analyze the environments like any other database; however, you must exercise caution when adding, modifying or removing any objects that SQL doctor may flag as problematic. You must have a clear understanding of your support license agreement and the objects in question. We suggest that you confer with the appropriate ERP vendor prior to making any changes.

- Q. What is the difference between selecting “Development” or “Production” during the interview questions?**
- A.** With regards to selecting “development” vs. “production” the same collection and analysis is performed. The only difference is that the recommendations generated are tailored to one environment or the other.
- Q. Should I always take the scripts generated from SQL doctor and just run them?**
- A.** The SQL doctor recommendations are based on industry best practices and are usually correct and appropriate, for most situations. The recommendations are just that, recommendations, not rules or laws. Each suggested change or script should be reviewed and evaluated prior to implementation. As a standard operating procedure, we suggest that you utilize the resources we provide for each recommendation to deeply understand the ramifications of any change that you may want to implement to your SQL Server configuration and objects.
- Q. Why are the recommendations provided for my test environment different from those from my production environment?**
- A.** Each environment can be different, based on the hardware in place, the amount of data stored, the workload placed on that server, memory, CPU, network and many other factors. Those variables can generate significant differences in the recommendations. Performance data collected during the analysis phase represents SQL Server activity during that particular point-in-time for each test or production server. A test server’s performance recommendation may differ somewhat from a production server because each environment will have varying resources and workloads during the analysis phase.

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## ABOUT IDERA

Idera provides tools for Microsoft SQL Server, SharePoint and PowerShell management and administration. Our products provide solutions for performance monitoring, backup and recovery, security and auditing and PowerShell scripting. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, Idera is a Microsoft Gold Partner and has over 5,000 customers worldwide. For more information, or to download a free 14-day full-functional evaluation copy of any of Idera’s tools for SQL Server, SharePoint or PowerShell, please visit [www.idera.com](http://www.idera.com).