

## I. Eschew SSMS. Embrace ADS.

### A. ADS is so much better

1. Faster
2. Cross platform (Windows, macOS, Linux)
3. Themes make for easier reading
4. Git integration
5. Easy export to CSV, Excel, JSON, Markdown, XML
6. Helpful extensions

### B. Unless you need to work with SQL Jobs, the Activity Monitor, etc. But there are extensions for that too

## II. Comment and Disconnect

### A. Disconnect from the database server while working on your query

### B. Comment out the operator while working on the query

## III. We Are Here to Read, Never to Write

### A. A read-only user can save you the stress of making accidental changes

## IV. Use Your Testing/Training Server

### A. For a risky query, there's no reason to act upon live data at the outset

## V. Always Start with SELECT

### A. Before running an UPDATE or DELETE, run the query as a SELECT first using all the same clauses

### B. This ensures you're only affecting the rows that you want and it gets the number of rows affected

1. Check your rows and row numbers - do they make sense?

## VI. Precise Clauses Are Your Friends

### A. Use your clauses to make sure you target only the rows you want

### B. Make it so your query can't affect anything you don't want it to

1. Example: When modifying the ItemCheckouts table: use PatronID, ItemRecordID, and CreatorID

## VII. You Don't Need to COMMIT Right Away

### A. BEGIN TRAN -> COMMIT or ROLLBACK

1. Lets you have a dry run with your query
2. Remember: BEGIN TRAN locks the table you're accessing - that may or may not be a problem

## VIII. Express Yourself - SQL Server Express

A. Pull down copies of tables to your own device and your own databases

B. Make changes without fear

1. If anything goes sideways, who cares? Blow away the table and pull down a fresh copy

C. If time allows - a quick demo of copying tables from a Polaris database server to a local device

### IX. SQL & AI - The New World of ChatGPT

A. Ask a question - even if the answer isn't quite right, it might get you most of the way there

### X. Join Us on Discord!

A. The IUG Discord is full of helpful people!

B. We're librarians, we tend to enjoy answering questions!