

The background of the slide is a collage of several axial CT scan images of the human abdomen. The images are arranged in a grid-like fashion, with some overlapping. They show internal organs such as the liver, kidneys, and spine. Technical details like '120kV', '100mA', and '10mm' are visible on some of the scans. The overall color scheme is a monochromatic blue-grey.

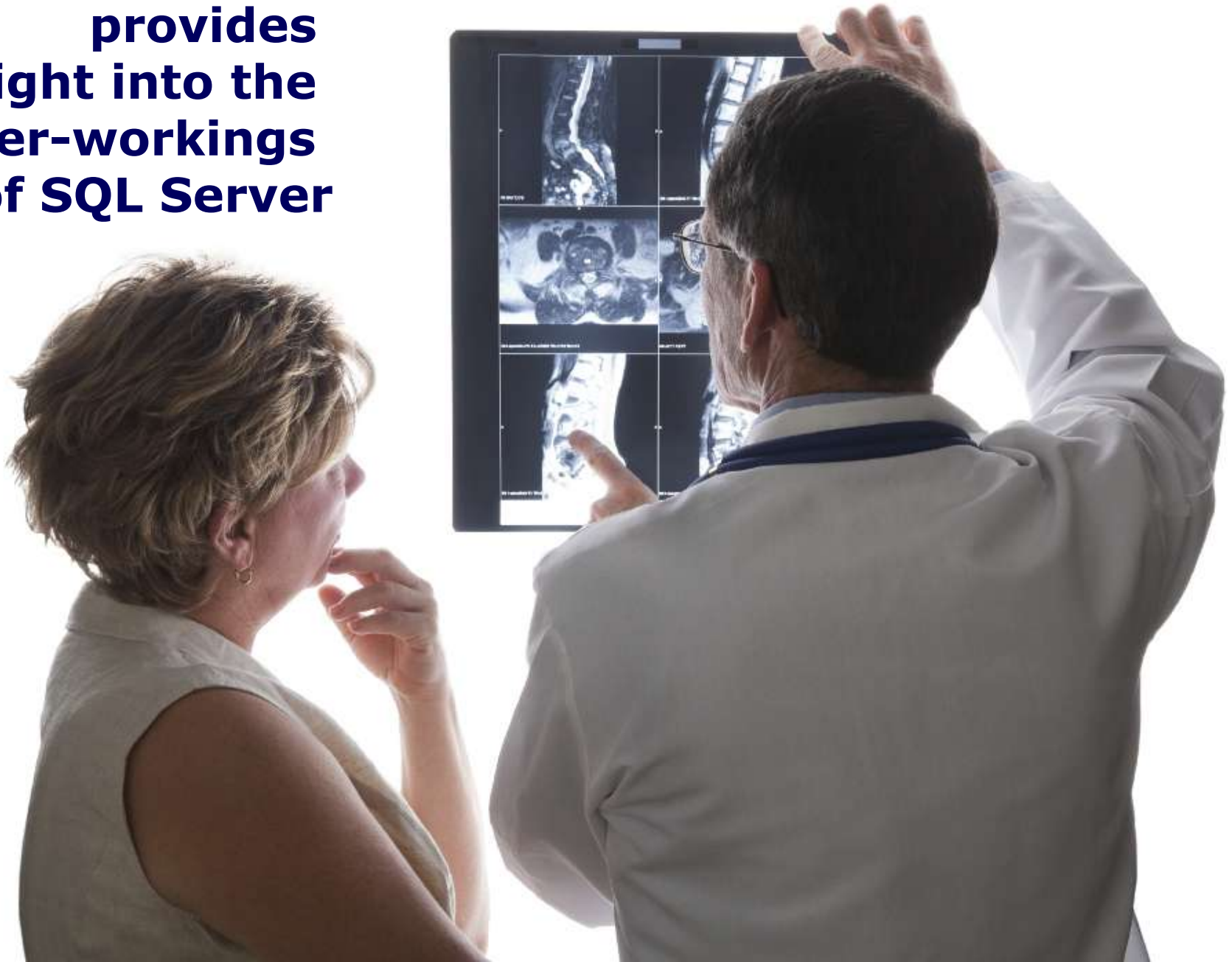
An Introduction to Profiler and SQL Trace

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**What if doctors
had to rely
entirely on a
patient's
complaint and
outward
symptoms?**



**SQL Trace
provides
insight into the
inner-workings
of SQL Server**



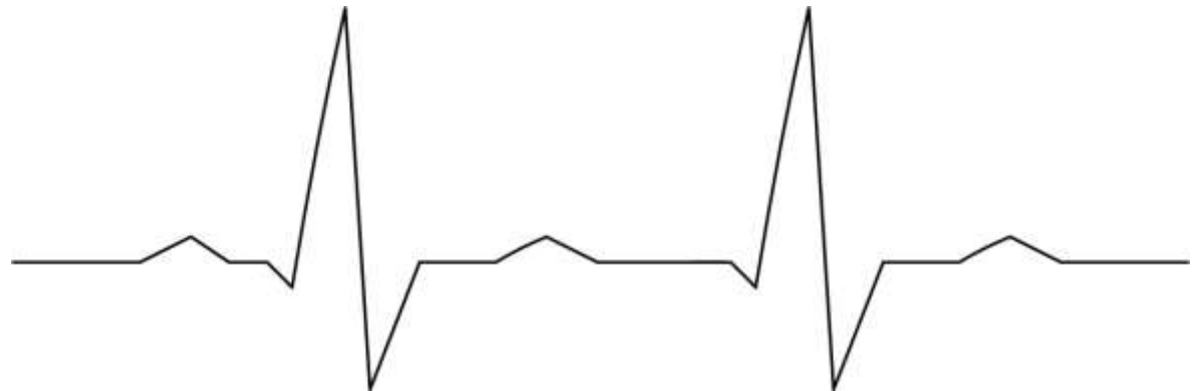
Contact Information



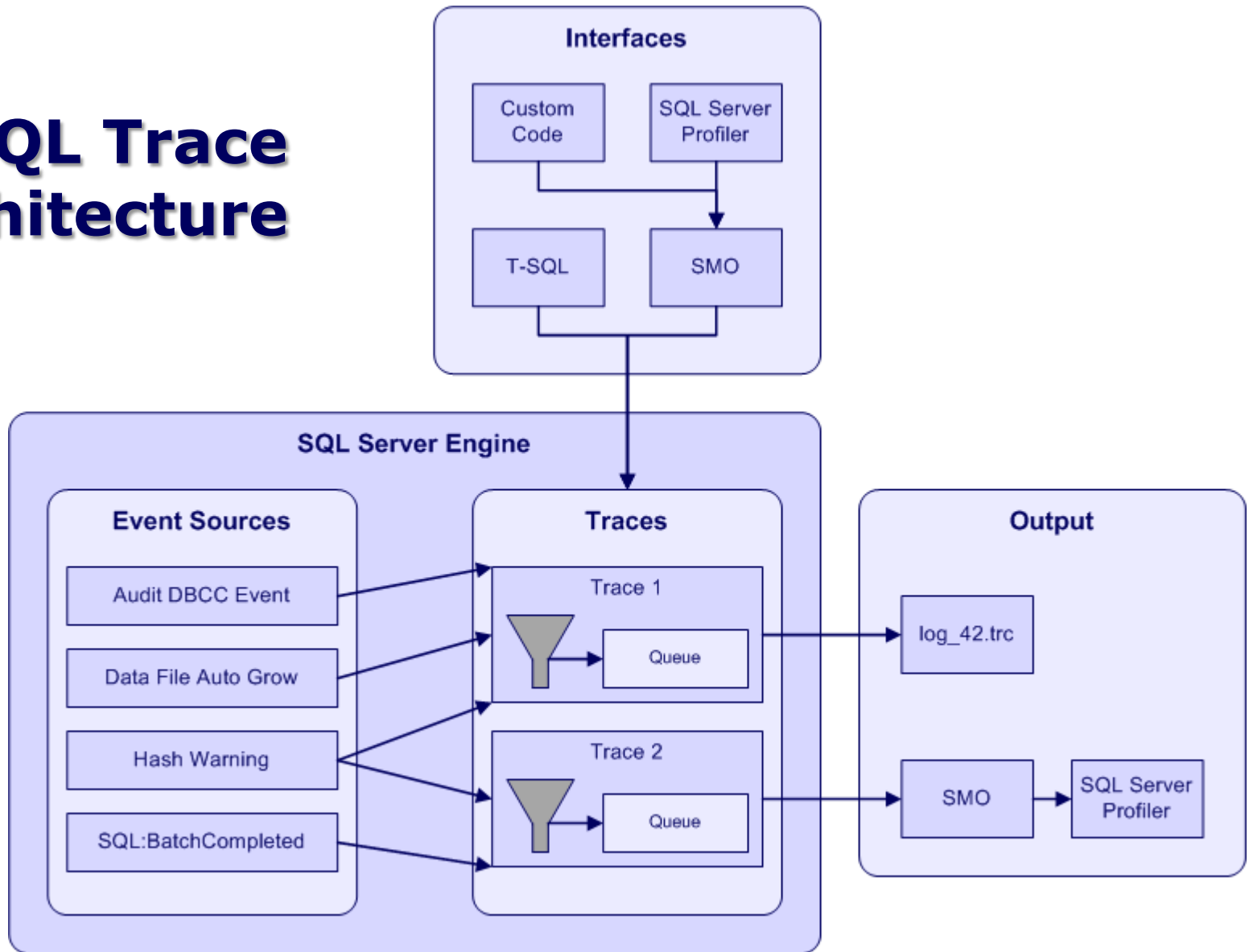
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What is an Event?

“An event is an action generated within an instance of SQL Server Database Engine.”



SQL Trace Architecture





Demonstrations

Profiler's Infamy



Problems with Tracing

- Generating extra data
- Must be capturing the right data
- Must be running at the right time
- Other tools exist



Problems with Profiler

- Extra resources are used to:
 - Pivot data
 - Render graphically
 - Buffer the display



The Default Trace

- Introduced in SQL Server 2005
- Built-in, enabled by default
- Low overhead
- Captures some useful data
- Unfortunately, can't be customized



Prescriptive Guidance



Use the Right Tool for the Job

- Also consider:
 - Performance counter data
 - Extended Events (XE)
 - Event Tracing for Windows (ETW)
 - Dynamic Management Views (DMVs) and Functions (DMFs)



Capture Only What You Need!



- Carefully select:
 - Event classes
 - Data columns
- Use filters
 - Target specific objects
 - Exclude events with NULLs
 - New in SQL Server 2005

Impose Limits on Your Traces

- Set a maximum size
 - In megabytes or event count
- Set a stop time



Choose Your Output Wisely

- Avoid using Profiler in production
- Don't trace directly into a table
- Be careful with remote tracing
- Segregate your trace file

Contact Information



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