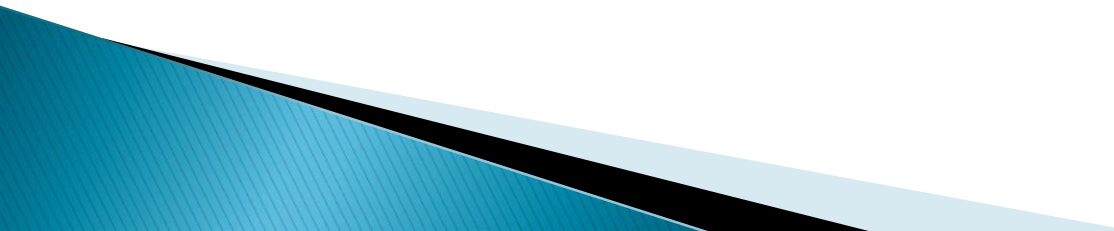# SQL Server Myths and Realities
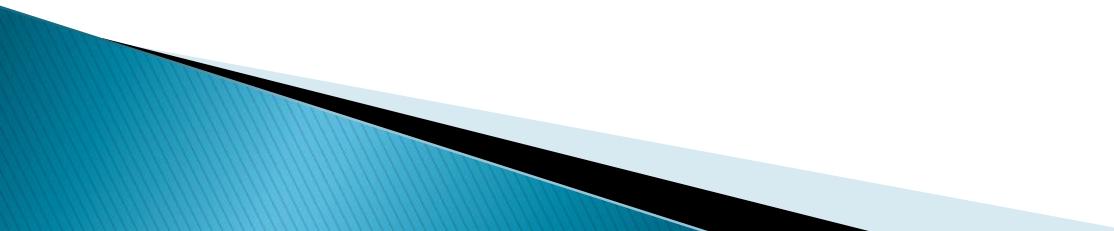
Ramkumar Gopal

About me

- 4 years as faculty
- 8+ years in IT industry as Developer/DBA
- Blogging on Internals and tuning topics
- Academy trainer on Internals/tuning topics
- MCTS, MCITP in SQL Server

Agenda

- Myth about Truncate
- Myth about SELECT COUNT(*)
- Myth about NULLs
- Myth about Clustered Index

Myth about Truncate

- **Myth**

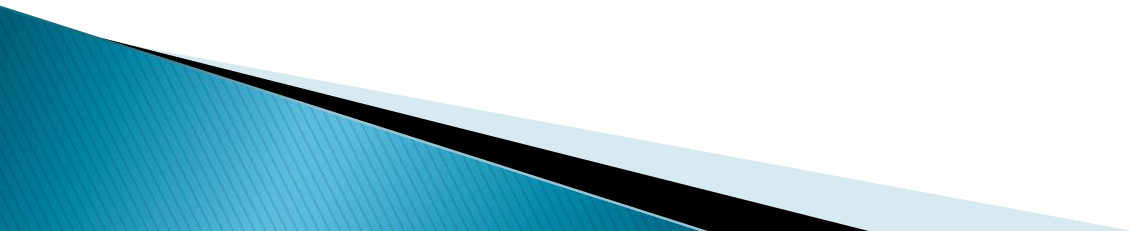Truncate cannot be rolled back because it's not a fully logged and only page de-allocation is recorded

- **Reality:**

You can rollback data from TRUNCATE if surrounded by a transaction and session is not closed

Within a Transaction, Pages are EXCLUSIVELY Locked when TRUNCATE is issued.

Myth about Truncate

Demo

Myth about SELECT COUNT(*)

▸ **Myth**

SELECT COUNT (*) will force a table/clustered index scan

▸ **Reality:**

Smallest Non clustered index (non filtered) scan
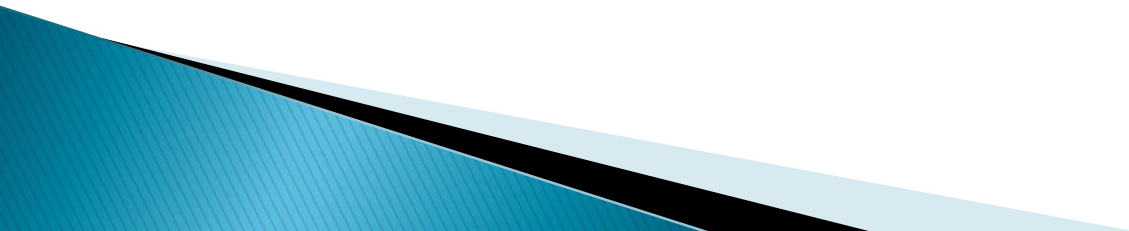will be performed if available.

Myth about SELECT COUNT(*)

Demo

Myth about NULLs

Myth 8

NULL won't occupy space in SQL Server

Reality:

Yes for Variable length columns and No for Fixed length columns

Myth about NULLs
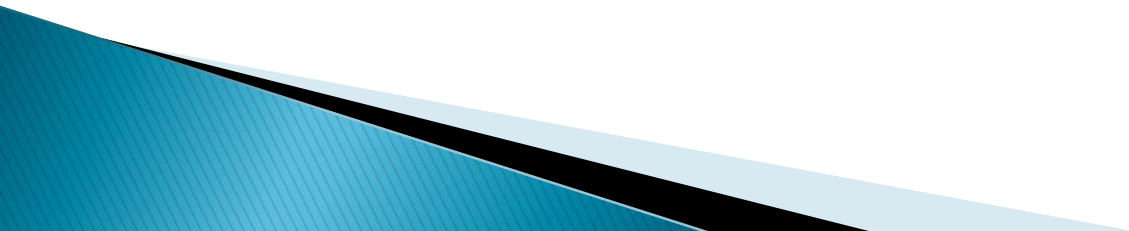
Demo

Myth about Clustered Index

Myth:

Rows in Clustered index table are physically sorted based on clustered index key

Reality:

Yes.
But you can't expect the same at all the times.
SQL Server can make use of row offset array entries maintains the index order.

Myth about Clustered Index

Demo

Reference

- Paul Randal Blogs
- MS Press – SQL Server 2008 Internals

Questions?