

## Re: Interpreting the Estimated Execution Plan

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IMO, where the execution plan is most helpful is when you are comparing 2 alternate ways of solving the problem at hand. You pit the two separate statements against each other and find which costs less. In the execution plan for each individual statements, I \_try\_ to strive for equal cost among the higher cost items, e.g., if 2 elements rank as 50% and 10%, I see what I can do to improve the 50% item to get as close to 30-30 as possible. Basically, I try to optimize each separate statement as much as possible and then compare the overall result. Sometimes you can improve it and sometimes you can't. If your situation won't be harmed by adding indexes, then you add the appropriate indexes. Yes, a seek is better than a scan but you can't always get away from a scan. Even if you have the most perfect index, SS may \_still\_ decide to perform a scan. This is based on the amount of data it believes it will have to retrieve. Basically, its like if you're looking for a topic in a book and the index page indicates it's so spread out throughout the book, it might actually cost you less time to scan every page than to keep looking in the index, find the [bookmark], lookup the page, go back to the index, etc.

hth  
Eric

"Sky Fly" <nobody@blackhole.com> wrote in message  
news:c6512o\$8ad6j\$1@ID-18325.news.uni-berlin.de...

> Hello,

>

> *I'm trying to improve the performance of a query, and one  
> of the tools I'm turning to in this regard is the Estimated  
> Execution Plan shown in Query Analyzer. I have the following  
> questions:*

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> *1. I notice that each of the icons shown in the plan has a  
> 'cost' associated with it, which is expressed as a percentage  
> and is shown in a label that you can see if you move the mouse  
> over the icon. If an icon has a high cost, does it mean that  
> I have to improve performance on the table that the icon is  
> associated with?*

>

> 2. The icon labels have different captions – like 'Index Seek',  
> 'Constant Scan' or 'Table Scan'. I guess that a 'Table Scan'  
> is potentially bad news, especially if the table that is being  
> scanned is very large, so this would tell me that I should  
> look at putting an index on the table. Are there other similar  
> interpretations I can make from the various other captions  
> to improve my performance?  
>  
> TIA,  
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