

DBPLUS Performance Monitor for Microsoft SQL Server description of changes in version 2019.1

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Below we present a list of changes in the DBPLUS Performance Monitor application for monitoring Microsoft SQL Server instances.

1 New in 2019.1 version

1.1 Performance statistics browser - Perf Counters

In the new version of the application, the management of performance indicators available in the Perf Counters tab has been modified. A number of improvements have been added, i.a.:

Collect performance statistics after a day. Until now, performance statistics for each parameter have been collected after the snap and stored for a maximum 7 days period. After the change, detailed statistics (15 minutes) are available so far for a period of 7 days. After this period, historical data is available after a day.

Add new percentage statistics calculated based of already defined counters. The new counters: Buffer cache ratio, Plan cache ratio, Compiled Batches ratio and Batches without Compilations ratio.

In the table, **new columns were added**: the most searched statistics (Common column), add a description of the indicators placed in the table (Description column). For some performance indicators, a description that contains the preferred values has been added (Preferred value column).

The process of storing statistics has been improved. After the change, the data will no longer generate as much space as before, which means that the Repository DBPLUS database will be reduced.

A new NUMA performance indicator has been added. The statistics are presented for each socket per processor. Modern processors have many cores per processor slot. Each socket is usually represented as a single NUMA node. The new version presents statistics for NUMA nodes.





1.2 Information on scheduled work and scheduled monitoring shutdowns

In the new version of the application, a function that allows to disable monitoring for a given period has been added. Turn off monitoring is available in the main menu in the Configuration> Outages settings tab.

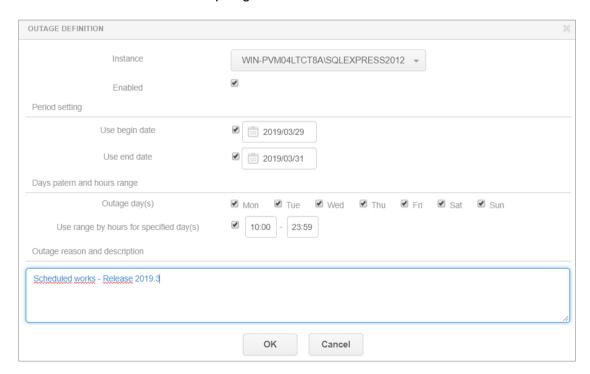
After enter the tab, the user can view the information about scheduled shutdowns of the monitoring of the DBPLUS Performance Monitor application. On the website, only the exclusions for the current day as well as those planned in the future are visible by default. Information is available for all SQL instances. To add a new entry, click the [Add new outage] button.



After click, the user can choose which instance turn off, and then can choose type of shutdown:

- one-time or recurrent,
- one or many days,
- occurs on a specific day of the week.

After select dates, user can add information about the outage reason the monitoring (it will be visible in the graphs when monitoring is interrupted). After correctly entered configuration, the new entry will be visible in the table. It must be remembered that the information about the shutdown will appear on the chart when the new / next snap is generated.



Information about turn off monitoring is visible on the Dashboard screen:

 Television mode - a yellow mark next to the database and a description of "Monitoring Outage"



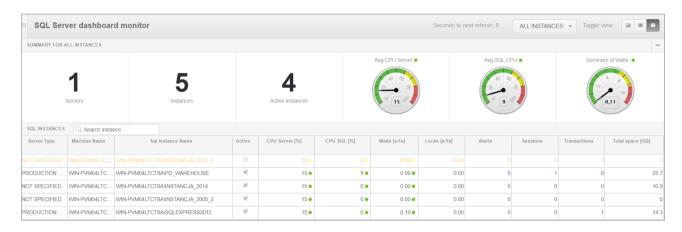


Icons view

In this view, the instance is also marked in yellow, which means a outage in monitoring. An instance where monitoring has been disabled is not included in the number of active instances.

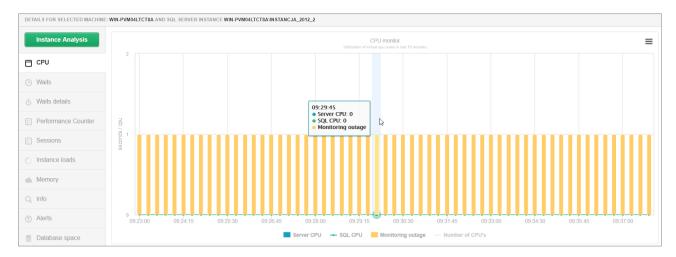


Grid view

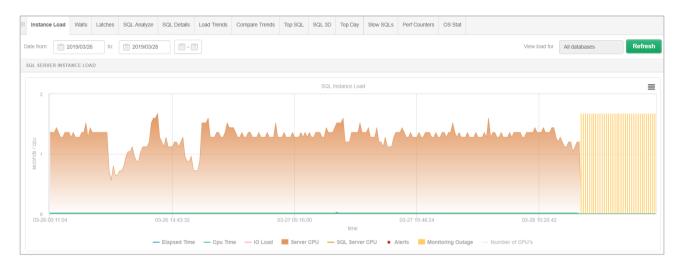


Information about turn off the monitoring is visible in the graph of the current CPU utilization for the given instance. It is in the yellow columns form and it is additionally included in the tooltip.





Information about outage is also visible on the Instance Load chart. In case the instance is excluded from monitoring, yellow columns appear in the graph. At the moment of disable, information about the statistics is not collected.



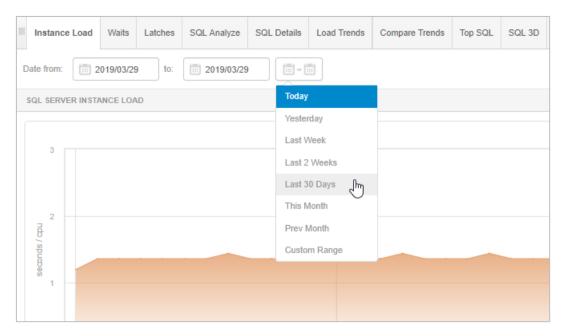
1.3 Quick dates selection from the calendar

In the new version, we've added a new improvement on most main screens: quick date selection. After click the button user have few options to choose:

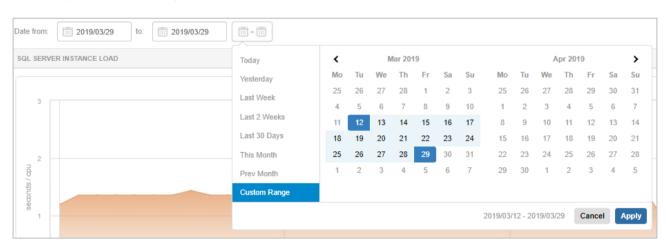
- Today,
- Yesterday
- Last Week,
- Last 2 Weeks,
- Last 30 days,
- This Month the scope of the current month from 1 to the last day of the month,
- Prev Month the scope of the previous month from 1 to the last day of the month,
- Custom Range manually select a date range.

After select any range from the list, click the [**Refresh**] button to refresh the page. An example screen below:





To select a date range in the Custom Range, first select the start date, then choose the end date. Accept by click the [Apply] button.



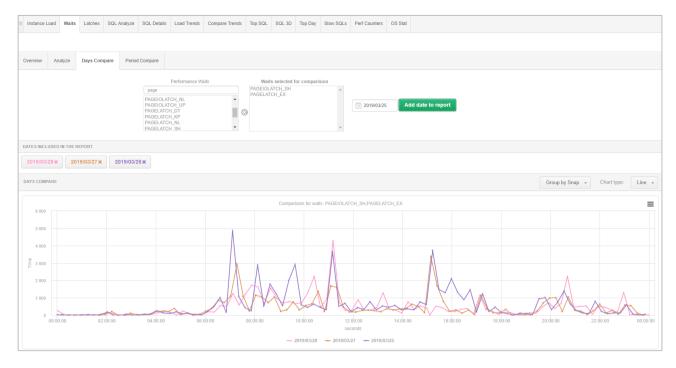
1.4 Compare the wait level

In the new version of the application, we added the ability to compare the wait level in a given SQL instance. Compare is possible from the instance details in the Waits tab. Two modes are available:

- Days Compare
- Period Compare

To compare wait level, select the type of wait to be compared first (one or more types), then select specific days to compare (Days Compare) or whole period of days (Period Compare).

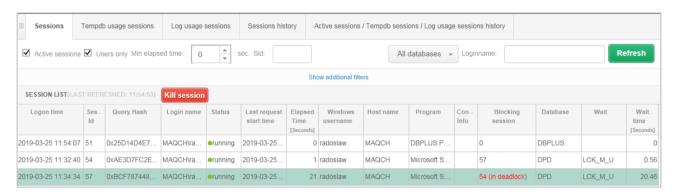




1.5 Improvements in session screens

1.5.1 Detection of blocked sessions (deadlock)

In the new version of the application, we added session detection functions searching for sessions stopped on **deadlock**. The information is visible on the Online session screen. If there are locks, the deadlock information will be visible in the *Blocking session* column.



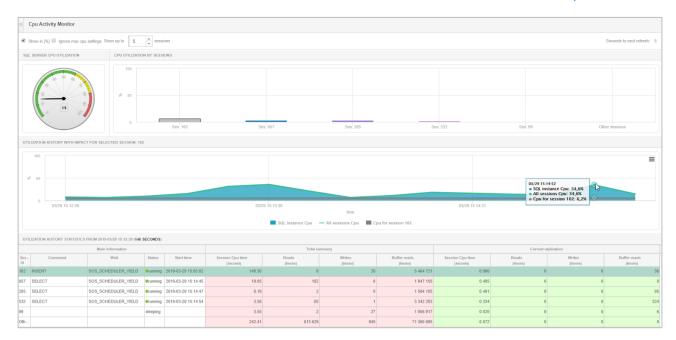
1.5.2 Online session monitor

In the new version of the application, the functionality of the online session monitor has been improved. The monitor provides information about the CPU utilization sessions. The monitor is refreshed automatically every 10 seconds. The monitor is activated only after enter the **CPU monitor** menu and closed after switch to the next tab.

in addition to the basic data about the user session, summary information is presented (Total summary) and for the last 10 seconds (Current utylization) about:

- Session CPU time CPU utilization by a given session.
- Reads number of read blocks,
- Writes number of write blocks,
- Buffer reads number of read blocks from buffer.

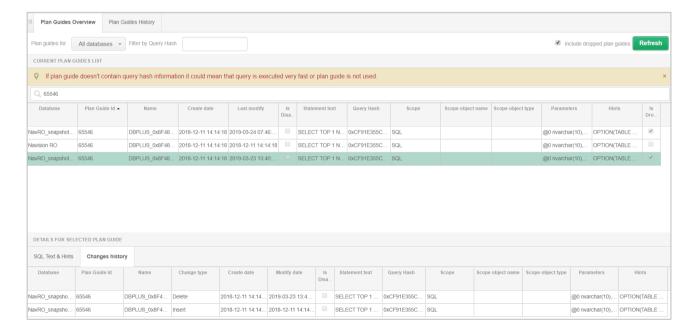




1.6 General Improvements

1.6.1 Improve the Plan Guide collection process

In the 2019.1 version, the process of collect and create change history for Plan Guide has been improved. Improvement consists in change the unique key to search changes made to the Plan Guide. The current key in the scenarios sometimes turned out to be insufficient. After the change, the problem has been removed and every change made to Plan Guide will be saved in history.

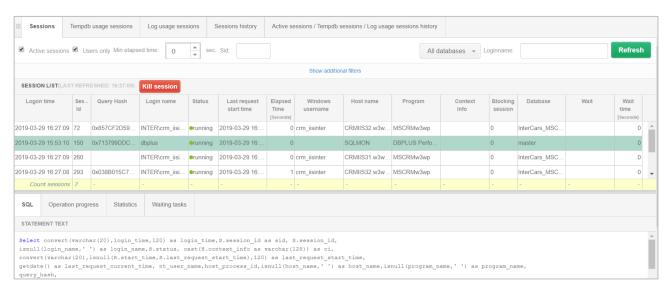


1.6.2 Summary statistics

In the latest version, summary of the data presented in the tables has been added. Summary is available for the module:

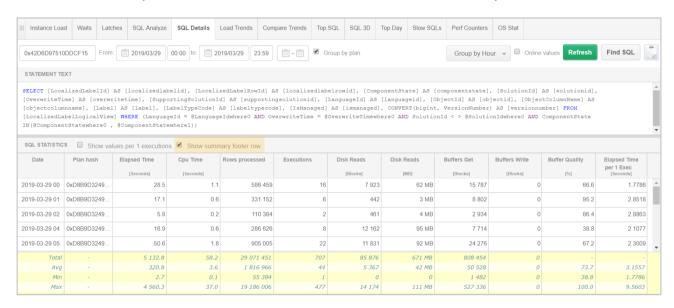
Session (online session) – information about number of active sessions is visible





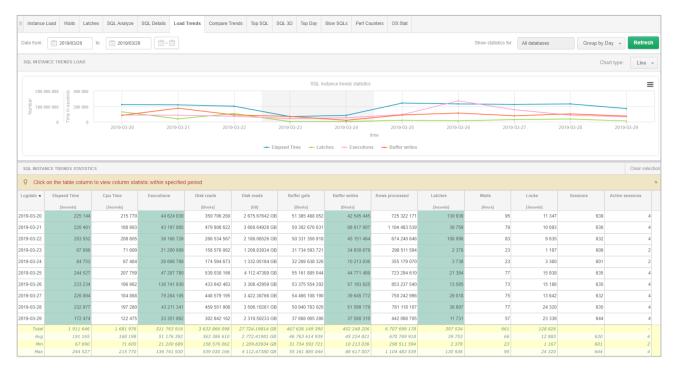
 SQL Details (query details) – the information is grouped into total (Total), medium (Avg), minimum (Min), maximum (Max) values.

To see the summary of statistics, select the new checkbox Show Summary footer row



 Load Trends – the information is grouped into total (Total), medium (Avg), minimum (Min), maximum (Max) values.



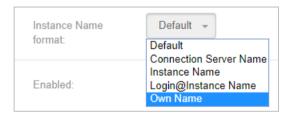


When a single row is presented in the table, the summary will not be presented.

1.6.3 Ability to assign own name to the instance

In the latest version of the application, the option to set the instance name presented on the application pages has been added. The change can be set from the Configuration> Servers menu. User can change the names by selecting row in the list of SQL instance, displays the menu on right side. The settings are:

- Default,
- Instance Name,
- Login@Instance Name,
- Own Name.



1.6.4 Improve the presentation of lock efficiency

In the new version of the application, the problem of longer loading of data on the online session screen has been corrected. The problem occurred for some versions of SQL Server and caused a change to the query plan that retrieves information about an online session. The problem has been improved and in the new version don't exist.

The problem with an error on the lock history screen has also been removed. In this case, the problem occurred at the blockade the session was open for a long time. The error message was displayed. The problem has been corrected in the latest version.



1.6.5 Change the way information about alerts is presented

We have modified the way of displaying information about alerts in the InstanceLoad tab. In some cases, when there were many different types of alerts in a given snap, the alert information presented below the graph displayed in an inconsistent format, which resulted in the extension of the grid. In the new version the view has been improved.



1.6.6 Improving data loading on the SQL 3D screen

In the latest version of the application, the ergonomics of data presentation on the SQL 3D tab has been improved. The improvement consisted in changing the way of searching for queries in the repository database. After the changes, the data presented on the website is searched faster.

