Aaron Buma

Cloud Engineering Database Manager

+(1) 360-329-2862
aaron.buma@gmail.com
Bellingham, WA 98229
https://www.linkedin.com/in/aaronbuma/

Cloud Operations Manager with 14+ years of proven expertise in database administration, cloud infrastructure modernization, and FinOps leadership. Skilled in architecting and managing Azure cloud environments, driving cost optimization initiatives, and implementing scalable infrastructure as code (IaC) solutions. Experienced in SQL Server performance tuning, cloud governance, and security compliance to protect sensitive data. Passionate about enabling cross-functional collaboration, leveraging data-driven insights, and delivering measurable business impact through innovative and cost-effective cloud strategies.

LEADERSHIP & STRATEGIC ROLES

Cloud Engineering Database Manager @ ESO | Apr 2023 – June 2025

- Managed and led a distributed team of DBAs and cloud engineers supporting global database operations across the U.S., Canada, UK, and Australia, overseeing 6,000+ SQL Server databases across IaaS and PaaS environments, including private and DoD cloud infrastructures

- Drove infrastructure modernization by implementing Infrastructure as Code (IaC), automated monitoring, and auditing systems to meet HIPAA PII & PHI compliance requirements

- Mentored engineering teams in advanced SQL Server performance tuning, execution plan analysis and building scalable database architecture - reducing performance-related problems and reducing overprovisioned resources.

- Directed quarterly planning, KPI tracking, and Jira-based workflow automation to ensure team alignment with strategic business objectives

- Developed repeatable enterprise-wide data collection strategies for Security, Marketing and Product to surface compliance KPIs and product efficiency metrics

- Maintained and supported legacy platforms, including MongoDB, and drove migration and modernization efforts in SQL Server environments, ensuring seamless transitions and improved system performance

FinOps – Cloud Cost Control @ ESO | Apr 2024 – June 2025

- Initiated and led a company-wide FinOps program without formal authority or a dedicated team, achieving cloud cost savings in the seven-figure range

- Drove cross-functional alignment between Engineering, Cloud Operations, and Finance, establishing cloud ownership models and enforcing spend accountability

- Developed real-time reporting and stakeholder-specific dashboards using Azure Cost Management, KQL, and BI tools, delivering actionable cost insights to executives, finance, and engineering teams

- Provided monthly cost optimization updates to the CFO, detailing realized savings, forecasted reductions, and emerging risks

- Designed and implemented a FinOps ticketing workflow to track cost-saving initiatives from proposal through validation and realization

- Authored internal FinOps documentation and cost optimization playbooks, which promoted a cost-conscious engineering culture across cloud teams and led to more efficient resource usage

- Led vendor engagement, Azure commitment optimization, and strategic purchasing across multiple business units (ESO, Emergency Reporting, Logis), which maximized ROI on enterprise cloud agreements and improved cost efficiency

Development Manager @ Emergency Reporting, acquired by ESO | 2016 – 2021

- Managed cross-functional teams including Database Administration (DBA), Quality Assurance (QA), and DevOps, driving high system availability, reliable software delivery, and scalable engineering practices

- Architected and deployed automated data pipelines for ETL, data obfuscation, and data export workflows, significantly improving deployment velocity and customer responsiveness

- Designed and implemented change control processes and CI/CD pipelines using tools like Azure DevOps, enhancing developer productivity, reducing deployment errors, and enabling faster release cycles
- Led a QA transformation initiative by empowering QA team leads to develop automation-first testing strategies, reducing manual testing overhead and increasing release confidence across engineering teams
- Expanded DevOps capabilities to support containerized SQL Server environments and cloud-native deployment pipelines, laying the groundwork for a modern cloud architecture
- Contributed directly to the successful acquisition of Emergency Reporting by ESO through enhanced operational maturity, process standardization, and scalable engineering frameworks

TECHNICAL & CONTRIBUTOR ROLES

Staff Database Administrator @ ESO | June 2021 - Apr 2023

- Worked with and directed my DBA team in supporting and maintaining over 5,000 databases across production and staging environments, ensuring optimal performance and reliability
- Designed and implemented high-availability (HA) architectures, including Always On Availability Groups and failover clustering
- Developed and tested comprehensive disaster recovery (DR) plans, ensuring data durability and minimal downtime
- Performed advanced performance tuning and query optimization using execution plans, indexing strategies, and wait stats analysis
- Applied secure database design principles, including encryption, role-based access control (RBAC), and least privilege models
- Led cloud migration initiatives from on-premise SQL Server to Azure SQL Database and Azure Managed Instances
- Collaborated cross-functionally with software engineering teams to architect scalable and reliable data solutions for mission-critical reporting systems
- Aligned solutions with data governance, compliance, and business continuity standards, ensuring robust and secure data management
- Utilized Infrastructure as Code (IaC) and CI/CD pipelines for repeatable deployment of database infrastructure

Lead Dev Engineer, Dev DBA, and Product Owner @ Emergency Reporting | 2011-2016

- Progressed from Software Engineer to Lead Software Engineer, taking increasing responsibility for project leadership and technical direction
- Assumed role of Dedicated SQL Server DBA, managing all aspects of database administration including performance tuning, backup automation, and security
- Developed and implemented a robust data obfuscation process to protect sensitive information in non-production environments, enhancing data security and compliance
- Designed and maintained a source-controlled T-SQL change management system integrated into the automated release pipeline, ensuring repeatable and auditable database deployments
- Automated backup and maintenance tasks to improve database reliability and reduce manual operational overhead
- Collaborated cross-functionally with development and operations teams using Azure DevOps to enhance application performance and stability, resulting in reduced downtime and improved user satisfaction

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts in Management Information Systems (MIS)

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

Certificate in Website Programming and Management (Computer Science Department)

Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA

CERTIFICATIONS

- **Microsoft Certified Professional - Querying Microsoft SQL Server 2012/2014** - Microsoft, 2015
- **FinOps Certified Practitioner** - FinOps Foundation, 2025
- **FinOps Certified FOCUS Analyst** - FinOps Foundation, 2025
- **Data Modeling for Power BI** - SQLBI, 2019
- **ITIL® Foundation Certificate in IT Service Management** - PeopleCert, 2016
- **Agile Scrum Product Owner** - Accenture | SolutionsIQ, 2014

SKILLS

- Cloud Engineering Architecture
- Azure Resource Optimization
- Azure DevOps & CI/CD
- KQL & Azure Monitoring
- SQL Server Administration
- Engineering Team Management
- Data Architecture & Scaling
- Cross-Functional Collaboration
- FinOps & Cloud Cost Control
- Automation (PowerShell, Runbooks)
- Infrastructure as Code (IaC)
- Software Engineering Practices