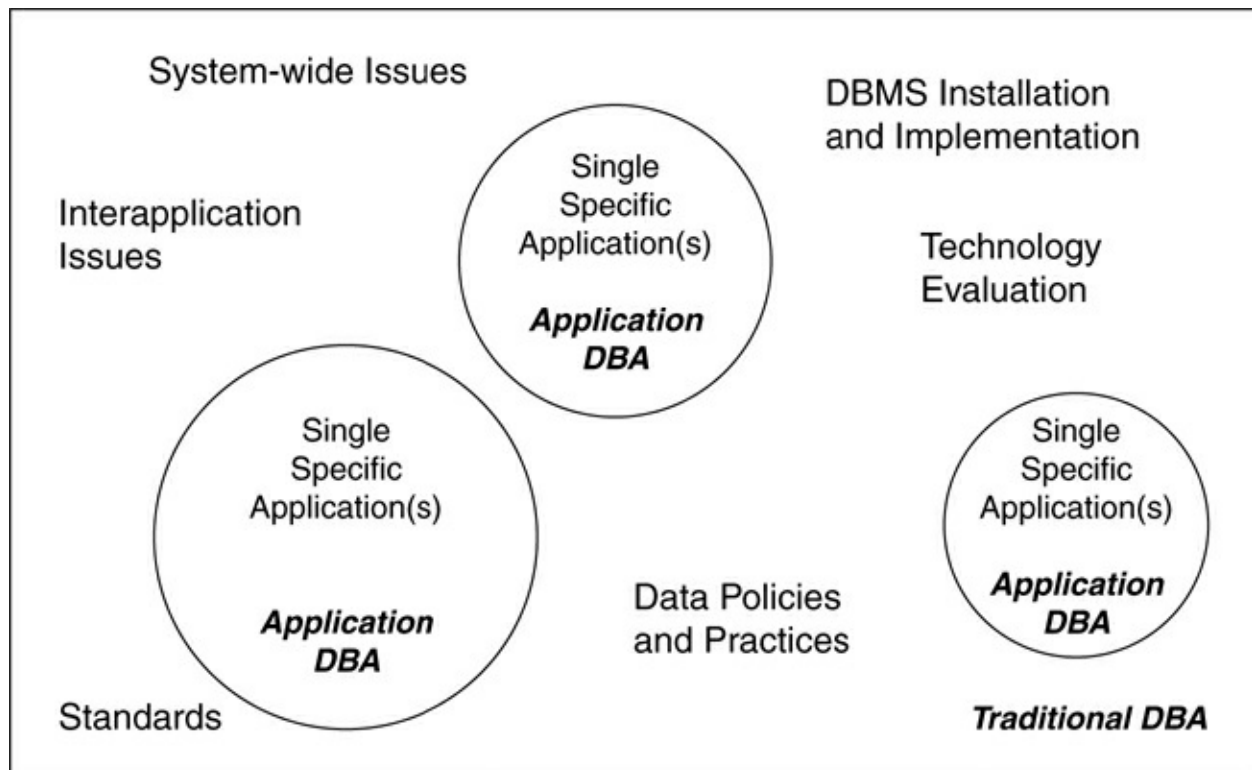


is likely to be an expert at writing and debugging complex SQL and understands the best ways to incorporate database requests into application programs. The application DBA also must be capable of performing database change management, performance tuning, and most of the other roles of the DBA. The difference is the focus of the application DBA—not on the overall DBMS implementation and database environment, but on a specific subset of applications (see [Figure 1.5](#)).



**Figure 1.5. Focus of the application DBA**

The application DBA focuses on database design and the ongoing support and administration of databases for a specific application or applications.

Not every organization staffs application DBAs. However, when application DBAs exist, general-purpose DBAs are still required to support the overall database environment and infrastructure. When application DBAs do not exist within an organization, general-purpose DBAs are likely to be assigned to support specific applications while also maintaining the organization's database environment.

There are pros and cons to staffing application DBAs. The arguments in