The Role of the DBA

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`whoami`

- DBA with 20 years experience on wide variety of platforms
- DBA team lead and consultant
- Financial, Manufacturing, Government, not-for-profit
- Mission critical, reporting and "nice-to-have" databases

How did you begin your career ?

- As a Developer ?
- What does the Developer think of the DBA ?
- What does the Manager think ?
  - Install, Backup, Restore
  - Handle Schema Changes
  - Create Accounts and Audit Them
  - Automagically Tune the Database and Application

DB"A" for Availability

- The DBA is part of the Infrastructure team
- Any flaws that impinge on the database / server affect his role
- Accessibility, Uptime and Performance

DB"A" for Administration

- How Oracle works, how the database facilitates the business

- How the application and database are used

- Being able to identify the cause of a "slowness" and isolate it

- Data flows and logic

OC"P" for Professionalism

- Specialised education, strict moral and ethical codes
- Continuous Self – Improvement
- "Keep in touch" -- UserGroups, Blogs, Email Discussion Lists
- "Share" knowledge and learn as well
- *Attitude*

Work

- Developers, IT Managers, SuperUsers, User Managers
- Inter-Personal Skills
- Visibility at the wrong time ?
- Record your actions, make sure that you can account for your salary
- Configuration Management
- Separation of Duties

Database Reviews and Tuning

- Database Core Concepts
- Execution Plans, SQL Tuning, Optimizer
- Thresholds and Alerts
- "Understand the Behaviour"
- Trends and Projections for Usage

Backup and Recovery

- Distinct from a discussion on "Avaialability"
- RAC
- Streams and Replication (synchronisation)
- DataGuard

Manager's Expectations

- Attitude, Attitude, Attitude
  - Learning, Expanding his role, Mentoring
- Contributions
  - To the Project, to the Business, to the Team
- Calls to the DBAs
  - How useful is he, how does he respond ?
- Cautiousness
- "Understanding the Database"

What does a DBA *not* do ?

- Blame without Factual Evidence
- Rely on google
- Implementation without Testing, Validation and Back-Out Plans
- Avoid reviewing the alert.log and ignore thresholds

Common Mistakes

- Not capturing Metrics
- Not planning for Training and Test Environments
- Not rehearsing key processes – D.R, Backup and Recovery (various scenarios)

Types of DBA positioning

- Operational
- Development
- Consulting
- Outsourced

Conclusion

- A DBA can be a very useful and visible member of the team   OR he might be ignored

- It is very important that the DBA be self-motivated

- The manager must keep track of what the DBA is "doing" ---- an idle mind ….. ?

Thank you !

- Visit my Oracle Blog
- http://hemantoracledba.blogspot.com