# Improving Your DBA Skills The Tools to Get You There

#### **Michael Cunningham**

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#### Who am I?

- Michael Cunningham
  - Software Engineer for 10 years
  - DBA for 13 years
  - Hobbies
    - Sailing
    - Rving
    - Snow Skiing
    - Backpacking
    - Winemaking





## Why Me?

- Why do I think I'm qualified to give this talk?
- Been doing this stuff for 23 years
- I've mentored others
- I've been mentored
- Still passionate about databases, development, learning, etc.

#### Why Do A Talk Like This?

- Questions I see on forums
  - Thrown into this position how can I get up to speed?
  - I'm a new DBA, where should I begin learning?
  - How do I grow my DBA career?
  - How do I become a DBA guru?
- Answers I see on the forums
  - Start with the Oracle Concepts Manual
    - 646 pages
  - User Group meetings
  - Conferences
  - Switch Careers

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- I'm not convinced is a TRUTH
- I'm not claiming to be an expert, but I feel I was lucky
  - Compuserve
  - Articles
  - Book
  - Constant search for improvement

# **Some Ideas**

#### You Have To Start Somewhere

- Where To Begin?
  - We all want to improve our knowledge, but with so many areas where to begin?
- Make a list of topics that interest you
  - Find interesting areas of study by looking at job postings, forums, blogs
  - Prioritize your list
- Ask others what they have been doing

# **Self Study**

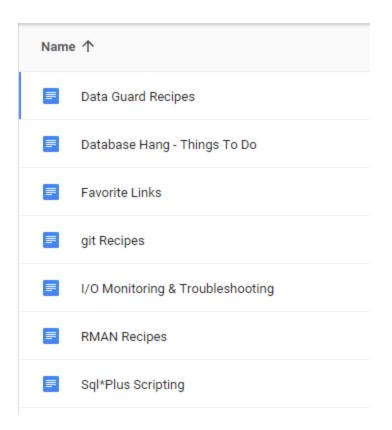
- Build Your Own Curriculum And Classroom For Learning
  - Colleges do this and it's a great idea
- Set goals by writing an outline (like a curriculum)
- Use Oracle docs, blogs, forums to gain knowledge
- Build a virtual environment to practice on
  - (requires good computer/laptop with big RAM)

# **Making The Time For Improvement**

- Find the time that works best for you
  - I had this trouble (morning?, evening?, midnight owl?)
- Practice and ask questions on the forums and lists
  - There is a whole community that loves to help
- Take time off
  - All work and no play isn't fun

## **Organize Yourself**

- Create yourself an online account to keep track of documents, etc.
- Google has great online docs and searching them is very fast
- If you are studying something like cache buffer chains put all the good links into your docs so you can recall them two months from now
- Make your own "recipe" docs while learning



## **Continuing The Knowledge Quest**

- Even though you should rest once in a while, never stop
- Now that you have spent all this energy and effort into something, put it to good use
- Invest the time in maintaining your knowledge

# Where I Go For Learning

- Oracle-L forum
  - A single post led to a week or two of learning and research
- Focused training classroom
- Conferences
  - Meet bloggers you learned from and thank them (don't be shy)
- Download the scripts from blog sites and read through them, test them out, learn the information they are seeking out
- Which Oracle docs I like (my 2 favorites)
  - performance tuning docs
  - configuration docs
  - Which books I like
    - I don't buy as many books now as I used to, but one of my all-time favorites is Tom Kyte Export One-on-One Oracle (first 5 chapters)

# Some Possible Areas of Study

# **Become An Expert At Something And Share**

- SAN storage configuration, tuning, monitoring
- Automatic Storage Management (ASM)
- RMAN backups
- Reading & understanding SQL execution plans
- Oracle Licensing GOOD LUCK!!!
- Implementing Oracle in the cloud
- Application Express (Oracle focused forum)
- RAC
- I, personally, would stay away from high cost "options"
  - Advanced Compression
  - Active Data Guard

# **My Favorite Bloggers**

And

Why?

#### **Performance Tuning & Internals**

- Jonathan Lewis Oracle Scratchpad
  - Blog <a href="https://jonathanlewis.wordpress.com">https://jonathanlewis.wordpress.com</a>
  - Other <a href="http://allthingsoracle.com">http://allthingsoracle.com</a>
- Craig Shallahamer OraPub
  - Blog <a href="http://blog.orapub.com">http://blog.orapub.com</a>
- Tanel Poder
  - Blog <a href="http://blog.tanelpoder.com">http://blog.tanelpoder.com</a>
  - Scripts and tools <a href="http://tech.e2sn.com/oracle-scripts-and-tools">http://tech.e2sn.com/oracle-scripts-and-tools</a>
  - Youtube <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/tanelpodertech">https://www.youtube.com/c/tanelpodertech</a>
- Kyle Hailey
  - Blog <a href="http://datavirtualizer.com">http://datavirtualizer.com</a>
  - Blog <a href="http://blog.delphix.com/kyle">http://blog.delphix.com/kyle</a> Delphix focused

#### How To?

- Tim Hall ORACLE-BASE
  - Blog <a href="https://oracle-base.com/blog">https://oracle-base.com/blog</a>
  - Examples <a href="https://oracle-base.com">https://oracle-base.com</a>

#### **Job Search**

- Looking for a job? Advertise yourself...
  - LinkedIn
  - Monster.com

#### **Highly Recommended - Share Your Knowledge**

- Spend time on the forums
- Write a detailed white paper
- Blog, Writing articles, Speaking
  - Writing about something forces you to learn it even better than you may have otherwise learned it
  - Write for User Group magazine like NoCOUG Journal
  - New features can be a popular thing to write about

#### **Thank You**

#### Please fill out the session evaluation

#### Further questions are welcome:

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#### Blog

www.michaelwcunningham.com

#### Michael Cunningham

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