Improving Your DBA Skills
The Tools to Get You There

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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

The Road To Improvement

- 10,000 hours to become proficient
  - exceptional expertise requires at least 10,000 hours of practice

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- 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

Name ↑

Data Guard Recipes

Database Hang - Things To Do

Favorite Links

git Recipes

I/O Monitoring & Troubleshooting

RMAN Recipes

Sql*Plus Scripting

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 – https://jonathanlewis.wordpress.com
  - Other – http://allthingsoracle.com
- Craig Shallahamer – OraPub
  - Blog – http://blog.orapub.com
- Tanel Poder
  - Blog - http://blog.tanelpoder.com
  - Scripts and tools - http://tech.e2sn.com/oracle-scripts-and-tools
  - Youtube - https://www.youtube.com/c/tanelpodertech
- Kyle Hailey
  - Blog - http://datavirtualizer.com
  - Blog - http://blog.delphix.com/kyle - Delphix focused

How To?

- Tim Hall – ORACLE-BASE
  - Blog - https://oracle-base.com/blog
  - Examples - https://oracle-base.com

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

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Michael Cunningham

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