Dr. Branko Kostic

Personal Details

Nationality : British ,   email : branko_kostic@yahoo.co.uk   contact details : 07764614370

Education/Qualification

Exam/Location	Subject Taken
Ph.D. Loughborough University	Digital Image Processing
M.Sc. Loughborough University	Digital Communications
B.Sc. Salford University	Electronics

Carreer Summary

June 2020 – September 2020 3 month contract	**Canopius** (Insurance)	Oracle DBA Consultant
January 2020 – June 2020 6 month contract	**AmTrust at Lloyds** (Insurance)	Oracle DBA Consultant
April 2019 – January 2020 9 month contract	**Scottish and Southern Electricity** (Energy)	Oracle DBA Consultant
February 2019 – March 2019 2 month contract	**Northdoor Plc** (IT Consultancy)	Oracle DBA Consultant
September 2017 – January 2019 17 month contract	**AmTrust at Lloyds** (Insurance)	Oracle DBA
January 2017 – June 2017 6 month - contract	**PPL** (Music media)	Lead DBA
October 2015 – October 2016 1 year - contract	**Marsh and MacLennan** (**Insurance Broker**)	Oracle DBA/Lead DBA
October 2012 – October 2015 (3 years 1 months contract)	**Channel 4 TV** (Media)	Oracle DBA
May 2011 – September 2012 (18 months contract)	**John Lewis Partnership** (Retail)	Oracle DBA
November 2010 – May 2011 (6 months contract)	**Transport for London** (Transport)	Oracle DBA
August 2010 – October 2010 (3 month contract)	**Gala Coral Group** (Leisure)	Oracle DBA
May 2008 – June 2010 (contract 2 years 3 month)	**Logica CMG** (IT Services)	Senior Oracle DBA
July 2007 – May 2008 (contract 10 months)	**Markit Group** (Financial services)	Principle Oracle DBA
March 2006 – July 2007 (contract 1 year 3 months)	**FUJITSU** (IT services)	Senior Oracle DBA
August 2005 – February 2006 (contract 6 months)	**Gulf International Investment Bank** (Investment bank)	Oracle DBA and UNIX System Administrator
September 1994 – August 2005 (contract – 11 years)	**REUTERS** (Financial services)	Oracle DBA and System Administrator
April 1994 - September 1994 (contract 6 months)	**Hughes Network Systems** (Telecommunications)	Senior Analyst /Programmer
October 1993 - March 1994 (contract 6 months)	**British Gas** (Energy)	Network Manager
September 1993 (contract 1 month)	**Fisons Pharmaceuticals** (Pharmaceuticals)	System Manager
July – August 1993 (contract 2 months)	**British Road Services** (Transport)	System Manager
April 1990 - June 1993 (contract – 4 years)	**Hughes Network Systems** (Telecommunications)	System and Network Manager
March 1989 - March 1990 (contract – 1 year)	**Jaguar Cars** (Automotive)	System Manager

Work Experience

Canopius as Oracle DBA *June 2020 – September 2020*
Following the acquisition of the Insurance Admin Policy system by Canopius from Amtrust, I was hired to oversee the ongoing support and upgrade of their Oracle estate managing Oracle CDC as well Oracle applications/Middleware. I built new OEM server to monitor and manage all Oracle databases. I was involved in Oracle upgrades to version 19, setting new replications using Oracle Goldengate and managing general support. This entails the usual Oracle DBA activities i.e. cloning, patching tuning, monitoring (OEM) , RMAN, oracle Dataguard and testing DR running under Oracle 10g, 11g, 12c and 19 with Redhat Linux (VMware). I also trained other DBA's to manage the existing environments.

AmTrust of Lloyds as Oracle DBA *January 2020 – June 2020*
I was brought back to the company to migrate approximately 20 Oracle databases from AmTrust to Canopius. Canopius is the third largest Lloyds Insurance Syndicate. My knowledge of the databases and the Insurance Framework Policy administration application was invaluable to the success of this project. I was the only Oracle DBA assigned on the migration project. I migrated Oracle, Oracle applications/Middleware and associated support tools. I developed new database backup/recovery (RMAN) procedures for Canopius and trained their staff to manage the new environment. These are the first Oracle production and development databases installed and configured at Canopius. This entailed the usual Oracle DBA activities i.e. cloning, patching tuning, monitoring (OEM) , RMAN, oracle Dataguard and testing DR running under Oracle 10g, 11g and 12c with Redhat Linux (VMware).

SSE Plc Oracle DBA *April 2019 – January 2020*
I was part of a large DBA team providing development and production support to a very large Oracle estate (over 1000 databases) running on IBM – AIX servers, Azure – RedHat Linux and V-Sphere VMWare. I managed a number of Oracle 12c RAC installations with 2, 4 and 6 node stretched clusters. I also configured and managed Oracle Goldengate versions 12 and 18. I performed a number Oracle patch updates to ensure they comply with security requirements. Database and server security was at a very high level on this site. Use of Oracle Dataguard was configured on all Oracle single server instances with a mixture of MaxProtection and MaxAvailability configurations. I was part of the project to automate the installation of Oracle 19c and SOA which was successfully completed. I used OEM 12c for performance monitoring and tuning.

Northdoor Plc Oracle DBA consultant *February 2019 – March 2019*
This was a consultancy role for a managed service company. I provided specialist Oracle support for a number of different insurance organisations eg. Ellipse, AIG and |Generali. The work included Oracle 12c upgrades and migration(from windows to Linux), patching, monitoring and general database management. I was also engaged in a number of pre-sales support activities using Oracle Goldengate, Oracle RAC 12c and DR.

AmTrust of Lloyds as Oracle DBA *September 2017 – January 2019*
I replaced the existing oracle DBA's to take full responsibility for all their Oracle databases. I was given a 4 day handover from the outgoing Oracle DBA. This is a production and development site with the usual Oracle DBA activities i.e. cloning, patching tuning, monitoring (OEM) , RMAN, oracle Dataguard and testing DR running under Oracle 10g, 11g and 12c with Redhat Linux (VMware). I was responsible for Oracle backups and restores using Symantec's Back Exec solution. As the only Oracle DBA I automated a lot of my work activities with extensive Unix scripts that I developed on-site. I worked with the development team to project manage and assist in their database migration from Oracle 10g to 12c. I installed and configured OEM 13c. I managed their Oracle streams (CDC) installation and configuration. I performed a proof of concept exercise to move Oracle streams functionality to Oracle Goldengate. I was also the RedHat Linux (version 5 and 7.4) system administrator for the company.

Being part of the SQLserver team I also managed SQLserver 2012/2016 databases, administration, creation of new SQLserver databases as well as backup and restores. I provided extensive Oracle DBA training to the SQLserver team over a period of a few months. This is a challenging multifunctional role.

PPL as Lead DBA *January 2017 – June 2017*
I was the Lead DBA managing a team supporting SQL servers, Oracle and Postgress databases. The majority of the work relates to Oracle 11g, 12c with Oracle clusters, Oracle Webservers, Oracle Portals running on third party sites provided by Rackspace and AWS RDS, AWS RC2. I performed Oracle database upgrades, patching and resolved a serious monthly crash on their Oracle RAC server. I was responsible for the Oracle Warehouse builder upgrade and configuration. The company is migrating from Oracle databases to SQL servers and Postgress databases with a view to reducing their support costs. The migration is to AWS and cloud computing. The majority of SQL servers are 2012 running databases from 500Gb to 7Tb, There is extensive use of Informatica ETL process that the team supports. The DBA team provides monitoring(OEM grid 12c and TOAD) , SQL tuning, backups and restores for the production and development environments. The environments are using Windows servers as well as Red Hat Linux. A large amount of data was processed by the DBA team on a daily basis, some of which uses Informatica ETL with the rest done by Unix scripting and SQL Powershell. Use of new technologies like Elastic Search, Git, Jira, Confluence, Logstash from AWS and RDS is used across the company.

Marsh and MacLennan as Oracle DBA *October 2015 – October 2016*

I was part of a global shared service DBA team providing live and development support 24/7. The database environment consists of Oracle 8, 9, 10 , 11gR2 and Oracle 12c running under RedHat Linux 6 (OVM) , a few HP-UX servers and Windows. I was appointed Lead DBA for Europe , Middle East and Asia. I managed a team of approx. 20 Oracle and SQL server DBA's. Due to the requirement of high availability and data quality the database estate comprised of Oracle RAC 10g, 11g, 12c and a large number of SQL servers. I was the DBA tasked to perform audit and security remediation on all Oracle databases to comply with security regulations. Working with the data architect team I performed Oracle 11g-RAC and 12c-RAC installations , upgrades and configuration. I resolved some major Oracle dataguard replication issues in the live environment. I was involved in DR testing and general RMAN backup/restore (with Netbackup) . I performed database upgrades from Oracle version 10 to Oracle version 11R2 and 12c. I migrated all Oracle 8i databases to Oracle 11g or Oracle 12c. As a result of this extensive work the company no longer has any Oracle 8i databases. Extensive use of OEM 12c for tuning and performance analysis together with Foglight. This was a challenging and rewarding role managing an offshore team of Oracle and SQL DBA's.

Channel 4 TV as Oracle DBA *October 2012 – October 2015*

I was part of a small but, very efficient and proactive, DBA team providing live support as well development support. The site has approximately 100 servers split between production and development. The databases mainly consist of **Oracle 11gR2** and **Oracle 12c** running under Solaris 10/11 as well as RedHat Linux 6 (database sizes from 500Gb to 6Tb). I performed Oracle 11g and 12c database installations as well as upgrades and Oracle patching. I installed/configured **OEM Cloud Control 12c, Weblogic** and was responsible for migrating **OEM grid control 11g to 12c**. Installed and upgraded APEX. General daily activities involved performance tuning (**AWR**), **RMAN** backups, database cloning (as well as using cloning with **Oracle data masking**), live/development support and **Oracle dataguard** management. Oracle advanced queueing is used extensively at this site. I configured Oracle streams for table replication under Oracle 11g. As Oracle streams is no longer supported under Oracle 12c, I installed and configured **Oracle Goldengate**. Initially installed/configured Goldengate version **11g** and then version **12c**. Following this I migrated **Oracle CDC** to Oracle Goldengate. I have extensive knowledge and experience with Oracle Goldengate replication.

I was a key member tasked with a major database migration to a new data centre. To this end I trained other staff on Oracle dataguard replication and switchover. This was a highly successful data migration project.

Installed and configured **Oracle Audit Vault 12c** on all production servers. Configured **Oracle TDE** (transparent data encryption) on all live servers. Managed the Oracle Internet Directory for the company. Participated in DR testing and provided out of hours support. Completed a major datacentre migration project. Extensive use of Unix scripting with Perl and Korn shell.

I was initially tasked to test the proof of concept for using Delphix database virtualization. I installed and configured Delphix database virtualization at Channel 4. The product was a huge success at Channel 4. I provided training sessions for other staff in using Delphix. Channel 4 now use Delphix extensively at their site. While developing Delphix database virtualization at Channel 4 I gained extensive experience on this fantastic product.

Knowledge and use of NetApp product for Oracle restores, cloning and backups.

John Lewis Partnership as Oracle DBA *May2011 – September 2012*

This is a production/development site with over 200 servers running Oracle 10g,11gR2 and RAC (with ASM) , Grid Control 10g,11gR2 on IBM servers and AIX (version 6.1 and 7.1). The nature of the business requires high availability servers running 24/7. I was involved in Oracle 11gR2 (11.2.0.3) RAC installations and upgrades. I provided general DBA support, database upgrades, oracle patching, RMAN, tuning (AWR) and management using OEM Grid Control 10g and 11gR2. This environment makes extensive use of Oracle Dataguard technology and I managed and configured this as well.

I initially worked on a project using Oracle 11gR2 RAC where I implemented CDC with Oracle Streams. This also involved developing specific oracle stored procedures for replicated tables. It was my responsibility to provide a DR, FSFO, FCF, dataguard solution before handing over to the production DBA team.

I was the primary contact for securing Oracle databases as required by the credit card companies commonly known as PCI Security Standards for on-line payment transactions. This is a payment protection security industry standard required by the banks.

I was also required to provide second line support for the Oracle DBA team.

Transport for London as Oracle DBA (**IVC security clearance**) *November 2010 – May2011*

My Oracle DBA role was split between production support (50%) as well as development/project support (50%). Support was provided across Oracle 8, 9i, 10g as well as 11gR2 and RAC-11gR2 (with ASM) on Linux, Solaris and Windows servers. I was responsible for implementing Oracle 11g Grid Control, Oracle fusion across development and production servers. Oracle 11g Grid control was used for monitoring, tuning, cloning, RMAN backup scheduling and Oracle patch upgrades. It was my responsibility to train other DBA's on Oracle 11g Grid control.

My project support activities provided for installation/configuration and management of Oracle Warehouse builder 11gR2 and Oracle 11gR2 RAC (RMAN, Datagurad). I upgraded a number of Oracle 8 databases to Oracle 11gR2.

Remedy was used for production incident management and meeting SLA's across a multi platform environment of approx. 200 oracle database servers.

Gala Coral Group as Oracle DBA *August 2010- October 2010*

This was a DBA role to install/configure a number of **Oracle 11g R2 RAC** (with ASM) and perform database upgrades under **Red Hat Linux 5** and **AIX** with **IBM P-series** hardware. I was the only Oracle DBA in the engineering department assigned for Oracle 11gR2 installation and upgrade used on the production servers (RMAN, Dataguard configuration) . During this period I was also responsible for the migration of a **MS SQL-server** database to **Oracle 11g R2 RAC**. I installed and configured **Oracle Application server 10iAS (10.1)** used by **BI, DW, SIEBEL** and **Informatica** for the companies CRM program. This was a fast paced, high transaction environment and despite my short stay a large amount of Oracle database work was completed (used **OEM** and **TOAD**).

Logica Plc as Senior Oracle DBA **(security clearance to SC level)** *May 2008- June 2010*

I was responsible for the migration and upgrade of the largest project at Logica based at the Ministry of Justice. This was a high availability mission critical server used by the Magistrates courts across the UK, supporting up to 20,000 on-line users on a daily basis. This involved installation, configuration and tuning of **Oracle 10g RAC's** (with **ASM**) running on Sun 4600 servers (**RedHat Linux 4**). I was responsible for all DBA work on this project including installation/configuration of **OAS servers**, DR RAC servers (**Oracle dataguard**) , **RMAN** backup, restores and documentation. Extensive use of Unix shell scripting and SQL scripting was used during the migration/upgrade of the databases. During this project I redesigned the MIS and ETL processes and introduced **Oracle Streams**. Post live implementation I was involved with production database support (**OEM, 10g Grid Control**), management of **Oracle streams** as well as **Oracle CDC** (change data capture). Performance tuning using **AWR, STATSPACK, ADDM** and **ASH**, application redesign of using Oracle Advance queuing, tablespace restructuring and table **partitioning**.

I was the main source of reference for Oracle RAC and dataguard (Solaris and Windows servers). I trained other DBA's and built similar Oracle-RAC infrastructures for other projects at Logica including **Oracle 11g RAC**.

Markit Group as Principle Oracle DBA – *July 2007 – May 2008*

Markit provides financial instrument pricing data, dividend forecasting and capital market research services to the global financial market to enhance trading operations. I was the principal Oracle DBA for the company providing support in a **9i, 10g R1** and **R2 RAC** environment running on **RedHat Linux 4** servers with **OCR/OCFS/ASM** as well as on **SUN-Solaris.** This is a global environment spanning multiple datacenters in the US and Amsterdam. Extensive use of **Dataguard** was made to enable a multisite DR configuration. The databases are high OLTP servers with 500 transactions per second. Large data warehouseing servers were used to store archived information. I was responsible for the day to day DBA activity as well as performance analysis, database tuning, SQL tuning, trouble shooting, Oracle patching and database upgrades to version **10.2.0.3** (RAC and non-RAC).

I was involved in detailed SQL tuning analysis (adding indexes, hints or improving table statistics) to speed up user queries and critical customer reports. These analysis required in-depth knowledge of Oracle Cost Based Optimizer (CBO). Although I wrote bespoke SQL procedures I also made use of **OEM** , **10g Grid control, RMAN** as part of the standard DBA toolset.

FUJITSU as Senior Oracle DBA **(security clearance to SC level** *) – March 2006 – July 2007*

I was part of the Oracle production support team consisting of 12 staff providing cover on a rota 24/7. The databases were used for storing NHS patient records and X-Ray images. The group was responsible for managing all the servers for the NHS trusts in southern England (Cerner Millenium project). The

architecture used was **Oracle 9i RAC** and **10g R1 RAC** on **Sun-solaris** (version 10), **Compaq-ULTRIX** and **IBM-AIX** clusters (P595 series, version 5.3) with EMC-SAN storage devices. These were large databases due to online patient data being kept for 25 years. Historic information was held on data warehousing servers. The systems necessitate good management, tuning and analysis skills, robust disaster recovery implementation, backup and monitoring procedures. Daily activities consist of checking database backups (using **RMAN**), DR sites, monitoring Oracle database performance, tuning and reporting. I installed and configured a large number of Oracle 10G RAC databases on IBM-AIX clustered systems and configured **Dataguard** replication servers.

August 2005 – January 2006

Gulf International Investment Bank as Oracle DBA and UNIX System Administrator

DBA for Oracle **8i**, **9i** on **Sun-Clusters** and **Veritas-Clusters**. My responsibilities extended to numerous Oracle servers residing on various UNIX as well as Windows server. The databases were used for Securities, Credit Risk Assessment, General Ledger and storing datafeeds from Bloomberg and Reuters. This being mainly a production environment a lot of emphasis was placed on database monitoring, tuning, backups and disaster recovery. I installed and configured the Oracle **10g R2** servers for application testing. In addition I provided limited support for the **PeopleSoft** 8.4, **SYBASE** 11.9 production databases. The usual fleet of software tools was used in the day to day management of the databases eg. **Vertias NetBackup** (version 4.5 & 5.1), **Oracle Enterprise Manager**, **Embarcadero DB Artisan**, **PL/SQL**, **SQL*NET**. There was a lot of UNIX and SQL scripting required to aid a large number of database instances. Day to day activities included database restores, cloning and renaming of instances for testing purposes. Configured and maintained DR servers using the standby Oracle replication feature.

System administration of SUN servers under **Solaris - version 6,8,9,10** with Veritas software, for the E450, Sun-Fire 880,280 servers. **EMC SAN** storage arrays with **Powerpath** was the default configuration at this bank.

Reuters as Oracle DBA and System Administrator – *September 1994 – August 2005*

DBA for Oracle **8i**, **9i**, **OPS** version **8i** and **9i RAC** with **Sun-Clusters/Veritas** file system. My responsibilities extended to numerous Oracle servers (clustered and single servers) residing on various SUN-systems. This included analysis and tuning of production and development Oracle servers (front end and back end servers). These databases maintain all static data concerning all financial instruments quoted on the world's stock exchanges. The data is combined with all the real-time feeds from the stock exchanges to supply data to users of 3000 Xtra – Reuters' flagship product for traders and other financial professionals with many thousands of installations worldwide. During my almost 11 years at Reuters I provided DBA support and System support to a large number of development groups. Below is a summarised list of my activities :

- Day-to-day DBA activities include instance creation, cloning, backups and recovery (**RMAN**). Installed and managed **Oracle 9iAS** (**Application Server**, **Forms 6i, Discoverer, Apache, Business Objects**). Use of Windows NT/2000 based tools for **Oracle Enterprise Manager**, **PL/SQL**, **SQL*NET**, **TOAD, FOGLIGHT** and **SQL Navigator**.
- Implementation of Business continuity Oracle database **replication** using **EMC-SAN** technology (as an upgrade from using **Data Guard**).
- Installed **Oracle 10g** (with **Solaris 9**) and worked on a migration plan from **Oracle 9i** to **Oracle 10g.**
- **Trained** other **Oracle DBA's** and operations staff to manage Oracle 8i OPS, 9i RAC and Sun-clusters.

- System administration of standalone SUN servers (**Jumpstart and NIS**) and **Sun-Cluster** systems version 2.2 ,3.0 and 3.1 under **Solaris - version 8** with **Veritas** software, for the E450 and Sun-Fire 3800/6800 servers.
- Reuters is a **CMM level 2** organisation so strict software quality assurance program is followed during any Oracle/OS installations or patch/upgrades. Used **Siebel** for problem reporting.
- Installation and configuration of SUN servers. Configuration of **TIVOLI**, **BMC** Patrol and **MAESTRO** products.
- UNIX scripting with **korn/bourne** shell.
- Network management of **TCP/IP** on **CISCO** routers, Sun servers, Sun-clusters and HP VMS-cluster systems. Implementation of Reuters network security policies.

Other Activities at Reuters :
- Oracle **database upgrades** from version 7.3, 8.0.5, 8.1.7.4, 9.2.0.5 to 9.2.0.6 as well as intermediate Oracle patches.
- Porting of Oracle Parallel server from HP-VMS to UNIX Sun-Clutsers.
- Porting of Oracle Parallel server from VAX-VMS to Alpha-VMS, application software and DBA work.
- Porting of Ingres to Oracle Parallel server under HP-VMS, application software and Ingres DBA work.
- Upgrade from Sun-cluster (E450) version 2.2 to Sun-cluster 3.0 and 3.1 (Sun-Fire 3800) with Oracle Parallel Server 8i and Oracle 9i RAC.
- Completed Sun-UNIX administration course I and II as well as Sun-cluster 2.2 and 3.0 courses.
- Management of DECNET (phase IV and Phase V) as well as X.25.
- Migration of DECNET - phase IV, to DECNET - phase V.

Hughes Network Systems as Senior Analyst /Programmer – *April 1994 – September 1994*

The work was based on the Inmarsat-C satellite communication systems. My role involved system analysis, development, testing, integration, customer support and acceptance testing for the Inmarsat-C product.

British Gas HQ as Network Manager – *October 1993 – March 1994*

Network management of DEC/SNA Gateways, the introduction and management of multiprotocol routers (Decnet Phase V) to support Decnet, OSI and TCP/IP. I was my responsible to plan, reorganise and implement the complete move to the use of Decnet and TCP/IP.

Fisons Pharmaceutical as System Manager. (consultant on behalf of DEC) – *September 1993*

System Management of large Vaxclusters (VAX 7000 and 6000 series) as well as to Network Management.

BRS as System Manager - (consultant on behalf of DEC) – *July 1993 – August 1993*

Apart from the general VAX system/cluster management duties my main responsibilities involved tuning, performance analysis and capacity planning of all networked PC's.

Hughes Network Systems as Systems Manager – *April 1990 – June 1993*

System management of Vax Clusters as well as network management using Decnet, X.25 and X400 protocols. Network responsibilities extend to the management of Hughes private packet switched networks.

Jaguar Cars as Systems Manager – *March 1989 – March 1990*

System management of VAX 750/8250, MicroVAX II, system audit, tuning as well as network management duties.

Technical Software Designers Ltd. as Software Consultant – *October 1987 – March 1989*

Software development at customer's site for Plessey Telecommunications and Haden Automation.

Haden Automation Ltd. as Senior Systems Analyst – *May 1986 – October 1987*

Provided specialist technical support for all projects within the company, developing comms packages, training, costing and tendering for new business in support of the sales staff.

Davy McKee as Assistant Systems Engineer – *July 1985 – May 1986*

Software development, object oriented design with embedded software as well as training other staff.