STEVE JONES, DBA, BRIMSTONE ADVANTAGE LTD.

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Profile

A competent Database Administrator of Microsoft SQL Server for over 15 years, I have proven skills in data migration, query optimisation, configuration and T-SQL development. I have excellent communication skills and have worked with small to large companies over my time in the IT industry. I specialise in data migrations from many platforms to Microsoft SQL Server; I can also assist with data transfer into other platforms such as PostgreSQL and MySQL. I have experience in Azure solutions, particularly SQL Server on Azure Virtual Machines and also the Azure SQL Database stack.

Case Studies

DBA, CGA, Midlands — Contract term: 2018–Present

I provide DBA support services to a food and drink marketing analysis company, administering their many SQL servers running in Azure. As part of my time there, I recently performed a server migration to downgrade their SQL Server edition from Enterprise to Standard edition. For those who have performed these activities, they will know that this involves a complete lift and shift of the data onto a new virtual machine (as their infrastructure dictates) alongside ensuring all software and drivers are also installed. This migration employed multiple DBA methods including backup and restore from Azure blob storage, Powershell and the dbatools toolkit (www.dbatools.io) and standard T-SQL scripting methods to migrate the 300+ databases over to the new VM with minimum disruption to the business. This project meant an overall saving of £3K+ per month to the business as a result.

Data Architect, Oldham Borough Council — Contract Term: 2016-2018

Oldham Borough Council engaged with Brimstone in June 2016 following a successful tender bid by Brimstone to provide data consultancy and support for their Troubled Families project. This involved understanding their existing landscape and providing solutions to join up their disparate data sets to provide a holistic view of families and individual service usage in Oldham. This insight is then used to drive service investment in the area.

The main aspect of this work was to consolidate multiple data sources into one SQL Server database, optimised for the workloads demanded of it. This SQL database then became the focus of a matching engine to join up the many data sources to provide a holistic view of the various touch points a person or family had had with the services in the borough. For more information please read the detailed case study here: http://www.brimstone.it/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/OMBC-Brimstone-Case-Study.pdf

Infrastructure and Data Manager — Elephant Kiosks - 2013 - Present
Brimstone has been working with Elephant Kiosks since 2013 managing and developing their IT platform and infrastructure alongside performing DBA duties relating to their health survey data platforms. One such project involved developing stored procedures in MySQL to automate a lengthy manual process which was costing the company many man hours in labour a month. These stored procedures were developed to simulate the manual process of calculating survey response data and provide a weighted measure to the survey responses. In order to do this, Brimstone had to reverse engineer the front end survey interface using a combination of the user forms compared to the back end data tables.

Elephant Kiosks have provided the following testimonial:

"Elephant Kiosks engaged Brimstone to work on streamlining our company's data load processes for our electronic survey systems. Brimstone have achieved everything we asked, to budget and to deadline.

Their expert knowledge has helped streamline our data management processes, saving us time and money while improving the security and resilience of our system.

In doing so, Brimstone have also provided huge added value by looking horizontally across our organisation and making recommendations for our operational and product development strategy moving forward."

Education
UMIST, Manchester — MSC. Numerical Analysis with Computing (Pass) - 1995
University of Central Lancashire, Preston - BSc. Hons. Mathematics (2:1) 1991 -1994

References
For Oldham Council - Nicola White, BIS nicola.white@oldham.gov.uk

For Elephant Kiosks - Annette Walker, Director annette@elephantkiosks.co.uk

For professional recommendations, please see https://www.linkedin.com/in/brimstoneit/

Further Information
Please contact Steve Jones at Brimstone on steve@brimstone.it or by telephone on 07905 344970.