Stephen King

IT-4300

Dr. Nielson

Interview with Mr. Todd Crum DBA & OCP

**What lead you to a career in database administration?**

After six years in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Crum pursued a Computer Science degree. Through his classes in college Mr. Crum found his database design classes to be most interesting. This lead him to start completing a Oracle Professional Certification (OPC), which ultimately lead him to multiple Data Base Administration (DBA) positions. He is currently the DBA for Dixie State University.

**Are you a part of the decision making process for the school’s hardware?**

The hardware is mainly dependent on what applications are being used. Dixie State uses Banner which “sits on” Oracle which “sits on” the database. This makes the applications dictate what type of hardware has to be used. Certain versions of Banner only work with certain types of hardware; the same for Oracle. This specifies the hardware requirements.

**Besides being fluent in Oracle, what other areas does a DBA need to be well versed?**

Since most servers use a Linux distribution knowing how to navigate the Linux command line is a must. To be able to automate tasks and make life a whole lot easier a good grasp on bash scripting is essential.

**Do you use other database professionals or other sources for help on projects?**

Mainly other school’s DBA’s since they are all similarly constructed. Other than that, Google.

**How often do you use Google?**

Every day.

**What’s the best path to become a DBA?**

Oracle certifications are the main way to get into the field. Other than that Microsoft holds their own certifications.