Russell Candfield

Oracle Database Administrator

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Highly experienced and extremely conscientious Database Administrator with over 40 years in the IT industry, starting out as a developer and quickly transitioning into database technologies. I have provided expertise to a number of global companies, mainly in the fast-paced, highly-pressured financial arena, covering all aspects of Database Administration from Logical/Physical Database Design, RDBMS Software Installations, Patching, DB Configuration, Data Migrations & Upgrades, Replication, Monitoring, Performance & Tuning, Disaster Recovery, SQL Coding, Security, Automation and Orchestration tools.

My passion is to work on Oracle Database technologies like RAC, Dataguard, ASM and Exadata platforms, along with Oracle Enterprise Manager for estate monitoring. My future direction is towards Oracle Cloud Infrastructure and have completed the foundational courses. I'm now studying for database-related exams. I have a keen interest in the DevOps approach to work and related technologies, along with a new interest in Apex Development using ORDS and RESTful services.

Along with the more recent positions covered here, I have performed many complex assignments for these well-known financial institutions; American Express Bank, Fidelity, European Investment Bank, BNP Paribas, J.P. Morgan, Credit Suisse, Commerzbank, Barclays Capital, Royal Bank of Scotland, Lehman Brothers & Mitsubishi Bank.

Self-motivated, autonomous, conscientious, with a keen eye for detail, but also valuing team collaboration. Not afraid to take ownership of projects and carry out the necessary research and self-tuition to deliver robust solutions. A determined positive attitude to persevere when challenges present themselves and an inquisitive mind that seeks to understand the issues and instill best practices.

SKILLS

Database Management, Project Planning, Multitasking, Communications, Documentation, Problem Solving, Troubleshooting

Oracle Software: RDBMS versions 9i to 19c, Grid Infrastructure, RAC, RMAN, Dataguard - Active & Snapshot Standbys and Data Guard Broker, ASM, Exadata (X8M & X6), Flashback, APEX, ORDS, REST, WebLogic, OEM & AOM, Fleet Maintenance, AWR, ASH, ADDM, OCI, Autonomous Database, SQL Plan Management, SQL Tuning Advisor, ZFS

Oracle Utilities: expdp & impdp, sqlplus, sqlcl, orapki, keytool, sqlldr, cellcli & dcli, srvctl, crsctl, emcli & emctl

DevOps Tools: Agile, Ansible, GitHub, GitLab, JIRA

Languages: Bash, Korn, SQL, PL/SQL

Hobbies: Yoga, Meditation, Golf

Other DBMSes: MySQL with Heatwave, SQL Server, Sybase, DB2

Allianz Tech UK
Bournemouth, England, UK • 07/2018 - 08/2023

IT ENGINEER - ORACLE DBA
Full-time

- Responsible for the support and maintenance of 50+ RAC databases deployed on Exadata machines running the company's mission critical insurance systems, and supporting the DR Dataguard solutions. Knowledge required on how to manage the storage and compute nodes and how to use ILOM. Involved in migration from X6 machines running VM across to X8-Ms, using Data Guard physical standbys then switching over. Set up new ZFS appliance for faster backups and wrote enhancements to RMAN scripts for level 0 and level 1 incrementals using catalog global scripts and Autosys scripts. Responsible for maintaining oracle wallets and certificate renewals.

- Responsible for the 19c Upgrade program which involved working with Unix SAs to engineer the best Puppet configuration and Ansible playbooks. Deployed binaries using gold image, installed databases with DBCA templates, set up regular patching programme using Fleet Maintenance GUI and emcli commands. Performed several complex migrations across to 19c and in-place upgrades using autoupgrade utility. Converted all the refresh operations so that data pump was used instead of cloning database filesystems. Set up ORDS on Weblogic and installed/patched APEX when required. Set up the RESTful endpoints for certain applications.

- Became the SME for Oracle Enterprise Manager for the on-premise instances of 12c (legacy systems) and 13c (NextGen) monitoring systems. Designed and installed new OEM 13.5 environments which involved 2 OMS nodes with F5 load-balancing and Always-On Monitoring. Completed OEM upgrade from 13.2 to 13.4 liaising with Oracle PUMA team. As legacy databases were upgraded to 19c, then targets had to be set up in another OEM environment running 13.5. Very comfortable using emcli & emctl, installing agents, building patch plans, creating agent gold images, accessing Weblogic under OEM. Learned how to patch OEM 13.5 using Rapid Platform Update. Installed the Fleet Maintenance option to deploy new 19c gold images and patch to latest Release Update levels.

- Developed Ansible playbooks with no prior knowledge to patch the entire Oracle Database estate faster than traditional methods - patched 300+ databases. The estate had not been patched for over 3 years and I took it on board to roll out a program of patching.

- Performed on-call to support all the Oracle environments - deploying out-of-hours planned changes that involved a DBA and planning for rollback.

- Projects managed with JIRA tool based on Agile methodology, and changes followed the established ITIL using Service Now

- Raised 100+ requests over the 5 years with Oracle Tech Support which required persistence to achieve resolutions.

Barclays
Knutsford, Cheshire • 10/2017 - 06/2018

Oracle DBA
Full-time

- Carried out large-scale Oracle security remediation on 300+ systems. The work involved planning, co-ordinating and executing the required changes using in-house tools. Required a good understanding of database security along with the ITIL Processes using Service Now, to raise change requests for Unix Security to set up Powerbroker policies, coupled with updating SQL Server tables and advanced features of Excel.

- Developed shell scripts for RAC related services, and volunteered for any task that made use of my RAC and Dataguard skills

Boeing Defence UK Ltd

Bristol • 04/2016 - 06/2017

Senior Oracle DBA - Team Lead

Full-time

- Responsible for the support of the Oracle estate running RAC and single instance databases with Dataguard as the DR solution for critical systems on Red Hat and HP-UX platforms. Elected to be the team leader, which required managing a team of 8 DBAs across 2 sites and became a mentor for junior DBAs.

- Completed impact assessments, advised solutions, and assigned resources to projects. Planned and resourced all the DBA requirements for an important Defence Warehouse system upgrade and played an active role in carrying out these tasks over the weekend that required overnight activities - identified poor performing SQL with the Oracle tools.

- Tasked with researching new features of 12c OMS Monitoring - deployed the use of Admin Groups and Monitoring Templates to replace the daily manual checks, with automated monitoring of backups using Metric Extensions - used emcli for bulk updates - set up incident rules to forward traps to Enterprise Monitoring; installed 12c agents onto Linux and Windows, and fully documented this process. Resulted in freeing up DBA resources which led to 100k cost savings.

- Implemented a RAC Dataguard 11g solution using RMAN Active Database duplication.

Credit Suisse Ltd

London • 03/2015 - 12/2016

Oracle DBA (Contract)

Full-time

- Responsible for the migration of EOL Oracle 10G databases or deployment of any new projects onto RH6 Linux platforms running 11G, RAC, ASM and Dataguard environments, delivering under high pressure deadlines

- Extensive use of Data Pump utility; ASM disk group maintenance; resolving any performance issues in testing, conducting DR tests using Dataguard, before handing over to BAU support team

- One project required conversion of non-partitioned tables to partitioned. Developed the PL/SQL to perform the exchange and splitting of the tables, which resulted in massive reduction in data load times and improved query performance

Toyota Financial Services

Banstead, Surrey • 04/2014 - 01/2015

Lead Oracle Dba

- Planned and performed upgrade of CMS Sopra system to 11GR2 using DBUA manual method.

- Introduced FRA and differential backup solutions to improve backup run times and avoid Netbackup contention that was impacting the overnight batch runs. Introduced SQL Plan Management to avoid plan regressions. Simplified the duplicate database RMAN refreshes from Prod to UAT.

- Other miscellaneous tasks included; RMAN backups, expdp/impdp jobs, database refreshes, analysing problem sql with SQLTXPLAIN, migrating APEX applications, raising Oracle support requests, on-site Powerdowns, and code releases

HSBC Private Banking

Geneva, Switzerland • 05/2013 - 04/2014

IT ENGINEER - DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

Full-time

- Supported the infrastructure of a DB2 Data Warehouse, and to troubleshoot any bugs with the complex suite of Korn shell scripts that controlled the deployment of code, and the shrinking of a 4TB database to 400GB with scrambling and anonymization

- Transferred to the DBA team and performed deployments, fault diagnosis, and database refreshes for Oracle, Sybase and DB2 systems

IBM Switzerland

SYBASE and DB2 DBA (Contract)

Full-time

- Responsible for the support of the Banque Cantonal de Vaud in Lausanne. DB2 installations and fixpack rollouts, database builds, TSM backups and audit jobs.
- Provided Sybase & Oracle DBA Support for space & performance issues, and carried out any patching requirements

EDUCATION

HNC in Computer Studies

Thames Valley University

Slough, UK • 09/1988 - 06/1990

CERTIFICATIONS

Oracle Cloud Data Management 2023 - Certified Foundations Associate

Oracle

Oracle Cloud Infrastructure 2023 - Certified Foundations Associate

Oracle

Oracle Certified Professional 11G

Oracle

Oracle Certified Professional 10G

Oracle

PROJECTS

Openlink Migration

08/2008 - 08/2009

Barclays Capital

Played a key role on a migration and upgrade of a Commodities system from Sybase to Oracle. I was hired halfway through the project timeline and was presented with a number of challenges, primarily the migration of the data taking over 37 hours and not completing. So I set about recoding the solution to execute transfers of the table data in parallel using Korn shell scripts and functions which resulted in a run time of 2 hours (250GB). I also introduced RMAN technology in order to clone and duplicate database more easily and automated the process so that databases could be refreshed overnight rather than manually during the morning. I introduced Oracle's flashback technology too to revert changes after batch executions.