

How *Not* To Be A DBA – Top 20 Mistakes



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Backup and Recovery



How *Not* To Be A DBA – Top 20 Mistakes

- Don't bother backing up your database, after all, your disks are RAID 5 anyway
- You're backing up the database nightly, don't bother with exporting data as well
- Never test recovery procedures -- you don't want to take the production system away from the users

Are you SURE the backups are good?



Monitoring/Tuning



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- Monitoring is unnecessary, your users will let you know about problems
- Only use cache hit ratios instead of wait events to monitor performance
- Always increase your shared pool when performance is not optimal

When's the last time you analyzed your tables?



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Database Standards



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- Don't change any Oracle-supplied defaults
 - ✓ Tablespace storage (pctincrease, initial extent, next extent)
 - ✓ Init.ora parameters
 - ✓ Passwords on the Oracle-supplied accounts

- Recreate tables as soon as they have more than 5 extents

- Index every column in every table just in case

We don't need no stinkin' standards!



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- Fix space problems by turning autoextend on every datafile in every tablespace
- Don't analyze tables or generate statistics, Oracle's optimizer will figure out the best path without them
- Grant everyone connect, resource and dba and leave their default and temporary tablespaces as SYSTEM
- To retrieve space from a tablespace, just drop the datafile and delete the file from disk

Tested recovery lately?



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User/Developer Standards



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- Only have one user account in the database for everyone to use
- Implement critical fixes to production without testing
- Don't keep a source code repository - what's in `dev.<app_schema>.user_source` is current

Maybe you should do a weekly export, just in case?



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- Give the developers unrestricted access to the production database
 - ✓ Allow the programmers to design all tables, after all, they know the application needs
 - ✓ Let the programmers code business rules and referential integrity into the application code rather than into triggers and/or constraints on the tables
 - ✓ allow developers to directly modify production tables and data

*You *do* have a backup and recovery plan, don't you?*



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General Practices



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- Assume every environment/database/application has the same set of code
- Don't script anything and don't save or document what you've done, you'll never do it again anyway
- When new releases come out:
 - ✓ always upgrade immediately and use ALL the new features in each release. Since Oracle provides them, you must really need them.
 - ✓ do upgrades in place -- there won't be any problems, bugs or "undocumented features"
 - ✓ never read the release notes before installing

It's 10PM, do you know where your backups are?



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Information Sources



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- **technet.oracle.com**
Online source for documentation, product downloads, discussion forums
- **www.oracle.com/support**
MetaLink – patches, technical forums, bug database, iTARs, platform-specific documentation, white papers
- **<http://www.oracle.com/education/oln/index.html>**
Online Oracle education – recorded presentations
- **Newsgroups/Email Lists**
 - ✓ comp.databases.oracle.server
 - ✓ ORACLE-L email list
 - ✓ www.lazydba.com



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Questions???



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