

Presented by
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What You Should Do/Know as the New SQL Server DBA

Overview

- Knowing Your Role
- Understanding your Environment
- Continued Learning
- Quick Wins
- Making Friends
- Document, Document, Document

Knowing Your Role

What is a DBA anyway?

- Administrative/Operational
- Development/Logical
- Architect/Data Modeler
- Data Warehouse/BI
- OLAP
- Application

Knowing Your Role

- **Administrative/Operational**
 - Maintains the server
 - Backups and Restores
 - Security
 - Replication
 - High Availability
 - Capacity planning
 - Monitors performance and scheduled jobs
 - Things that concern the actual server software

Knowing Your Role

- **Development/Logical**
 - Builds queries
 - Writes stored procedures, triggers, functions, etc
 - Equivalent to the programmer or developer
 - Sometimes this person is also involved in the Report Writing (i.e. SSRS or Crystal Reports)

Knowing Your Role

- **Architect/Data Modeler**
 - Design schemas
 - Build database objects (i.e. tables, FKs, PKs, etc.)
 - Builds a structure for applications that meet the business needs
 - Design is usually used by developers and development DBAs to implement the actual application

Knowing Your Role

- **Data Warehouse/BI**
 - Responsible for merging data from multiple sources into a data warehouse.
 - May have to design warehouse, but cleans, standardizes, and scrubs data before loading.
 - In SQL Server, this DBA would use DTS/SSIS heavily.

Knowing Your Role

- **OLAP**
 - Builds multi-dimensional cubes for decision support or OLAP systems
 - The primary language in SQL Server is MDX, not SQL here

Knowing Your Role

■ Application

- Application DBAs straddle the fence between the DBMS and the application software and are responsible for ensuring that the application is fully optimized for the database and vice versa.
- They usually manage all the application components that interact with the database and carry out activities such as application installation and patching, application upgrades, database cloning, building and running data cleanup routines, data load process management, etc.

Understanding your Environment

- Apps
- Servers - SQL Server Instances/Databases/OSes
- Workplace
- Team

Understanding your Environment

Applications

- What applications are being used within your business that have databases and who owns them
 - Groups or individuals may own these apps
 - These will be the contacts when support calls come in
 - What is the SLA(Service Level Agreement) and Escalation procedures
 - Maintenance Schedules
- Is there any documentation available to better understand what is installed and being used
- Is SharePoint or another collaborative app available to share these documents
- A good and somewhat thorough discovery of these apps would help you to understand where there might be gaps in support for your database environment

Understanding your Environment

- Servers - SQL Server Instances/Databases/Oses
 - Is there a list of servers in your organization
 - (If not, make one)
 - Physical and Virtual
 - Data Center
 - Racks
 - Server versions with service packs and patch levels
 - SQL Server versions with service packs and patch levels

Understanding your Environment

Workplace

- Work hours
 - Some places are flexible because of the kind of work we do. Just make sure you get your 40/week in. 😊
- Policies and Procedures
 - This one is very important. Familiarize yourself with these

Understanding your Environment

Workplace

- Most importantly
 - Where is the coffee and the restrooms

Continued Learning

- Learn from your teammates
- As you learn something new, share it with your team
- Have team based lunch and learn sessions
 - Rotate the role of teacher to each teammate
- There are a multitude of SQL Server forums and meetings such as this one 😊

Quick Wins

- SQL RAP w/Microsoft
- Set up a CMS (Central Management Server)
- Use PBM (Policy Based Management)
- Microsoft Assessment and Planning Toolkit (MAP)
- Monitor SQL Server jobs every morning
- Check your backups!!!!!!
- Test them!!!!
- Security Audit

Making Friends

- Get to know your teammates
- Have lunch with them and find out who you are working with
- After all, you will be spending as much time with them on a daily basis as you do your own family

Document, Document, Document

- There is no excuse for not documenting
- Find time to do so
- Make this a mandatory part of your day
- Schedule it into your calendar and block off 30 minutes to an hour a day to do this
- Use SharePoint or just a network share to store useful scripts, documents, and etc.

Questions and Discussion

Let's Talk about this