JULIAN MERCER

DATABASE ENGINEER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Database Engineer with 8+ years designing, tuning, and operating PostgreSQL, SQL Server, and cloud data stores for transaction-heavy platforms. Improves query performance, availability, and recovery posture while automating routine administration. Works closely with application teams on schema design and migrations.

CORE SKILLS

PostgreSQL | SQL Server | Oracle | Amazon Aurora and RDS | Query tuning and indexing | Schema design | Replication and high availability | Backup and recovery | Zero-downtime migrations | Terraform | Ansible | Python and PowerShell | Datadog monitoring | Database security

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Database Engineer Jan 2022 - Present
Capital One, McLean, VA

- Own the PostgreSQL and Aurora estate behind 40 card-servicing services, supporting peak loads above 8,000 transactions per second.
- Reduced the 20 slowest queries from a median of 3.2 seconds to 0.4 by redesigning indexes and rewriting joins found through pg_stat_statements.
- Led a zero-downtime migration of 12 terabytes from on-premises Oracle to Aurora PostgreSQL, using logical replication and a staged cutover.
- Designed backup and point-in-time recovery procedures and ran quarterly restore tests that met a 30-minute recovery time target.
- Built Terraform and Ansible modules for provisioning databases, cutting the time to stand up a new instance from two days to under two hours.
- Advise engineering teams on schema design reviews, catching about 50 migration risks before production each year.

Database Engineer Jun 2018 - Dec 2021
Walmart Global Tech, Bentonville, AR

- Administered SQL Server Always On clusters for inventory and replenishment systems with 99.99 percent availability across three years.
- Tuned the nightly inventory load by partitioning large tables and batching updates, shrinking the run from 5 hours to 90 minutes.
- Introduced monitoring with Datadog and custom alerts on blocking, deadlocks, and replication lag, lowering after-hours pages by 40 percent.
- Implemented row-level and column-level access controls with the security team to meet audit requirements for sensitive vendor data.
- Mentored two junior DBAs on execution plans, wait statistics, and safe change management.

Database Administrator Jul 2016 - May 2018
Verisk Analytics, Jersey City, NJ

- Maintained Oracle and SQL Server databases supporting insurance analytics products, with weekly patching and health checks.
- Automated index maintenance and statistics updates with PowerShell, eliminating a weekly manual task of about four hours.
- Supported developer releases by reviewing deployment scripts and rolling back two faulty changes without data loss.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate | Microsoft Certified: Azure Database Administrator Associate