



THE RAPIDLY ACCELERATING CLOUD-ENABLED ENTERPRISE

2015 IOUG SURVEY ON DATABASE MANAGEABILITY

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With the rapid adoption of cloud and the emergence of the collaborative development operations (DevOps) approach within enterprises, there's been a great deal of speculation and discussion on the future of the database administrator role. Some pundits cited the ever-accelerating needs of enterprises to push products and services to market as quickly as possible, and to leverage cloud solutions and automation to manage the data side of things as evidence of obsolescence of the DBA role.

However, this is far from reality. In fact, the DBA is even more vital than ever to enterprises—having evolved significantly from the traditional DBA roles known just a few years ago. Even in this world of cloud, mobile, and Internet of Things, organizations continue to rely on data to achieve greater competitive advantage, and better serve customers. Data is flowing into enterprises from an incalculable and ever-shifting range of sources. The expertise of data stewards and professionals at all levels is needed to turn this big data into actionable intelligence for the business. There is no one more qualified than the modern DBA to tackle the job of managing big data for the enterprise.

Database manageability for big data is more top of mind in today's business climate than ever before, as enterprises increasingly deploy cloud-based and mobile solutions to take advantage of new opportunities. The opportunities and challenges created by database manageability for big data are explored in a new survey of 301 data managers and professionals who are members of the Independent Oracle Users Group (IOUG). Within this sample, 255 are currently running Oracle Database as their primary data environment. This survey was underwritten by Oracle Corporation and conducted by Unisphere Research, a division of Information Today, Inc.

Survey respondents hold a variety of job roles and represent a wide range of organization types, sizes, and industry verticals. The largest segment (58%) of respondents holds the title of database administrator, followed by that of director or manager.

Close to one-third work for very large organizations with more than 10,000 employees. By industry sector, the majority of respondents come from IT service providers, government agencies, and education. (See Figures 25–27 at the end of this report for more detailed demographic information on job titles, company sizes and industry groups.)

Key highlights and findings from the survey, which provide new insights into database manageability issues and solutions today, include the following:

- The challenge of managing and converting big data streams into actionable business intelligence is intensifying. Databases' footprints keep expanding, both in terms of sheer numbers, as well as capacity, leading to more challenges for administrators

to handle. A majority of respondents, 62%, say their data volumes are expanding at a rate of greater than 10% annually.

- Accelerating time to market is affecting every aspect of data managers' jobs. Along with security issues, cloud and big data now have a direct impact on the way many organizations manage their data environments. Keeping the performance of their systems at high levels and being able to rapidly fix any problems that may occur with the same resources as before are among the predominant issues. Two-thirds of respondents report that log files are their fastest-growing type of data, followed by more than two-fifths stating that new data formats account for much of the data growth being experienced.
- Today's manual database operations, processes, and approval time are among the causes of delays holding up the real-time enterprise, many database managers and professionals admit. Frantic development cycles and the accelerated pace of business innovation requires that data and insights be available at a moment's notice. Close to 41% of respondents report that it takes a week or more to approve change requests, as well as to configure new databases for key purposes, even for testing.
- In today's fast-paced business climate, rolling out new products and services is critical for staying one step ahead of the competition. To do this, organizations need to rely on their mission-critical applications and IT services. Behind the scenes are the administrators managing it all.
- Enterprises who implement management and monitoring tools tend to be more engaged with the complex issues around security, governance, and compliance, as well as cloud and big data issues. Close to three-fourths of managed sites are focusing on these issues. Seventy percent are managing greater influxes of unstructured or semi-structured data.
- Keeping data environments up-to-date is not a simple task. Close to one in three Oracle managers run in excess of five different set configurations of patched or updated databases across their production, testing, and development domains. This suggests a greater need for automation and more proactive management to maintain concurrency and consistency across today's data environments.

On the following pages are the results of this latest examination into today's pressing database manageability concerns, and the most effective solutions.