How Not To Be A DBA –
Top 20 Career-ending Mistakes

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Backup and Recovery
- 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
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?
Database Standards
- 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!*
- 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?

Database Standards
User/Developer Standards
- 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?
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?
General Practices
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?

General Practices
Questions???
Information Sources
- **technet.oracle.com**
  Online source for documentation, product downloads, discussion forums

- **metalink.oracle.com**
  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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