Balamurali Krishna Kannan

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PROFILE

Senior SQL Server DBA with 18+ years of experience designing, delivering, and owning end-to-end SQL Server platforms across on-prem, hybrid, and Azure environments. Skilled in HA/DR technologies including Always On Availability Groups, Failover Cluster Instances, and SQL Server Replication, with strong capabilities in disaster recovery strategy, performance tuning, and capacity planning. Experienced in security, automation, monitoring, and cross-platform database administration across SQL Server and MongoDB.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Database Platforms:** Microsoft SQL Server (2008 R2–2025; On-Prem, Azure IaaS), Azure SQL Database (PaaS), MongoDB 7.0/8.0, MongoDB Atlas, MongoDB Operations Manager
- **High Availability & Disaster Recovery:** Always On Availability Groups, Distributed Availability Groups (DAG), Multi-Subnet Availability Groups (Azure VMs), Failover Cluster Instances (FCI), Log Shipping, SQL Server Replication
- **Performance Tuning:** Query optimization, index tuning, execution plan analysis, tempdb tuning, performance diagnostics using DMVs, SQL Profiler, and Extended Events
- **Security & Compliance:** Role-based access control (RBAC), Transparent Data Encryption (TDE), Auditing, Row-Level Security (RLS), operational experience supporting SQL Server and OS-level hardening in SOX, HIPAA, and PCI-DSS regulated environments
- **Backup & Recovery Tools:** SQL Server Native Backup and Restore, Rubrik, Azure Backup
- **Automation & Scripting:** PowerShell and T-SQL automation for database maintenance, monitoring, and deployment processes; working knowledge of Python
- **Monitoring Tools:** Quest Spotlight, Foglight, SolarWinds DPA (SQL Server monitoring); SCOM, Azure Monitor, HP Operations Manager, Nagios (infrastructure and service monitoring)
- **BI & Analytics:** SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS), SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS), SQL Server Analysis Services (SSAS), Power BI

CERTIFICATIONS

Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Fundamentals (DP-900)
Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900)
ITIL V3 Foundation Certification

WORK EXPERIENCE

SQL SERVER DBA, BlackRock, Inc. (Apr 2026 - Present) | Edinburgh, UK

- Supporting a large-scale Sybase-to-SQL Server 2025/vNext migration across Linux and Azure SQL platforms for BlackRock, alongside BAU production support for the existing Sybase estate.
- Key responsibilities include reviewing and refining Sybase data schemas to align with application requirements and ensure scalability, performance, and compatibility with SQL Server. Performing UTF-8 remediation, silent string truncation and NULL character handling, and comprehensive DML/DDL performance baseline testing to identify behavioural and performance differences between Sybase and SQL Server.
- Identifying query performance regressions during migration and carrying out SQL tuning and optimisation to ensure workloads execute efficiently on SQL Server. Developing automation for the SQL Server build and deployment process on Linux, improving consistency and reducing manual effort.
- Managing and supporting Azure SQL Hyperscale databases, with a focus on performance, capacity management, and cloud cost optimisation. Supporting BlackRock's Private Markets database estate, comprising a large fleet of SQL Server environments distributed across Microsoft Azure and AWS, while continuing to provide production support for business-critical Sybase platforms throughout the migration programme.

SQL SERVER DBA | MONGODB DBA, COMPUTERSHARE LTD (Mar 2019 – Apr 2026) | Edinburgh, UK

SQL Server (Primary Responsibilities)

- Installed, configured, and maintained enterprise SQL Server environments (2012–2022), ensuring high availability, performance, and stability.
- Led platform modernization by migrating SQL Server workloads from 2008/2012/2014 to 2016/2019/2022 in support of application upgrades and EOL objectives.
- Designed and implemented HA/DR solutions including Always On Availability Groups, Log Shipping, and Replication.
- Architected estate-wide backup and recovery using native SQL Server backup methods and Rubrik, supporting point-in-time recovery and compliance requirements.
- Automated DBA operations using T-SQL and PowerShell, integrated with SQL Server Agent.
- Implemented Query Store–driven performance analysis and memory-optimized tables for high-concurrency workloads.
- Applied SQL Server security controls (RBAC, TDE, Auditing, RLS) to meet regulatory and audit requirements.
- Led annual SQL Server disaster recovery testing and recovery validation exercises.
- Managed BAU operations through ServiceNow and participated in on-call rotations to meet SLA commitments.

MongoDB (Secondary Responsibilities)

- Designed, deployed, and administered on-premises MongoDB 7.0/8.0 environments, covering data-bearing replica sets and Ops Manager from initial deployment through production.
- Took ownership of MongoDB platform upkeep, managing version upgrades and patching to maintain stability, security, and supportability.
- Implemented backup and recovery processes using Ops Manager, covering snapshot management and point-in-time restore capabilities.
- Supported day-to-day MongoDB operations through ServiceNow, handling incidents, changes, and participating in on-call rotations in line with SLA requirements.
- Automated routine MongoDB DBA tasks using Bash and Python to reduce manual effort and improve operational consistency.

MONGODB CONSULTANT, HASHWORKS IT SERVICES LTD (Oct 2018 - Mar 2019) | Bengaluru, India

- Supported a 6-month MongoDB Atlas engagement, reviewing and refining MongoDB schemas to meet application requirements for scalability and performance.
- Conducted data model and indexing design reviews to improve query efficiency and support evolving application workloads.
- Assisted development teams with retrieving and processing JSON data from REST APIs and importing it into MongoDB Atlas collections.
- Implemented and validated backup and restore strategies within MongoDB Atlas to ensure secure and reliable data recovery.

SENIOR DATABASE CONSULTANT, INFOSYS LTD (Jun 2015 - Sep 2018) | Bengaluru, India

- Installed, configured, and maintained SQL Server (2008–2016) and the Azure SQL platform across on-premises and cloud environments.
- Supported SQL Server Failover Cluster Instances (FCI) on clusters with up to 8 nodes, ensuring consistent failover behavior.
- Implemented and managed Azure VM based Windows Failover Clusters with Always On Availability Groups across multi-subnet regions.
- Performed regular patching and version upgrades to maintain system stability and security.
- Planned and executed database migrations from legacy SQL Server versions to modern platforms, aligned with application upgrade roadmaps and end-of-life (EOL) requirements.
- Worked alongside development teams to plan and execute the migration of BI solutions (SSAS, SSRS, SSIS) from SQL Server 2012 to SQL Server 2016.
- Served as Database Team Lead, overseeing BAU operations through ServiceNow, coordinating on-call rotations, and ensuring timely resolution of production incidents.
- Enforced SOX-compliant security controls**,** performing hardening at both the SQL Server and operating system levels**,** and supported regular audits to maintain data integrity and compliance standards.
- Provided limited operational support for Parallel Data Warehouse and MySQL environments.

IT ANALYST, TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES LTD (Nov 2012 - May 2015) | Chennai, India

- Supported large-scale production SQL Server 2000–2012 environments, handling incidents, service requests, and problem tickets related to system availability, performance optimization, and configuration management.
- Diagnosed and resolved L2/L3 performance incidents involving blocking, deadlocks, long-running queries, index fragmentation, memory pressure, CPU spikes, and I/O latency using DMVs and monitoring tools.
- Reviewed overnight backup job outcomes, investigated and resolved backup failures, and performed point-in-time restores and emergency recoveries during production incidents.
- Supported production HA/DR environments including Failover Clustering, Log Shipping, and Replication, managing incidents and service disruptions, executing failovers, and performing post-incident validation.
- Maintained SQL Agent jobs, maintenance plans, alerts, and monitoring scripts; investigated and resolved job failures, disk space alerts, and health check warnings escalated from L1 support.

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER, WIPRO TECHNOLOGIES LTD (Jan 2009 - Oct 2012) | Chennai, India

- Provided L2 production support for SQL Server 2005/2008 R2 Failover Clustered Instances, monitoring availability, cluster health, and SQL services.
- Provided daily BAU support, managing incidents, service requests, and change requests in alignment with ITIL processes.
- Managed backup, restore, and integrity checks (DBCC CHECKDB), troubleshooting failures and supporting recovery activities.
- Performed performance and blocking analysis using DMVs and PerfMon, escalating complex issues to L3 DBAs as needed.
- Deployed, managed, and supported SSIS, SSRS, and SSAS across all SQL Server environments.
- Coordinated with infrastructure teams for cluster maintenance, OS patching, and node reboots, validating systems post-change.

TECHNICAL ASSOCIATE, CITI TECHNOLOGY SERVICES LTD (Jul 2008 - Jan 2009) | Chennai, India

- Audited DBA activities in production SQL Server environments, including review of executed SQL queries and privileged access.
- Performed database access reviews to validate permissions and support audit and compliance reporting.
- Analyzed audit logs and security reports to identify policy violations, unusual DBA activity, and access anomalies.
- Documented audit findings, tracked remediation actions, and collaborated with DBA teams to close security and compliance gaps.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science, S.R.M University (India) Year: 2004 - 2008

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

- Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Bronze, 2001