

LIAN VAN DEN HEEVER

lianvh@gmail.com | +27795036056 | Johannesburg South Africa | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lian-van-den-heever>

Summary

Senior SQL Server Database Administrator with 20+ years of experience delivering secure, high-availability database solutions for enterprise financial environments. Managed 300+ SQL Server instances with 99.99% uptime, reduced query latency by up to 70%, and led Azure SQL migrations that improved resilience while lowering infrastructure costs. Expert in AlwaysOn Availability Groups, HA/DR, performance tuning, Azure SQL, PowerShell automation, security, and compliance, with a proven record of strengthening governance, reducing operational risk, and ensuring business continuity for mission-critical banking platforms. Adept at driving operational excellence in complex, regulated environments.

Skills

- Performance Optimization
- Disaster Recovery
- SQL Administration
- Cloud Migration
- Database Security
- Problem-Solving
- Collaboration
- Automation
- Leadership
- Troubleshooting

Experience

Senior SQL Server DBA | BC Technologies | 02/2022 - 06/2025

- Managed and supported 300+ SQL Server instances across production, disaster recovery, and Azure environments for financial services platforms, maintaining 99.99% system availability. Planned and executed SQL Server upgrades, migrations to Azure SQL Managed Instance/Azure SQL Database, and implemented Always On Availability Groups with multi-site disaster recovery to strengthen business continuity.
- Improved database reliability, security, and performance by optimizing queries, indexes, and execution plans, reducing query response times by up to 70% for high-volume transactional applications. Implemented role-based access control (RBAC), Transparent Data Encryption (TDE), auditing, and vulnerability remediation to support regulatory and banking compliance requirements.
- Automated routine database administration with PowerShell, reducing manual operational effort and improving consistency across environments. Partnered with infrastructure, security, and application teams to deliver compliant database solutions, while providing 24/7 production support, performing root-cause analysis, and restoring critical services within SLA targets.

Senior SQL Server DBA / Database Engineer

- Delivered end-to-end SQL Server administration, performance tuning, high availability (HA), disaster recovery (DR), and cloud migration solutions, improving database reliability and supporting business-critical applications in enterprise environments.
- Supported large-scale financial and corporate platforms operating under strict SLA, audit, and regulatory requirements, implementing risk controls, security measures, and operational standards to maintain service continuity and compliance.
- Led database migrations, server consolidations, and platform modernization initiatives, optimizing infrastructure utilization, reducing operational complexity, and enabling adoption of cloud-based database services.

Certifications

- Microsoft Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900) – Training Completed | Certification Exam Attempted
- Microsoft Azure Database Administrator Associate (DP-300) – Professional Training Attended
- Microsoft Azure Administrator Associate (AZ-104) – Professional Training Attended
- Microsoft SQL Server Administration – Professional Training Attended
- Banking & Financial Services Compliance Training – Completed

Key Strengths

- Extensive experience supporting regulated, high-risk, high-availability enterprise environments.
- Proven ability to optimize and stabilize mission-critical financial systems.
- Strong expertise in business continuity, disaster recovery, and operational resilience.
- Deep knowledge of governance, compliance, security, and audit-ready database environments.
- Experienced in managing complex, multi-region SQL Server and Azure data platforms.