A reading path for database administrators

The order in which a database administrator new to Exponential reads these pages - a first hour, a first day, then the pages for your engine and the pages for operations, upgrades and incidents - with the time each step...

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This page is for database administrators who take over the database of an Exponential site and want to learn it in a sensible order. Follow the steps in sequence; skip the engines you do not run.

Contents

1. The first hour
2. Your engine
3. The first day
4. Before the first upgrade
5. Before the first incident
6. When the site grows

The first hour

1. Database administrators: start here (5 minutes).
2. The database layer in one page (10 minutes).
3. Supported engines and versions (10 minutes).
4. The DatabaseSettings reference and Reading and changing database settings (15 minutes).
5. Open **Setup > System information** on your site and find the Database card (System information) (5 minutes).
6. Securing the database (15 minutes).

Your engine

Engine	Read
SQLite 3	SQLite 3 for DBAs, Write queue, Maintenance, Permissions
PostgreSQL	Setting up PostgreSQL, Operating PostgreSQL
MongoDB	Setting up MongoDB, Limits and operations
MariaDB, MySQL	Setting up, utf8mb4 and InnoDB, Read replicas
Oracle	Setting up Oracle, Connections and tuning, Maintenance commands

About an hour per engine.

The first day

1. Database accounts and privileges and Character sets and collations.
2. Backups per engine and Restoring a database; then test a restore.
3. Housekeeping: cronjobs and queue tables and Sessions in the database.
4. Monitoring the database; set up the alerts.
5. The tables a database administrator should know.

Before the first upgrade

1. Upgrades and the SQL update files.
2. Applying the 6.0.15 database update.
3. Checking the schema after an upgrade.
4. The .dba schema format and Schema tools.
5. The administrators' guide Upgrading, to know what the rest of the team does.

Before the first incident

1. Troubleshooting database errors.
2. Database error codes and messages.
3. When something goes wrong.
4. Checklists for database administrators: print the restore list.

When the site grows

1. Performance and scaling and Finding slow queries.
2. The SQL query cache and The built-in search index tables.
3. Choosing an engine and Moving a site to another engine.
4. Clustering: DFS and its metadata database.
5. Reviewing extension SQL for every engine.

Keep Database FAQ and the Glossary at hand.

Related pages

- Database administrators: start here
- Hosting companies: start here
- Database support
- Free documentation: this page is free to copy, translate and improve under the GNU FDL 1.3.

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