

Ray Rankins

Gotham Consulting Services, Inc.

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Career Summary:

As a consultant and computer systems analyst/programmer for over 18 years, my work experience has involved consulting, training, relational database design and development, database administration, and application development and design primarily in the Windows and UNIX environments. I am a Certified Sybase Professional Database Administrator and nationally recognized author and speaker.

I have gained additional experience over the years in the areas of project leadership, user interface design and development, requirements analysis, system design, and quality assurance testing. I also have experience managing a consulting and training organization and participating in the sales process for consulting and training services. I am currently using the experience I have gained over the years to manage my own independent consulting company with the goal of providing top quality consulting and training services that are unparalleled in the industry.

Certifications:

Certified Sybase Professional Database Administrator

Publications:

"Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Unleashed – 2nd Edition" Primary author, SAMS (Pearson Education); 2002
"Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Unleashed" Primary author, SAMS (Pearson Education); 2001
"Microsoft SQL Server 6.5 Programming Unleashed" Technical Editor, SAMS (Macmillan); 1998
"Microsoft SQL Server 6.5 Unleashed, Third Edition" Co-author, SAMS (Macmillan); 1998
"Sybase System 11 DBA Survival Guide," Co-author, SAMS (Macmillan); 1996
"Sybase SQL Server 11 Unleashed," Co-author, SAMS (Macmillan); 1996
"Microsoft SQL Server 6.5 Unleashed, Second Edition" Co-author, SAMS (Macmillan); 1996
"Microsoft SQL Server 6 Unleashed," Co-author, SAMS (Macmillan); 1996
"Sybase DBA Survival Guide," Contributing author, SAMS (Macmillan); 1995
"Physical Database Design for Sybase SQL Server," Contributing author, Prentice Hall; 1994

Presentations:

"Moving on Up: Making the Leap from SQL Server 11 to Adaptive Server 12 (and VMS to UNIX)," Sybase Techwave Conference, July 2000
"What's Up with the Optimizer?: Debugging Query Plan Selection with dbcc traceon (302,310)," International Sybase User Group Conference, May 1998
"Managing Very Large SQL Server Databases," International Sybase User Group Conference, April 1997
"User Experiences with System 11," Chicago User Group Meeting, June 1996
"How to Succeed at Client/Server Migration," International Sybase User Group Conference, May 1996
"SQL Server Storage Performance Options," International Sybase User Group Conference, May 1996
"Understanding the Sybase Query Optimizer," International Sybase User Group Conference, May 1996

Articles and White Papers:

"The Care and Feeding of Your SQL Server Databases: A Preventative Maintenance Approach, Part 1", Sybase Server, Spring 1997 issue
"The Care and Feeding of Your SQL Server Databases: A Preventative Maintenance Approach, Part 2", Sybase Server, Summer 1997 issue
"Sybase Data Storage Performance Options", White Paper published by MTI, May 1995

Professional Experience

Gotham Consulting Services, Inc.

August 1997 - present

Gansevoort, NY

President/Owner

Own, manage, and serve as principal consultant for a technical consulting company specializing in providing high quality training and consulting services related to Sybase Adaptive Server and Microsoft SQL Server. Consulting activities are related, but not limited to, database administration, training and mentoring, database server performance and tuning, SQL query tuning and optimization, relational database design and review, and database standards development. Other technical activities involve authoring of Microsoft SQL Server and Sybase related books, courseware development, authoring of white papers and articles for submission to database related periodicals, speaking at customer sites and user group meetings, and beta testing and evaluating new technologies including Sybase ASE 12.5.1 and Microsoft SQL Server Yukon.

Additional responsibilities include marketing and sales, customer relations, and proposal development.

Sample Training Clients

Goldman Sachs (8/03) – Provided training on Sybase Adaptive Server 12.5 for IT New Associate Program.

FAA Tech Center (7/03) – Provided training on Sybase Adaptive Server 12.5.

Northwestern Mutual Insurance Co. (9/97-Present) - Providing ongoing training for Sybase Adaptive Server 12.0 and 12.5

We-Energies/Wisconsin Electric Power Company. (9/97-Present) - Providing ongoing training for Sybase Adaptive Server 12.0 and 12.5

Additional client sites I provide or have provided training for include Sybase, Inc., Instruction Set, ProTech Professional Technical Services, Inc., Alltel, Cigna Corp., Dictaphone, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Cologne Life Reinsurance, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and Liberty Mutual Insurance

Sample Consulting Clients

Key Education Resources (10/97 – Present) – Managed and developed plan and processes for migrating from Sybase SQL Server 11 environment on OpenVMS to Sybase Adaptive Server 12 on UNIX. Designed and implemented replication between Adaptive Server 12 environments using Sybase Replication Server 12. Also provide ongoing performance and tuning of Sybase Adaptive Server installation, optimization of SQL queries and database design, development and testing of Sybase disaster recovery plan and processes, and provide advanced SQL training and mentoring services to database administration and development staff.

United States Department of Agriculture (8/02 – Present) – Provide ongoing support for Sybase Adaptive Server 12.0 systems. Past activities include developing and implementing strategy to migrate Sybase Adaptive Server databases to new platform. Also provided analysis and review of administrative procedures and policies, performance and tuning analysis of Sybase Adaptive Server installation, optimization of SQL queries and database design, and recommendations for providing high availability and improved stability and recoverability capabilities of their database systems. Also provided advanced SQL training as well as ongoing mentoring services to database administration and development staff.

Latham Software Sciences (7/03-Present) – Provide database design, support, and analysis and development for SQL Server 2000 system utilized by banks and mortgage companies. Current project work involves architecting and developing a nightly data load/refresh process using SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server Data Transformation Services.

Flow Management Technologies, Inc. (2/00 – Present) – Provide database design and administration support, performance and tuning and SQL query development and optimization, as well as training and mentoring services related to Microsoft SQL Server. Also implemented replication for 24x7 warm standby SQL Server 2000 databases.

Dictaphone, Inc./Lernout&Hauspie Speech Products (6/01 – Present) – Providing ongoing database design, development, performance and tuning, and administrative support for various projects using SQL Server 2000. Also provide training and mentoring to Dictaphone personnel on MS SQL Server 2000.

New York State Department of Transportation (12/03-2/04) – Performed an inventory and analysis and review of their SQL Server installations and developed a set of standards and guidelines along with best practices for managing and administering their SQL Server environments including backup and recovery, installation and deployment, security, monitoring and maintenance, and naming standards.

New York State Teacher's Retirement System (1/03-3/03) – Developed and implemented warm standby replication for Sybase Adaptive Server 12.0 environment using Sybase Replication Server 12.5. Also provided mentoring to NYSTRS staff on Sybase and Replication Server technologies and developed detailed documentation on replication system setup and maintenance and best practices.

Charles Schwab & Co. Inc. (12/02 – 3/03) – Provided onsite database administration support as well as performance analysis and tuning of SQL Server 2000 installation and the optimization of SQL queries and database and index design. Developed automated method of generating and capturing performance statistics for SQL Server queries generated by their application code using a combination of SQL Profiler server-side traces, Windows batch files, and a custom query performance analysis tool.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (2/02-5/02) – Developed and implemented strategy to upgrade and consolidate version 11.5 and 11.9.2 Sybase Adaptive Servers to version 12.0 Adaptive Server. Migration included conversion to case insensitive sort order and migration of database devices from raw to file system. Designed, developed, and implemented automated log shipping process to establish warm standby for production servers. Also provided training and mentoring to DBA staff.

Tribune Media Services (4/2000) - Provided performance and tuning analysis of existing 11.0 Sybase database systems and assisted in developing migration strategy for moving current 11.0 Sybase databases to 64 bit Adaptive Server 12.0 environment.

(6/02) – Participated in development of a strategy for migrating Sybase 11.0 databases to Sybase ASE 12.5.

OCI Corp. (1/02-8/02) – Provided analysis and solutions for locking contention and query performance issues with a 911 call center application developed on SQL Server 7.0. Reviewed the database design, index design, stored procedures and SQL code, and application code. Provided written recommendations to the client and assisted in implementing the recommended changes at the client site. Also recommended and implemented database maintenance plans and procedures to ensure database integrity and recoverability.

Alltel MaxMilion/Cigna Software Sciences (9/97- 9/01) – Provided ongoing database administration support, database design, stored procedure development, performance and tuning of Microsoft SQL Server installations, optimization of SQL queries and database design, as well as training and mentoring services related to Microsoft SQL Server. Also developed database administration and development standards and guidelines and participated in quality assurance testing of application and database stored procedures.

Northern Lights Consulting

Saratoga Springs, NY

November, 1994 to August, 1997

Director of Technical Services

Primary management responsibilities involved managing the company's training and consulting practices, scheduling, and managing technical staff. Technical responsibilities included providing training and consulting related to Sybase and Microsoft SQL Server. Consulting activities were related but not limited to, database performance and tuning, database design and review, and standards development. Additionally, participated in the sales process as a technical resource to the sales staff to determine customer needs, develop proposals, and perform customer relations.

Other responsibilities included co-authoring Microsoft and Sybase related books, courseware development and content quality review, authoring white papers and articles for submission to database related periodicals, speaking at customer sites and user group meetings, and participation in software product development and quality assurance testing.

Developed courseware for Sybase and Microsoft SQL Server related to development, Transact-SQL, administration, performance and tuning, very large database administration and tuning, and advanced SQL programming and query optimization.

Sample Consulting Clients

Zurich-Kemper Investments - Participated in benchmarking and testing of Sybase SQL Server 11 based replacement of existing system running on a Teradata system. Performed performance analysis of database and index design and tuned configuration of System 11 SQL Server for optimal application performance.

Deaconess Hospital - Performed Enterprise Architecture review and analysis of Accounts Receivable system being implemented using Sybase SQL Server.

Nissan Motor Corp. - Developed corporate wide standards for Sybase environment. Standards included naming conventions, backup and recovery, gateway usage, and DBA policies and procedures.

Federal Express - Taught numerous Sybase courses on site at client's facility.

Liberty Mutual - Reviewed design of application currently in development and made recommendations regarding ways to improve system performance and stability. Also examined an existing production system to determine cause of performance problems and persistent deadlocking problems and made recommendations which eliminated problems.

Sybase, Inc.
Burlington, MA

August, 1993 to November, 1994

Consultant.

As a member of the Advanced Services Group, utilized experience and skills in various short term consulting engagements related to performance and tuning of Sybase SQL Server databases and applications, database design and review, application design and review, architecture design and review, technology transfer, troubleshooting, configuration and installation, and standards development.

Participated in review and development of Sybase System 10 SQL Server Performance and Tuning course, developed the Sybase STEP 1 for Workgroup SQL Server Partners course, and was a Certified Sybase instructor and taught the following Sybase Courses at client sites and Sybase training facilities:

- *Introduction to SQL*
- *System 10 Fast Track to Sybase*
- *System 10 System and Database Administration*
- *System 10 Performance and Tuning*

Sample Consulting Experience

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation - *Developed Sybase SQL Server naming conventions and DBA standards. Also provided Sybase training and mentoring to NMPC personnel.*

Rochester Telephone – *Participated in design and development of a very large Sybase database system.*

Bradlee's - *Developed backup and recovery standards, stored procedures, and scripts for Sybase database system*

Computer Task Group
Albany, NY

October, 1992 to January 1993

Instructor/Course Developer

Temporary part-time position to develop and teach a three day "Introduction to Sybase" class for the New York State Office of General Services.

Farm Family Insurance Cos.
Glenmont, NY

October, 1991 to August, 1993

Senior Programmer/Analyst

Provided technical skills and leadership in the development of a distributed relational database based customer service application using Sybase SQL Server 4.2 under Novell and OS/2 operating systems. Performed database design, stored procedure and trigger development, database performance and tuning, and participated in quality assurance testing. Also developed Uniface and OS/2 C based applications to support databases.

Coordinated various aspects of the conversion of the company's home and field offices from a mainframe based environment to a PC LAN based environment and participated in the establishment of company wide policies and procedures for problem management and software change control.

GE Consulting
Albany, NY

May 1989 to October, 1991

Consultant

3/91-10/91 - Provided technical skills and expertise in the development of a Shop Floor Control System for Norton Company on an IBM PC network using Microsoft C, Microsoft SQL Server, and the JAM application screen development package. Created and modified database tables and stored procedures to improve system performance.

1/91-3/91 - Developed and authored Transition Plan for the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) which detailed the planning and scheduling of tasks to be undertaken by DCJS and North American Morpho Systems Inc. (NAMSI) to facilitate an orderly transition from the DCJS manual fingerprint identification system to the Statewide Automated Fingerprint Identification System (SAFIS) being developed by NAMSI and implemented using Sybase SQL Server.

5/89 – 1/91 - Designed and developed a database system using Sybase SQL Server 4.x on a Sun UNIX Workstation for a Kidder-Peabody securities trading system. Developed library of database application routines in C and Sybase DB-Library on Sun workstations and IBM PCs and developed the system test plan. Designed database and participated in database performance and tuning and query optimization.

National Security Agency

June, 1985 to May, 1989

Ft. Meade, MD

Computer Systems Analyst/Team Chief

10/88-5/89 - Supervised seven person programming team in an applications and systems programming division and performed software requirements analysis, feasibility studies, quality assurance, hardware and software product evaluations, and software design and development on Sun and Apollo Workstations, and IBM PCs for systems utilizing Sybase and Ingres databases.

Computer Systems Analyst/Programmer

10/87-10/88 - Advised users and management on important ADP issues such as local area networking strategies, distributed databases, hardware and software solutions, and ADP standards. Also designed and developed relational database systems using Sybase, Ingres, and Interbase, and performed system administration duties for Sun workstation network.

10/86-10/87 - Participated in the development of an expert system to detect system intrusions and audit activity on a Honeywell Multics system. Software was developed in PL/I on the Multics systems and Lisp on Symbolics Workstations and IBM PCs.

1/85-10/86 - Designed and developed custom reporting programs in C/UNIX, trained and assisted office personnel in using the IBM PCs and VAX, and prepared user documentation.

Technical Skills

Hardware: Intel PCs, Sun, HP, IBM, Digital VAX and Alpha, Macintosh

Operating Systems: Windows 9x/NT/2000/XP, UNIX, Mac O/S, OS/2, OpenVMS, Novell Netware

Languages: SQL, C, VBScript, PL/I, Lisp, BASIC

DBMS: Microsoft SQL Server, Sybase Adaptive Server, Sybase Replication Server, Microsoft Access, Oracle

Other: ERwin, DBArtisan, RapidSQL, ER Studio, Microsoft Office

Formal Education

Syracuse University

Syracuse, NY

B.S. in Psychology, Cum Laude

September 1980 to May 1985

National Security Agency

Ft. Meade, MD

Computer Systems Intern Program

June, 1985 to June, 1988

Technical Coursework

Sybase Performance and Tuning

July, 1992

Sybase Replication Server

July, 2000

References

Available upon request