Five steps to jump-start your cloud DBA journey

Get ready—your databases are moving to the cloud. The cost, efficiency, and scalability benefits are too great for any company to ignore. What does that mean for you as a database administrator (DBA)? Less routine maintenance, for one thing—and a greater ability to add value to the business. Becoming a cloud DBA requires you to tune your skill set, but the rewards can be great. Here are some simple ways to get started.

Want to take a deeper dive into the life of a cloud DBA? Check out our guide.

1. Grow your database knowledge
   Cloud databases include a wealth of capabilities and are limited only by your knowledge. To strengthen your impact as a cloud DBA, consider growing your skills in the following areas:
   - Data movement
   - Performance tuning
   - Data-driven business outcomes
   - Database optimization for applications
   - Cloud security and governance
   - Cloud architecture
   - Azure networking

2. Learn how to get the data to the cloud
   Cloud costs are directly tied to utilization, so they’ll become a part of your day-to-day work as a DBA—no more three- to five-year refresh cycles. Knowing how usage affects your monthly bill will become critical.

3. Learn to manage costs
   Cloud and on-prem databases can exist side-by-side, so they’ll both need to be mature before you can retire one. Managing costs will help you lower the barrier to entry as you migrate databases.

4. Skill up
   Cloud DBAs need to develop new skill sets to keep up with the changing landscape. Here are some areas to explore:
   - Data migration
   - Performance tuning
   - Data-driven business outcomes
   - Database optimization for applications
   - Azure networking

5. Broader your horizons
   The cloud can be a front line in the fight for high availability. The future of DBAs is largely defined by how they take advantage of the cloud.

©2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. This document is provided “as-is”. Information and views expressed in this document, including URL and other Internet Web site references, may change without notice. You bear the risk of using it. This document does not provide you with any legal rights to any intellectual property in any Microsoft product. You may copy and use this document for your internal, reference purposes.