

DATABASE  
ADMINISTRATORS  
FACE INCREASING  
PRESSURE  
TO MONITOR  
DATABASES

# INTRODUCTION

Database platforms are mature products with powerful capabilities. However, they still require regular care to maintain a high level of performance. It is therefore critical to monitor database instances for availability, health, performance, and security. This practice uses automation to handle routine tasks, allowing database administrators to focus on issues requiring human intervention. Database professionals are increasing their use of tools to monitor databases, according to recent surveys.

# TRENDS

A 2021 survey shows that 79 percent of database professionals already monitor their databases, whether they use in-house or commercial off-the-shelf tools. This figure is an increase of 10 percent from a similar survey for the previous year. The increase indicates that database monitoring is on its way to becoming a near-universal practice. The 2021 survey also reports an 86 percent satisfaction rate with commercial off-the-shelf monitoring tools. This is an increase of 18 percent from the previous year.

# KEY DRIVERS

The increasing size and complexity of database environments is one of the key driving factors behind the growth in database monitoring. The International Data Corporation predicts in its latest Global StorageSphere Forecast that global database storage capacity will increase by 240 percent between 2021 and 2025. They predict growth from 6.7 zettabytes in 2020 to 16.1 zettabytes in 2025. Most enterprises will shift most their IT infrastructure to the cloud during this period, if they have not already done so.

Changes in organizational requirements are another reason more database administrators are monitoring their databases. Organizations have higher expectations of their database platforms in 2021, regarding performance, efficiency, security, and regulatory compliance. These requirements increase the need for other roles to have greater visibility in databases, including developers and IT teams.

# INCREASED DUTIES

It is becoming rare for database administrators to handle only a single instance of a database. It is at least dozens, but some database administrators must manage thousands of database instances. This trend increases the pressure on database administrators to do more with less, making database monitoring tools an essential timesaving device. These tools can also reduce frustration and allow database administrators to provide value for their organization in other ways.

Another 2021 survey shows that 65 percent of database administrators reported becoming responsible for more databases during the last year. The findings are like the ones from last year. Both indicate that the growth of estates is only part of the challenges that database administrators face today. The consequences of that growth should be of greater importance than its immediate causes for maintaining required service level agreements.

The increased burden of database administrators is further complicated because more database environments are becoming hybrids with both on-premises and cloud servers. Many organizations also use multiple cloud platforms for different purposes. Increasing an infrastructure's size also increases the chances of something going wrong with it. Database administrators can become swamped when responding to these incidents, making the continual improvement of a growing server estate crucial to ensuring its performance and security.

The COVID-19 pandemic that began sweeping the globe in 2020 has affected the workload of database administrators because of the dramatic increase in remote workers. Monitoring on-premises servers is more difficult since database administrators may not be physically close to these servers. Organizations are also moving many of their services online, further increasing the complexity of data collection and access. The pandemic has also caused many businesses to impose lay-offs and hiring freezes that limit recruitment options for reducing staff shortages.

## SUMMARY

The lack of good monitoring tools requires database administrators to put out fires instead of learning about new features and putting them to use. They'll also be able to spend more time tuning queries that are not performing and planning how to implement new systems. The right monitoring tools provide database administrators and other members of the IT department with a single interface to monitor all the database instances they manage. With such tools, they can monitor both on-premises and in the cloud. They can also issue alerts when problems occur, allowing team members to identify the cause in minutes, as opposed to the hours this process often requires with manual monitoring.

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