

Ray Rankins

Gotham Consulting Services, Inc.

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Career Summary:

As a consultant and computer systems analyst/programmer since 1985, 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 2008 R2 Unleashed" Primary author, SAMS (Pearson Education); 2010
"Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Unleashed" Primary author, SAMS (Pearson Education); 2007
"Microsoft SQL Server 2000 Unleashed – 2nd Edition" Primary author, SAMS (Pearson Education); 2002
"Coding: The Handbook for Information Technology" Technical Editor, Blue Line Press; 2005
"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 and 2", Sybase Server, Spring 1997/Summer 1997 issues
"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 primarily related to, but not limited to, Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise 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-present) – Providing training on Microsoft SQL Server, Sybase ASE, and IBM DB2 UDB.

Northwestern Mutual Insurance Co. (9/97-11/02) - Provided training for Sybase Adaptive Server 12.x

We-Energies/Wisconsin Electric Power Company. (9/97-11/02) - Provided training for Sybase ASE12.x

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

Sample Consulting Clients

New York State Department of Health (9/07-present) – Provide ongoing database design and development on Sybase ASE 15 for voucher processing system. Primary tasks include database design, stored procedure development, optimization of SQL queries and database design, and monitoring and maintenance of the production system. Also mentor the database administration staff on new ASE features and database administration standards and practices.

Flow Management Technologies, Inc. (2/00 – 12/04, 5/10-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.

Open Solutions/IA Systems (2/07-present) – Providing database administration support, performance and tuning of Microsoft SQL Server installations, optimization of SQL queries and database design. Also developing a snapshot/archive process for capturing historical data.

New York State Worker's Compensation Board (4/04-9/07) – Provided database administration support for Sybase ASE 12.5, Sybase IQ, Sybase Replication Server, Microsoft SQL Server 2000/2005, and Oracle 9i systems, and performance tuning and support for Peoplesoft databases. Provided analysis and review of administrative procedures and policies, performance and tuning analysis of database instances, optimization of SQL queries and database design, and recommendations for providing high availability and improved stability and recoverability capabilities of their database systems. Also mentored database administration and development staff on topics related to database design and development, query development and optimization, and database administration.

United States Department of Agriculture (8/02–Present) – Provide ongoing support for Sybase ASE systems and Sybase Replication Server. Activities include developing and implementing strategy to migrate Sybase databases to new platform. Also provide analysis and review of administrative procedures and policies, performance and tuning analysis of Sybase installation on AIX, database design and data modeling, optimization of SQL queries and database designs, and recommendations for providing high availability and improved stability and recoverability capabilities of their database systems. Also provide advanced SQL training and mentoring services to database administration and development staff.

Latham Software Sciences (7/03-6/04) – Provided database design and analysis support and development for SQL Server 2000 system utilized by banks and mortgage companies. Project work also involved architecting and developing a nightly data load/refresh process using SQL Server 2000 and SQL Server Data Transformation Services.

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, indexes, and database design. Developed automated method of generating and capturing performance statistics for SQL Server queries generated by the application code using a combination of SQL Profiler server-side traces, Windows batch files, and a custom developed query performance analysis tool.

Key Education Resources (10/97–12/04) – Developed and implemented plan to migrate Sybase 11 environment on OpenVMS to Sybase ASE12 on Digital UNIX and subsequent migration from 12.0 on Digital Unix to 12.5 on AIX. Designed and implemented warm standby replication for ASE12 environments using Sybase Replication Server. Also provided performance and tuning of Sybase installations, optimization of SQL queries and database design, development and testing of Sybase disaster recovery plans and processes, and advanced SQL training and mentoring to DBAs and development staff.

Dictaphone, Inc./Lernout&Hauspie Speech Products (6/01 – 6/04) – Provided database design, development, performance and tuning, and administrative support for various projects using SQL Server 2000. Also provided training and mentoring related to MS SQL Server 2000 to Dictaphone personnel.

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 and mentored NYSTRS staff on Sybase and Replication Server technologies and best practices.

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 servers to version 12.0. 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.

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 database administration support, database design and modeling, 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

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 and Sybase IQ. Consulting activities were related but not limited to, database performance and tuning, database design and review, and standards development. Also developed courseware for Sybase and Microsoft SQL Server courses related to Transact-SQL, database administration, performance and tuning, very large database administration, and advanced SQL programming and query optimization.

Additional responsibilities included speaking at customer sites and user group meetings, participation in software product development and quality assurance testing, and participation in the sales process as a technical resource to the sales staff to determine customer needs, develop proposals, and perform customer relations

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 Sybase SQL Server 11 for optimal application performance.

Deaconess Hospital - Performed Enterprise Architecture review and analysis of Accounts Receivable system being implemented using Sybase SQL Server 11.

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 and database 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/1 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, Embarcadero DBArtisan, Embarcadero RapidSQL, White Sands Proactive DBA, ER Studio, Microsoft Office, Lotus Notes

Formal Education

- Syracuse University** **September 1980 to May 1985**
Syracuse, NY
B.S. in Psychology, Cum Laude
- National Security Agency** **June, 1985 to June, 1988**
Ft. Meade, MD
Computer Systems Intern Program

Technical Coursework

- Sybase Performance and Tuning** **July, 1992**
- Sybase Replication Server** **July, 2000**
- Powering Up with Sybase SQL Server 11** **Fall, 1995**

References

Available upon request