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Storage Snapshots for Database Refreshes

By Joe Grant ([@dba_jedi](#)), Principal Architect

One of the not so fun jobs for a DBA is the never-ending task of refreshing non-production databases from their production counterparts or from some other "gold" image. There are a myriad of tools that will help automate this process, but these tools can be prohibitively expensive. If your storage array is capable of snapshotting a LUN, then you can use this technology to help automate the refresh process without any additional tooling.

Recently I had the opportunity to work through the process of using SAN snapshots for database refreshes. [Read More](#)

Review of Gartner's Nov. 2014 Virtualization's an Oracle Audit Risk Paper

by Dave Welch ([@OraVBCA](#)), CTO & Chief Evangelist

A Review of Gartner's November 24, 2014 "Oracle's Licensing Policy for Server Virtualization is a Substantial Audit Risk" Paper

The paper, [document G00271412](#), was \$195 when originally published. It was free with registration as of February 16, 2015, and is again \$195 at the time of this posting.

I've been busy with other things and haven't prioritized authoring and publishing a comprehensive review until now. I drafted my initial analysis of the paper in January and have revised and re-written the draft since. I also confess I've been reluctant to post out of respect for the Gartner brand and industry colleagues there. [Read More](#)

Load Testing with HammerDB

by Mike Stone ([@HoBMStone](#)), CIO & Principal Architect

When we are asked to introduce new database technology or a new architecture at an existing customer site, some of the first questions we're always asked are around performance. Of course there's plenty of good information about hardware performance, clock speeds, latency, and throughput in the product marketing materials, but how does that really translate to my database or business critical performance? Now, maybe I'm old school, but I spent a good part of my education learning how to answer that question. If you're not asking the question, you probably should be.

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Fast XTTS With Cross Platform Incremental Backup - Part 2

by Jeff Stonacek, Principal Architect

In [part one](#) of this post, we described the high level concept of using Oracle's new cross platform incremental backup along with transportable tablespaces. These tools allow a DBA to perform cross platform transportable tablespace operations with the source database online, and then later to apply one or more incremental backups of the source database to roll the destination database forward. This can substantially reduce the downtime of a cross platform transportable tablespace operation.

In part two of this post, we will outline the specific steps required to perform this migration using the new cross platform incremental backup functionality. [Read More](#)

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