



# DBA Act for Oracle Version 2.2.1

## Release Notes

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## 1. Welcome to DBA Act for Oracle

DBA Act for Oracle is a powerful problem drilldown, containment and resolution tool for Oracle databases. Its unique capabilities and intuitive interface provides you with a clear identification of activity on your database and powerful ways of problem resolution. Drilldown functions identify real time cause of performance degradation and action functions aid in stopping database sessions responsible for negative impact on database performance.

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## 2. System Requirements

You should verify that your system meets the following requirements before attempting to install and run DBA Act for Oracle.

## Hardware requirements

- **2 Megabytes of free disk space** should exist on a local disk drive rather than a network drive. Extra disk space will be required if you choose to save reports created by DBA Act.
- **A monitor capable of supporting a resolution of 800x600 or larger.**
- **32 megabytes of RAM (minimum)**
- **A CD-ROM drive or Internet connection** DBA Act can be downloaded from the Internet or installed from compact disc. The CD-ROM drive should be attached to the server on which DBA Act is to be installed. A drive mapped to a network device could be used if a local CD-ROM is not available.
- **A printer (optional)** DBA Act reports can be printed on a laser or bubble jet printer.

## Software requirements

- **Windows 2000, Windows 2003 Server, Windows XP Professional, Sun Solaris (SPARC), Linux Red Hat or Linux SuSe**

The following specific requirements exist:

Windows 2000. Service Pack 4 (or later) must be installed.

Windows XP. Service Pack 1 (or later) must be installed.

Sun Solaris 7, 8, 9, 10

Red Hat Linux 7.x, 8.x, 9.x (2.4 kernel)

SUSE Linux 7.0, 8.0, 9.0 (2.4 kernel)

- **Terminal emulator (121 column is recommended minimum line size)**
- **Adobe Acrobat 6.0**  
A copy of the DBA Act for Oracle Getting Started Guide is included on the DBA Act installation in portable document format (PDF). You must install Adobe Acrobat Reader version 6.0 or later to view the PDF files. Adobe Acrobat reader is available on the Adobe web site at:

<http://www.adobe.com/>

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## 3. Installing DBA Act for Oracle

### Installation of DBA Act for Oracle

This procedure outlines how to install DBA Act on your database server, and should only take a few minutes to complete.

#### To install DBA Act for Oracle

Insert the DBA Act CD into your CD-ROM drive or download DBA Act installation archive from the URL provided by representative of DBA InfoPower Inc.

Create new or use existing directory to install DBA Act

Use below commands to install DBA Act on Sun or Linux database servers:

1. Gunzip dbaip\_act\_<Platform>.tar.gz (where <Platform> is solaris or linux)
2. tar xvf dbaip\_act\_<Platform>.tar.gz
3. cd dbaip\_act\_<Platform>
4. chmod 755 dbact

Use below commands to open DBA Act installation archive on Windows database server:

1. unzip dbaip\_act\_win.zip
2. install recommended 3<sup>rd</sup> party tools (see section “**3<sup>rd</sup> party Utilities for Windows Environment**” );

By default, DBA Act for Oracle is installed into the following directory, though you can choose a different installation path.

**\$HOME/dbaip\_act**

### Authorizing DBA Act for Oracle

If you are a new user of DBA Act for Oracle, you will be supplied with a trial period license in order to test the product. When the trial period expires, DBA Act for Oracle will stop functioning.

To maintain full functionality, contact your DBA InfoPower Software representative for information on obtaining a full licensed version. For further information see “Product authorization errors” in the *DBA Act for Oracle User Guide*.

**To register DBA Act license:**

Issue command: dbact -r

Follow the instructions displayed on the screen (you'll be requested to enter license token provided to you by DBA InfoPower Inc.)

**Please enter license token below:**

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## 4. Launching DBA Act for Oracle

DBA Act for Oracle is used as a command line product

### Launching DBA Act

To launch DBA Act directly:

```
bash-2.03$ dbact <command> <parameters>
```

In Windows environment:

```
C:\> dbact.exe <command> <parameters>
```

### DBA Act for Oracle database users and objects

DBA Act “bbw” function creates temporary table in the user database. This table is very small and has negligible impact on database performance (even on extremely active production databases). By default this table is created in PERFSTAT schema (different target schema can be specified by user), so presence of PERFSTAT user is recommended. The DBA Act for Oracle *User Guide* describes what database user access rights needed by DBA Act for Oracle.

By default DBA Act connects to database server as SYSDBA. If other user needs to be used for database access or to allow DBA Act to access remote database, DBACT\_USER environment variable need to be set.

For Example:

```
bash-2.03$ export DBACT_USER=perfstat/perfstat@proddb0
```

Or for local access:

```
bash-2.03$ export DBACT_USER=perfstat/perfstat
```

In Windows environment:

```
C:\> set DBACT_USER=perfstat/perfstat@proddb0
```

Or for local access:

```
C:\> set DBACT_USER=perfstat/perfstat
```

DBACT\_USER needs to have access rights to DBA%, v\$ and x\$ views

If remote access user is used below DBA Act functions would not be available:

**hard**  
**killtop**  
**killshadow**  
**ps**  
**top**

## Downloading Upgrades from the Internet

From time to time, DBA InfoPower, Inc. may make upgrades and patches available on the Internet. Upgrades will be made available from the DBA InfoPower web site at [www.dbainfopower.com](http://www.dbainfopower.com). Instructions for downloading and installing upgrades are provided on the web site.

## Uninstalling DBA Act for Oracle

To uninstall DBA Act for Oracle remove dbact executable module

## 3<sup>rd</sup> party Utilities for Windows Environment

**Below utilities are used by number of dbact functions in windows environment:**

- Pslist.exe - Needed for "ps", "top" and "killtop" functions - provides drilldown into oracle process and threads information  
Available at <http://www.sysinternals.com/Utilities/PsList.html> (Oracle recommended tool - see Metalink)
- tlister.exe - Needed for "ps", "top" and "killtop" functions - associates oracle instance with process id (PID), part of Windows NT Resource Kit  
Available at <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyID=c055060b-9553-4593-b937-c84881bca6a5&displaylang=en>,  
(Oracle recommended tool - see Metalink)
- Psinfo.exe - needed for "hard" function - provides information on database server configuration  
Available at <http://www.sysinternals.com/Utilities/PsInfo.html> (Oracle

recommended tool - see Metalink)

- GNU utilities for Win32 - general data filtering utilities (awk, grep, etc)  
Available at <http://unxutils.sourceforge.net/>

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## 5. Performance Notes

The following issues and limitations are known to exist in this release of DBA Act for Oracle. They are listed in below several sub-sections:

### General notes

#### Operating on highly fragmented shared pool

DBA Act function “shpfree” is used to diagnose fragmentation of free space of the database shared pool. However, caution needs to be exercised when using this function on a database where extremely shared pool is already extremely fragmented. If execution of this function takes over then single number of seconds it needs to be cancelled to prevent spike of database active sessions.

### Operating System notes

#### Failure to startup DBA Act after successful install.

DBA Act may fail to execute if /tmp directory on database server is 100% full. In such a case /tmp directory needs to be cleaned up

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## 6. International Operation

This section contains information about installing and operating this product in non-English or non-ASCII configurations. This section does not replaces or changes the materials about supported platforms and configurations found elsewhere in the product documentation.

*This product is not enabled for international operation. Only U.S. English configurations of this product and U.S. English datasets are fully supported. Non-ASCII characters and/or non-English configurations may work appropriately, but they have not been tested and this product should be used with caution in these environments. For specific support information, contact DBA InfoPower customer support.*

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## 7. For more information . . .

### Other document sources

The online help can be displayed by selecting an option from the **Help** menu, by clicking a Help button, or by pressing **F1**. Comments and suggestions regarding the help are welcome.

## Contacting DBA InfoPower

The development team welcomes any comments on the new features of this release, and information on any other problems/limitations found in the product that are not listed in the **Performance Notes** section. Send email to [support@dbainfopower.com](mailto:support@dbainfopower.com)

You can contact DBA InfoPower for product information and support issues via the following web page or email addresses.

### DBA InfoPower product information

Web page

<http://www.dbainfopower.com>

E-mail to Sales & Marketing:

[sales@dbainfopower.com](mailto:sales@dbainfopower.com)

### Contacting customer support

Web page

[http://www.dbainfopower.com/dbaip\\_support.php](http://www.dbainfopower.com/dbaip_support.php)

E-mail to Support:

[support@dbainfopower.com](mailto:support@dbainfopower.com)

## Technical Support

If you have questions about using DBA Act, please contact our technical support staff. Please include the version number, and if your question is about an error message, include the error text as well.

Should you encounter any problems with DBA Act, follow these steps:

Copy content of the DBA Act execution console to the diagnostics text file..

Capture picture of an error to the image file

Copy content of the DBA Act error dialog to the diagnostics text file.

- E-mail these files to [support@dbainfopower.com](mailto:support@dbainfopower.com) with your request for assistance.