

# Nathan Rhodes

## Cloud Performance Engineer

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### SUMMARY

Cloud Performance Engineer with five years improving PostgreSQL and Azure database reliability, response times, workload efficiency, and capacity utilization across production platforms. Brings hands-on skill in **workload analysis**, query tuning, index optimization, Azure database monitoring, **performance testing**, **statistical thresholds**, automation, and data-driven **capacity planning**. Recent work converted telemetry into clear Optimal, Descale, and Upscale recommendations, helping engineering leaders balance service quality, risk, and budget. Post-mortem reviews became practical remediation plans, not just incident records. Strong partnership with application owners, platform engineers, SRE teams, and support groups supports thoughtful releases and scaling decisions. Ready to contribute this experience, curiosity, and steady communication to BlueRidge Data Platforms.

### EXPERIENCE

#### Senior Cloud Performance Engineer

Summit Harbor Analytics 📅 February 2024 - Present 📍 Columbus, OH

Owns performance engineering across 40+ PostgreSQL and Azure database instances supporting analytics and transaction-processing platforms. Sets operating standards, guides capacity decisions, leads incident learning, and connects database evidence with business priorities. Provides senior-level direction across platform, application, and SRE partners.

- Established latency, throughput, and saturation baselines across 40+ PostgreSQL and Azure database instances, giving teams a shared view of service health and risk.
- Built **reporting models** from **Azure Monitor**, Query Store, and PostgreSQL statistics, applying percentile thresholds that separated normal variation from actionable degradation.
- Directed monthly Optimal, Descale, and Upscale reviews, aligning compute, storage, and **connection-pool changes** with forecast demand, service needs, and budget controls.
- Tuned high-volume queries through **execution-plan analysis**, indexing strategy, **partition review**, and parameter changes, improving consistency for reporting and API workloads.
- Led **post-mortem analysis** after database incidents, turning evidence into corrective actions with owners, due dates, and follow-up across platform, application, and SRE teams.
- Automated recurring health checks and capacity summaries with PowerShell and SQL, giving engineers repeatable risk, trend, and exception reporting with less manual effort.

#### Cloud Database Performance Engineer

Clearwater Digital Systems 📅 June 2022 - January 2024 📍 Dayton, OH

Managed performance investigations across PostgreSQL and **Azure Database for PostgreSQL** environments serving six internal product teams and customer-facing services. Combined telemetry, controlled testing, capacity models, and operational documentation into decisions that improved release confidence and service continuity.

- Created workload profiles from query duration, wait events, CPU, memory, storage, and connection metrics, helping product teams prioritize tuning work by user impact.
- Reworked slow SQL statements and supporting indexes after validating execution plans, reducing **peak-hour contention** across order-management and billing databases.
- Established **capacity-planning worksheets** and monitoring thresholds that guided scale-up, scale-down, and **storage-growth decisions** during quarterly demand planning.
- Coordinated **controlled performance tests** with developers and release managers, comparing baseline and post-change results before production rollout and reducing release risk.
- Maintained runbooks, tuning records, and incident documentation in Confluence and **Azure DevOps**, making handoffs clearer and recurring remediation easier to execute.
- Shared findings with product, engineering, and support groups, translating database behavior into practical guidance for service owners and development teams.

#### Database Performance Analyst

Pinecrest Technology Group 📅 May 2021 - May 2022 📍 Cincinnati, OH

Supported PostgreSQL and Azure database performance reviews for SaaS applications, with responsibility for telemetry analysis, query investigation, capacity forecasting, incident reporting, and technical knowledge sharing. Built an early foundation in evidence-based troubleshooting and learned how clear documentation speeds safe production decisions.

- Consolidated database telemetry and **service-level observations** into **weekly engineering reports**, helping senior engineers spot latency trends across SaaS environments.

- Investigated query latency and lock contention with PostgreSQL EXPLAIN plans, **pg\_stat\_statements**, **Azure Query Performance Insight**, and controlled test workloads.
- Documented indexing, vacuum, statistics, and **connection-management recommendations** for senior engineers, linking each suggestion with observed workload behavior.
- Assisted capacity forecasts by comparing historical utilization, deployment schedules, and projected transaction volumes across development and production environments.
- Prepared post-incident timelines and **contributing-factor summaries** that helped platform engineers prioritize monitoring gaps and preventative actions.
- Presented findings during knowledge-sharing sessions, turning database behavior into concise guidance that application developers and service owners could use.

## PROJECTS

### Azure Capacity Decision Model 📅 2026

Created a practical reporting model that combines Azure Monitor, Query Store, PostgreSQL statistics, percentile thresholds, and forecast demand. Delivered clearer Optimal, Descale, and Upscale decisions for platform reviews.

### PostgreSQL Performance Test Lab 📅 2025

Built controlled workloads for query, index, connection, and storage experiments. Compared baseline and post-change results, then documented repeatable test steps for safer production tuning.

## LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Performance Engineering Recognition, Summit Harbor Analytics, 2025
- Operational Excellence Award, Clearwater Digital Systems, 2023
- Led monthly database knowledge-sharing sessions and coached engineers on evidence-based tuning, incident learning, and capacity decisions.

## EDUCATION

### Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science

University of Cincinnati 🎓 GPA: 3.7 📅 2021 📍 Cincinnati, OH

***Coursework:** Database Systems, Operating Systems, Statistics, Cloud Computing, Data Structures*

## CERTIFICATIONS

- Microsoft Certified: Azure Database Administrator Associate 📅 2024
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals 📅 2021

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **PostgreSQL Tools:** EXPLAIN, pg\_stat\_statements, VACUUM
- **Azure Database Services:** Azure Database for PostgreSQL, Azure SQL Database, Azure storage
- **Azure Monitoring:** Azure Monitor, Query Store, Query Performance Insight
- **Database Performance:** Query tuning, index optimization, execution plans
- **Capacity Management:** Capacity planning, resource right-sizing, storage forecasting
- **Performance Testing:** Baseline testing, controlled workloads, regression testing
- **Automation Tools:** PowerShell, SQL scripts, scheduled health checks
- **Reporting and Analytics:** Reporting models, percentile analysis, statistical thresholds
- **DevOps Platforms:** Azure DevOps, Confluence, release coordination
- **Operations Management:** Post-mortem analysis, runbooks, incident documentation
- **Database Administration:** Connection management, partition review, database maintenance

## SKILLS

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|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| • PostgreSQL         | • Monitoring          | • Automation         | • Statistical Thresholds  |
| • Azure Databases    | • Capacity Planning   | • Risk Mitigation    | • Technical Documentation |
| • Workload Analysis  | • Capacity Management | • SQL Tuning         | • Team Collaboration      |
| • Performance Tuning | • Performance Testing | • Query Optimization |                           |

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Association for Computing Machinery, 2021 - Present

- Member, Microsoft Learn Community, 2022 - Present
- Contributor, PostgreSQL community discussions on query performance and database operations.

**LANGUAGES**

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- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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**Work Status** : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

**REFERENCES**

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AVAILABLE ON REQUEST