

Foreword

*T*oday's business leaders agree that effectively managing and leveraging information to make decisions has never been more important. More than 60 percent of CEOs feel their organizations need to do better at leveraging their information (IBM® Attributes and Capabilities Study, 2005). CFOs feel that if they leverage their information effectively, they can create five times more value for their organization (IBM Global CFO Study, 2006). Meanwhile, the information challenges become more complicated by the hour as the amount of digital information will double every 11 hours by 2010! It is therefore no surprise that now, more than ever, database skills are in demand and commanding increasing salaries. Our value as technology professionals is further increased as we learn and develop new skills on industry leading products. One of the most technologically advanced products in the industry is IBM DB2® 9 for Linux®, UNIX®, and Windows® (LUW).

More than 20 years ago, relational database technology was invented in IBM Research delivering the first commercially available database in the early 1980s. Today, tens of thousands of businesses all over the world rely on DB2 databases to store key corporate data assets and run their business both traditionally and over the Web. IBM DB2 9 for Linux, UNIX, and Windows builds on this industry-leading success by providing cost effective management of both relational data and pure XML data in a single data server — to provide you with all of the business information you need to solve challenging new problems.

The demand for DB2 skills continues to grow. Certifications were awarded in over 60 countries around the world, and more than 1,000 institutions worldwide are teaching DB2-related courses. In 2006 alone more than 35,000 download requests were made from DBAs and Developers who have wanted to extend their skills from Microsoft®, Sybase®, and Oracle® to DB2. Meanwhile, the value of a DB2 certification has never been greater. In November 2006, *Certification Magazine* rated DB2 (UDB) one of the “Top Ten” IT specialty certifications, the only database that made the list (*Certification Magazine*, “Certification Top 10 Lists Revis-

ited,” Ed Tittel, Nov. 2006, pg. 25). Further, 2006 salary reports indicate that certified DB2 professionals’ salaries are growing at a rate that exceeds those of rival database certifications. (*Certification Magazine*, “CerMag’s 2006 Salary Survey,” Tegan Jones, Daniel Margolis, Brian Summerfield, Kellye Whitney & Sarah Stone Wunder, Dec. 2006).

An ongoing challenge for today’s computer professionals is reserving the time to develop new skills to keep up with changes in technology. *DB2® 9 for Linux®, UNIX®, and Windows® DBA Guide, Reference, and Exam Prep, Sixth Edition*, is an excellent way to learn about DB2, to develop new skills, prepare for the DB2 certification exams, and to provide new opportunities for yourself in the computer industry. I hope you use this book to advance your skills, enjoy the benefits of being a DB2 professional, and seize the opportunities ahead!

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