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MCITP SQL Server™ 2005 Database Administration

EXAM GUIDE

(Exams 70-431, 70-443, and 70-444)

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Professional



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I'd like to dedicate this book to my loving wife of 15 years who has supported me in everything I do. I know that my life is much better because she is in it, much richer because I'm able to share it with her, and much more fulfilled because of her love for me.

She's never complained of my early mornings that I've gotten up to pound away at the keyboard. She has only rarely grumbled while I've spent a long weekend locked up in the computer room.

Only once or twice has she referred to herself as a computer widow. Through the many months this book project took, her support and love has been unwavering.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Darril Gibson has been working with Microsoft's SQL Server version 7.0 and any type of databases since the days of dBase. After retiring from the U.S. Navy, he became a Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT) and specializes in delivering leading-edge technical training. He has developed several video training courses for Keystone Learning on topics such as A+, MCSE 2003, and Exchange 2003. He moonlights as adjunct faculty at a local college and is currently working on a key government contract providing extensive training to Air Force personnel in support of a major Network Operations Support Center on a wide array of technologies. He holds about 20 current certifications including MCT, MCTS: SQL Server 2005, MCITP: Database Administrator, MCITP: Database Developer, MCSE, and MCSA.

He lives in Virginia Beach with his wife of 15 years, Nimfa, and their three dogs. Whenever possible all of them escape to a small cabin in the country on over 20 acres of land where weekends are spent watching birds and wildlife, and tending to flowers and roses that the local deer seem to think are their own private salad bar.

About the Technical Editor

Todd Meister has been developing using Microsoft technologies for over ten years. He's been a technical editor on over 40 titles ranging from SQL Server to the .NET Framework. Besides working as a technical editor, he is an Assistant Director for Computing Services at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. His latest development accomplishment was developing an e-commerce site from scratch that included over 15,000 lines of .NET code, credit card integration, gift certificate functionality, and discount codes.

He lives in central Indiana with his wife, Kimberly, and their four children. Contact Todd at tmeister@sycamoresolutions.com.

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INTRODUCTION

With Microsoft support of SQL Server 2000 ending on April 8, 2008, the importance of SQL Server 2005 continues to increase. Watching job advertisements, I'm seeing more and more job openings for database administrators in general, and an increase in SQL Server 2005 listed in the desired skill set.

As the Microsoft SQL Server 2005 market share grows, so does the demand for qualified DBMS experts to develop and maintain complex databases. Certifications are an ideal way to demonstrate knowledge and mastery of any product, including SQL Server 2005, and often certifications open new doors and opportunities.

Whether you're trying to learn SQL Server from scratch, or upgrade your skills from SQL Server 2000, pursuing the MCITP certification is a great path to guide your studies. I've earned several certifications from Microsoft, and I've found that by pursuing certifications, I'm able to learn a good mix of what's needed on the job and what Microsoft considers significant new enhancements to a product.

While this book will guide your studies to help you prepare for the MCITP certification, you'll also learn a lot of job skills that can help you shine as a DBA.

MCITP: Database Administrator

To become a Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP): Database Administrator you need to pass three tests:

- **70-431 Technical Specialist**
Microsoft SQL Server 2005—Implementation and Maintenance
- **70-443 Professional**
Designing a Database Server Infrastructure by Using Microsoft SQL Server 2005
- **70-444 Professional**
Optimizing and Maintaining a Database Administration Solution by Using Microsoft SQL Server 2005

When you pass the first test (70-431), you earn the Microsoft Certified Technical Specialist: SQL Server 2005 certification. When you pass the remaining two tests (70-443 and 70-444), you earn the MCITP: Database Administrator certification.

At this writing, to retain the MCITP certification, you need to recertify every three years. While other certifications such as Cisco have required recertifying periodically, this is the first time Microsoft has included a recertification requirement.

Microsoft has two other MCITP certifications related to SQL Server 2005 that are not covered by this book. Keep on the lookout, though, new books are always being written. The two other SQL Server 2005 MCITP certifications are

- MCITP: Database Developer
- MCITP: Business Intelligence Developer

I've pursued several certifications over the years and know that the process of studying the objectives is an excellent way to guide my studies. It helps me learn the product, and when I'm pursuing Microsoft certifications, the objectives help me understand what Microsoft considers important in the product. I've written this book with this in mind. First and foremost we cover the material to help you pass the tests, but you'll also come away with knowledge you can use on the job.

One caveat, though. Finish the book and get certified, but don't think you're done learning. SQL Server 2005 is a very deep and robust product. If all you were to do is work with and manage SQL Server, I doubt that you'd know it all before the next version comes out. I don't profess to know everything about SQL Server and certainly don't claim this book will cover it all.

The tests currently cost \$125 each. As a Microsoft Certified Trainer, I occasionally receive discount vouchers that can be used to get a discount off the \$125. I give these vouchers to students. As you are an owner of this book, I consider you a student. When the vouchers are available to me, I'll post them on mcitpsuccess.com for you to use.

Registering for the Exam

To register for any Microsoft exam, visit the following web site:

<http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcpexams/register>

While Microsoft testing has historically been available through both Prometric and Pearson Vue testing centers, Microsoft recently decided to use only Prometric as their testing provider.

How to Use This Book

You can easily start on the first page of Chapter 1 and continue on until the last page in Chapter 15. That's the way I wrote the book, and that's the way I envision using it to teach college classes. If you're not too interested in certification, but mostly want to immerse yourself in the product, this book will work just fine.

If you're interested in certification, you probably want to take a couple of steps before you dive into the book.

First you need to know what the objectives are for the test. At the end of this introduction, I've included the objectives in a map that identifies in what chapter and section the objectives are covered. However, test objectives change. I strongly encourage you to check out Microsoft's site to see if the objectives have changed. They are accurate at this writing.