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MCITP Self-Paced Training Kit (Exam 70-686): Windows® 7 Desktop Administrator (Microsoft Press Training Kit)



Synopsis

Announcing an all-new SELF-PACED TRAINING KIT designed to help maximize your performance on 70-686, the required exam for the MCITP: Windows 7, Desktop Administrator certification. This 2-in-1 kit includes the official Microsoft® study guide, plus practice tests on CD to help you assess your skills. It comes packed with the tools and features exam candidates want most-including in-depth, self-paced training based on final exam content; rigorous, objective-by-objective review; exam tips from expert, exam-certified authors; and customizable testing options. It also provides real-world scenarios, case study examples, and labs to build the skills and expertise you can use on the job. Topics include planning and managing a client life-cycle strategy, designing a standard image and client configurations, planning Windows 7 client deployment, managing application compatibility, and identifying and resolving issues with deployment and configuration. Work at your own pace through the lessons and lab exercises. Then assess yourself using the 200 practice questions on CD, featuring multiple customizable testing options to meet your specific needs. Choose timed or untimed testing mode, generate random tests, or focus on discrete objectives. You get detailed explanations for right and wrong answers-including pointers back to the book for further study. You also get an exam discount voucher-making this kit an exceptional value and a great career investment. A Note Regarding Practice Tests Assess your skills with practice tests. You can work through hundreds of questions using multiple testing modes to meet your specific learning needs. You get detailed explanations for right and wrong answersâincluding a customized learning path that describes how and where to focus your studies.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been using Windows 7 since the Beta release, and actively working with this OS since the RTM. I certified a long time ago, and I can tell you that after reading well over 3500 pages of technical reference material in relation to this operating system, this book has allowed me to learn about parts and features of this version of Windows that none of the others have (Yes, including the Resource kit). As technical reference books go, it written extremely well, and provides for a comfortable read. The eBook provided with the traditional hard-copy format is a welcome searchable addition to an indexed reference 'library'. Well worth the investment in time and expense.

After passing the 70-680 exam pretty handily (and usingÂ another non-MS Press resourceÂ along with the "official" 70-680 study kit to study for that one), I figured I had the "chops" to use only the MS Press Training Kit to as a sole source for studying for the 70-686. So I studied this book thoroughly and did all exercises and the practice exams on CD-ROM. I was passing all practice tests with flying colors and felt familiar with all the objectives, so I felt I was ready. Then I sat for the exam and after gong through the first 15 questions, immediately felt like this wasn't going to go well - I ended up failing by only 35 points (which is the equivalent of one incorrectly answered question). Frustrating. Like any other MS Cert exam, you won't be tested on the easy stuff - instead you're tested on the esoteric, nitty-gritty tasks. And that's where this book fails. For example, there are questions on the exam that require deep knowledge of certain tasks, and this book barely scratched the surface on those tasks. While it "touched" on every objective, it didn't go deep enough into them for the exam. By the way, I've worked in IT for over 10 years and I'm currently a Sys Admin who has built, deployed and troubleshot hundreds of Win7 desktops using MDT10/WDS/USMT. Group Policy Management, WSUS, and software deployment/updating are my daily bread and butter (though I'll admit I haven't used SCCM in my job). So based on my experience with this book and the official 70-680 MS book, I'm done with MS Press Cert books. Sure, they're useful as reference books, but not as a source for exam prep.

I read the book before taking the exam and it covered the material well. I did not have difficulty with the exam and found the content of the book covered the exam except for a few areas that were left

to Technet articles. You should have knowledge of other MS technologies that are mentioned in the text. I have used numerous MS Press books and find them to be very useful outside of just studying for the exams. The SQL 2005 series was excellent in breadth and depth.

I read this book cover to cover in preparation for the test. While the actual 70-686 test I took had more difficult questions (50 multiple choice), I did feel prepared, and I passed on the first try. As with all exam prep material, you never know if they've changed the test since the book was published, so it's always best to supplement with other test prep materials. That having been said, the book and practice tests were more than adequate to earn me a passing score (in March '11).

What's priceless is the exam topic map. It lists each category that's covered on the exam, then tells you exactly which part of the book to find information on that category. You can study one category then take a practice test on only that information. I would've paid \$45 for that alone! This is my first certification I'm going after and this book is getting me prepared really well.

I've taken the official MS class. Read through my class book again. Set up labs. Watched CBT Nuggets videos. I failed, miserably. Purchased this book. Studied a few more weeks. Failed again. This time less miserably. I guess you can say this book at least helped me get closer so it must have some useful information in it. It is a good starting place to become familiar with the exam objectives and technologies. That being said it does not come close to the information included in the official exam. Part of that may be the fact that this book is 3 years old before IE 9, Office 2010 and SCCM R2 were released. All of which were mentioned in my last exam. While the versions of applications should not matter much to the exam it is a sign that this book is old. That being said, it does not appear there are any newer study materials available. It seems everyone stopped making 70-686 study guides sometime in early 2011. Tools and scripts mentioned in the included practice exam are not even mentioned in the book. The included PDF version of the book is nice when trying to study so you can search for key words instead of flipping through pages trying to find that one technology you need to read more about. I believe this MAY have been a decent book 2 years ago but now it seems to be too little. Like I mentioned, this may be a good starting point, but do not rely on this book to pass the exam.

I've read a lot of certification books and done a lot of studying in my time. I hold lots of certifications. I'm currently working on various MCITP tests. One of those tests is test 70-686, to become an

MCITP for Windows 7 Desktop Administrator. Since I've already passed 70-680, I understand how the certification program works, what objectives are, and how authors "map" those objectives to chapters and labs when they write these books. Craig Zacker does a fine job of this mapping. If you're still a bit in the dark about how the objectives for this test line up, or if you know you need to focus on only two or three, you'll find this mapping helpful. Beyond that, there are lots of carefully explained concepts, lots of hands-on exercises, and lots of review and study materials. It's a great starting point for study, and I say "starting point" because I always suggest any student read two or three books for a well rounded experience. I highly recommend this book. It's well written, has been carefully edited, and offers lots of text, labs, and review materials for study.

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