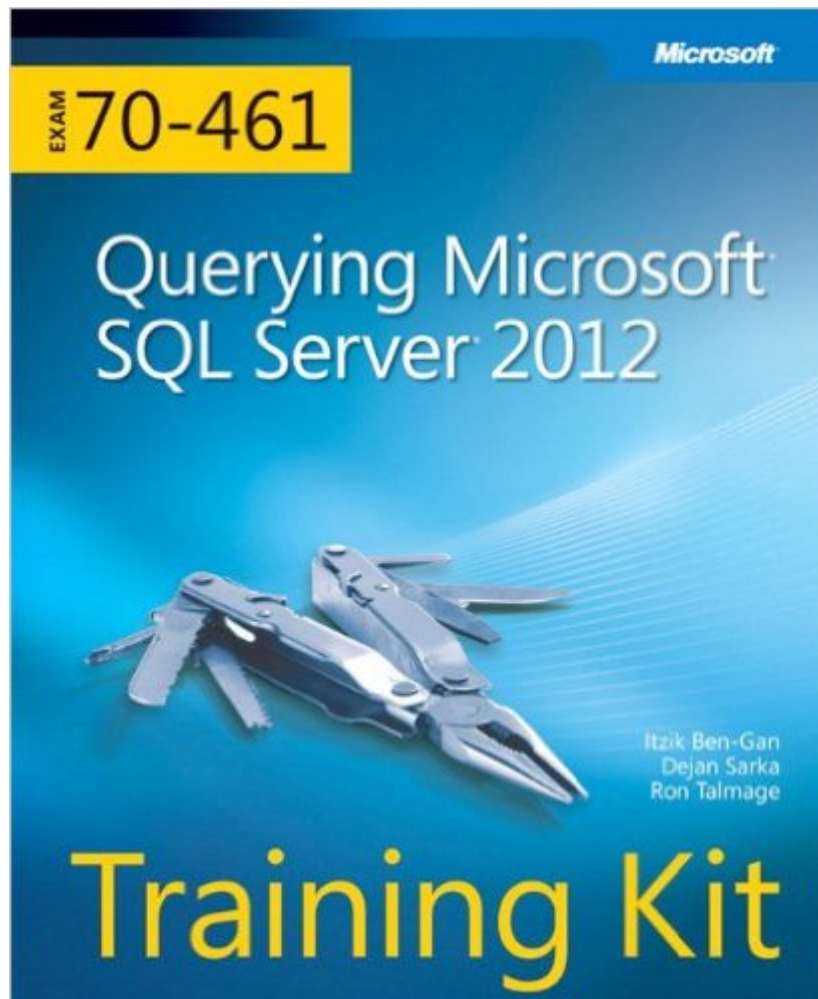# Training Kit (Exam 70-461) Querying Microsoft SQL Server 2012 (MCSA) (Microsoft Press Training Kit)

Synopsis

Ace your preparation for Microsoft Certification Exam 70-461 with this 2-in-1 Training Kit from Microsoft Press. Work at your own pace through a series of lessons and practical exercises, and then assess your skills with practice tests on CDâ "featuring multiple, customizable testing options. Maximize your performance on the exam by learning how to: Create database objects Work with data Modify data Troubleshoot and optimize queries For customers who purchase an ebook version of this title, instructions for downloading the CD files can be found in the ebook.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 ststarsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (174 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #26,063 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Microsoft Programming > SQL Server #4 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Networking & Cloud Computing > Network Administration > Storage & Retrieval #9 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Databases & Big Data > SQL

Customer Reviews

I just passed the exam with a score of 831 on my first try at 62 years of age. This book was my primary study guide, but I vacillated between giving 3 or 4 stars. Here's how I arrived at four:The book itself would have been a solid five except for numerous editing errors, which I find somewhat inexcusable especially when you take the quiz at the end of a chapter only to find that the book had some wrong answers. I'm glad I had a later edition so I didn't have to put up with scrambled chapters. I've written books myself so I am at a loss as to how so many errors could have slipped by. I'll blame it on the editors (or lack thereof) - just make sure you print out the errata page from the O'Reilly site as a reference. So for bad editing, I subtract .5 stars.And then there's the practice exam...This has got to be the worst practice exam out there for this test. The questions bear little resemblance to the real thing in either format or difficulty. If you barely pass this exam YOU WILL

NOT PASS THE REAL THING. I was getting about 95% on the MeasureUp exam and then bought the Transcender exam after reading some of the reviews here. My 95% was worth 60% (FAIL) on the Transcender exam, which is much closer to the real exam in difficulty. I am not trying to sell you on Transcender as I feel it was over-priced considering that it too has accuracy issues.Bottom line, I was ready to deduct two stars for the worthless exam (which another reviewer did) but decided to view it as a flawed bonus, like those coupons that print on your grocery receipt for items you just bought. So another .5 deduction - four stars seems about right. I would prefer that they didn't include the test as it could raise one's confidence unjustifiably.

1st, a small disclaimer...At the time of this review, 12/13/12 I have not finished reading or studying this book yet; as a matter of fact, I challenge any person or reviewer saying he or she has finished the book, as frankly speaking would be difficult or impossible to believe. However, I decided to jump ahead and give my honest review from what I've read so far. I have no business relationship with any of the authors whatsoever.Having said that, I like this book so far. It is way, way better than its previous version. It goes more in-depth and gives a more holistic approach to T-SQL. I'll explain that in a few.So far, i've read: Chapter 1, which is an intro to what set theory is. Chapter 2, which is about SELECT statements. Chapter 15, which is about Indexes and Chapter 17, which is about optimization. All those cover the basics and more about what you need for your day to day job and to fully understand T-SQL and their proper usage. The Index and Optimization chapters have plenty of illustrations and the concepts are exposed in a clear but concise manner.Each chapter, as the typical MS cert books, has questions an answers but there are also lot of labs with exercises and T-SQL queries to play with. You only need a SQL2012 instance (any flavor) to practice.I consider this book a hybrid between Itzik's bestseller, T-SQL fundamentals and previous SQL query book from Microsoft. This new version keeps its simplicity while going more in detail and giving a non proprietary and holistic approach to what T-SQL is or should be.I've been reading Itzik's books for several years now and he has improved his writing skills a lot.

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