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Exam Ref 70-414 Implementing An Advanced Server Infrastructure (MCSE)



Synopsis

Prepare for Exam 70-414 and help demonstrate your real-world mastery of advanced server design, planning, and implementation. Designed for experienced, MCSA-certified professionals ready to advance their status, Exam Ref focuses on the critical-thinking and decision-making acumen needed for success at the MCSE level. Optimize your exam-prep by focusing on the expertise needed to: Manage and Maintain a Server Infrastructure Plan and Implement a Highly Available Enterprise Infrastructure Plan and Implement a Server Virtualization Infrastructure Design and Implement Identity and Access Solutions

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Customer Reviews

I see that a few people are giving this book 5 stars but are not writing reviews. I'm curious what exactly there is to say good about this book as it pertains to the Exam that it is written for. I've been studying for 70-414 for months and have used a variety of sources including "Mastering Windows Server 2012 R2", CBT Nuggets videos, and numerous TechNet and user created content and all of those have been helpful. I knew as soon as I cracked open this particular book and began reading over the 10,000 foot level look at major topics that it wasn't going to be useful. It does give coverage of the topics on the test but there is so little information about these subjects that there is absolutely no way anyone could even get a respectable score on this test if this is what they are going off of. It is scarcely better than just getting a list of all the stuff that you'll need to study for on the test. For

those who are studying for the test, my advice is that if you want to read this book then make it your first resource for studying. It will get you started in the right direction. After that you'll need to find some much, much more detailed resources to study from. The test is an absolute bear covering subjects that you may have never heard of or used before. It is heavily geared towards any and all of the System Center products and the more advanced components of Server 2012 such as AD FS, AD RMS, Certificate Services, and failover clustering. If there were a book that covered all the topics on this test in proper detail it would a couple thousand pages long. This measly 304 page book doesn't even come close to that.

This really doesn't go into the level of detail required for the kind of questions Microsoft is going to ask about complex topics like SCVMM/SCCM/SCOM/SCSM/etc. I waited for this book through its multiple delays after pre-ordering it, and it's clear to me that the author just phoned it in. I have been able to pass previous exams through a combination of the MS-Press books, CBT Nuggets, MSDN Virtual Labs and additional books, as well as Transcender tests. Of those choices, the CBT Nuggets classes usually do a great job of explaining the complex topics and the MS-Press books can be scoured to determine what nitpicking questions Microsoft might ask from them. Unfortunately, there is no Transcender test for this (I did buy one from MeasureUp), and the other book options are so bad they deserve study.

Bought this book with great doubts about its usefulness, given my experience with the 70-413 book by the same author. The book didn't disappoint, and I say it in a less than positive sense. I compared the table of contents with the objectives detailed by Microsoft at <https://www.microsoft.com/learning/en-us/course.aspx?ID=20414C>. There is no mention at all about topics such as Dynamic Access Control, Workplace Join and Work Folders. Module 12 is missing altogether. Microsoft objectives also list labs for each module. Skimming through the book, the concept of a lab is completely left out. If Microsoft includes labs as components of each objective, I would at least expect links to documents on setting up labs on the topic that's been studied. Did the author take the effort? Nope. Did the author structure the book in such a way that would match objective numbers as listed by MS? Nope. Did the author waste valuable real estate (more precisely 7 full pages) by listing detailed user rights and permissions which aren't going to be memorised by any student, and are of no value in the exam? Yes, the author chose to waste 7 pages solely on listing user rights. In my view, these 7 pages would have been much better used for lab setup guidance. The author chose to waste it on permissions instead. I also see a section on highly

available network services, specifically Windows Network Load Balancing. I fail however to find it as an objective on the MS training site above. If MS isn't going to test on this topic, it makes me wonder why the author chose to waste yet more real estate on useless stuff. If Microsoft changed the curriculum, then where is the updated 2nd edition book to cover the changes? I'll still read it cover to cover, however my first impression is not quite positive. TechNet and Google seem to be more effective than this book. Should you buy it? I don't think so. Look at alternatives instead.

Microsoft Press books normally do well to address the exam objectives. Unfortunately this book fails to prepare students for the exam. I studied this book thoroughly along with TechNet and Transcender and still could not pass the exam after 3 attempts despite being a seasoned systems engineer with MCSE certifications on 2000, 2003, and 2008 (MCITP-EA).

I needed to make sure that I had the basic framework down before going into the detail that is needed to pass the exam. As a result, I started with this book before diving into the detail further as needed to pass the exam. It all depends on how much time you have to study before the exam. Consider it a great resource if you have the time to start with the basic framework. If you need to cram, then go to one of the study courses that'll give you more insight into the specific questions.

How does anyone write a textbook that does not cover the material needed to pass the exam? This book is a waste of money. You will fail the exam, then be told that "real world experience in a production environment is needed to pass the exam". Well, if you have that, then you do not need to take the exam!!! Each page of the book links to at least one and often several white papers, each of them can be hundreds of pages long. If you ever read all that material, you would be dead from old age before you could take the exam.

Considering Microsoft is the one that develops their exams and their exam questions come right out of their Exam Ref's, there's no real other choice. The Microsoft Training Guide's and Exam Ref's should be your go-to guide to everything Microsoft.

Really not enough to pass the exam, some general talking with many referral to public Microsoft documentation which you can easily find for free

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