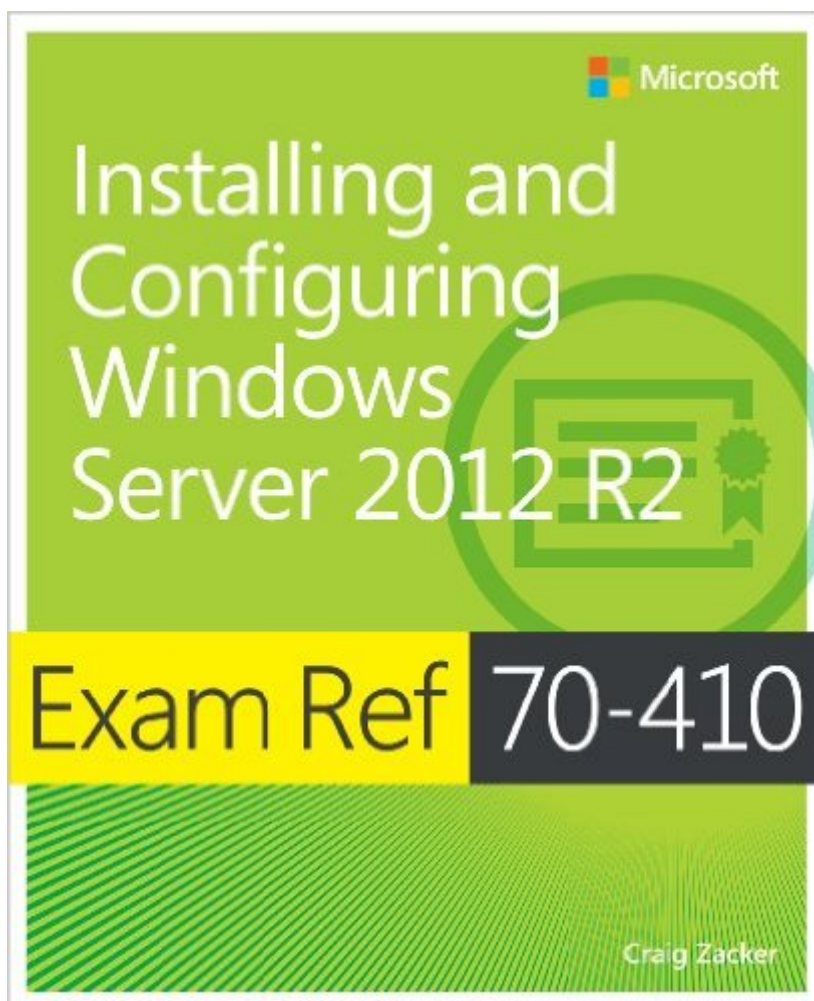# Exam Ref 70-410 Installing And Configuring Windows Server 2012 R2 (MCSA)

Synopsis

Fully updated for Windows Server 2012 R2! Prepare for Microsoft Exam 70-410 - and help demonstrate your real-world mastery of implementing and configuring core services in Windows Server 2012 R2. Designed for experienced IT professionals ready to advance their status, Exam Ref focuses on the critical thinking and decision making acumen needed for success at the MCSA level. Focus on the expertise measured by these objectives: Install and configure servers Configure server roles and features Configure Hyper-V Deploy and configure core network services Install and administer Active Directory Create and manage Group Policy   This Microsoft Exam Ref: Organizes its coverage by exam objectives. Features strategic, what-if scenarios to challenge you.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book MAY be good for a complete beginner, but do not expect to pass the exam using it. This book will get your feet wet with some basics in Windows Server 2012/R2, but even that it does poorly.First off, the book's preparation for the exam is sub par. After going through the entire book, and working through all the exercises in a test environment i created, I took a practice test online. I did terribly. Much of the practice test was completely unfamiliar to me. This book should be titled 'A beginners guide for Server 2012 R2', and in no way reference the fact that it prepares you for 70-410.Secondly, many of the sample exercises have you going through the motions, but do not explain WHY you are going through the motions. This is the whole point of 70-410, to understand

why you're doing something. For example, on the section about demoting a domain controller, it recommends you check the box to force demotion, but doesn't say why. Upon looking up this information via google, I found out that it's purpose is to forcibly remove the domain controller from the domain, and this leaves behind many orphaned objects in your AD. This option should only be used as a Last Resort! So why is the book having me blindly do it with no explanation?Thirdly, there are several chapters with poorly written questions at the end. In fact, theres one chapter where the entirety of the questions have no relation whatsoever to the content of the chapter. I'm pretty sure this was an editing mistake, but its completely unacceptable. Something like this should have been caught.If you're looking for a beginners basic guide to server 2012 to get your feet wet, then this book won't hurt too much (just be sure to google some details as you go through its workflows). If you're looking to pass the 70-410 exam, look elsewhere.

While the book introduces you to some key topics, it fails to give nearly any depth, and misses many other key areas for the exam. I've taken numerous practice tests and have consistently failed. I've done some research for exam objectives on TechNet, and there are so many topics this book doesn't even touch. Ridiculous. This should not be an Exam Ref book. This should be an introduction to Installing and Configuring 2012 R2.

I studied for the 70-410 using this book with even setting up my own lab environment, in addition to already having experience with Windows Server 2008 R2 and already having a CCNA certification. The material in this book doesn't come anywhere close to preparing you for the actual exam itself.The book itself is good in that it does give you a nice overall primer of moving from previous Windows Server versions to 2012 R2 in particular, and could definitely get you on the right track as far as being a server admin for newer versions of Windows, but it fails handily in its objective of being an exam reference. For starters, even though as I read the practice questions on each chapter and only got one of them wrong in the whole book (and IMO the question was poorly worded,) I still failed the 70-410 on June 2nd 2014.I want to say that the 70-410 is perhaps suffering from a bit of an identity crisis. Namely, as of Windows Server 2012 (to a small extent in 2008 R2 as well) there are two to three ways of doing any one thing (generally either the powershell method or the GUI method, with maybe a third method involving some of the non-powershell command line applets) and with this particular exam you're expected to know ALL of the ways of doing them.That isn't inherently a bad thing, just this particular book doesn't prepare you for it.

I read and studied this cover to cover, have worked with the OS in several production environments, and installed managed and configured every release of Windows Server there has ever been. This is such a minimal amount of what is needed to pass the exam I'm not even sure how it has the Microsoft Press moniker on it. There are many typos and other issues, and I will probably avoid this author and this publication series whenever possible. There is no way this would provide enough information to pass the exam.Heck, sometimes it doesn't even provide enough information to pass the practice tests at the end of an objective!It is a good beginner's guide/overview.

If the Microsoft exam was an open book test and you used this book. You would fail.While the book gives a general high-level overview of the subjects of the exam, it does not go into sufficient details.Needs more focus on powershell rules, non-powershell cli. A lot more detail into hyper-v, hyper-v options, storage pools. Details into Installation and upgrading methodologies. Windows deployment servers etc etc. File permissions, propagation and GPO's. All of this stuff and more was merely glossed over but you are expected to know for the actual test.

Please understand what this book is meant to be, before you buy it. It isn't meant to be a comprehensive book on all the material that will be covered in the 70-410 exam or give you a complete list of exam questions. Rather, it is a very good up-to-date supplement to your current curriculum. Maybe something you would read a week before you take the exam.I am quite embarrassed to say that I took this exam twice before I realized that it covers R2 material and my material was out of date. You will not pass this exam with old material. The changes to Hyper-V are too great from 2012 to 2012 R2. After buying this book I realized just how outdated my old study material was and I supplemented my learning with Tech-net articles and videos from Channel9 and the MS Virtual Academy, as well as setting up a virtual lab. I passes the exam on my 3rd try after catching up on the new R2 features. This book will help you get there, but be sure to incorporate it as part of a larger overall strategy. MS has made the new exams much more difficult to pass and I promise that you will be disappointed if you don't study hard. Gone are the days when you can walk-in and pass an exam with sheer experience and maybe watching a single video course or reading a book that isn't comprehensive.As an example, you can be asked how to perform a task via the GUI, command line or Power Shell (for the same task!!!). That is 3 different ways to do the same thing!Good luck to you guy and study hard.

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