Time to be a Master.

Microsoft CERTIFIED Master

Microsoft Certified Master: SQL Server 2008
Recommended Pre-Reading List for Attendees
Last Updated: November 1st, 2009

The Microsoft Certified Master: SQL Server 2008 program covers the comprehensive SQL Server platform. It is a very demanding course and will challenge the limits of most candidates. In order to ensure that candidates are best prepared we provide this list of pre-reading material. It is not a conclusive set of reference material but rather it is intended as a list of pre-readings which provide a baseline for the topics covered during the training rotation. For many, items contained here within will be review. However, each applicant is encouraged to inspect the entire list to ensure they are up to date with the information represented, as it will be needed as a starting basis and referenced throughout the training.

Topic / Resource	Completed? (Y/N)
Planning and Design	
Infrastructure Planning and Design (SQL Server 2008)	
On-disk structures / New on-disk structures in SQL Server 2008	
On-disk structures	
FILESTREAM	
Spatial Indexes	
Sparse Columns	
Data Compression	
Data Compression: Strategy, Capacity Planning and Best Practices	
Data file maintenance, database snapshots, tempdb	
Shrink	
Database Snapshots	
Database Maintenance	
Working with Tempdb in SQL Server 2005	
Physical Database Storage Design	
Logging, Recovery, log file maintenance	
Transaction Logging	
Index internals and fragmentation	
Fragmentation	
Indexes from every angle	
Online Indexing Operations in SQL Server 2005	
Performance Tuning and Optimization (PTO)	
Query Tuning through effective indexing strategies	

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Topic / Resource	Completed? (Y/N)
Statistics Used by the Query Optimizer in Microsoft SQL Server 2005	
Batch Compilation, Recompilation, and Plan Caching Issues in SQL Server 2005	
Database Engine Tuning Advisor (DTA) in SQL Server 2005	
SQL Server 2005 Row Versioning-Based Transaction Isolation	
Partitioned Tables and Indexes in SQL Server 2005	
Troubleshooting Performance Problems in SQL Server 2008	
Backup and Restore	
Restore internals and procedures	
CHECKDB from every angle	
Corruption	
IO Subsystems	
Backing Up and Restoring Databases in SQL Server	
Benchmarking and Baselining – Prerequisites	
SQL Server Profiler	
Pre-deployment IO Best Practices	
Waits and Queues – Prerequisites	
SQL Server 2005 Waits and Queues	
Troubleshooting performance problems in SQL Server 2005	
SQL IO	
Overview of FAT, HPFS, and NTFS File Systems	
SQL Server 7.0, SQL Server 2000, and SQL Server 2005 logging and data storage algorithms extend data reliability	
Description of using disk drive caches with SQL Server that every database administrator should know	
Files and Filegroups Architecture	
Flash Disk Opportunities for Server Applications	
RAID Levels and SQL Server	
Microsoft Support for iSCSI	
Disk Partition Alignment Best Practices for SQL Server	
XML	
XML Support in Microsoft SQL Server 2005	

	Topic / Resource	Completed? (Y/N)
	XML Options in Microsoft SQL Server 2005	
	XML Best Practices for Microsoft SQL Server 2005	
	SQL Client	
	C# Tutorial	
	ADO.net Tutorial (Lessons 1-7)	
	SQL CLR	
	Using CLR Integration in SQL Server 2005	
	Database Administrator's Guide to SQL Server Database Engine .NET CLR Environment	
	Spatial	
	Introduction to New T-SQL Programmability Features in SQL Server 2008	
	Introduction to Spatial Coordinate Systems: Flat Maps for a Round Planet	
	Resource Governor / Policy Based Management	
	Introducing Resource Governor	
	Managing SQL Server Workloads with Resource Governor	
	Resource Governor Concepts	
	Replication	
	Replication: SQL Server Replication	
	Replication: Replication Publishing Model Overview	
	Replication: Types of Replication Overview	
	Replication: Replication Agents Overview	
	Service Broker	
	SQL Server Service Broker	
	Overview (Service Broker)	
	What Does Service Broker Do?	
	Typical Uses of Service Broker	
	Service Broker: Performance and Scalability Techniques	
	Security	
	Securing SQL Server	
	Setting Up Windows Service Accounts	
	Security Considerations for a SQL Server Installation	

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Topic / Resource		Completed? (Y/N)
	Reaching Compliance: SQL Server 2008 Compliance Guide	
	SQL Server 2005 Security Best Practices - Operational and Administrative Tasks	
	High Availability	
	High Availability Solutions Overview	
	Selecting a High Availability Solution	
	Database Mirroring Overview	
	Log Shipping Overview	
	Using Replication for High Availability and Disaster Recovery	
	High Availability and Disaster Recovery at ServiceU: A SQL Server 2008 Technical Case Study	
	SQL Server 2008 Failover Clustering	
	SQL Server Replication: Providing High Availability using Database Mirroring	
	Database Mirroring Best Practices and Performance Considerations	
	TempDB	
	Optimizing tempdb Performance	
	Capacity Planning for tempdb	
	SSIS	
	SQL Server Integration Services	
	Security Overview (Integration Services)	
	Integration Services Packages	
	Creating Package Configurations	
	CDC, Change Tracking	
	Tuning the Performance of Change Data Capture in SQL Server 2008	
	Change Tracking	
	Virtualization	
	Running SQL Server 2008 in a Hyper-V Environment - Best Practices and Performance Recommendations	