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# Exam 70-461 Bootcamp: Querying Microsoft SQL Server 2012



## Synopsis

200 practice questions to prepare & pass Microsoft exam 70-461: Querying Microsoft SQL Server 2012! Study this book to perform to excellence as a database developer! The exam text book follows the official Microsoft exam guidelines. The book features over 200 practice exam questions & answers. Once you learn the book, very likely you pass the exam effortlessly. SQL (Structured Query Language) programming & relational database design teach-by-practical-diagrams-&-examples book for developers, programmers, systems analysts and project managers who are new to relational database and client/server technologies. Also for database developers, database designers and database administrators (DBA), who know some SQL programming and database design, and who wish to refresh & expand their RDBMS design & development technology horizons. The book has special orientation for passing Exam 70-461. Familiarity with at least one computer programming language, Windows file system & Excel is assumed. Since the book is career advancement oriented, it has a great number of 3NF database design examples with metadata explanations along with practical SQL queries (over 1,400 SELECT queries) and T-SQL scripts, plenty to learn indeed. Great emphasis is placed on explaining the FOREIGN KEY - PRIMARY KEY constraints among tables, the connections which make the collection of individual tables a database. The database diagrams and queries are based on historic and current SQL Server sample databases: pubs (PRIMARY KEYs 9, FOREIGN KEYs 10) , Northwind (PRIMARY KEYs 13, FOREIGN KEYs 13) and the latest AdventureWorks series. Among them: AdventureWorks, AdventureWorks2008, AdventureWorks2012 (PRIMARY KEYs 71, FOREIGN KEYs 90), & AdventureWorksDW2012 (PRIMARY KEYs 27, FOREIGN KEYs 44). The last one is a data warehouse database which is the basis for multi-dimensional OLAP cubes. Sample databases installation instructions are included. The book teaches through vivid database diagrams and T-SQL queries & stored procedures; how to think in terms of sets at a very high level, focusing on set-based operations instead of loops like in procedural programming languages. There is a chapter dedicated to the new programming features of SQL Server 2012 and XML. The best way to master T-SQL programming is to type the query in your own SQL Server Management Studio Query Editor, test it, examine it, change it and study it. Wouldn't it be easier just to copy & paste it? It would, but the learning value would diminish rapidly. You need to feel relational database design and the SQL language in your DNA. SQL queries must "pour" out from your fingers into the keyboard. Why is knowing SQL queries by heart so important? After all everything can be found on the web so why not just copy & paste? Well not exactly. If you want to be an database designer & development expert, it has to be in your head not on the web. Second, when your supervisor is

looking over your shoulder, "Charlie, can you tell me what is the total revenue for March?", you have to be able to type the query without documentation or SQL forum search and provide the results to your superior promptly. The book was designed to be readable in any environment, even on the beach laptop around or no laptop in sight at all. All queries are followed by results row count and /or full/partial results listing in tabular (grid) format. Screenshots are used when dealing with GUI tools such as SQL Server Management Studio. SQL Server 2012 installation instructions with screenshots are included. Mastery of the database design & SQL programming book likely to be sufficient for career advancement as a database designer and database developer.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Unimpressed. I expect more of a study guide. Most would be arranged with topics in a reference format and diving into explanations of what you need to know. This book is not nearly as thorough as I would like, and the organization is lacking. The first sql query shown uses a CTE, without explaining the CTE logic or purpose. A tad confusing for many folks to jump in like that. A few pages later was a query with null values, but without explaining the impact of nulls on string concatenation or math, nor the ANSI NULLS setting. There are a lot of such details that are likely to be missing as well. Or maybe they're covered later in the book. Either way, I can't say that I'm inspired with confidence for passing the exam based on this book.

I don't disagree with the first review. This is unfortunately a very abstruse presentation of a huge

number of amazing SQL possibilities. The explanation is rather light but I have found that Mr Toth's books fill in the blanks to some degree as they progress. This is not a book for beginners. A good starting point is Rick Morelan's Joes2Pros series, and there is sufficient information there to get to a fairly advanced level. However this book will teach you data organization and presentation concepts that go far beyond any other source I have found. The queries shown here can be very complex and are the kind of queries I had to learn to write on my own after getting the basics down. Get a notebook and dissect these queries like a biologist would examine a specimen in a pan. It will take a lot of work and likely some googling for supplementary information, but if you want to produce reports that will make you the go to SQL person in your office, this book will get you there.

Tried it out because it was free. Meh.

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