Mastering

Microsoft® Windows® 7 Administration

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William Panek

Tylor Wentworth

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— William Panek

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— Tylor Wentworth

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William Panek (MCP®, MCP+I®, MCSA®, MCSA® w/Security & Messaging, MCSE – NT (3.51 & 4.0)®, MCSE – 2000 & 2003®, MCSE w/Security & Messaging, MCDBA®, MCT®, MCTS®, MCITP®, CCNA®, CHFI®) After many successful years in the computer industry and a degree in computer programming, William Panek decided that he could better use his talents and his personality as an instructor. He started teaching for such schools as Boston University, Clark University, and GlobalNet, just to name a few.

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William currently lives in New Hampshire with his wife and two girls. In his spare time he likes to golf, ski, and snowmobile. William is also a commercially rated helicopter pilot.

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Introduction

This book was written with over 40 years of IT experience between the two authors, William Panek and Tylor Wentworth. The authors have taken that experience and translated it into a Windows 7 book that will help you develop a clear understanding of how to install and configure Windows 7 while avoiding the possible configuration pitfalls.

Many Microsoft books just explain the Windows operating system but with this *Mastering* book, the authors take it a step further, with many in-depth, step-by-step procedures together with real-world examples that back up the explanations.

Microsoft Windows 7 is the newest version of Microsoft's client operating system software. Microsoft has taken the best of Windows XP and Windows Vista and combined them into their latest creation, Windows 7. Along with the best of Windows XP and Vista, Microsoft has added several new features to Windows 7 — features like Device Stage — to make more functionality available to users from one location.

Windows 7 eliminates many of the problems that plagued Windows Vista, and includes a much faster boot time and shutdown. It is also easier to install and configure, and barely stops to ask the user any questions during installation. We will show you what features are installed during the automated installation and where you can make changes if you need to be more in charge of your operating system and its features.

This book takes you through all the ins and outs of Windows 7, including installation, configuration, Group Policy Objects, auditing, backups, Windows Server 2008, virtualization and Hyper-V, and so much more.

Windows 7 has improved on Microsoft's desktop environment, made home networking easier, enhanced searchability, improved performance, built in wireless support, and even built in touchscreen capabilities — and that's only scratching the surface.

There have been several enhancements that allow Windows 7 to better serve the end user in terms of getting Remote Assistance from others. Windows 7 even adds a simple Easy Connect feature. We will show you the enhancements to Remote Desktop, making the user experience even better than it was before.

When all is said and done, this is a technical book for IT professionals who want to take Windows 7 to the next step. Most IT people just get a copy of Windows 7 and try to learn it. With this book, you will not only learn Windows 7 but you will become a Windows 7 Master.

Who Should Read This Book

This book is intended for mid- to high-level administrators of networks that use Microsoft operating systems. Such people probably fall into a few basic groups:

- Administrators who are responsible for client operating systems and are looking to implement the Microsoft Windows 7 operating system

- Server administrators or IT managers who are responsible for deciding which operating systems to use and what functionality they need
- Help desk administrators who are responsible for supporting the Windows 7 operating system

This book will help anyone who has to administer Windows 7 in a corporate environment, but it will also help anyone who wants to learn the real ins and outs about the Windows 7 operating system.

What's Inside

Here is a glance at what's in each chapter:

Chapter 1: Overview of Windows 7 This chapter begins by explaining many of the new features of Windows 7, together with some features of Windows XP and Vista that have been included with Windows 7.

Chapter 2: Installing Windows 7 We take you through the requirements and multiple ways to install the Windows 7 operating system in this chapter.

Chapter 3: Automating the Windows 7 Installation This chapter shows you how to install Windows 7 without the need of user intervention and also how to install multiple copies of Windows 7 quickly and easily.

Chapter 4: Configuring Disks In this chapter you are taken through the process of configuring and managing your physical disks.

Chapter 5: Managing the Windows 7 Desktop We show you how to manage your desktop environment, including customizing the taskbar and Start Menu, creating shortcuts, setting display properties for themes, and configuring Windows Gadgets in this chapter.

Chapter 6: Managing the Interface We examine the process of configuring the Windows 7 environment in this chapter, including an overview of the main configuration utilities, including Control Panel and the Registry.

Chapter 7: Using Remote Assistance and Remote Desktop This chapter explains the new features and benefits to using Remote Assistance and Remote Desktop within Windows 7 and how to support end users, and implement group policy and scripting.

Chapter 8: Configuring Users and Groups We take you through the different ways to create and manage your users and groups on the Windows 7 operating system in this chapter.

Chapter 9: Managing Security You will see how to configure different types of security on Windows 7, including Local Group Policy Objects (LGPOs), shared permissions, and NTFS security.

Chapter 10: Configuring Hardware and Printers This chapter explains how to install and configure new hardware, drivers, and printers by using the different installation applets. A discussion of the new Device Stage feature is included as well.

Chapter 11: Configuring Network Connectivity We explain in this chapter how to set up hardware to provide network connectivity, connect to network devices, set up peer-to-peer networking, and configure network protocols.

Chapter 12: Networking with Windows Server 2008 This great chapter shows you how to configure Windows Server 2008 to allow Windows 7 to connect properly. This chapter also explains using Windows 7 in a virtualized environment.

Chapter 13: Configuring Internet Explorer 8 You will see how to configure Internet Explorer 8 including Accelerators and Web Slices, pop-up blockers, InPrivate Security features, and security for Internet Explorer 8 in this chapter.

Chapter 14: Installing and Configuring Applications This chapter shows you how to add and configure many applications that are installed on Windows 7, together with how to install new applications on the Windows 7 operating system. A discussion of Live Mail and Calendar from the online Live Essentials download is also included.

Chapter 15: Maintaining and Optimizing Windows 7 In this exciting chapter you will learn how to monitor, maintain, troubleshoot, and optimize Windows 7 using Performance Monitor, Reliability Monitor, System Information, Task Manager, System Tool, System Configuration, Task Scheduler, and Event Viewer.

The Mastering Series

The *Mastering* series from Sybex provides outstanding instruction for readers with intermediate and advanced skills, in the form of top-notch training and development for those already working in their field and clear, serious education for those aspiring to become pros. Every *Mastering* book includes:

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