

# Microsoft Certified Solutions Master: Data Platform

Master data management with **Microsoft SQL Server**



Amidst complex data management requirements, transactional and business intelligence data must be efficiently managed while considering everything from security to data integrity. **MCSM: Data Platform for Microsoft SQL Server** program helps ensure a secure, reliable and scalable platform for increased efficiency.

## What is the Microsoft Certified Solutions Master program?

The highest level of technology certification that recognizes and validates an individual's ability to design, implement, and troubleshoot solutions built on Microsoft software and technologies.

## The value an MCSM brings to an organization

A Microsoft Certified Solutions Master helps an organization assess its current data needs, map major initiatives and projects, rate the impact of identified gaps (value, cost, level of effort), and prioritize investments for maximum impact, lowest cost, and greatest leverage.

The MCSM: Data Platform for Microsoft SQL Server program is designed to provide the most experienced IT Professionals worldwide with validation and recognition of their deep technology expertise in Microsoft SQL Server environments.

The MCSM: Data Platform is the highest level of Microsoft SQL Server technology certification for the database engine offered by Microsoft, and can be achieved by passing these two exams in the following sequence:

- 1. Exam 88 986:** MCSM: Data Platform Knowledge Exam
- 2. Exam 88 987:** MCSM: Data Platform Lab Exam

Test your technology skills for today's complex data management requirements and tomorrow's challenges. Designed by experts for experts, these challenging exams test your deep technology knowledge and validate your ability to make effective design, deployment and operational decisions using Microsoft SQL Server.

## Certified individuals prove their technology mastery

To obtain MCSM: Data Platform certification you must prove your mastery in a virtual lab environment that emulates an enterprise infrastructure of the SQL Server platform.

[www.microsoft.com/sqlserver](http://www.microsoft.com/sqlserver)

You are tasked with troubleshooting and diagnosing configuration and performance issues, and demonstrating the knowledge and skills that are required to successfully design, operate, deploy, and manage an enterprise-class SQL Server infrastructure. Organizations that need complex, secure, and/or large-scale solutions using SQL Server should employ the expertise of an MCSM: Data Platform to optimize their IT investment.

These experts design and support SQL Server solutions including:

- **Public-facing Web sites** serving millions of customers
- **Enterprise intranet solutions** serving global organizations with hundreds of thousands of users
- **Consolidation platforms** hosting terabytes of content for large organizations
- **Microsoft SQL Server** consolidation scenarios, multi-tenancy, enterprise data warehousing, and business intelligence
- **Highly available solutions** requiring constant uptime
- **High transaction volume systems** requiring optimally configured solutions to ensure maximum throughput

## MCSM: Data Platform

### Join the exclusive community of Microsoft SQL Server database technology experts

All Microsoft Certified Solutions Masters become an immediate part of an exclusive community of Microsoft SQL Server experts that includes fellow MCSMs and members of the Microsoft SQL Server Product Group. This membership provides valuable resources to which they can contribute, and they can draw the collective knowledge of that community at any time

### Prerequisites

An individual must hold the following Microsoft Certification before he or she can register to take the MCSM: Data Platform Certification exams:

#### Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert (MCSE): Data Platform

You must pass the MCSM: Data Platform Knowledge Exam before you can take the MCSM: Data Platform Lab Exam



### Preparing for the required exams

Although the most effective preparation is real-world, hands-on experience, there are learning resources that can help prepare you for the Knowledge and Lab Exams.

- **Videos.** Take advantage of several hours of free MCSM-level instruction delivered via video by some of the top Microsoft SQL Server instructors in the world: <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sqlserver/ff977043.aspx>
- **Books and White Papers.** A list of readiness resources is available and updated on the MCSM web site at: [www.microsoft.com/learning/en/us/certification/mcsm.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/learning/en/us/certification/mcsm.aspx)

### Taking the required exams

Now available worldwide, the MCSM for Microsoft SQL Server exams are delivered at select Prometric testing centers. For information on exam availability, or to schedule an exam, visit the Prometric registration website. Currently available only in English, additional languages may be available in the future, based on demand.

### Recommended skills and experience

Individuals interested in pursuing an MCSM: Data Platform credential typically have five or more years of hands-on Microsoft SQL Server experience in mission critical environments, with competencies that include:

- Designing and implementing high-performance, scalable, secure enterprise environments.
- Troubleshooting the most challenging Microsoft SQL Server issues.
- Managing multiple instances of Microsoft SQL Server, including the use of a variety of features and tasks using a thorough understanding of Microsoft SQL Server design and architecture.
- A thorough understanding of Microsoft SQL Server core engine components and dependencies, such as OLTP, high availability, disaster recovery, performance-tuning and optimization, SQLOS, storage engine, relational engine, security, manageability, and data distribution.



Learn more at [www.microsoft.com/learning/en/us/certification/MCSM-sql-server-data-platform.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/learning/en/us/certification/MCSM-sql-server-data-platform.aspx)