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*The Definitive Guide™ To*

Windows 2000  
Administration



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A book of this kind – or any book, for that matter – is only possible through the concerted efforts of many different individuals. The book you’re now reading on your screen (or, perhaps, holding in your hands), represents a major breakthrough in publishing, and the fulfillment of a personal dream. It marks the first time that a full-length technical book with current content has ever been provided to readers at no charge, and is the inauguration of a new market: corporate-sponsored e-publishing. However, the ability to bring a radical new idea to fruition is almost never the result of any one person’s efforts. There were several people that shared our vision early on, and who acted in a material way to assist us in making the idea into a reality.

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*This book is dedicated to the memory of my cousin,  
Vincent Valore*

## Foreword

Windows 2000 represents an enormous change for even experienced Windows NT systems administrators. This release introduces a slew of features aimed at making Windows 2000 suitable for even the most demanding enterprise-level tasks. New support for file encryption, disaster recovery, disk quotas, security policies, power management, and the Microsoft Management Console, make the learning curve tough. If you are deploying Windows 2000 server there are even more new features including Network Address Translation (NAT), File Replication Service (FRS), Remote Storage Services, Kerberos authentication, dynamic disks with on-line volume growth and software-RAID management, and Windows Management Instrumentation. And these lists are not even close to being exhaustive.

Most significant, however, is the Windows 2000 Active Directory (AD), Microsoft's implementation of industry-standard Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) directory services. Many of the Windows 2000 features I've mentioned are designed to integrate with AD, meaning that they use the AD as an enterprise-wide data repository. The AD is essentially a distributed version of the NT 4 Registry. Anyone that has administered NT 4 systems knows the work it takes to maintain the Registry, and those types of issues are magnified with AD. How do you trouble-shoot AD logon problems? How do you partition your domain tree so as to maximize the performance of the AD, and how do you manage domain controllers to make the AD robust while not impacting network performance? The list of questions that must be answered long before you turn on your first Windows 2000 domain controller is seemingly endless.

Fortunately, Sean Daily and Darren Mar-Elia are seasoned veterans of AD deployment, NT 4 to Windows 2000 migration, and the myriad of new Windows 2000 features. Both have followed the evolution of NT 4 for many years, giving them insights into design decisions Microsoft made in Windows 2000. That, combined with the fact that through consulting, training, and serving as contributing editors for Windows 2000 magazine, they've been exposed to many different Windows NT and 2000 installations and the problems that come with them, means that Sean and Darren know the information much deeper than the step-by-steps you'll find in other books. They know the complications that can arise in step 2 of enabling a particular service, for instance, or why step 5 won't work if you've already configured another component a certain way. While the step-by-step answers might help you obtain a certification, the knowledge conveyed by Sean and Darren is priceless because it will save you dozens of hours in the real world.

It's therefore appropriate that the title of their book is "The Definitive Guide to Windows 2000 Administration," because they are uniquely qualified to give you the ins and outs of deploying Windows 2000. If you are considering moving to Windows 2000, you're doing yourself a big favor by using this book to cheat the pitfalls.

Mark Russinovich

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