

Online Training for Windows 2000 MCSE Certification



When you decide to pursue Windows 2000 MCSE certification, you have several training alternatives to choose from. Because different people learn most effectively in different ways, the training method that worked well for your coworker might not be the best option for you.

Instructor-led training in a traditional classroom setting provides a preset schedule and immediate access to someone who can clarify technical concepts. A classroom environment also provides access to equipment for direct hands-on experience. On the downside, classroom learning offers little flexibility in scheduling and requires you to travel to the training site, which often means spending money for hotel and airfare in addition to the cost of the training.

The self-study learning alternative lets you set your schedule and eliminates many of the costs of instructor-led training. However, this alternative lacks the benefit of expert assistance, and many people find that self-study isn't an

effective learning method.

This Buyer's Guide presents an alternative to traditional instructor-led and self-study training options: online MCSE training. Different online courses offer different mixes of features. For example, most courses listed in this Buyer's Guide provide vendor-written technical material, but some offer Microsoft Official Curriculum (MOC) or employ Microsoft Certified Trainers (MCTs). For convenient offline use, some courses also offer training through recorded presentations or CD-ROMs.

Lab exercises are an important part of any technical training program. When evaluating online training sources, you should consider the way the vendor pres-

ents lab exercises. Does the vendor simulate the exercise, or are you able to get hands-on experience so you can learn from your mistakes?

For those who need expert assistance, some live instructor-led online training courses include 2-way audio so students can speak to the instructor. Other courses provide whiteboard and chat sessions for communicating in the virtual classroom. Another form of online training lets you proceed at your own pace and on your own schedule and provides assistance in a variety of ways, including telephone, email, instructor paging, and full-time online mentors. Some courses even let you know when other students are online so that you can chat with them. After you complete a course, some vendors offer skill-assessment pretests to help you determine whether you are ready to take the test.

MCSE certification training is challenging, and Win2K training is the toughest yet. We hope you can use this Buyer's Guide to find training that will help you reach your certification goals and prepare you for the real-world challenges that follow.

—John Green

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[Editor's Note: The Buyer's Guide summarizes vendor-submitted information. To find out about future Buyer's Guide topics or to learn how to include your product in an upcoming Buyer's Guide, go to <http://www.win2000mag.com/buyersguide>. To view previous Buyer's Guides on the Web, go to <http://www.win2000mag.net/channels/products>.]

BUYER'S GUIDE

Compiled by Sue Cooper

Contact Information	Product Name	Price	Description
Global Knowledge 800-268-7737 or 919-461-8600 http://am.globalknowledge.com	Windows 2000 MCSE Track	\$7375	Provides live training through your computer; instructors use 2-way live audio; features hands-on labs and the ability to record and play back course content

Contact Information	Product Name	Price	Description
IMGUniversity.com 800-881-6497 or info <imguniversity.com </imguniversity.com http://www <imguniversity.com <="" td=""> <td> MCSE Windows 2000 Fast Track </td> <td> Call vendor for pricing </td> <td> Uses MOC and MCTs; offers content on CD-ROM for offline access; you can communicate with your instructor through email, scheduled live chats, and instructor newsgroups </td> </imguniversity.com>	MCSE Windows 2000 Fast Track	Call vendor for pricing	Uses MOC and MCTs; offers content on CD-ROM for offline access; you can communicate with your instructor through email, scheduled live chats, and instructor newsgroups
Knowledge Alliance 877-483-6796 or 512-989-8588, extension 102 http://www.kalliance.com	MCSE 2000 Training	\$2200	Courseware includes built-in assessments and multimedia training
KnowledgeNet 877-688-3717 or 480-315-4000 http://www.knowledgenet.com	KnowledgeNet INTERACTIVE	Call vendor for pricing	A multimedia self-paced learning environment that provides scheduling flexibility
	KnowledgeNet LIVE	Call vendor for pricing	Live online classes taught by instructor teams; provides a condensed replay of the live instructor-led training
LearnKey 800-865-0165 or 435-674-9733 http://www.learnkey.com	Windows 2000 MCSE CLASSIC Series	\$2195	Provides seven courses that prepare you for certification tests 70-210, 70-215, 70-216, 70-217, 70-219, 70-220, and 70-221; full-motion video and audio of instructors and labs stream to your desktop; email support is available 24 × 7
	Windows 2000 MCSE Core Series	\$1355	Provides four courses that prepare you for certification tests 70-210, 70-215, 70-216, and 70-217; full-motion video and audio of instructors and labs stream to your desktop; email support is available 24 × 7
MindLeaders 800-223-3732 or 614-781-7300 http://www.mindleaders.com	Windows 2000 Professional Series	Call vendor for pricing	Web-based training with realtime access to instructors; courses play directly from standard browsers; includes simulations and search capabilities
SmartCertify Direct 877-872-4646 or 727-724-8994 http://www.smartcertify.com	SmartCertify ClassWare	Call vendor for pricing	Computer-based training (CBT) courses with 24-hour on-line mentoring; provides access to online resources, including moderated and peer-to-peer chat sessions
trainAbility 888-381-7300 or 480-423-8899 http://www.trainability.com	RealCert	Call vendor for pricing	Provides a multiple-delivery method of training that consists of a 4-day instructor-led workshop and virtual classroom training through the Internet; includes the certAbility application, a self-paced Win2K certification review taught in a virtual classroom
Training Associates 888-288-7246 or 480-649-2711 http://www.edserver.com	MCSE Courses	\$3750	Each course is on a CD-ROM; you can submit questions during scheduled chat sessions or by sending email to the instructor; the learning system lets you work online or offline; you continue to have full access to the course content after you complete the course
Wave Technologies International 800-994-5767 or 314-995-5767 http://www.wavetech.com	Windows 2000 MCSE eCamp Wave	\$2995	Virtual classes and chat sessions in which mentors act as virtual class instructors; you can get answers to questions through the telephone, email, or Internet instant messaging; integrates print materials with multiple media components; mentors guide you through print and on-line resources