A man in a light-colored t-shirt is standing in a server room, looking at a computer monitor on a stand. He is positioned on the left side of the frame. To his right are several tall, dark server racks. The room has a grid floor and overhead lighting. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the man and the server racks.

**Mark Minasi  
Kevin Greene  
Christian Booth  
Robert Butler  
John McCabe  
Robert Panek  
Michael Rice  
Stefan Roth**

# Mastering Windows Server® 2012 R2


 **SYBEX**  
A Wiley Brand

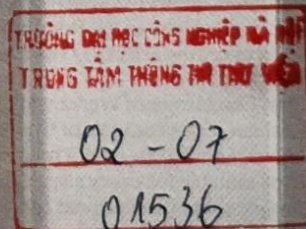




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—*The authors*

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—*Kevin Greene*

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—*Christian Booth*

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—*Robert Butler*

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# Introduction

Welcome to this book on Windows Server 2012 R2. All of the enhancements and new features that this latest release of Microsoft's flagship enterprise operating system offers have definitely raised the bar for future versions of Windows Server. To give you an insight into how much extra you get with 2012 R2, you only have to look at the original Windows Server 2012 release that reached general availability in September 2012. Shortly after that version hit the shelves, Sybex got this group of authors together to write a book on it, but just as we were coming to the final edits of our chapters, Microsoft announced that Windows Server 2012 R2 was to be released in October 2013—that's just over 12 months since the original version of Server 2012. In that short period of time, the amount of new functionality that was packed into Server 2012 R2 meant that we literally had to rewrite nearly half of the original Server 2012 book!

The team of authors who have worked on this book have an abundance of experience designing, deploying, managing, and troubleshooting Windows Server in large-scale enterprise environments, and we're really excited to tell you all about this version of the product.

If you're new to Windows Server, then this book will strive to give you the knowledge you require to go out and start working with it straight away. If you're an experienced administrator or consultant and are already familiar with it, then don't worry; we definitely have loads of new information in here for you to learn to help keep you ahead of the pack.

## Who Should Read This Book?

Like every other book in the *Mastering Windows Server* series, we've aimed this book at people who need to know how to install, configure, maintain, and troubleshoot a Windows Server environment. We assume that you already have at least a basic understanding of standard TCP/IP networking and that you have a basic working level of comfort with previous versions of the Windows GUI and Microsoft Management Console (MMC) in particular.

As complex as software products are becoming, no one can be an expert on all of them. If you are like most administrators, you have time to learn only enough about a product so that you can manage it effectively. However, there is probably a lot more that you could be doing with any one product. This book will get you up to speed quickly and then help you through some of the more arcane topics.

Not every administrator will have the same type of infrastructure to work with. What works well in a large corporation does not always work for small companies. What works well for small companies may not scale well for large organizations. Microsoft has attempted to address the differences among companies and deliver a product that can be implemented quickly for a small company yet will still scale well for large organizations. No matter which scenario fits you, you will want to learn how this product will work for you.