MCP Endeavor
FAQ: The Product
February 4, 1996
VFX Technologies, Inc.

What is MCP Endeavor?

MCP Endeavor is a comprehensive testing program that will help MCP candidates prepare for successful certification. This unique and powerful tool contains thousands of questions, extensive user feedback and the ability to cross reference popular study guides.

What makes MCP Endeavor unique?

All testing applications contain a few hundred questions and answers. All provide a score at the end of each test. Some offer brief paragraphs to further explain selected answers.

MCP Endeavor offers more:

Each test in MCP Endeavor contains between 500 and 1,000 questions.

Each question, through cross referencing, can direct you to specific pages in the world's most popular study guides. This feature allows you to fully research and comprehend the most complex facts and concepts as explained by industry experts.

Every correct, partially correct and incorrect score is recorded into an extensive user performance history. This performance database will be presented back to the user in many different forms to provide unequaled insight into your personal state of advancing knowledge. It will increase your awareness regarding areas of consistent strength and weakness. You can even construct new tests based on past performance.

The true power and significance of MCP Endeavor will become obvious as you begin to use and understand it.

What tests are currently covered by MCP Endeavor?

Current

> 70-14 Implementing and Supporting MS Systems Management Server 1.0
> 70-21 MS SQL Server 4.2 Database Implementation
> 70-22 MS SQL Server 4.2 Database Admin for MS Windows NT
> 70-26 SQL Server™ 6.0 Administration
> 70-27 SQL Server™ 6.0 Implementation
> 70-37 MS Mail for PC Networks 3.2 - Enterprise
> 70-39 MS Excel 5.0 for Windows
> 70-42 Implementing and Supporting MS Windows NT Workstation 3.5
> 70-47 Networking with MS Windows 3.1

70-49 MS Word 6.0 for Windows
70-50 MS Visual Basic 3.0 for Windows - Application Development
70-53 Internetworking MS TCP/IP on Microsoft Windows NT 3.5
70-63 Implementing and Supporting MS Windows 95

Coming Soon...

70-24 Developing Applications with Microsoft Visual C++™ Using The
70-30 MS Windows® 3.1
70-43 Implementing and Supporting MS Windows NT Server 3.5
70-44 Networking Basics
70-51 MS Access 2.0 for Windows—Application Development
70-52 Developing Apps with MS Excel 5.0 Using Visual Basic for Apps
70-54 Programming in MS Visual FoxPro 3.0 for Windows Exam
70-150 MS Windows Operating Systems and Services Architecture I
70-151 MS Windows Operating Systems and Services Architecture II

Why choose MCP Endeavor?

The different paths traveled to MCP certification are as varied as the individual candidates themselves.   MCP Endeavor excels in the area of self study. While every student chooses a unique combination of research materials, hands on experience, user groups, books, videos and training classes to gain knowledge, MCP Endeavor will help you effectively manage these resources through extensive testing and an unequaled level of objective feedback. Feedback that will help you leverage your investment of time and resources. Feedback that you will simply not find in any other product.

The road to certification is long and challenging. Don't be a passenger in your selected testing vehicle, take control, inject intelligence, apply focus and drive smart.

Where to begin?

As with any large undertaking, a good strategy breaks large overwhelming tasks into smaller more manageable units. Achieving MCP certification is no different. Unlike other testing products that simply lump material from each test into one general area, MCP Endeavor allows you the option to break your testing into very manageable units (categories). Each testing category is based on a test objective.. The purpose is two fold. First, you will be able to participate in some meaningful testing while you prepare for a test. Secondly, by testing specific objectives, you will establish an extensive performance history. This performance history will serve to remind you as to your past weaknesses when the test is finally approached as a whole.

[Many test categories have been omitted from the evaluation version]

Why doesn't MCP Endeavor use the multiple choice format exclusively?

The MCP exams are presented in a multiple choice format, an ideal method for mechanized scoring. However this automation does come with a price, correct answers must be presented to the candidate during the test. This makes formulating answers easier. Students make best guess selections or "reverse engineer" correct answers by eliminating incorrect answers. Test administrators

are able to justify these problems for the sake of automation. But these are a few of the reasons why the methods that work well for certification testing do not work well for certification preparation.

Another factor that differentiates certification testing from certification preparation is recognition. Fortunately, certification tests are objective because questions are presented only once. There is no recognition factor, no familiarity factor. But what if each candidate were to see the same questions and answers again and again? Objectivity would be undeniably lessened, picking answers becomes a simple function of recognition. Some products simulate the certification testing environment, but claim they should be used repeatedly as study tool. These environments may produce valid results in a one time test simulation sense, but they are not meant to be used repeatedly preparing for a test.   Each iteration becoming less and less objective.

Preparing for exams is a different game.   MCP Endeavor does not exclusively use a multiple choice format - it challenges you to answer from memory - a true test of your knowledge that will hold up regardless of the certification test format you are presented with.

What is this performance history database?

The incentive for any candidate to use testing software is to receive feedback, to gauge and to gain insight into personal progress. This insight is used to focus future efforts.   Ironically, other testing applications provide very little feedback and no mechanism to utilize this information. Yes, you will be given a simple cumulative score at the conclusion of each test. Yes, you can also immediately retest your mistakes. But how does this one dimensional view of performance help the you in the long term?

MCP Endeavor provides you with the unique ability to view your personal performance graphically. Not just the final test score, but the how you performed on each and every question for the previous ten attempts. This history is presented in an easy to read sequence of colored blocks each time a question appears. Immediately you know if this is a question you consistently struggle with. You know if there is an upward or a downward trend in your ability to answer this question. You know if this is a question you have not previously attempted. You are now becoming aware of your areas of consistent strength, areas of consistent weakness, as well as areas of inconsistency. You are now seeing areas of concern and potential failure. These trends in performance are very difficult if not impossible to detect using any other preparation method. What better way to effectively guide your efforts? Information is power.

If that weren't enough, MCP Endeavor stores this performance history in a hidden two dimensional matrix (ten attempts for all 500-1,000+ questions). This matrix of 5-10,000+ cells, in a sense, represents your complete knowledge (current and historical).   But beyond simply capturing that information, MCP Endeavor allows you to use this database of invaluable information to your best advantage. Through the "control panel", you can now painlessly construct entire tests to focus on only the areas you want. You can concentrate only on weaknesses. You can review only your strengths. You can include various levels of strength and weakness or combination of the two. You control the filtering, you are not allowing your testing environment dictate to you.

To complete the performance feedback ability, MCP Endeavor will report

cumulative performance, sorted by category. From one screen you can get the 50,000 foot view of your efforts through a color coded outlines of your scores in all testing categories. This provides further information about the general areas you have mastered and the general areas that represent risk. You are now informed about the areas that should receive more attention.

What about other MCP Endeavor features and benefits?

MCP Endeavor can print tests to any Windows print device.

MCP Endeavor can save and recall complex configurations quickly and easily using long descriptive names. Pick up where you left off or create different variations and criteria for the same material.

MCP Endeavor offers extensive online help. Over 100 pages of written instruction is complimented by interactive maps.

MCP Endeavor allows you to personalize your environment by changing fonts, colors and screen appearance.

MCP Endeavor can run on minimum Windows hardware requirements, use it at work, home or mobile.

Where can I get MCP Endeavor?

MCP Endeavor is available online through commercial services such as CompuServe, GEnie, Delphi, America Online and ZiffNet. It is available on many major BBS's. MCP Endeavor can also be found throughout the Internet on over one hundred FTP sites and on the WWW.

[Selected Internet FTP sites and WWW locations are listed at the end of this document.   If you are a commercial online subscriber and would like to save money downloading MCP Endeavor, you can retrieve the file through the Internet.]

Is MCP Endeavor shareware?

There are two versions of MCP Endeavor, evaluation and registered. The evaluation version of MCP Endeavor is freely distributed. Although the evaluation version offers a fully functional interface and hundreds of questions divided into many tests and a few sample categories, it is limited. The registered version of each test contains between 500 and 1,000+ questions, distributed throughout the most recent library of tests with each test containing dozens of categories.

Because we hope you will find the evaluation version of MCP Endeavor useful we have not embedded any "nag screens". Information on how to order can be easily found here, in the read.me, order.me and help files. There is no preset limit to evaluate the program.

Beware of products you may see only in advertisements.   You can gain extensive experience with MCP Endeavor before you buy it.

Where can I purchase MCP Endeavor?

MCP Endeavor can be purchased directly from VFX Technologies, Inc., directly through commercial online services, through mail order services and through some retail stores.

Through these various sales channels Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover Cards, check and money orders are all accepted. Through ANY channel, product is always shipped within 2 business days or less.   In most cases, email deliveries are completed the same day as ordered.   Detailed information is listed at the end of this document.

Isn't MCP Endeavor expensive?

At $29.95 for each registered test MCP Endeavor, represents *extremely* competitive pricing.

Will I need to purchase MCP Endeavor updates?

Updates to both the interface and registered tests are provided to registered users **free** of charge whenever a new release is made available within 45 days of original purchase.

What else?

This is the conclusion of our overview. Thank you for taking a moment
to learn more about our product. We hope this glimpse inside of MCP Endeavor and its method of test preparation has been helpful. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us. You many hours of hard work ahead of you - but remember, there are no worthy goals easily achieved.

   Best of luck!

> VFX Technologies, Inc.
> 610/265-9222
> vfxtech@ix.netcom.com
> 70543,366
> vfx@aol.com

Download information:

CompuServe: File:
                          MCPENDVR.EXE

Internet ftp site: File:
ftp.coast.net   /SimTel/win3/network/mcpendvr.zip

WWW:
http://www.coast.net/SimTel/win3/network.html

File name:: mcpendvr.zip

Other Product Information:

The full registered version of each MCP Endeavor test includes between 500 and 1,000 questions distributed across many testing categories.

These tests are only available for sale individually.

New tests are always being added, contact us for an updated listing.

VFX Technologies, Inc. is committed to customer satisfaction. Orders, inquiries and requests for technical support are usually processed within 24 hours, seven days a week. We actively monitor many online services.

Pricing Information:

Any single test: $29.95

There is an optional $5 shipping charge per order (not per test).

There is a $3 (per module) surcharge for email delivery.

Purchasing Information (via credit card)

Credit card users can register directly through VFX Technologies (610/265-9222). Call or mail credit card information, DO NOT send credit card information via email. VFX Technologies accepts VISA/MC/AMEX/DISC. Order forms can be printed from within the program or print the ORDRFORM.PRT file.

VISA/MasterCard users can register through NorthStar Solutions. From the US call **toll free** 800/699-6395 or from outside the US call 803/699-6395, between the hours of 10am and 10pm (est) SEVEN days a week. You can also fax your order form (ORDRFORM.PRT) at ANYTIME to 803/699-5465. Northstar cannot answer technical questions about the program, if you have any questions please contact us before ordering.

Credit card users can also order MCP Endeavor from Gene's Books (610/265-6210).   Gene's is an innovative bookstore located in the Philadelphia suburbs. They offer a comprehensive computer section containing discounted texts, including nearly every available study guide. Gene's accepts VISA/MC/AMEX/DISC.

You will NOT be asked to order books from Gene's when ordering MCP Endeavor, but you certainly can. Please ask for the corporate orders department.

Purchasing Information (via CompuServe)

CompuServe users can register online through CompuServe Software Registration services: GO SWREG.

CompuServe registrations are always emailed the same day as the order. Additionally, original disks can optionally be mailed via USPS.

Registration numbers are listed below preceding the test name for your convenience. Tests can also be located searching keywords "MCP" or "VFX".

#9633   70-14 Implementing and Supporting MS Systems Management Server 1.0
#9597   70-21 MS SQL Server 4.2 Database Implementation
#9598   70-22 MS SQL Server 4.2 Database Admin for MS Windows NT
#9599   70-26 SQL Server™ 6.0 Administration
#9600   70-27 SQL Server™ 6.0 Implementation
#9601   70-30 MS Windows® 3.1
#9625   70-37 MS Mail for PC Networks 3.2 - Enterprise
#9626   70-39 MS Excel 5.0 for Windows
#9627   70-42 Implementing and Supporting MS Windows NT Workstation 3.5
#9629   70-47 Networking with MS Windows 3.1
#9630   70-49 MS Word 6.0 for Windows
#9631   70-50 MS Visual Basic 3.0 for Windows - Application Development
#9632   70-53 Internetworking MS TCP/IP on Microsoft Windows NT 3.5
#9634   70-63 Implementing and Supporting MS Windows 95

Purchasing Information (via mail)

To become a registered user of MCP Endeavor, send check or money order for the proper registration fee (plus shipping and applicable tax) made payable to VFX Technologies, Inc. to the address below. Individual tests are priced at $29.95 each.

  VFX Technologies, Inc.
  PO Box 80222
  Valley Forge, PA 19484-0222

Pennsylvania residents must add sales tax.

Residents in North America must add either $5 for shipping or $14 next day service.

Residents outside North America add $5 for shipping, or inquire about priority service.

Email delivery is available for an additional charge of $3 (per module).

Most orders paid by check are processed within 72 hours. (Not 3 to 4 weeks!!)

Contact Information:

If you have any questions about our product please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

- Michael Herrick
 VFX Technologies, Inc.
 610/265-9222
 vfxtech@ix.netcom.com
 CompuServe: 70543,366
 AOL: VFX