

## Re: what is best way to learn sbs2003

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.sbs/2006-06/msg01662.html>

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- *From:* "Dave Nickason [SBS MVP]" <[gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:gwdibble@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 10 Jun 2006 16:11:54 -0400
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I think that especially from the perspective of a consulting practice, you'd find Harry Brelsford's books and seminars to be a great resource. One of the most popular events around small business consulting (if not the most popular) is SMB Nation. Harry also does smaller one and two-day events worldwide. And his books are great as well.

<http://www.smbnation.com/default.aspx>

In addition to Harry's books, the ones I use, and that I think are among the best regarded on SBS, are the MS Press Small Business Server 2003 Administrator's Companion, and the SAMS one you probably already have, Small Business Server 2003 Unleashed by Eriq Neale. I'm sure I'm forgetting a couple, but others will jump in to recommend them.

You can become an MS registered partner at no cost, just by signing up. I can't speak to how much business it'll get you since I'm an end user rather than a consultant, but one thing I can tell you is that MS provides a wealth of free resources to the partners, including all kinds of information and training, tech support including partner-only newsgroups, business down support, etc. I'd recommend signing up as a registered partner, and if you go to a higher level later, you can pursue that after you've had a chance to check out their offerings.

"pheonix1t" <[nothing@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nothing@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:uISuk5LjGHA.1600@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:uISuk5LjGHA.1600@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

hello,  
what is the best way to learn about sbs2003?  
we're a small consulting company providing managed IT services to smb's in our area.  
we specialize in unix/linux environments but we are running into a lot of places with sbs2003 servers. Usually, the servers aren't well maintained – I've had to do several disaster recoveries this year so far! Most of the sites had active directory setup but running really badly.

Due to working with unix/linux a lot, my reference books are usually oreilly (we use [safari.oreilly.com](http://safari.oreilly.com)). They have a few books on sbs2003 from microsoft press and sams.

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Is this enough? I know from working with exchange that it's got a lot of limitations as far as dealing with spam. Unix/linux MTA servers are much more flexible in this regard (Postfix has amazing functionality for dealing with spam that just isn't available on microsoft exchange). For exchange you usually have to use 3rd party tools or use something like postfix as an email gateway. Postfix cleans out a lot of the spam and viruses and then relays the 'clean' emails to exchange (or other groupware servers – groupwise or lotus).

What would be other resources for dealing with 'real life' situations that we all see in the field but aren't covered in books? I think those of you with experience know what I mean by this.

Also, what are your opinions on the microsoft partner deal? Is it worth it? Does it help you get more business? From several people I've talked to (relating to oracle) their business partner thing doesn't really help that much in getting new business. It's more of a gimmick – somehow I can't help wondering if it's the same thing for most large vendors (microsoft, ibm, oracle, citrix, etc).

Thanks,

Dave