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## Page Formatting and Typeface

To accommodate the needs of those with weaker vision, we use LARGER PRINT throughout the book whenever practical. The text in this book was created using Garamond (size 16). A little bit of page resizing, however, may have happened along the actual book printing process.

## The Exam

The Microsoft Technology Associate MTA certification is an entry-level certification which serves as a good starting point for students and educators who may eventually progress to the Microsoft Technology Specialist MCTS or higher programs. Simply put, it assesses the foundational knowledge

necessary to pursue MCTS, MCITP or MCPD certifications. The certification focuses more on knowledge and a little less on skills. However, the knowledge areas are all based on MS products so you must know those products inside and out. Questions on the general knowledge are relatively easy. Product and technology specific technical questions, however, are way more difficult. This is why we developed this study product - we focus on those difficult topics that involve difficult technical skills. We want you to be able to answer these difficult questions and secure exam success accordingly. Exam 98-364: Database Fundamentals is designed to allow candidates to assess their knowledge of and skills with SQL Server databases and operations. Topics covered include:

- Understanding Core Database Concepts
- Creating Database Objects
- Manipulating Data
- Understanding Data Storage
- Administering a Database

This ExamFOCUS book focuses on the more difficult topics that will likely make a difference in exam results. The book is NOT intended to guide you through every single official topic. You should therefore use this book together with other reference books for the best possible preparation outcome. **You should download the evaluation copy of SQL Server and play with it. Download the ISO image file and burn a DVD disc out of it, then perform installation accordingly.** Officially the exam covers SQL Server 2008. However, the topics covered can apply to SQL Server 2012 as well. Therefore, you may use either version for practice purpose.

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