



# SMS 2003 Administrator's Reference: Systems Management Server 2003

By Ron D. Crumbaker

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**SMS 2003 Administrator's Reference: Systems Management Server 2003** By  
Ron D. Crumbaker

- Systems Management Server (SMS) 2003 is Microsoft's centralized administration tool that IT departments use to remotely deploy applications, apply security patches, and provide IT hardware and software inventory management and asset control
- Each chapter features a task and an outline for what is to be accomplished, along with the functionality that is required, the tools or scripts that are necessary, and the ideal results
- A common environment is presented throughout the text to allow readers to become familiar with it as they advance through the chapters
- Featured tasks include standardizing and replicating site settings, hardware and software inventory, software metering, reporting software updates, and troubleshooting

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### Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

#### **SMS 2003 Administrator's Reference**

As the core technology essential to IT departments for managing desktop hardware and software in a Windows environment, Systems Management Server (SMS) 2003 is the hot Microsoft tool of choice for applying security patches, installing applications, and applying updates. This book discusses the steps you need to take to ensure that SMS 2003 is administered successfully to provide powerful management across an enterprise.

While the main focus is on SMS 2003 with Service Pack 1, author and Microsoft MVP Ron Crumbaker also covers SP2 while guiding you through the inner workings of SMS 2003 to help you gain control of all the aspects of systems management. Each chapter uses real-world examples and covers an SMS feature and an administrative task, ultimately showing you how you can use SMS 2003 to successfully administer an SMS 2003 environment.

You'll start working with SMS 2003 and this book by setting up your site hierarchy. From there you'll move on to managing SMS roles and security. You'll do extensive work with clients, discovering and inventorying resources and metering software use. Along with seeing the power of collections and packages, you'll learn to work with SMS reports to give you a structures view of your SMS data and to interpret SMS messages to keep the system running smoothly. The book wraps up by introducing some of the third-party extensions you can add to SMS to solve specific additional needs and gives you the power of automating repetitive SMS functions with scripts.

### What you will learn from this book

- How to secure SMS and maintain secure SMS infrastructure, accounts, and communication
- Using the SMS 2003 discovery methods to detect and inventory information across your networks
- Improving the process of delivering Windows and Microsoft Office updates with the Inventory Tool for Microsoft Updates (ITMU)
- Ways to configure policies to enable or disable "agents" on assigned SMS 2003 clients
- What an SMS software package is and how to create, use, and distribute packages to update software on clients
- How to best use third-party solutions to extend SMS functionality
- Techniques for configuring software metering to track client program usage to make the most of your software budget
- Best troubleshooting practices starting with preventing problems and understanding SMS status messages
- How to provide console and web-based reporting with dashboards and custom reports for hardware, software, sites, users, and more

### Who this book is for

This book is for the SMS administrator who needs to manage the ever-increasing demands for operation excellence at the desktop and server level.

**Wrox Administrator's Reference guides** are planned and written by working technologists to meet the real-world needs of IT professionals. Focused and relevant, they address the issues technology professionals

face every day. They provide examples, practical solutions, and expert education in new technologies, all designed to help IT professionals do a better job.

#### About the Author

**Ron Crumbaker** has an Electrical Engineering degree but found himself in the Information Technology field. Ron is a huge Chevrolet Camaro fan and was greatly disappointed when GM decided to “pull the plug” on the Camaro. Ron currently owns two Camaros, a 1967 SS350 and a 1994 Z28. Ron has three children — Nate, Abby, and Cole — and a wife, Martha. Ron is very active in his church and community and is an ordained deacon in a Southern Baptist Church. Ron is also the CTO for myITforum.com, Inc., and is a two-time Microsoft MVP in the Windows Server System, SMS.

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**Thomas Rice:**

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