We’ve covered the DBA’s role in an organization and how you might become one. From this chapter onward, we’re going to look at the practical, hands-on technical details that DBAs must deal with in their day-to-day life.

Before you can start administering SQL Server, however, you have to install it. In this chapter, we cover

- The various editions of SQL Server
- How to determine hardware requirements
- Preinstallation tasks
- The actual installation process
- How to upgrade SQL Server
- Postinstallation tasks

This is a relatively large chapter to launch into, but detailed technical knowledge isn’t required to understand the chapter. Instead, the trick to a good SQL Server installation lies in knowing the best processes to use. Let’s get started.

**SQL Server 2000 Editions**

SQL Server 2000 scales from the smallest of applications on personal or handheld devices right through to large enterprise applications on huge servers. To achieve this diverse application range, Microsoft has created a number of editions of SQL Server 2000, each designed and optimized for its intended application size and platform.
SQL Server 2000 is available in the following editions:

- SQL Server CE
- SQL Server Desktop (more commonly referred to as MSDE)
- SQL Server Personal
- SQL Server Standard
- SQL Server Developer
- SQL Server Enterprise

Applications can be deployed to an organization using any of these editions except the one just for development, which is aptly named SQL Server Developer.

**Edition Differences**

There aren’t many differences between the editions, and most of the database applications that will run on one edition will also run on any other edition, except SQL Server CE. SQL Server CE is a bit of an anomaly, as it’s quite a limited implementation of SQL Server whose goal is purely to support low-RAM handheld devices. We examine SQL Server CE and the other editions in more detail in the following sections.

**SQL Server CE**

As just mentioned, SQL Server CE is a cut-down version, in terms of functionality, that is designed to run on low-RAM devices, such as handheld PCs. It’s also quite different from the other editions in its installation process. Instead of running a “setup” program, SQL Server CE is treated more like a component and is installed automatically when you install an application onto your Windows CE device that uses SQL Server CE.

SQL Server CE is also quite different from every other edition in that it isn’t functionally equivalent to the other versions of SQL Server. For example, the following aren’t available:

- Stored procedures
- User-defined functions
- Triggers
- Transaction log backups

SQL Server CE also has limited login and security features. However, SQL Server CE does provide a good query engine for use in mobile devices.