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## An Overview of MCSE -- Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer Program

By **Colin P**

A growing number of people are working at attempting to make a profession out of their involvement with computers, computer programming and related enterprises. To this end, a considerable lot of people are attempting to find methods through which they can make their services more marketable in today's competitive world. Consequently, many people are seeking training as an MCSE or Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer.

Perhaps you are one of the many people who is attempting to make a career in the field of computers, computer programming or in a related high-tech venue. You may have found yourself interested in exploring options such as obtaining an MCSE. However, you may not be entirely certain what an MCSE is and what is involved in obtaining an MCSE. Through this article, you are provided a very brief overview of an MCSE and what generally is involved in gaining this type of designation.

As the full MCSE moniker indicates (Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer) the designation is associated with Microsoft behemoth. A person who obtains a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer or MCSE certification or designation is a person who has passed certain exams about Microsoft products and software. The exams and attendant study materials are created under the auspices of the Microsoft Corporation.

With that said, there are now some private resources available to people interested in obtaining an MCSE through which they can prepare for the subject exams. These resources operate independently of the Microsoft Corporation. However, while these independent preparation resources now do exist, if you are interested in obtaining MCSE certification in the end, you need to take the certified training courses that are conducted by Microsoft at various designated locations around the world.

Microsoft frequently holds its training courses for MCSE certification at locations such as high schools,

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colleges and junior colleges in different locations around the world and throughout the year.

If you are unable to attend such a course, or if there is no course being offered in the brick and mortar at a location near you, you can also obtain self-study materials from Microsoft. (If you are involved in a self study course of MCSE, one of the private, independent study programs referenced earlier may be of great assistance to you.)

In addition, Microsoft now offers its MCSE training courses and educational materials over the Internet and World Wide Web. In other words, an interested person can work his or her way through the MCSE courses at his or her own pace on the Net.

If you are interested in obtaining an MCSE certification or designation, you need to pass exams in the following areas: MCSE(Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer) is someone who has passed exams about the Microsoft Windows NT operating system, related desktop systems, networking, and Microsoft's BackOffice server products.

More information on

MCSE Certification Courses

### **MCSE v/s MCSA**

**By Whizlabs Software (P) Ltd.**

Technology is advancing rapidly with each passing day. The world of Information Technology today is a forever growing vast expanse. Infact, the IT Certification industry has witnessed a significant turn in the past few years. In today's arena, certified professionals are considered a step higher compared to others. Certification (

<http://www.whizlabs.com>

) in the relevant IT technology has become an effective

way to augment your career in that domain.

Certifications, offered by various vendors are a good way for IT professionals to seek validation for their skills. In today's arena, there are lots of vendors offering specialization in particular domains. Professionals often get confused about which certification to go for as some of them have as little as hair thin difference between them. It is best to first identify your job role, the knowledge and skills required and accordingly select to take a particular certification to ensure career success.

Let us in this article try and get some clarity between two major certifications of Microsoft i.e. MCSE and MCSA which are often confused upon.

Why MCSE?

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For a MCSE (

<http://www.whizlabs.com/mcse-exam/mcse-exam.html>

) candidate, it is preferable that he

should have at least two years of experience in implementing and administering desktop and network operating systems, and designing a network infrastructure in the typically complex computing environment of medium-to-large organizations. The candidate should also have at least one year of experience administering Exchange Server environments involving multiple physical locations, mixed connection protocols, and Internet messaging.

MCSE has two tracks Microsoft Windows 2000 and Microsoft Windows 2003. The 2003 track requires 6 Core Exams, 1 Elective Exam and 2 Upgrade Exams to be cleared.

Core Exam include:

Group I: 70-290, 70-291, 70-293;

Group II: 70-270, 70-210; Group III: 70-297, 70-298.

Elective Exams include:

70-086, 70-227, 70-228, 70-229, 70-232, 70-281, 70-282, 70-284, 70-285, 70-297, 70-298, 70-299, and 70-301.

Upgrade Exams include:

70-292 or 70-296.

Either CompTIA Security+ or Unisys UNO-101 can be substituted in place of the elective exams.

### Why MCSA?

The need for qualified system administrators is very real in today's business market and the excitement for MCSA (

<http://www.whizlabs.com/mcsa/mcsa.html>

) is growing daily. A candidate for MCSA should

have at least one year of experience working with a desktop operating system, a network operating system, and an existing network infrastructure. As soon as candidates pass their first qualifying exam for the MCSA program, they achieve a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) certification.

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MCSA also has two tracks Microsoft Windows 2000 track and Microsoft Windows 2003 track. MCSA 2003 requires 3 Core Exams, 1 Elective exam and 1 Upgrade exam to be cleared.

Core Exams include:

Group I: 70-290, 70-291

Group II: 70-270, 70-210

Elective Exams include:

70-086, 70-227, 70-228, 70-284, and 70-299

Upgrade Exams include:

70-292

What's the difference between MCSE & MCSA?

Let us look at a few major differences between the two certifications which will help you get a clearer idea about them:

MCSA (

<http://www.whizlabs.com/mcsa/mcsa.html>

) when compared to MCSE (

<http://www.whizlabs.com/mcse-exam/mcse-exam.html>

) is a basic level certification. As an MCSA you

must know every thing about implementing, managing, and troubleshooting the existing network and system environments based on the Microsoft Windows Operating Systems. However, you will not be responsible to set up new networks and systems as a part of your job function. But as a MCSE knowledge about designing and deploying new networks and systems is necessary.

Being an MCSA professional means that you will be able to implement, manage, and maintain the typically complex computing environment of medium-to large-sized companies. On the other hand, being an MCSE professional you will be able to plan, design, and implement Microsoft Windows server solutions and architectures in medium-to large-sized companies.

The experience that is required for both these certifications is also different. MCSA requires 6-12 months of experience of administering client and network operating systems while MCSE requires at least one year of experience in implementing and administering network operating systems and desktop operating systems.

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Jobs for an MCSA include systems administrator, network administrator, information systems administrator, network operations analyst, network technician, or technical support specialist. For an

MCSE jobs include systems engineer, network engineer, systems analyst, network analyst, or technical consultant.

MCSA provides you with a credential that represents a set of skills which will be advantageous if you plan to pursue MCSE Certification. Therefore, earning an MCSA will qualify you with the option to use these credentials and acquire MCSE through Upgrade path to MCSE.

If you look carefully, both these exams although similar to each other specialize in different domains. A clear understanding of both the certifications is necessary before you decide which one to opt for. So make the right choice and get going!!

Whizlabs (

[www.whizlabs.com](http://www.whizlabs.com)

), an ISO Certified company, is a leading provider of IT skill assessment

and certification exam preparation tools. Whizlabs' suite of offerings include "IT Certification Exam simulators and Instructor-led, Online Trainings" for various exams by Sun, IBM, Oracle, Microsoft, BEA, Cisco, and other leading IT vendors and "IT skill Assessment Management Solution" for Corporations, Training Institutes, and Universities.

In its first 3 years of inception Whizlabs has helped 300,000 software professionals in realizing their dream of acquiring IT Certifications of their interest.

Whizlabs offerings have fuelled the career growth of IT professionals working in 321 Fortune 500 companies spread in 118 countries across the globe.

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\*First Published at Whizlabs' site.

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