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IT Certification Exams: 3 Most Popular Mistakes

By Divya Chopra

Parallel to the growth of the IT Industry, the value and importance of IT certification exams has also gain significant momentum. More and more people are pursuing these exams and organizations are also encouraging their employees to take these certifications.

But one needs to be educated enough to make a proper choice whether to take the certification or not. And if you decide to take, then it is even more important to be clear of what it gives you and takes from you to be a certified professional. Below is a brief discussion about 3 most common mistakes, people make while deciding for these certification exams.

1. Are you expecting too much?

People have lots of expectations about IT certification exams. Some of them are appropriate while many of them not. For e.g. if you believe that the certification itself 'will give you a job' then you are wrong. An IT certification exam like MCSE or CCNA, may 'help you get a job' but it alone can't give you a job.

Working professionals also expects huge raises on taking the certification exam. When they go to their boss or their organization, they get disappointed. A certification can definitely help you gain job stability or rise in career but don't expect too much. It also depends upon the organization you are working for.

2. I should take what others are appearing for

Large number of people bases their decision of choosing the exam on what other people like friends and colleagues are taking. Also, many people take the decision based on which technology is hot.

Stop and think again. Is this the certification I really want to take it? Is this the one which is worth the effort for me? Your friend's decision may be based on his/her organizational requirements but it may not be appropriate for you. The technology popular in the global market may not be popular in your country or your location. So, make sure that you are clear of the objective of your taking the certification. Don't be in a hurry to make this very crucial decision.

3. Earning a certification costs very little

Majority of people grossly underestimate the effort required to earn a certification. They just add the cost of exam or the cost of training aids they plan to take. But they fail to estimate the cost of precious time which goes into the planning, preparation and finally taking the test. Also, people don't calculate the cost if they fail to pass the exam in the first attempt.

Both of these factors cost a lot in terms of effort and money. Now, you know how to estimate the effort required.

Divya Chopra is the founder of CertLobby. CertLobby (

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) ensures your success in

various IT certification exams by providing you the best available resources to prepare for various exams. The selected list of Practice Exams, Articles & Tutorials, Trainings & Bootcamps, and

Discussion Forums makes sure that you are using the best available options to be successful in your journey to be certified.

Show Your Versatility – It's The MCP Way

By James Croydon

So what is the big deal with being a Microsoft Certified Professional also known as MCP? Is it the cachet of having some extra letters behind your name on your resume? Well, if you are into that sort of thing, sure. However, letting potential employers know about that Microsoft certification could open some doors for you in your quest for a new job.

Taking MCP courses and passing MCP exams for your certification is perhaps the best and only way to let prospective bosses know that you grasp and thoroughly understand the most up to date technology and products to come from Microsoft. Without going through formal MCP training, you would have a pretty tough time relaying your knowledge to your current manager or future employers. They like to see those formal little letters like MCP on your resume. These employers seem to trust that a Microsoft certification.

So who typically goes through the MCP courses? The answer: Individuals who are most likely to need a broad range of technological knowledge. This could be salesman pushing software or other technical products. Consultants, product designers and even trainers can benefit as an MCP. Even people with other certifications like the MCSE benefit. They are usually network administrators and engineers or technicians providing support to end-users. Your MCP training in the MCP courses will show proficiency with one Microsoft operating system like Windows 2000 or Window XP.

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The cool thing about the MCP is that you have to pass just one certification test from current Microsoft material. That means you cannot test on anything outdated. And one caveat is that the test cannot be on networking basics. This still leaves the field wide open on any number of MCP exams to choose from. Does your company have SQL database servers? Perhaps you might consider one of several exams on designing or administering SQL servers.

Maybe your dream job entails e-commerce or web site design. Take a look into MCP training in the topic of site servers or commerce servers. If you are customer service minded, take MCP exams in troubleshooting desktop systems for users or supporting mail servers. Keep in mind that experts in the technology sector help develop these exams, so you will be tested on the latest and greatest in technology.

When you get an MCP, you are showing your technological versatility. There are also advantages that come with passing those MCP exams. You are updated with the latest information through newsletters and you will also get invitations to special round table groups, training classes and conferences. This is also a perfect networking tool!

Just considering a Microsoft certification is the step in the right direction for your career. With an MCP, view it as the liberal arts degree in certifications. You can specialize with a major in MCSE or MCSD. But to take that first step, the MCP is the way to go.

James Croydon, Microsoft Certified Professional and MCSE Study advisor at f-Tech Associates (

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