

CompTIA certification, training, and related

See also

- See "Training cost estimates" spreadsheet on ChemIT's file share, for ChemIT staff:
 - R:\Chem IT\Admin, articles, and training\Training resources and educ. ideas
- [Learning Linux](#)
 - See section, "Evaluated list of certifications and related training resources".

Purposes and benefits

- Ensure all ChemIT staff have baseline, shared technical knowledge. Both broadly and in specific areas we support (servers, Linux, IT security, etc.)
- Promote expanded knowledge for all ChemIT staff in in specific areas we support (servers, Linux, IT security, etc.)
- Promote a professional staff environment, which includes investing in staff professional development.
- Discover and confirm cost-effective technical training resources and validation methods.

See also, "Benefits of IT Certification for employee and employer":

- <http://www.globalknowledge.com/training/generic.asp?pageid=3681>

For a broader perspective, see also:

"Credentialing in Higher Education", March 2, 2015, by Matthew Pittinsky, and how certifications such as those from CompTIA enhances (and sometimes even competes with) higher ed's credentialing services:

- <http://www.educause.edu/ero/article/credentialing-higher-education-current-challenges-and-innovative-trends>
- Credentials, such as certification, can serve as measures, currency, and signals.

"Making Credentials Matter", Mar 31, 2015), also by Matthew Pittinsky, making that case that proof of training and associated professional credentials matter:

- <https://www.edsurge.com/n/2015-03-31-making-credentials-matter>
 - (...)But today, there is a growing pool of workers that demonstrate—and employers that demand—proof of training and competency across disciplines that didn't even exist ten years ago. Fields like user interface design and the rapid emergence of new areas in computer and data science are creating new challenges for hiring managers and CEOs. This focuses the question on not just where you went, but on what you know and how well. However, this credential explosion is not just limited to high tech. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that one in four Americans has some form of certification or license distinct from an academic credential. Credentials matter in a knowledge economy.(...)

First things first

Which certification should you focus on?

- http://certification.comptia.org/getCertified/which_certification.aspx
 - See especially section, "Professional: For established IT workers".

Price of exams (vouchers for certifications and associated bundles):

- <http://www.comptiastore.com/Articles.asp?ID=265&category=vouchers>

List of approved training resources for just the CompTIA A+ certification, as an example:

- <http://www.comptiastore.com/Articles.asp?ID=265&category=learning>
 - Our prior experience may be sufficient for much of what is tested, at least for this particular exam. Thus, we may not need much training to meet the certification objectives.
 - Non-approved, but otherwise relevant training resources, can obviously also be used. Cornell is already paying for some of these, such as SkillSoft, [Lynda.com](#), and Safari Bookshelf. Others include YouTube and the like.

For the big picture, CompTIA roadmap and list within the so-called CompTIA "Professional Series":

- http://certification.comptia.org/ExploreCareers/careerpaths/career_roadmap.aspx
- <http://certification.comptia.org/getCertified/certifications.aspx>

Considerations and draft plan

Do we need to take the CompTIA A+ certification? To do so, you must pass two exams:

- CompTIA A+ 220-801 covers the fundamentals of computer technology, installation and configuration of PCs, laptops and related hardware, and basic networking.

- CompTIA A+ 220-802 covers the skills required to install and configure PC operating systems, as well as configuring common features (e.g. network connectivity and email) for mobile operating systems Android and Apple iOS.

Is what we already know sufficient? Or, shall we all study as if to take the certification, and then maybe even get a score from a sample test. Then "confirm" all this by taking a more challenging certification. Is this approach prudently cost-effective?

Most certificates we'd initially be taking are "good" for 3 years. Some are good for life (GFL). We can evaluate the value of formally renewing any certificate after we've actually gotten some, but I wanted to put the consideration down now.

- <http://certification.comptia.org/stayCertified/about-the-ce-program#cecerts>

Training: [CompTIA CertMaster](#) is available for the exams, and initially use to estimate training costs:

- CompTIA A+ 220-801
- CompTIA A+ 220-802
- CompTIA Network+ N10-005
- CompTIA Network+ N10-006
- CompTIA Security+ SY0-401

Alternatively, one can spend a lot more money in training funds and work-time by simply using CU's preferred IT training partner out of Syracuse, New Horizon's. For example, \$2,495 list, plus travel and 5 days of in-class training time:

- <http://www.nhsyracuse.com/training-and-certifications/course-outline/#!/product/60> (CompTIA Network+ training)
- <http://www.nhsyracuse.com/training-and-certifications/comptia#!/product/810> (CompTIA Linux+ training)
- When might this make sense for us?

Draft plan

If using CompTIA, Oliver thinks we all would benefit from having been certified on:

- CompTIA A+
 - Perhaps do via "fake" method above. If so, then confirm knowledge by taking any of the more advanced certifications.
- CompTIA Network+: Managing, maintaining, troubleshooting, operating and configuring basic network infrastructure
- CompTIA Security+: System security, network infrastructure, cryptography, assessments and audits

Other certifications to consider investing in, informed by how the above investments work out:

- CompTIA Linux+ Powered by LPI: Linux installation, system architecture, GNU and UNIX commands, and user interfaces and desktops
 - All of us?
- CompTIA Server+: Building, maintaining and troubleshooting server hardware and software
- CompTIA Project+: Project management process, including initiation, planning, execution and support
 - A stepping-stone to PMP certification for some of us?

Other keywords

Credentials, credentialing