MS-900 Certification Workshop

April 2025

@directorcia

http://about.me/ciaops

Cloud + Skills Shortage = Opportunity

70% of CIOs plan a "cloud-first strategy"

85% of enterprises will have cloud architecture

>38% of IT positions will be cloud related

Only **16% of organizations** have required skills and processes

Benefits for getting certified

Stand out
Certified employees **get greater recognition** of skills due to validation [1]

Earn more
23% of Microsoft certified technologists **earn up to 20% more** [2]

Advance
49% believe cloud certifications **increase employability**[3]

[1] 2017 IDC-Microsoft, Cloud Skills and Organizational Influence: How Cloud Skills Are Accelerating the Careers of IT Professionals white paper

[2] 2017 Pearson VUE, Value of Certification white paper

[3] 2017 Nigel Frank International Microsoft Technology for Business Salary Survey

Benefits of certified teams

Talent identification
Certification simplifies the candidate screening process and **helps to distinguish individuals** [1]

Productivity
Certified teams are **20% more productive** than non-certified teams [1]

Business impact
As the percentage of certified candidates increase, so does the **impact of the overall team**. [2]

[1] 2016 Certified Employees Show Improved Productivity, Increased Efficiency. IDC White Paper

[2] 2017 Microsoft Certified Professional Satisfaction Survey.

Top 5 reasons people get Microsoft Certified

1 To build or update skills on a specific Microsoft technology or solution

2 To distinguish myself from other professionals

3 To improve opportunities in my current role or organization

4 To demonstrate my commitment to ongoing learning and validation

5 To improve marketability/billable rates/salary

Preparing you for the opportunity

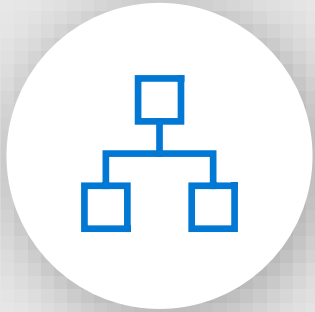Opportunity

Role-based

Aligned experience

Recognition

Role-based

| Emerging job roles | Specialization in the role | Hands-on experiences |

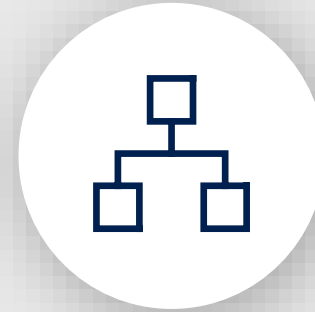# Announcing 6 job role certifications and training

**Azure
Administrator**

**Azure
Developer**

**Microsoft 365 Enterprise
Administrator**

**Azure
Solutions Architect**

**Azure
DevOps Engineer**

**Modern Desktop
Administrator**

Aligned experience

Job Task Analysis	Training	Certifications

Job Task Analysis structure and alignment

Output:
Master list of skills and learning path for role

Job Tasks Analysis (JTA)

Training

Assessment

Microlearning

Online Courses

Instructor-led Training

Books

Certification Exams

Identify job roles

Subject Matter Experts (Microsoft and external)

Market research for skills
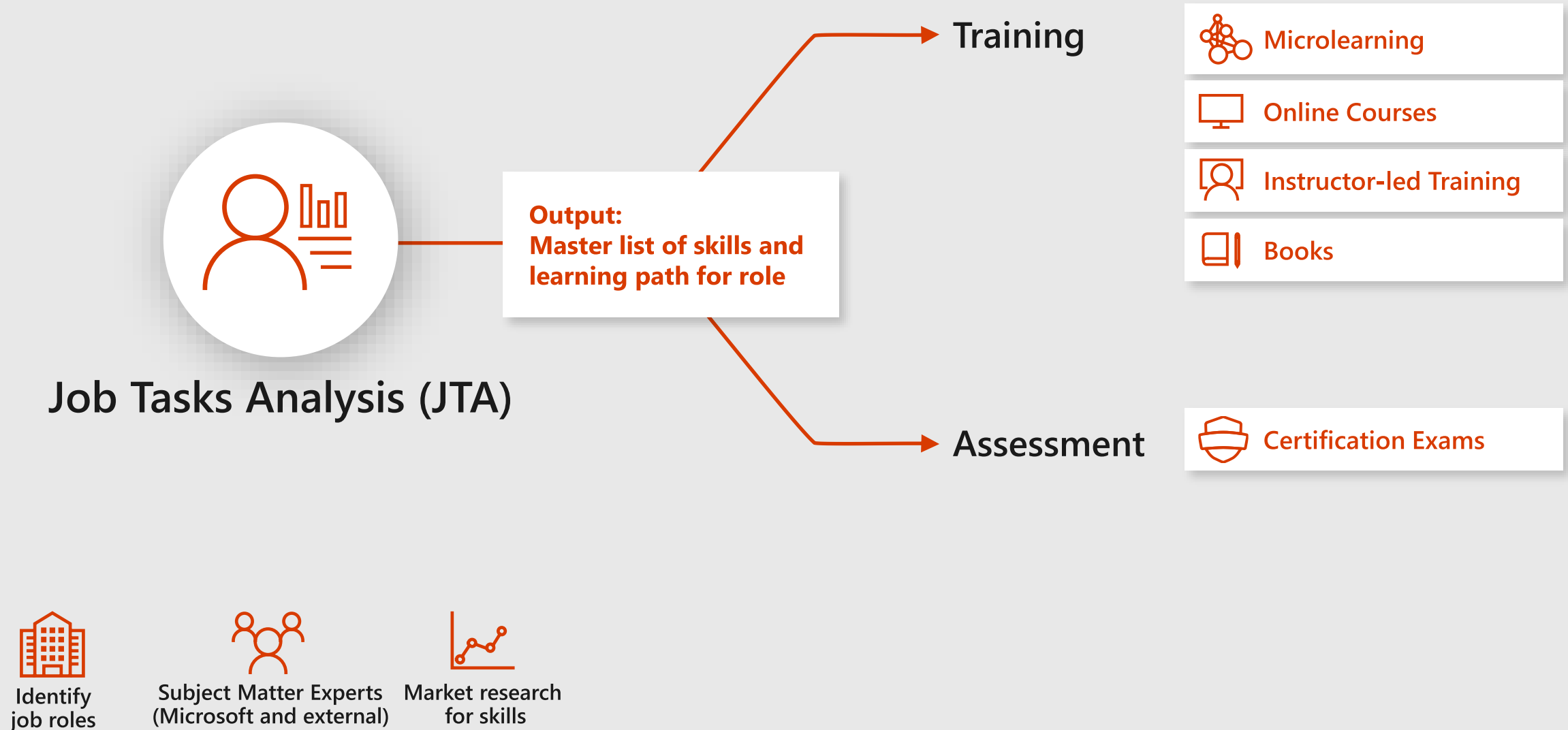
Training and certification

Microlearning

- Step-by-step, bite-sized tutorials by product, skill level, and job role
- Hands-on learning with interactive browser-based scripting environments
- Immediate assessment via knowledge quizzes

❑ Microsoft Learn

Online Courses

- Self-paced, structured courses with the ability to track progress and maintain a transcript
- Hands-on learning with hands-on labs
- Knowledge assessments

❑ Microsoft Learning Partners
❑ LinkedIn Learning
❑ Pluralsight

Instructor-led Training

- Blended learning, in-person, and online to suit learning needs
- Delivered by Microsoft Certified Trainers
- Deep technical training to give you the technical expertise

❑ Microsoft Learning Partners

Certification

- New role-based certifications, including varying levels (Fundamentals, Associate, Expert)
- Industry-recognized technical certifications
- Share "credentials" with your professional network with an online badge

❑ aka.ms/MSCert
❑ Microsoft Learning Partners
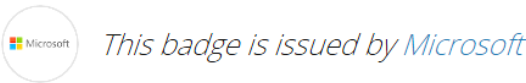
🏆 Recognition

Social

Discoverable

Verified

Value of Microsoft Open Badges

Broadcast certified skills

Instant employer verification

This badge is issued by Microsoft

Skills

Azure Cloud Cloud Architecture

Cloud Developer Cloud Platform

Cloud Services Cloud Technologies

Data Center Cloud Infrastructure

Identity Management

Jobs matched to your skills

263,207 Current Job Openings
For: Cloud in all of the United States

TOP JOB TITLES	JOB POSTINGS
Software Engineer	1,297
Senior Software Engineer	1,246
DevOps Engineer	1,138
Senior Java Developer	689

Exam basics

40-60 questions

- Some questions worth more than 1 point
- Answer all the questions
  - *No penalty for guessing*
  - *Some questions cannot be skipped!*
- Mark items for review and take another look

Plan for 180 minutes

- 150 minutes to answer questions
- 30 minutes for instructions, comments, score reporting, etc.

More than just multiple-choice questions!

- Build list, hot area, active screen, drag and drop, etc.
- *Performance based*

Case Studies

- Detailed information on business and technical requirements you need to solve problems
- Requires you to integrate information across multiple sources, determine what's important, and make the best decision
- Then answer several questions that refer to the case study

Exam scoring

Each exam has a "cut score"
- Scores range from 0-1000
- Passing score is always **700** (a scaled score)

...this is NOT 70%

Cut score determined during exam development
- Based on skills of target audience and difficulty of item pool
- May be updated when an exam is updated

Tips:
- No points deducted for wrong answers
- Go with your gut and don't overthink it.
- Some questions CANNOT be revisited.
- Answer every question!

Anatomy of Exam questions

Technical environment or scenario
You have a hybrid deployment of...

Problem statement / requirements
Users report that...

Goal statement
You need to...

Question statement
What should you do...

CIAOPS Resources

- Blog – http://blog.ciaops.com

- Free SharePoint Training via email – http://bit.ly/cia-gs-spo

- Free Office 365, Azure Administration newsletter – http://bit.ly/cia-o365-tech

- Free Office 365, Azure video tutorials – http://www.youtube.com/directorciaops

- Free documents, presentations, eBooks – http://slideshare.net/directorcia

- Office 365, Azure, Cloud podcast – http://ciaops.podbean.com

- Office 365, Azure online training courses – http://www.ciaopsacademy.com

- Office 365 and Azure community – http://www.ciaopspatron.com

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