



A CLOUD GURU

Getting Certified on AWS

WITH MICHAEL MCMAHAN

LET'S START

Today's Agenda

About Me

My Certification Journey

Which Cert is right for you?

My best practices when studying

Favorite resources

Q&A



Fellow Hoosier

Grew up in Indiana and attended Carmel High School



IU Grad

Graduated from Indiana University in 2017 with a degree in Finance and Entrepreneurship



Introduction to the Cloud

Began working for Oracle in June of 2017 on a Sales Team focused on OCI



- Introduced to ACG and Certifications by my SE at Oracle
- Certifications gives me ability to “speak the language”
- Certifications have been the way I’ve continued my education post college

Which Certification is right for you?

Professional

Two years of comprehensive experience designing, operating, and troubleshooting solutions using the AWS Cloud



Associate

One year of experience solving problems and implementing solutions using the AWS Cloud



Foundational

Six months of fundamental AWS Cloud and industry knowledge



Specialty

Technical AWS Cloud experience in the Specialty domain as specified in the exam guide



• Foundational Level Certifications (Jump in)

- CCP
- CSAA

• Step up Certs (1 year)

- CSOA
- CDA

• Going Pro (2 years)

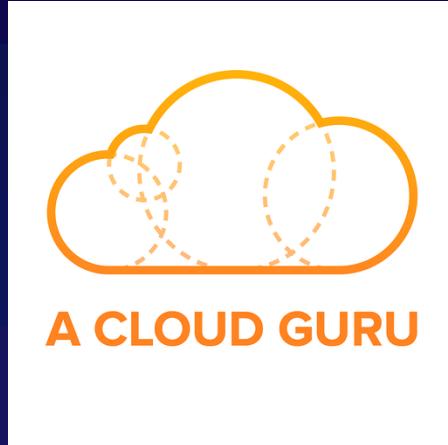
- CSAP
- CDOP

• Specialty (~2 years)

- Alexa Skill Builder
- Database
- Security
- Data Analytics
- Machine Learning
- Advanced Networking

[Great resource for this question](#)

[Role Based AWS Learning Paths](#)



A Cloud Guru

Complete certification courses with lectures, labs, and quizzes. Exam Simulator. Forums with commonly asked questions. Business license comes with features like certification accelerator/study groups and sandbox environments to complete labs.

[Solutions Architect Associate Course](#)



Jon Bonso Practice Exams on Udemy

Really great practice exams, very affordable. Comes with 6 complete practice exams with great explanations. These tests put me over the edge on my first certification.

[Solutions Architect Associate Practice Exams](#)



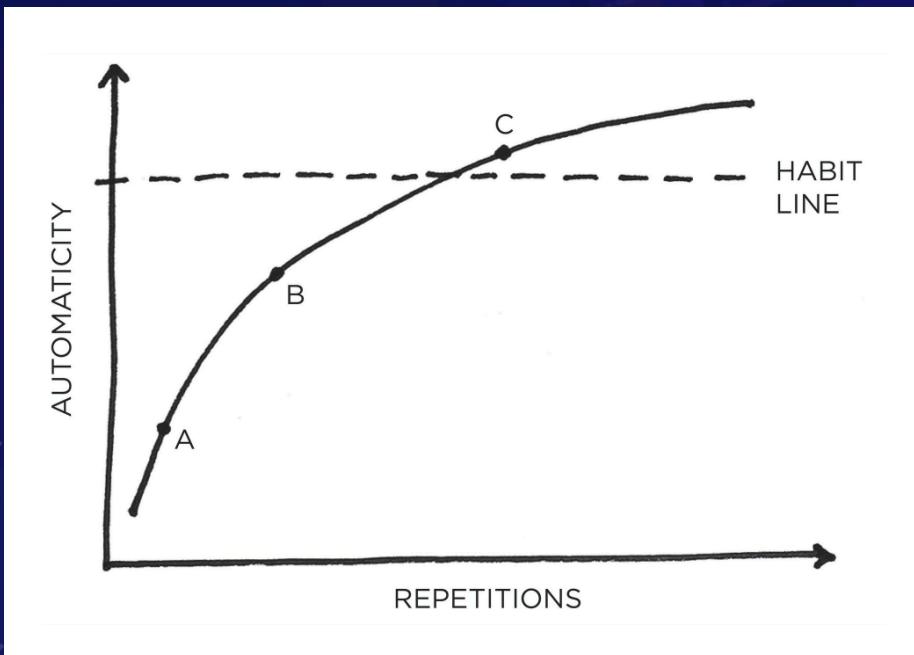
Whizlabs Practice Exams

Eerily similar to the practice exam questions that you will see from AWS if you pay for \$20 practice exam from them. 7 Complete Practice Exams fantastic explanations.

[Solutions Architect Associate Practice Exams](#)

3 Tips For Getting Certified

[Link to article](#)



1

Surround yourself with a Support System

Whether you create a study group with coworkers, or colleagues from a meetup pursuing certifications with a group creates accountability, comradery, and healthy competition.

2

Set Daily Achievable Goals

When beginning my pursuit my goal is to complete 4 A Cloud guru lessons a day, this builds great habits. This could mean 10 minutes or an hour depending on how I'm feeling. After completing the course this means one practice exam a day. Shoot for 10% over passing score.

3

Have a why

Studying for certification takes time, effort and sacrifice. Ensure you have a why, up-level career, topic interests and excites, company initiative etc.

Q&A



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