Computer Requirements for Microsoft Certification

**By**

**Introduction**  
Microsoft certification refers to a series of professional designations showing that the holder has proficiencies in the use of certain Microsoft technologies. There are a range of certifications available for IT professionals from entry to senior levels in their careers. The certifications are useful to employers and are viewed as a means of gaining professional advancement by employees. There are different certification tracks aimed at technology professionals, business professionals and students. The certifications are obtained by taking a set of modular courses and passing the exam for each course. The courses are available in traditional classroom settings as well as in self-study packages. There is also certification available for teachers of these courses.

Certification Tracks

There are Microsoft Certifications available for most Microsoft technologies. Various certification tracks are suited to different skill levels and career paths. The available certification tracks are Microsoft Technology Associate, Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist, Microsoft Certified IT Professional/Professional Developer, Microsoft Certified Master and Microsoft Certified Architect. There are also the Microsoft Office Specialist, Microsoft Office Specialist Expert and Microsoft Office Specialist Master certification tracks available for users of Microsoft Office and related technologies.

Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist

The Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist certification track consists of the foundation courses needed by technology workers to demonstrate proficiency in a number of Microsoft technologies. Candidates have the option of taking courses to demonstrate the depth of their knowledge in one technology. The technologies for which examinations and courses are available include Microsoft Visual Studio, Microsoft Exchange Server, Microsoft SQL Server and Windows operating systems. Candidates can also choose to take examinations across a range of these technologies. The Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist certification can be used as the basis for the Microsoft Certified IT Professional certification.

Microsoft Office Specialist Certifications

The Microsoft Office Specialist certification tracks are aimed at business users. Certification courses and examinations are available for Microsoft Office products and Windows operating systems. The main benefits of obtaining this certification are differentiating yourself from competition, professional advancement and demonstrated competence in a particular technology.

Microsoft Certified Professional Developer

The Microsoft Certified Professional Developer certification is designed for professional software developers. It demonstrates skills in the use of Microsoft Visual Studio and the Microsoft .Net Framework. Candidates must have two to three years of relevant professional experience and be committed to upgrading their certifications as new technologies emerge. There are various upgrade paths for each technology product. The courses and examinations change when new versions of the products are released.

**Key Concepts**  
Microsoft certification  
Certification tracks

Microsoft technologies

**References**

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