Team,

Just thought of putting down the thoughts on my experience with 70-534 exam (and successfully passing it 😊). Hope this will answer most of the queries around the exam. Feel free to connect with me if any other queries. Also forward this email to relevant audience.

**Exam Overview**

Find the details about the certification at <https://www.microsoft.com/en-in/learning/exam-70-534.aspx>. This site gives a high level view of the certification significance and skills measured

**Exam Preparation**

There are four ways of preparing yourself for the examination namely video training hands-on, video courses, documentation and official book **in the order of priority**.

**Hands-on**

There is no alternative to hands-on and getting familiar with Azure portal. I would recommend to get your hands dirty in portal, Azure CLI and PowerShell in that order along with other preparation

**Video training courses (highly recommended)**

1. <https://www.udemy.com/> . Look for 70-534 70-535 Architecting Microsoft Azure Solutions by Scott Duffy. This is a paid course, currently priced at INR 960 but worth it!
2. [https://courses.edx.org](https://courses.edx.org/) . Look for Architecting Microsoft Azure Solutions. This is a free course
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2orAXFfF4_0> (Exam Prep 70-534 by Mark Grimes, kind of crash course)

**Documentation (highly recommended)**

1. <https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/make_it_better/2017/05/06/exam-prep-for-architecting-microsoft-azure-solutions-70-534/>. This is one to one mapped documentation from the official syllabus. Please note, this is indicative and you have to dig more around the topic with connected links at the bottom of the respective pages
2. <https://medium.com/@zaab_it/exam-prep-70-534-architecting-microsoft-azure-solutions-21b53c1b496e>. One more good compilation of all the relevant Azure documentation
3. Random reading of the relevant Azure documentation at <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/#pivot=products>

**Official Book (optional)**

1. Architecting Microsoft Azure Solutions by Haishi (<https://www.amazon.in/Architecting-Microsoft-Azure-Solutions-Haishi/dp/8120351916/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1510760838&sr=8-1&keywords=70-534>)

**Exam Pattern**

* The exam duration is 150 min and 59 objective questions. The exam is conducted at one of the authorized Perason VUE exam center.
* Most of the questions are case study based where you will be presented with a business problem and will be asked few questions for the appropriate solution. You will be provided with all the relevant documents like business and technical requirement in separate section of the question page to refer.
* The second most type of question are use case scenarios and you will be asked to make a choice of right solution. The business problem will be explained in question in 4-5 lines. This is like cut down version of earlier type of elaborate case study questions
* The third type of questions are more straight forward and you will be presented question and will be asked to select the correct type of Azure service
* The fourth type of questions are based on code (.NET or PowerShell) where you be asked to complete the code at 2 or 3 places with objective options
* The total score for question is 1000 and you have to score 700 and more to pass (70% passing marks)

**Tricks and Tips**

* A question in most of the time will have one or more correct answers, you have to select most appropriate answer based on info available
* Elaborate case study questions take most of the time as you will be presented a heavy set of documents to read and make a decision, plan your time for this carefully
* Coding related question are trick and you have to know few commands in PowerShell and .NET. The best way to solve is read the code in question over and over and take an educated guess.
* And the last, there is no short cut or method to cut down the preparation time for this exam (at least I am not aware 😊). Take out 2-4 months of part time to prepare for exam and get used to Azure cloud.

**Benefits**

* You will be awarded Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) badge
* You are eligible to contribute in MCP community (<https://mcp.microsoft.com/>)

**Note:** The 70-534 will be retiring by this year end (though the certification will be valid for 2 years) and will be replaced with 70-535. There are changes to accommodate new services like containers, machine learning etc. and most of the study material is applicable to 70-535 as well. Have a look at tentative syllabus at <https://buildazure.com/2017/10/11/70-535-architecting-microsoft-azure-solutions-certification-exam/>

Thanks,

Mahadev