KONRAD CŁAPA | BRIAN GERRARD

PROFESSIONAL CLOUD ARCHITECT GOOGLE CLOUD CERTIFICATION GUIDE

Second Edition

Build a solid foundation in Google Cloud Platform
to achieve the most lucrative IT certification

Foreword by Yujun Liang,
Fully Certified on GCP, Cloud Certification King on LinkedIn

Professional Cloud Architect – Google Cloud Certification Guide

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Konrad Cłapa

Brian Gerrard

Packt

BIRMINGHAM—MUMBAI

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To my wife and parents, for their constant support.

– Konrad Cłapa

To Linda, for her constant support and understanding.

– Brian Gerrard

Foreword

I came to know Konrad Cłapa on LinkedIn. We both have an interest in Google Cloud and have both become fully certified on Google Cloud. Then we met at Google Cloud Next '19, where Konrad invited me to co-author a book to teach people how to use Google Cloud – this book.

I had had a failed writing experience before and I knew it takes a lot of effort to write a book, so I didn't agree to co-author it, but I did write the foreword for the first edition of the book, published in 2019.

Those 2 years passed quickly and so many new services have been released on Google Cloud since then. Google Cloud Training and Certification released an upgraded version of the exam for Google Cloud Certified Professional Cloud Architect in March 2021. Even though my certification won't expire until September 2021, I took the beta exam and passed.

As expected, a lot of new content has been added to the exam, and new services such as Google Kubernetes Engine and Anthos are tested in the new exam. These changes made the first edition of the book irrelevant.

I am glad Konrad and Brian have spent time refreshing their book to reflect the changes in the exam syllabus. This will be the first book ever published on the topic since the new exam was released and it will provide much-needed guidance for people to learn about the most up-to-date services from Google in order to pass the exam and advance their careers.

A better job, a better life. I achieved so much more after I became certified on a number of cloud vendors. I encourage people to learn the cloud and plan for a better career. This book gives you what you need to pass one of the most sought-after certifications, and also the highest-paid certification, according to some sources online.

We didn't get a chance to meet again after Google Cloud Next '19. Google Cloud Next '20 and '21 were online only due to COVID-19. But we kept in touch on LinkedIn and I am aware that Konrad has become a Google Cloud Certified Fellow, the most prestigious certification from Google, and one of my own career goals. I am happy about his achievement.

Even though I don't know Brian Gerrard in person, since Konrad and Brian are colleagues and they co-authored the first edition of the book, we connected on LinkedIn. Brian has decade-long experience on VMware and he claimed to have many VMware-related certifications. Brian just moved to the public cloud in recent years. His transition from data center-centric technology to the public cloud is an inspiration for people facing the same dilemma – stop doubting the public cloud; rather, embrace it to further your career advancement. There are many similar success stories on LinkedIn for people to use as a reference and as inspiration for their own career moves. LinkedIn is a professional social media platform where you can connect with people with a common interest, learn from each other, and grow together to reach your own professional goals.

I feel honored to be given this opportunity again to write the foreword to this second edition. And I understand why Konrad wanted me to write it. For the past 5 years, I have inspired thousands of people to learn the cloud and find their purpose. I am the right person to introduce this book to you, which will help you learn Google Cloud and become certified. And great things will happen after becoming certified in Google Cloud.

Yujun Liang

Fully Certified on GCP

Cloud Certification King on LinkedIn

Contributors

About the authors

Konrad Cłapa is a Certified Google Trainer and Lead Cloud Architect working for Atos R&D. He has over 12 years' experience in the IT industry. He holds over 40 IT certification. This includes all 12/12 active Google Cloud Platform certifications making him the first in the world to achieve it. He is also listed among 40 individuals who hold Google Cloud Certified Fellow certificate. Sharing knowledge has always been important to him, so he contributes to the community by acting as a leader for a local Google Cloud Developer group. Funny fact about Konrad is that till now he never failed a GCP exam attempt including multiple beta exams that he has taken.

First of all, I would like to thank my lovely wife Kinga for the patience and understanding of my passion. It is difficult to be a wife of a geek. I would also like to thank my parents that always supported me in any decisions I have taken in my life. Last but not the least I thank Brian for being a fellow for multiple journeys and above all being a great friend!

Brian Gerrard is currently a DevOps Engineer from Scotland with over 15 years' experience in the IT industry. As well as holding the Google Certified Professional Architect and Google Certified Associate Engineer certifications , he is certified in Azure, AWS, Terraform and VMware. Brian is a firm believer in lifelong learning, and you will regularly find him contributing to his local user groups.

I would like to thank my wife and children for their support. Also, thanks to Konrad for constantly pushing the Google community to achieve more!

About the reviewers

Dr. Artem Nikulchenko is a chief software architect at Teamwork Commerce, a Google Cloud Platform Partner that specializes in the development of retail management systems. Artem spearheaded the usage of Google Cloud Platform in teamwork products from the very first publicly available version of the platform.

Artem has a Ph.D. in computer science and holds an associate professor position at National Technical University Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute. He teaches courses on databases, software architecture, and public clouds.

As a big fan of Google Cloud, Artem leads his local Google Developer Group and delivers talks about Google Cloud Platform at specialized conferences around the world.

Having worked with GCP for over 10 years, I still found this book very useful while preparing for my Google Cloud Architect certification exam. Then, I was invited to become a reviewer of that same book's newest edition. It's a great honor for me and I'd like to thank the authors, as well as Packt Publishing, for this exceptional opportunity.

Artur Zejfer has been working in the IT industry for more than 20 years, ranging across application support, database administration, automation, and architect roles. This has given him a broad base of skills and the ability to work with a diverse range of clients. He holds a master's degree in computer science and several industry-recognized certifications from Oracle, Google, The Open Group, and so on. He currently works for Atos R&D as a database architect focusing on automating daily operations. Artur has a passion for learning and information that he continues to pursue daily.

Above all the previously stated, he is a father, husband, son, brother, and friend.

I'd like to thank my wife, Kamila, and our son, Franek, for their daily support and patience. To my parents, siblings, relatives, friends, and mentors (you know who you are), thank you for guiding and supporting me.

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To my mentors and friends, who have kept me motivated and curious and helped me navigate my journey and find joy in learning and doing what I do. I would also like to thank Packt Publishing for the opportunity to review this wonderful book.

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I'd like to thank my wife, Jyoti, and our daughter, Shriya, for their continued support and encouragement with everything that I do with great patience. I genuinely appreciate what you both have done for me and I love you both. I'd also like to thank my grandparents, parents, siblings, relatives, friends, colleagues, and mentors for helping me to be who I am today, and I greatly appreciate you all. Thanks to Packt for providing me with the opportunity to review this wonderful book.

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His technical knowledge and experience are backed by multiple industry-standard certificates. He is already part of an elite group of Google Cloud Certified Fellows. He holds the Google Cloud Certified Professional and other Google, VMware, Dell, Microsoft, and AWS certifications.

As someone who is passionate about the cloud, outside of his work, he is also an active community speaker and one of the Google Developer group leads for GDG Cloud Bydgoszcz.

In his free time, he loves to enjoy time with his wife, two daughters, and son, play board games, and constantly increase his knowledge.

I'd like to thank my wife Weronika for her patience and constant support.

Maciej Stopa is a multi-certified cloud solution architect experienced in Azure, Google Cloud Platform, AWS, Red Hat, IBM, Oracle, and VMware. With more than 17 years of experience in IT, he has gained deep on-premises, HPC, and distributed systems experience while working for a leading systems integrator in Poland. He transformed through virtualization and hybrid cloud, then architected a custom-tailored public cloud offering for the Polish market. After moving to Microsoft, he enjoyed working in a corporate environment, spending a couple of years as a cloud solution architect for enterprise customers. He now supports a multi-national organization called Digital and Cloud Services in Deutsche Telekom as a lead cloud solution architect, also leading an internal community of practice called Cloud Architect Ninjas.

I'd like to thank my beloved wife, Beata, and our children, Oliwia and Oskar, for their daily support, patience, and encouragement with everything that I do. I'd like to thank my parents, for giving me everything I needed to become who I am, my Mom, for her endless patience, and my Dad, for starting his IT journey living in a small Polish city by finishing offline snail-mailed courses almost 35 years ago! A spark that ignited my interests.

Dr. Nabil Hadj-Ahmed is a Google Cloud authorized trainer, a cloud architect, and a Google Cloud developer expert with over 20 years of experience working in real-world, challenging, enterprise, and demanding environments. Nabil facilitates Google Cloud training and brings a wealth of experience to enhance the learning experience of Google Cloud.

Nabil holds a Ph.D. and an MSc from Leeds Beckett University, where he also taught during his doctoral research. He also manages and speaks at Google Developer groups, organizing monthly meetup events and workshops focusing on Google technologies.

Pawel Piwowarek is a highly technical IT professional with a master's degree in computer science and over 18 years of industry experience designing, implementing, and supporting a wide range of IT solutions. He is an experienced technical leader and communicator who works with executives, managers, suppliers, and technical peers on large-scale projects with critical business impact. He maintains a keen interest in emerging and disruptive technologies and continuously adopts skillsets backed by relevant vendors' accreditations to match evolving business needs.

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