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Microsoft MTA Certification: Future and Alternatives\*\*

### **What is MTA and Its Replacement?**

MTA (Microsoft Technology Associate) was a certification program offered by Microsoft to validate foundational knowledge in various Microsoft technologies. As of June 30, 2021, the MTA certification program has been discontinued.

### **What Replaces MTA Certification?**

Microsoft has replaced the MTA certification with the Fundamentals certification program. The Fundamentals certifications focus on core concepts and skills in various technology areas.

### **Is the MTA Certification Still Available?**

No, the MTA certification is not available. Individuals who have already earned MTA certifications can continue to use them for their professional development.

### **Microsoft's Database Management System**

Microsoft offers Microsoft SQL Server as its primary database management system (DBMS). It is a relational database management system used to store, organize, and manage data.

### **Alternatives to the Northwind Database**

The Northwind database was a sample database used in teaching and demonstrating Microsoft Access. Alternatives to the Northwind database include:

- AdventureWorks
- Chinook
- Pubs

## **Microsoft Office for Database Management**

Microsoft Access is a desktop DBMS included in the Microsoft Office suite. It is primarily used for small-scale database applications and can manage data stored in tables, queries, forms, and reports.

## **Comparison of Access and Excel**

Both Access and Excel can be used for data storage and management, but they have different strengths and weaknesses:

- **Access:** Designed specifically for database management, offers more advanced features and functionality for complex data structures and queries.
- **Excel:** Primarily a spreadsheet application, but includes limited database capabilities for storing and manipulating small amounts of data.

## **Is MTA Certification Worth It?**

The worth of MTA certification depends on individual circumstances. It can provide a solid foundation in Microsoft technologies and demonstrate basic competency. However, with the discontinuation of the program, its relevance may decrease over time.

## **Cost of MTA Certification**

The cost of MTA certification varied depending on the specific exam taken. The exams typically ranged from \$120 to \$165.

## **What is MTA Fundamentals?**

MTA Fundamentals was a preparatory exam that covered basic computer concepts and Microsoft Office applications. It was intended to provide a foundation for individuals looking to pursue MTA certification.

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