

The MCSA – MCSE Blended IT Certification Fast Track Program

Congratulations on joining this Certification Program! In doing so, you have taken the first steps to obtaining your certification.

Your commitment to the Program is the key to your success. Preparation in your studies from day one is the way to surpass any obstacles in your path on the road to certification. This will make the process somewhat easier and less stressful going into the exams.

The Certification program delivers live Blended IT training using a proven multi-path learning system that is designed to increase participant retention, and provide a flexible learning method that adapts to hectic schedules. At the centre of the system is live training and mentoring delivered with live hands-on labs.

While passing the certification tests is indeed a high priority and one of our goals, the program's focus is not to centre on learning from scratch – we fill in the blanks by ensuring that you become competent in the technologies covered.

We review subjects in your resource materials and with the work you do during the regular Instructor Led workshop sessions, you will gain valuable hands on experience, develop and enhance your skills and become proficient in the technologies presented by an industry experienced Training Consultant who is Certified and completely knows the certification process.

In the workshop sessions, we will use a Virtual Server environment to help practice your skills in a safe, real-life environment and at the same time save on valuable learning resources. Extensive resources and practice tests are included to offer progressive guidance to you and to serve as a full exam preparation tool.

If you have taken any Microsoft exam before, you know that the key to passing the exam is a firm understanding of the required knowledge areas and what Microsoft expects you to master. In the workshop sessions, we will try our best to adhere to the guide Microsoft has published, while using various means to prepare you for the exam. Keep in mind that the Program is aimed at helping you prepare for the exams; therefore, coverage in areas that do not play into that exam must be avoided.

We are proud of our first-time exam pass-rate, and even higher pass rate on re-takes done during the program. In the unlikely event you need to re-take an exam, we'll agree a study plan to get you through as quickly as possible and even provide you with one free re-take voucher per exam. With your self-study materials, lab session notes and mentoring support, you'll have all the resources you need to get through.

The end result of this Program is certification. We look forward to working with you to achieve the best possible results - at IT Training Solutions, we share in your success!

MCSA Blended IT Certification Fast Track Program

Program Outline:

The program starts with an orientation session that introduces participants to the curriculum, and format of the certification processes. During this time the scene will be set and expectations explained. Each participant will be provided with their Virtual Server and an initial learning plan focused on specific exam criteria not yet mastered.

Multiple Media for Faster Skills Transfer

Prior to joining the orientation session, each participant will be issued with a multi-media self-study training kit. It includes in-depth, self-paced training; rigorous, objective-by-objective review; exam tips and a robust testing suite. It also provides real-world scenarios, case study examples, and troubleshooting labs for the skills and expertise you can apply to the job. The self-study kit is used to help prepare for the workshop labs. The amount of time in the workshop is reduced because relevant knowledge and concepts are learned from the kit before attending the workshop sessions.

To properly prepare yourself for the program, it is imperative that you take the time to familiarise yourself with the resource materials provided to you before you attend the orientation session.

For the MCSA Program and depending on your practical experience, you can expect to allocate some 60 - 80 hours of home based study time over the duration of the program.

Mentoring Services

During the crucial weeks leading up to the Fast Track Labs sessions, we will provide a mentoring and guidance service. This will assist you in completing the prerequisite study for the workshop lab sessions. Contact is made on a regular basis: over the phone, via email, and in person, if possible.

Workshop Lab Sessions

Presented in an "Instructor Led" format, your Training Consultant will walk through the published certification criteria, with exam tips and guidelines interspersed. You will carry out intensive hands-on laboratory exercises to practice skills that are often tested in the exams. It is important to reinforce the fact that the labs sessions will only be successful if the self-study prerequisite assignments have been completed.

Exam Preparation

While your focus and motivation is at its peak, we prepare you for each exam including practice and review sessions. We replicate the exam environment with similar types and patterns of questions. The test labs are designed to guide you and help you acquire the optimum momentum during the course of your study.

As IT Training Solutions is an authorised testing centre, you'll actually take the exams at our Spring Hill Training Centre – it's all part of the program.

Debriefings are held after each exam to focus on strengths and weakness identified through the testing process to further refine your knowledge and skills.

Program Overview

Day 1

Orientation and planning

Debriefing and preparation for next session including self-study assignment

Day 2 – 3 (MCSA)

Installing, Configuring, and Administering Microsoft Windows XP Professional: Exam 70-270

This workshop lab session prepares you to install, configure, and support Windows XP Professional Service Pack 2 in a networked environment:

- Perform an installation or upgrade, including remote deployment
- Configure and customize the desktop environment
- Administer disks, device drivers, printers, file systems, and other resources
- Manage TCP/IP networking and support remote and mobile users
- Monitor, troubleshoot, and tune system performance
- Administer security settings and services, including the advances in Windows XP Service Pack 2

Subjects Specific to this exam include:

- Installing & Deploying Windows XP Professional
- Modifying and Troubleshooting the Startup Process
- Configuring Windows XP Professional
- Installing, Managing, and Troubleshooting Hardware Devices and Drivers
- Setting Up and Managing User Accounts
- Securing Resources with NTFS Permissions
- Administering Shared Folders
- Managing Data Storage
- Setting Up, Configuring, and Troubleshooting Printers
- Managing Printers and Documents
- Supporting TCP/IP
- Active Directory Services
- Configuring Network and Internet Connections
- Configuring Security Settings and Internet Options
- Monitoring and Managing Shared Folders by Using Computer Management
- Windows XP Tools
- Monitoring and Optimizing System Performance
- Backing Up and Restoring Data

Debriefing and preparation for next session including self-study assignment

Day 4

Exam Prep & Exam

Day 5 – 6 (MCSA)

Managing and Maintaining a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Environment: Exam 70-290

This workshop lab session prepares you to implement Windows Server 2003 in your enterprise network:

- Create and manage user, group, and computer accounts
- Manage file and share permissions
- Help control Web server access and manage sites with Microsoft Internet Information Services (IIS)
- Manage hardware devices, disk storage, software, and print services
- Implement backup procedures and perform system recovery

Subjects Specific to this exam include:

- Administering Server 2003
- User Accounts
- Group Accounts
- Computer Accounts
- Files and Folders
- Backing Up Data
- Printers
- Maintaining the Operating System
- Managing Hardware Devices and Drivers
- Managing Server 2003 Disk Storage
- Monitoring Server 2003
- Recovering From System Failure

Debriefing and preparation for next session including self-study assignment

Day 7

Exam Prep & Exam

Day 8 – 9 – Elective MCSA & MCSE (Select one Exam)

Implementing Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA) Server 2004: Exam 70-350

This workshop lab session prepares you to design, develop, and implement Microsoft ISA Server 2004 for Windows-based environments:

- Plan and implement your deployment, including migration from ISA Server 2000
- Install, manage, and troubleshoot ISA Server clients
- Configure ISA Server as a firewall with application-layer filtering
- Enable security-enhanced Internet access for Web servers, Exchange servers, and other servers
- Configure ISA Server to enable Virtual Private Network (VPN) remote access and site-to-site VPNs
- Monitor and log server activity, run reports, and create alerts

Subjects Specific to this exam include:

- Installing ISA Server 2004
- Securing and Maintaining ISA Server 2004
- Installing and Managing ISA Server Clients
- Enabling Secure Internet Access with ISA Server 2004
- Implementing ISA Server Caching
- Configuring ISA Server as a Firewall
- Implementing ISA Server Publishing
- Integrating ISA Server and Exchange Server
- Configuring VPN's for Remote Clients and Networks
- Implementing Monitoring and Reporting
- Implementing ISA Server Enterprise Edition

Debriefing and preparation for next session including self-study assignment

Microsoft SQL Server 2000 System Administration: Exam 70-228

This workshop session prepares you to install, configure, administer, and troubleshoot Microsoft SQL Server 2000:

- Installing and configuring SQL Server 2000.
- Creating and maintaining SQL Server 2000 databases.
- Configuring and administrating replication under SQL Server 2000.
- Knowledge of SQL Server 2000 security concepts.
- Managing linked servers.
- Optimizing SQL Server performance.

Subjects Specific to this exam include:

- Installing SQL Server 2000
- Understanding System and User Databases
- Creating and Configuring User Databases
- Populating a Database
- Developing a Data Restoration Strategy
- Backing Up and Restoring SQL Server
- Managing Access to SQL Server 2000
- Managing SQL Server Permissions
- Performing Administrative Tasks
- Automating Administrative Tasks
- Monitoring SQL Server Performance and Activity
- Using SQL Server Replication
- Maintaining High Availability

Debriefing and preparation for next session including self-study assignment

Implementing and Managing Microsoft Exchange Server 2003: Exam 70-284

This workshop lab session prepares you to implement, manage, and administer Exchange Server 2003 effectively in a real-world environment:

- Plan, install, and configure an Exchange Server 2003 infrastructure
- Migrate from Exchange Server 5.5 and other messaging systems
- Implement encryption, virus protection, and other security services
- Manage recipient objects and address lists
- Monitor and troubleshoot servers, clusters, data storage, and connectivity
- Troubleshoot Active Directory operations and other supporting technologies

Subjects Specific to this exam include:

- Exchange Server 2003 and Active Directory
- Planning an Exchange Server 2003 Infrastructure
- Configuring an Exchange Server 2003 Infrastructure
- Co-existence with Exchange Server 5.5
- Migrating from Exchange Server and other Mail Systems
- Installing Exchange Server 2003 Clusters and Front End and Back End Servers
- Managing Recipient Objects and Address Lists
- Public Folders
- Virtual Servers
- Exchange Server 2003 Security
- Backup and Restore
- Monitoring Exchange Server 2003
- Troubleshooting Exchange Server 2003

Debriefing and preparation for next session including self-study assignment

Day 10

Exam Prep & Exam

Day 11 – 13 (MCSA)

Implementing, Managing, and Maintaining a Microsoft® Windows Server™ 2003 Network Infrastructure: Exam 70-291

This workshop lab session prepares you to configure, manage, and troubleshoot various aspects of a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1 (SP1) network infrastructure.

- Install and configure TCP/IP
- Use DHCP to manage IP addressing
- Configure and manage DNS clients, servers, and zones
- Manage routing and remote access, including VPNs
- Implement and administer security procedures
- Monitor traffic, troubleshoot connectivity, and resolve service issues

Subjects Specific to this exam include:

- Windows Server 2003 Network Infrastructure
- Working with TCP/IP
- Monitoring and Troubleshooting TCP/IP Connections
- Configuring DNS Servers and Clients
- Configuring a DNS Infrastructure
- Monitoring and Troubleshooting DNS
- Configuring DHCP Servers and Clients
- Monitoring and Troubleshooting DHCP
- Routing with Windows Server 2003
- Configuring and Managing Remote Access
- Managing Network Security
- Maintaining a Network Infrastructure

Debriefing and preparation for next session including self-study assignment

Day 14

Exam Prep & Exam

Day 15 – 16 (MCSE)

Designing a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Active Directory and Network Infrastructure: Exam 70-297

This workshop lab session prepares you how to gather the network requirements for a business, how to analyse an existing network, and how to design an Active Directory directory service and networking infrastructure.

- Active Directory and Network Infrastructure
- Analysing an Existing Infrastructure
- Planning an Active Directory Structure
- Designing an Administrative Security Structure
- Designing a Site Plan
- Designing a DNS Structure
- Designing a WINS Structure
- Designing a Network and Routing Infrastructure
- Designing Internet Connectivity
- Designing a Remote Access Strategy

Subjects specific to this exam include:

- Analyse the impact of Active Directory on the existing technical environment
- Analyse DNS for Active Directory directory service implementation.
- Analyse existing network operating system implementation
- Analyse security requirements for the Active Directory directory service
- Design the Active Directory infrastructure to meet business and technical requirements.
- Design the network services infrastructure to meet business and technical requirements
- Identify network topology and performance levels
- Design an OU structure
- Design a security group strategy
- Design security for remote access users
- Design a DNS name resolution strategy.
- Design a network and routing topology for a company
- Design the remote access infrastructure

Debriefing and preparation for next session including self-study assignment

Day 17

Exam Prep & Exam

Day 18 – 19 (MCSE)

Implementing, and Maintaining a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Active Directory Infrastructure: Exam 70-294

This workshop focuses on Windows Server 2003 Active Directory infrastructure, covers topics such as planning, implementing, maintaining, and troubleshooting Active Directory infrastructure; planning user, computer, and group strategies; and more:

- Introduction to Active Directory
- Installing and Configuring Active Directory
- Administering Active Directory
- Installing and Managing Domains, Trees, and Forests
- Configuring Sites and Managing Replication
- Implementing an OU Structure
- Administering User Accounts
- Administering Groups
- Administering Active Directory Objects
- Implementing Group Policy
- Administering Group Policy
- Deploying Software with Group Policy
- Administering Security with Group Policy
- Managing Active Directory Performance

Subjects specific to this exam include:

- Planning and Implementing an Active Directory Infrastructure
- Managing and Maintaining an Active Directory Infrastructure
- Planning and Implementing User, Computer, and Group Strategies
- Planning and Implementing Group Policy
- Managing and Maintaining Group Policy

Debriefing and preparation for next session including self-study assignment

Day 20

Exam Prep & Exam

Day 21 – 22 (MCSE)

Planning and Maintaining a Microsoft® Windows Server™ 2003 Network Infrastructure: Exam 70-293

This workshop lab session covers all the phases of the implementation process including some of the more advanced applications, protocols, and services included with Windows Server 2003 with Service Pack 1 (SP1), so you can plan for and provide continual maintenance once you have completed the initial implementation.

- Planning a Network Topology
- Planning a TCP/IP Network Infrastructure
- Planning Internet Connectivity
- Planning a Name Resolution Strategy
- Using Routing and Remote Access
- Maintaining Server Availability
- Clustering Servers
- Planning a Secure Baseline Installation
- Hardening Servers
- Deploying Security Configurations
- Creating and Managing Digital Certificates
- Securing Network Communications Using IPSec
- Designing a Security Infrastructure

Subjects specific to this exam include:

- Planning and Implementing Server Roles and Server Security
- Planning, Implementing, and Maintaining a Network Infrastructure
- Planning, Implementing, and Maintaining Routing and Remote Access
- Planning, Implementing, and Maintaining Server Availability
- Planning and Maintaining Network Security
- Planning, Implementing, and Maintaining Security Infrastructure

Debriefing and preparation for next session including self-study assignment

Day 23

Exam Prep & Exam