

Class Starters & Enders

Making the Most of Instructional Time Five Minute Lessons

Class Starters and Enders help utilize the last minutes of class when a lesson ends but there is not enough time to start another, or for an interest approach at the beginning of class. Mini-lessons correlate to GPS in the programs areas below.

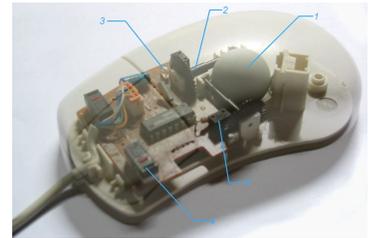
IT Certification

Program Areas: Computer Networking, Computer Systems & Support, Computing

Instructions: Read the narrative and make notes of important points, answer questions, and be ready to discuss this topic.

Professional certifications in computer technology are non-degree awards given to those who have achieved qualifications specified by a certifying authority. Depending on the particular certification, qualifications may include completing a course of study, proof of professional accomplishments, achieving a specified grade on an examination or some combination thereof. The intention of an IT certification is to establish that an individual holding a certification is technically qualified to hold certain types of position within the field.

Generally speaking, certifications need to be renewed periodically or may be valid for a specific period of time. As a part of renewal of a certification, it is common for the individual to show evidence of continual learning. Some certification programs are oriented toward specific technologies, and are managed by the vendors of these technologies. There are also vendor-neutral certifications to validate skills (usually these are more generic skills). Although there are literally dozens of certifications available, the following are some of the more distinguished and recognized awards.



MCITP—Microsoft Certified IT Professional credential is Microsoft’s newest certification. It may be awarded in several fields of expertise to signify the mastery of said particular area.

MCTS—Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist credential confirms skills in installing, maintaining, and troubleshooting a particular Microsoft technology.

Security +—Accreditation from CompTIA is a vendor-neutral certification to validate skills in security essentials.

MCPD—Microsoft Certified Professional Developer certification verifies skills in developing and maintaining software in one of three certification paths.

CCNA—Cisco Certified Network Associate credential proves proficiency in basic setup and administration of Cisco networking equipment.

A+—Certification from CompTIA validates basic hardware and support skills. One of the most common credentials.

PMP—The Project Management Professional certification from Project Management Institute certifies skills and knowledge needed to plan, execute, budget, and lead a technology project.

MCSE—Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer validates a wide range of relevant expertise on specific, widely used platforms.

CISSP—The Certified Information Systems Security Professional credential from the American National Standards Institute is a vendor-neutral certification to verify expertise with operations and network and physical security.

Linux+—A vendor-neutral exam that validates basic Linux client and server skills.

Review

1. Why would someone get certified in computer technology?
2. What are common requirements for IT certification?
3. T or F: IT certifications never need renewal.
4. T or F: IT certifications may be very specific or generic, depending on the type of accreditation.
5. T or F: Microsoft certifications are vendor-neutral.

History Connection

Research and write a one page paper on the history of computers.

Industry Connection

Research and write a one page paper on one of the certifications listed above.

Georgia CTAE Resource Network - Written by Caleb Allred and Dr. Frank B. Flanders

Portions of this text, originally from Wikipedia, were modified and the information independently verified. Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. See Terms of Use for details. - <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>