

Re: I'm a MCAD Now

Source:

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From: Wayne (wayne_at_briz.oz)

Date: 02/23/05

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Awesome mate! Good to see knowledge, hard work and determination get someone through the certification. You've earned it, go geek-out some babes :)

--

Wayne McGlinn
Brisbane, Oz

"Strange women lying in ponds distributing swords is no basis for a system of government. Supreme executive power derives from a mandate from the masses, not from some farcical aquatic ceremony"

- Dennis (sometime in the middle ages)

"Frisbee@" <billLASTINIT@dasi-software.com> wrote in message
news:eW5kViQGFHA.3728@TK2MSFTNGP14.phx.gbl...

> Matt, first and foremost, congrats.

>

> Hope you don't mind, I've cross-posted this reply to

> microsoft.public.cert.exam.mcse as it's rare to find someone tempted to

> use

> br@indumps, yet resists the temptation and is grateful afterwards. Way to

> go.

>

> Matt West wrote:

>> Figured I would pass on my experiences for those who may be

>> interested.

>>

>> Background: Been coding for almost ten years - back in the VB 3 and

>> SQL

>> 4.21 days. Pretty much self-taught - never had taken an MS exam

>> before. Most of my work has been in start ups - lots of "duct tape

>> and baling wire" kinds of projects. Unfortunately, not as much

>> exposure to formal methods and training as I would have liked.

>>

>> Left my last contract (which was all VB6) and decided that I needed

>> to get up to speed in .NET soon or risk getting left behind. Decided

>> to just take time off of work to study full time.

>>

>> First exam: 70-305. Read Gunderloy's book all the way through, and

>> then reviewed with Kalani's C# Exam Cram. Took me about two weeks to

>> study. Passed with an 848. This was by far the easiest of the three

>> exams, and I recommend it as the first.

>>

>> Second Exam: 70-310. Same regimen with the Gunderloy and Kalani

>> books. Same time frame. Passed with a 748. This one was a lot

>> harder. With the first exam, I found that I generally understood

>> things without actually having to do the examples (just followed the

>> code in the book). Not so with this one - remoting was especially

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>> difficult for me to get a firm grip on (all that wire formatting and
>> stuff).
>>
>> Third Exam: 70-229. Read Vieira's book, which is excellent. I had
>> hoped this exam would be easy since I have worked off and on with SQL
>> for some time. Not so! Flunked the exam the first time with a 585.
>> Like many others, my major problem was time. By the time I had
>> answered half the questions, I was 2/3 the way through my time. Went
>> back home and singed up for a one month Transcender subscription and
>> did that methodically (went through the flashcards twice and kept
>> taking the sample exams until I was scoring in the 800s). This
>> seemed to work - passed the exam with 816 and had 20 minutes left to
>> review my answers.
>>
>> Reflection: Well, I am certainly not going to pretend that I am an
>> expert in this stuff. However, I learned a lot - even though the
>> learning is more broad than it may be deep.
>>
>> When I flunked the SQL exam, I had a dark moment of the soul and was
>> tempted to go the TestKing braindump route. I am so glad that I did
>> not! Although time was a factor, the real reason I failed that exam
>> was that I did not understand certain aspects (especially indexing
>> and optimization) well enough. Contrary to what some others say, I
>> believe that the Transcenders actually helped me learn better (with
>> heavy use of BOL), and were not simply "teach the test" tools.
>>
>> One last comment - if you are taking these exams in the Norfolk VA
>> area, I would recommend that you not go to TCC. I found that noise
>> in the test lab was very distracting. I took tha last exam at the
>> AT&T Govt Solutions center and found the atmosphere to be much more
>> condicive.
>>
>> Well, wish me luck in the job search. Gee, won't I look swell with
>> my shiny MCAD lapel pin buttoned on my newly pressed suit ;-))
>>
>> Good luck,
>>
>> Matt West
>> MCAD
>
> You might not want to post your real e-mail addy, though. Someone named
> Swen is looking for it.
>
> --
> Fris "Another success story" bee@, MCNGP #13
>
> The MCNGP Team - We're here to help!
> <http://www.mcngp.com>
>
> Certaholics
> <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/certaholics>
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