

Re: Announcement: SMS MOC courses available

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<snip>

Let me try as a non-MS rep jerk ;)

Training and certification are two totally different disciplines aiming at two different directions – gaining knowledge and proving knowledge, respectively. MOC courses are like interactive books – you get the theoretical material with the added "bonuses" of having a lab to play with and having an instructor to torture with questions ;) Many people come (or are send) to courses to improve their expertise in a certain area, not necessarily to get certified. Actually, a very low percentage of them do and I'm talking from experience in having taught hundreds of students. Organizations want to enhance the qualification of their systems administrators so they manage the environment more efficiently and sending them to courses is probably the most efficient way.

Otherwise they'd have to count on administrators learning by themselves which is not very likely, dangerous (some love testing in the production environment), less productive, and with worse end results. So, customers are paying mostly for knowledge – not certification. Damn, I've seen so many braindumper MCSEs that are not qualified to even be candidate MCPs!

Anyway, certification is not tied to passing a course – never been, probably never will be. Generally, there is no one-to-one mapping "course-exam" (though for some there is) so having a MOC course doesn't mean you (will) have a corresponding exam. If you take a deeper look at available MOC courses you'll notice that there are much more courses than exams. In addition, if you feel confident enough in your knowledge or think you can prepare in an alternative way you can hit the exam directly – no one minds, noone will stop you.

I absolutely understand your point. However, first the need for such an exam should be assessed (the SMS 2.0 exam is one of, if not the, least taken, AFAIK). Most likely we'll see such an exam but it probably won't be until the end of the year (at least that's what I have heard people on the exam team answer to this question).

I'm eager for an SMS 2003 exam too – I've been digging in this field since pre-beta so if one is available I'd go take it right away ;) Sorry I can't give you (and myself) happy news, but that's the situation right

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now. And please excuse me for getting carried away in writing, but I'd really like people to get the whole true picture. Hopefully, this cleared things up for you too ;)

HTH

P.S.: I certainly wouldn't call Cathy a "Microsoft rep jerk" – she one of the guys responsible for the great technical information and documents we keep getting every day on SMS 2003.

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Cheers,

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