

# Microsoft Certified Master Program and Credential Overview



## Technical Excellence— Recognized, Developed, and Certified

### MCM PERSPECTIVES

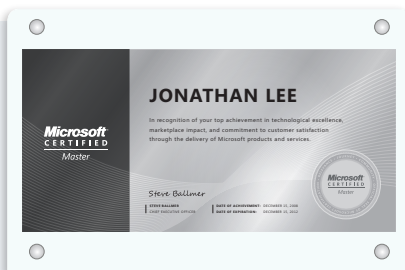
*“Graduates of this program will be recognized by Microsoft as the top Microsoft server experts in the world.”*

**Norm Judah**  
Chief Technology Officer, Services  
Microsoft Corporation

The Microsoft Certified Master (MCM) program takes the best professionals in the IT industry and makes them even better. Whether you want to enhance and validate your advanced skills or take your career to the next level, achieving a Microsoft Certified Master Certification will help differentiate you from others in the competitive ranks of senior IT Professionals.

This unique program consists of three weeks of mandatory, hands-on training led by experts, and extensive written and lab-based testing. Candidates’ practical product knowledge, technical acumen, knowledge of best practices, personal and professional stamina, and communication skills will be constantly challenged.

Only the most qualified will pass all of the required tests, including the final lab exam, to achieve the MCM credential and be admitted into the elite community of Microsoft software and technology experts. This elite community is comprised not only of other MCMs and Microsoft Certified Architects, but of members from Microsoft’s development teams and Microsoft’s own IT organization. Microsoft Certified Masters will be able to contribute to and draw from the collective knowledge of that community at any time. This community and its members have some of the deepest and most comprehensive Microsoft technology knowledge in the world, enabling them to expertly design, build, and maintain enterprise-level solutions that meet the ever more complex needs of today’s customers around the globe.



## Top six reasons to become a Microsoft Certified Master:

1. Acquire a detailed knowledge of how to successfully operate and manage an enterprise-class infrastructure using your Microsoft server of expertise.
2. Ensure a solid grasp of how design decisions will impact the final solution.
3. Obtain the ability to troubleshoot and diagnose complex configuration and performance issues.
4. Gain the credibility and confidence to compete for business and career opportunities that come with earning an advanced technical certification that is held by less than 1% of IT professionals.
5. Join the community of trusted Microsoft software and technology experts.
6. Satisfy the prerequisite requirement (MCM certification) to become eligible to apply to the Review Board for Microsoft Certified Architect (MCA) certification.

## Microsoft Certified Master: Program Offerings

### WHAT IS THE MICROSOFT CERTIFIED MASTER PROGRAM?

Proves the highest level of technical training and certification that is designed to recognize, develop, and validate an individual's ability to design, implement, and troubleshoot solutions built on Microsoft software and technologies.

### STATE-OF-THE-ART LABS

Candidates have access to state-of-the-art hardware. Each candidate will receive access to a dedicated, dual quad processor, x64-based server with 16GB of RAM to build their own lab environment, using Microsoft Hypervisor Technology (Hyper-V™) or Microsoft Virtual Server technology.

Each Microsoft Certified Master credential covers individual core server technologies as well as broader architectural and operational areas, some of which are listed below.

<b>Microsoft Certified Master: Microsoft Exchange Server 2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High availability of a messaging service</li><li>• Coexistence and migration</li><li>• Transport</li><li>• Performance analysis</li><li>• Management and operations</li></ul>
<b>Microsoft Certified Master: Microsoft SQL Server 2008</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Availability and business continuity</li><li>• Storage</li><li>• Performance optimization</li><li>• Scalability</li><li>• Security</li><li>• Manageability</li></ul>
<b>Microsoft Certified Master: Microsoft Windows Server® 2008 Active Directory®</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Authentication</li><li>• Directory component services</li><li>• Name resolution</li><li>• Directory/identity strategy</li><li>• Disaster recovery</li><li>• Monitoring and operations</li></ul>
<b>Microsoft Certified Master: Microsoft Office Communications Server 2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Networking for voice and video</li><li>• Signaling, media, codecs, server and client internals</li><li>• Group chat, mobility and reach</li><li>• Voice internals and complex telephony integration</li><li>• Edge and Federation</li><li>• Conferencing</li><li>• Operations and Troubleshooting</li><li>• Directory integration</li><li>• Application integration</li></ul>
<b>Microsoft Certified Master: Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Web sites</li><li>• Enterprise intranet solutions</li><li>• Collaboration platforms hosting terabytes of content</li><li>• Microsoft Excel® Services in Office SharePoint Server 2007 platforms</li><li>• Knowledge management solutions</li><li>• Enterprise search implementations</li><li>• Large, team-based, custom development environments</li></ul>

Additional program details, prerequisite requirements, and registration information are available at [www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/master](http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/master).



## Microsoft Certified Master: Program Features

### MCM PERSPECTIVES

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*"This is the premier program to get our top-level consultants ramped up and product-ready."*

#### **Ramon Infante**

Community Director,  
Unified Communications,  
Microsoft Corporation

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### **A high bar to entry**

The MCM program is designed for current practicing senior IT professionals who successfully design, build, and troubleshoot IT environments using Microsoft servers. Microsoft considers for acceptance into the MCM program only the most experienced, talented senior IT professionals who have a proven portfolio of complex, strategic IT solutions. Whether they are architects, implementers, consultants, or engineers, these are the go-to people in today's IT organizations who have, on average, more than 10 years of experience in the IT industry and at least 3–5 years of hands on experience with a given server.

### **Advanced training from top experts**

The MCM program differentiates itself through expert-led training. The curriculum is developed in conjunction with Microsoft product engineering teams and delivered by industry-renowned instructors and practiced experts within their fields of discipline. Instructors use their numerous years of experience to ensure that students receive authoritative information on the successes and challenges of applying course concepts to real-world customer situations.

The MCM program takes advantage of the unique opportunity to work directly with Microsoft product teams and offers deep and authoritative content. The program's major strengths include tight integration between the curriculum and product roadmaps, along with the study of relevant customer challenges. Immersed in real-world customer case studies, students are expected to come up with optimized solutions that meet all of the most critical customer requirements.

### **The training Microsoft uses for its own experts**

Microsoft sends its most experienced consultants, product architects, field engineers, and strategic partners to this advanced MCM training on servers. This program is taught by experts for experts.

## The journey to MCM

For the seasoned professionals who have advanced in their careers often times from help-desk support to leading support teams, to administering increasingly complex systems to designing complex solutions, to becoming known as the 'go to' resource for all aspects of a particular product, the MCM Certification provides the opportunity of differentiation at a highly specialized level not previously available in the industry. In summary, the MCM program is built for Senior Engineers, Senior Consultants and Architects.



**COMMUNITY AND  
BUSINESS EVIDENCE**

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Why hire or become a Microsoft Certified Master? Here are some of the reports that the Microsoft Certified Master program has received from graduates and their employers:

- 60% annual increase in revenue generated from the Microsoft Certified Master
  - Double the number of successful interactions during the presale cycle
  - Triple the number of requests for advice and/or project participation
  - A job offer at a 30% increase in salary
  - 90+% project success rate in an industry where 60% is the norm
  - Eligibility for partnership at a boutique consultancy
  - 95% customer return rate
  - Up to 50% increase in billable rate
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## Microsoft Certified Master: Program Benefits

### Continued value / integrity without compromise

A high bar to entry, mandatory three weeks of expert-led training and rigorous tests including a hands-on performance-based lab exam, ensure that only truly qualified individuals earn the Microsoft Certified Master credential. Microsoft Certified Masters can remain on the forefront of Microsoft technology via continued education opportunities covering software and technology innovations and upgrades such as service packs, new features, and best practices evolutions through monthly Live Meetings where expert guests talk about what's relevant in the field.

### A community of trusted IT professionals

Microsoft Certified Masters earn membership in an elite community of highly trained Microsoft software and technology specialists, including members of the Microsoft development teams and IT organization, Microsoft Certified Master instructors, Microsoft Certified Architects (MCAs), and accomplished Microsoft software and technology experts from around the world. With this community you are never more than an e-mail message away from authoritative answers to even the most complex emerging customer issues.

### Direct Access to Microsoft product management and engineers

Microsoft Certified Masters become members of an elite community along with members from Microsoft's development teams and Microsoft's own IT organization. Microsoft Certified Masters will be able to contribute to and draw from the collective knowledge of that community at any time.

### An impact on future software and technology development

Members of the Microsoft Certified Master community have unique opportunities to provide direct input into current and future software and technology development through community exposure and discussion. The Microsoft development teams regard the Microsoft Certified Master communities as their foremost field-based resource for gathering feedback that will improve their software and technology capabilities in the largest and most complex scenarios and customers in the world.

**Learn more about the Microsoft Certified Master program.**

**Visit [www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/master](http://www.microsoft.com/learning/mcp/master)**