


# Alternative Vendor-Neutral Credentials for Information Technology Professionals in the Accounting Profession



## Agenda

- Introduction
- Academic Program Assessment
- CCER - Center for Computing Education Research
- ISA – Information Systems Analyst
- Comparison of Examination Times
- Integration: Professional Education & Certification

## Introduction - Background



- 1947 – ACM
  - Association for Computing Machinery
- 1951 – NMAA
  - National Machine Accountants Association
- 1962 – DPMA (NMAA changed – later AITP)
  - Data Processing Management Association
  - Created Certified Data Processor credential
- 1973 – ICCP (ACM + DPMA + Others)
  - Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals

3

## Current ICCP Certifications



- **CCP** - Certified Computing Professional
  - Experience + pass Core + 2-3 Examinations
- **ACP** – Associate Computing Professional
  - Entry Level – Core + 1 Examination
- **CDMP** – Certified Data Management Prof.
  - Data Management Association (DAMA)
  - Practitioner and Mastery levels
- **CBIP** – Certified Business Intelligence Prof.
  - The Data Warehousing Institute (TDWI)
  - Practitioner and Mastery levels
- All Of The Above Are Vendor - Neutral

4

## Other Vendor Neutral Certifications



- CITP – Certified Information Technology Professional
  - Requires candidate have the CPA to get the CITP
- CDL – International Computer Drivers License
  - Administered by the ECDL Foundation
- IC3
  - Offered by Certiport
- A+
  - Offered by CompTia

Except for the CITP, These are skill oriented – NOT professional

5

## IS Program Assessment



- ISECON 2001
  - Information Systems Educators Conference
  - Panel Discussion – Can Certification Exams Assess individual preparation relative to IS2002 Model Curriculum (MC) objectives?
  - Participants included Bart Longenecker – Principle author of IS2002 MC
  - Conclusion: Probably Not
  - Confirmation (2002) – questions didn't map well to MC.
- Academic Coalition: 2003 – 2004
  - Representatives from 17 Schools created exam (100 questions)
  - Hosted by University of South Alabama (USoA)
  - Co-Sponsored by ICCP and USoA college of computing
  - Followed ICCP Certification Council Procedures.

6

## Beta Test the Exam



- First Test: AITP NCC2003
  - Held At Purdue University – March 2003
  - Taken by 175 students at the conference
- Follow-on
  - Administered by Coalition Schools' graduating students
- Conclusion:
  - Not enough questions to cover all aspects of the MC
  - 258 Questions are needed to cover all combinations of learning units and skills.

7


## Test Revision



- Workshop 2003
  - Revised Test Development by coalition schools
  - 258 Questions
  - 3 hours (40 seconds per question)
  - Beta Test at AITP NCC 2004
  - Beta Test 2004 at Coalition schools
  - Designate as the IS2002 “Core Exam”

8


## Formation of CCER



- CCER
  - Center for Computing Education Research
  - Formed to administer the IS2002 Core Exam
  - Division of the ICCP Education Foundation
    - ICCP-EF is 501c3 non-profit organization.
- Gathers longitudinal data (international/national)
- CCER provides reports to institutions for curriculum assessment and enhancement.

9

## Individual Certification



- IS2002 Core exam tests people – Why not offer a credential
- Cooperative Alignment with the ICCP (parent) to offer a new certification
- ISA – new Information Systems Analyst
  - 4 year college degree is CS/IS/IT/AIS related area.
  - Ascribe to the ICCP code of ethics
  - Participate in recertification program
  - Pass Core exam
    - 50-60% score yields ISA – Practitioner level
    - 70% and greater yields “ISA – Master” level
  - No experience required
- ISA is higher than ACP but lower than CCP
- Encourage candidate to achieve the higher CCP designation later

10

## Comparison of Exam Times



- ISA requires 1 3 hour exam
- ACP requires 90 minute Core, and one other exam:
  - Core = 90 minutes
  - Other exam may be specialty or a language
    - Specialty exam = 90 minutes
    - Language = 60 minutes (60 questions)
    - Core = 90 minutes

11

## Integration



- IS2002 Core exam measures program alignment with 2002 Model Curriculum
- By extrapolation IS2002 Core exam can be used to measure individual preparation
- May be used as a basis for the ISA exam.

12

## Summary

---



- Join the Coalition
- Work with CCER to give the exam
- Encourage students to get the ISA certification.
- Contact the ICCP-EF/CCER for details