A Unified Framework for Digital Credentials

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Microsoft Modern Credentialing & Certification

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• WWL is focused on technical skilling and credentialing for sales & service employees, partners, and customers

• My team is focused on **Microsoft’s modern credentialing and certification primarily for our customers & partners**

• We’re re-imagining credentialing (inclusive of certification) to meet the needs of our customers’ digital transformation and help address the global IT skills gap
## Evolving Needs for Customer Training & Credentialing

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Closing the skills gap with role & product-based training & credentials!

**Microsoft Professional Program**

- Training and validation focused on technical job roles in the highest demand fields.
- Mix of Microsoft and 3rd party technology skills.
- Combines training and validation of skills via the MOOC learning modality and completion of a hands-on, real-world capstone project.
- Students access content on their schedule.
- Program completions yields a digitally sharable certificate of achievement for students who complete all courses across a skills map.

**Microsoft Certified Professional**

- Certification of Microsoft product related technical skills in a job role.
- Learners can gain skills via training or hands-on knowledge & experience.
- Skills are validated via high-stakes examinations facilitated in a Pearson test center or online proctoring.
- Completion of sequenced examinations yields industry renown credentials: MCSA, MCSE, MCSD.
- Candidates are certified by Microsoft for skills associated with the credentials and awarded a certificate and a digital badge.

Breadth skills  
Technology Specific Depth skills
Unified Credentials Framework - Guiding Principles

Unifying framework to recognize learner achievements and validated skills that is:

- Job role focused
- Skill based
- Relevant
- Simple
- Flexible
- Motivational
- Based on Open Standards
---|---|---|---
What’s your level of Proficiency? | Beginner | Intermediate | Advanced

Suggested Learning Path
Office 365 Administration Intermediate Skills

Beginner Skills ➔ Skill Group 1 ➔ Skill Group 2 ➔ Additional Skill Groups ➔ Advanced Skills

Multiple learning & validation options

- Gain Knowledge & Earn Points
- Prove Skills & Earn Points

Microsoft 365 Admin Intermediate Achievement
Certified Intermediate Microsoft 365 Admin
One Cross Company Badging Framework

Activity Badges

- Points and **Activity Badges** are awarded for participation and engagement activities
- Event attendance, event presenter, hackathons, GitHub activity, etc.

Knowledge Badges

- Points and **Knowledge Badges** are awarded upon the successful completion of deep, hands-on learning

Validated Skills & Certification Badges

- Points and **Skills Badges** are issued upon the successful completion of any activity that has a rigorous validation
- Accrues to **certification**, representing mastery at different levels within the job role (e.g., entry-level, practitioner, expert)
Skills Based, Verifiable, and Time-stamped Evidence is Key
Link to Real-time Jobs Data is Key
Challenges and Opportunities for Private-Public Collaboration on Badged Credentials

- Promote open badge value to employers & search firms
- Discoverability of verified candidates
- “Educational credit” approach for fast changing credentials
  - Microsoft conducts bi-monthly certification exam updates and annual certification path reviews
- More connected skills & credentials databases
- Truly portable, candidate “owned” lifelong learning records