
MCSE - what next?

Posted by keeprighton1974 - 2008/05/31 08:29

i am just about to complete my 2003 MCSE (if i have time before a house move i will try and get 2008).
i have 7 years experience as school Network Manager.
i am wondering if you have any advice on what type of i.t job i should be aiming at next? is there a natural progression?
my main interest is in Exchange but i'm a bit daunted as to what type of i.t. roles to apply for and which i have absolutely no chance of getting with my accreditations and experience.
maybe nicky has a few suggestions of where to head next?
thanks for a smashing website ;-)

Re:MCSE - what next?

Posted by Luke Rowbery - 2008/07/23 05:37

I am currently a school network manger (about 3 years now) and am thinking of doing an MCSE. How long does it take? And how hard is it?

Luke.

Re:MCSE - what next?

Posted by mark - 2008/07/30 15:38

hi there,

well it took me about a year to do it - all out of a book, testout video learning and of course itidiots

of course, like anything, it all depends on how much time you invest. the things that will be to your advantage is that you have school holidays and the hardware available to practice what you learn. get on good terms with the school caretaker - i've stayed until 9/10pm some nights to study as i knew that if i went home i'd just watch tv on the sofa!

not many topics will be completely new to you - so go for it. definately start with exam 70-290.

you also may want to try to get the school to meet some of your studying costs - there's no harm in asking! maybe you can slip it in as a training/development request at your next appraisal?? worked for me! if they're hesitant suggest something like the books will remain the property of the school for future IT staff to use ;-)

good luck to you.

Re:MCSE - what next?

Posted by Greg Fyn - 2008/07/30 21:23

Just my 2cents....I would suggest that you develop your learning plan according to your own learning style, your time and self discipline....as a school network consultant for several schools, I found that the latter two qualities were sorely lacking. I found that getting an overview of Windows Server technologies were great in itidiots as a great springboard for me, I read some, but the best teacher is always experience. It ended up that with all the interruptions I have in my day to day life and, (being an old fat guy), study after work was not a good solution. I went to an intensive course that gave my learning experience some exclusivity and removed those distractions. To learn any material it's always good to use as many learning modalities as possible, visual, auditory, repetition etc. If you obtain your MCSE then the it will only take 3 tests to obtain the equivalent to MCSE on 2008....they changed the acronym (sic)and I can't remember it....If you opt to take Vista as your desktop OS you kill two birds with one stone and only have to take 2 tests.

Hope this helps you along your way

Hey there, keeprighton1974 sounds like you have alot of experience, the study will probably be a re-affirmaition of what you already know, but you're right it's handy to have that external validation that certification affords if you don't have a computer science degree. Your odds of being able to sucessfully apply for work with a cert AND experience. Only you

can decide what direction you want your career to take. I will tell you that as a consultant I do work for both business and schools. Schools tend to be more static and slower to adopt major change....sometimes it does get to be routine....Business IT is a totally different animal, you'll have to find your niche if that's what you want....

Greg

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