

Open up your Opportunities

Skills and Experience-based IT
Certification Programs for IT Organizations





Set the standard

Differentiate yourselves from the competition by providing certified IT staff who can demonstrate real-world skills and experience.

One of the main objectives of The Open Group is to develop and operate the IT industry's premier certification programs and to encourage the procurement of certified products and services.

IN TODAY'S challenging and highly competitive environment both end-user organizations and IT services providers are working on increasingly complex global IT projects with outsourced elements and a requirement for collaboration between geographically dispersed teams. A need was recognized for an open, global standard based on skills, experience, and professional skills that would be accepted around the world. The solution has been provided by The Open Group skills and experience-based IT certifications.

By working closely with our membership, we have developed two certification programs that require no training courses or examinations and focus purely on the skills and experience that an IT professional has developed while working on relevant IT projects. The programs are therefore based on an assessment of an individual's people skills, technical skills, and capabilities and not a test of knowledge. The fact that they are global and vendor-neutral makes them unique within the IT industry and they are becoming much sought-after certification programs.

Both The Open Group Certified Architect (Open CA) certification program (formerly ITAC) and The Open Group Certified IT Specialist (Open CITS) certification program (formerly ITSC) have been designed to validate the existence of those qualities and skills in a professional that enable the effective practice of IT architecture and the development, implementation, and operation of IT solutions.

They are different from vendor-based product-oriented certifications because they are:

Peer-reviewed

A board of certified IT Architects or IT Specialists ensures that the skills and experience of each candidate meet the qualification standards.

Vendor-neutral

Developed by a consortium of globally recognized industry leaders, the programs are administered by The Open Group – a vendor-neutral organization.

Global

The programs adhere to a worldwide set of standards.

Portable

Certification applies to the individual not the organization and is therefore fully transferable.

Benefits of the programs

- Provide a quality assurance to customers of the skills of your IT professionals
- Demonstrate a competitive advantage over vendors without such programs
- Set benchmarks that meet open, global standards
- Ensure employees can demonstrate an understanding of technology, apply those skills, and are professional
- Avoid the cost of developing an in-house certification program
- A consistent and assured quality of service is guaranteed when clients request project proposals, procurement specifications, and service-level agreements

The Open CA program has been requested in recruitment adverts and RFPs for a number of global organizations and government agencies.

The need to certify information technology professionals against an open and global standard is crucial for our customers, employees, and the industry at large.

We expect that the defined set of worldwide standards for measuring the skills and experience of IT specialists, motivating and empowering them with portable credentials will soon be accepted anywhere and will contribute to a further professionalism of the IT industry.)

Ron Tolido
Capgemini CTO for Continental Europe and Asia Pacific

Open CITS

The Open Group Certified IT Specialist (Open CITS) program (formerly ITSC) provides IT professionals with an element that is currently missing in the IT industry: a set of globally recognized standards that allow organizations to benchmark against skills, knowledge, and experience and therefore select the right people for the job.



The program was designed to validate the existence of those qualities and skills in a professional that enable the effective development, implementation, and operation of IT solutions.

The program is split into three levels of certification:

Level 1: Certified

Level 2: Master

Level 3: Distinguished

The program is made up of four parts:

- Core Foundation Skills
- Client Focus Areas
- Technical Focus Areas
- Experience

For details of the accreditation process and conformance requirements, please visit www.opengroup.org/opencits.

Open CA

The Open Group Certified Architect (Open CA) program (formerly ITAC) was designed to validate the existence of those qualities and skills in a professional that enable the effective practice of IT Architecture. Launched in 2005, there are now over 2,300 people certified worldwide and the program is now recognized as the premier skills and experience-based certification for IT Architects.



The program is split into three levels of certification:

Level 1: Certified

Level 2: Master

Level 3: Distinguished

Level 3 applies to Lead Architects, Enterprise Architects, and IT Architect Professional Leaders.

The program is made up of four parts:

- Core Foundation Skills
- Experience
- Professional Development
- Contributions to the Architect Community

For details of the accreditation process and conformance requirements, please visit www.opengroup.org/openca.

How does TOGAF® relate to Open CA

TOGAF® The Open Group defines TOGAF as a detailed method and set of supporting tools for developing IT and Enterprise Architecture.

There are many architecture frameworks, but TOGAF is unique in containing a method for developing architecture – the TOGAF Architecture Development Method (ADM).

TOGAF is non-proprietary and is the result of best practice, as gathered by The Open Group Architecture Forum.

TOGAF certification programs exist for both organizations and individuals. However, TOGAF is not a prerequisite for the Open CA program.

TOGAF has been refined over the years and the latest version to be published is TOGAF 9 - released in 2009.

For further information visit www.opengroup.org/togaf.

By following industry best practices, The Open Group has defined an outstanding benchmark for IT Architects and IT Specialists, which makes it easier to identify the highly skilled and experienced professionals that Credit Suisse is looking for. In addition, I am very much in favour of The Open Group's efforts to certify skills and experience, rather than academic qualifications only.)

Andreas Buzzi
Head of Software Engineering, Credit Suisse

About The Open Group

The Open Group is a vendor-neutral and technology-neutral consortium, which drives the creation of Boundaryless Information Flow™ that will enable access to integrated information within and between enterprises based on open standards and global interoperability.

The Open Group works with customers, suppliers, consortia, and other standard bodies. Its role is to capture, understand, and address current and emerging requirements, establish policies, and share best practices; to facilitate interoperability, develop consensus, and evolve and integrate specifications and open source technologies; to offer a comprehensive set of services to enhance the operational efficiency of consortia; and to operate the industry's premier certification service.

Key facts include:

- Over 350 member organizations, with over 20,000 participants in The Open Group activities from 80 countries. Our platinum members are: Capgemini, HP, IBM, Kingdee, Oracle, and SAP.
- 47% of members from North America, 34% from Europe, 12% from Asia-Pacific, and 7% from the Middle East and Africa; all constituents work together in an open process.
- Services provided include strategy, management, innovation and research, standards, certification, and test development.
- Vision of Boundaryless Information Flow™, with enterprise architecture as a critical element for making the vision a reality; the TOGAF Architecture Development Method (ADM) provides an important toolset.
- Making Standards Work®; extensive experience and track record in facilitating consensus to develop standards and operating the premier certification service .

Further information on The Open Group can be found at www.opengroup.org.

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