

How To Pay For IT Certifications in India

Introduction

We have all heard about IT based certifications. They exist across all spectrums of the Information Technology field, all the way from the Cloud to network security, to databases, to web site programming, big data analytics, to data warehousing and data mining, to server administration, to even mastering all of the popular programming languages today (which includes the JavaScripting, PERL, Ruby On Rails, PHP, C#, Visual Basic, Angular Java Scripting, etc).

Obtaining an IT certification at these levels is actually a remarkable feat to accomplish. If you think about it, across all of the professions and industries which exist worldwide today, not that many people have obtained IT certifications. There are many reasons for this, but probably one of the most widely accepted reason is that obtaining a particular IT certification is a very daunting task. For example, many of these certification exams require that you not just take multiple exams, but actually multiple ones.

For example, as our last article reviewed, in order to be officially certified as Microsoft SQL Server expert, you have to pass three, very rigorous exams. Simply having the work experience is not enough, but rather; you have to have specific knowledge in the actual programming language itself.

For this, Microsoft highly recommends (note, that does not mean it is required) that a candidate take three courses which are claimed to help the candidate prepare for and pass these exams successfully.

The Staggering Costs Of IT Certifications In India

There is a large time commitment for this, not just from the standpoint of actually attending the respective classes, but also the time required it takes to study as well for the actual exams. But, there is also another factor which is causing a huge hindrance from candidates from taking these exams: The associated cost. There is not only the staggering cost of just registering for the specific exam, but there are also costs involved with taking the 'highly recommended' classes, as well as obtaining the needed training material, such as tutorials, training DVDs, student manuals, etc.

To put some numbers, obtaining the Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert (CCIE), Red Hat Certified Architect (RHCA), can cost well over \$1,000. Trying to obtain the Oracle Certified Master (OCM) certification is a staggering \$8,000. The primary reason for this latter expense is that this certification exam requires a hands on lab (which involves the actual installation and configuration of an Oracle database). The cost of obtaining most of the other IT certifications fall in between these two extremes, at between \$2,000 to \$3,500. Because of these exponential costs, there has been huge debate amongst critics in India if these exams are even worth obtaining, and if they even carry any merit at all in the Indian IT marketplace.

How To Reduce The Costs Of IT Certifications-Direct Employee Of An Indian Company

Probably about the best way to get help in funding in the quest for an IT certification is to actually ask your employer to help pay for it, provided you are a direct hire with an Indian company, and not a contractor. To go about this, you will need to convince your boss that not only are you deserving of obtaining a particular IT certification, but also you need to prove as to how your department and company as a whole can benefit from it. One of the best ways to do this is to show your immediate

supervisor that there is a lack of expertise or that there is a strong need for the particular certification which you desire to obtain.

Another point you can convey to your boss is that the company's clients will be very impressed by having an employee with a highly regarded IT certification. This will not only help to attract repeat business, but it can also be used as a tool in which to gain referral business as well. But, asking your immediate supervisor for funding can be a dicey situation. For example, you need to ask him or her just at the right time and opportunity.

Probably one of the best places to do this is doing your annual review. This is the time set aside where you and your boss go over your accomplishments and areas which need improvement for the year. You can use this valuable opportunity of this one on one meeting to pitch your desires for obtaining an IT certification, and what resources the company has available to help fund you in getting it.

How To Reduce The Costs Of IT Certifications-Contractor Of An Indian Company/Self Employed

Now, if you are a contractor, this pretty much means that you have your own company, and are working for an Indian based IT company on an hourly basis. The good news here is that obviously you make much more in this aspect versus being a direct employee. With this, you will have some more resources in which to fund your IT certification studies.

But, being an entrepreneur, you are always budget minded, and looking for the best and cheapest deals possible. To start your shoe string budget, consider these four very important factors:

- Your own preferences (in other words, where do you want your desired IT certification to take you?);
- The work related opportunities which exist for your desired IT certification;
- Your designated timelines in achieving your IT certification;
- Your own long term career goals.

Some of the best known resources available to help you define the above four categories include the following:

- tcc.comptia.org:
This website displays the latest and most in demand IT job titles, along with the education, levels of experience, the degree of education, and specific IT certification which go along with them.
- The Certification Magazine Salary Survey:
The website for this is: www.certmag.com/salaries. This resource displays the latest IT trends and the most in demand skill areas which are in demand and hold their value in the Indian marketplace year after year.

Of course, it is just human nature to like things which are basically free. At the following websites, you can actually obtain very low cost and even free resources to aid you in your IT certification studies:

- GroupStudy.com:

This is a web based resource designed for those seeking (or for those whom already possess) the various Cisco System certifications.

- 101tutorials.com:

At this website, a prospective IT certification candidate can download free training materials on C++, Oracle, SQL Server, and both the Windows and Linux based platforms.

- Hoganbooks.com:

This website literally offers free books ranging from how to use SQL Server to PowerBuilder and Java. They also offer free IT certification guides as well.

In summary, obtaining an IT certification is a great thing to accomplish, but it can also be very costly as well. The trick is learning in how to get the funding and/or resources you need, which this article outlines.