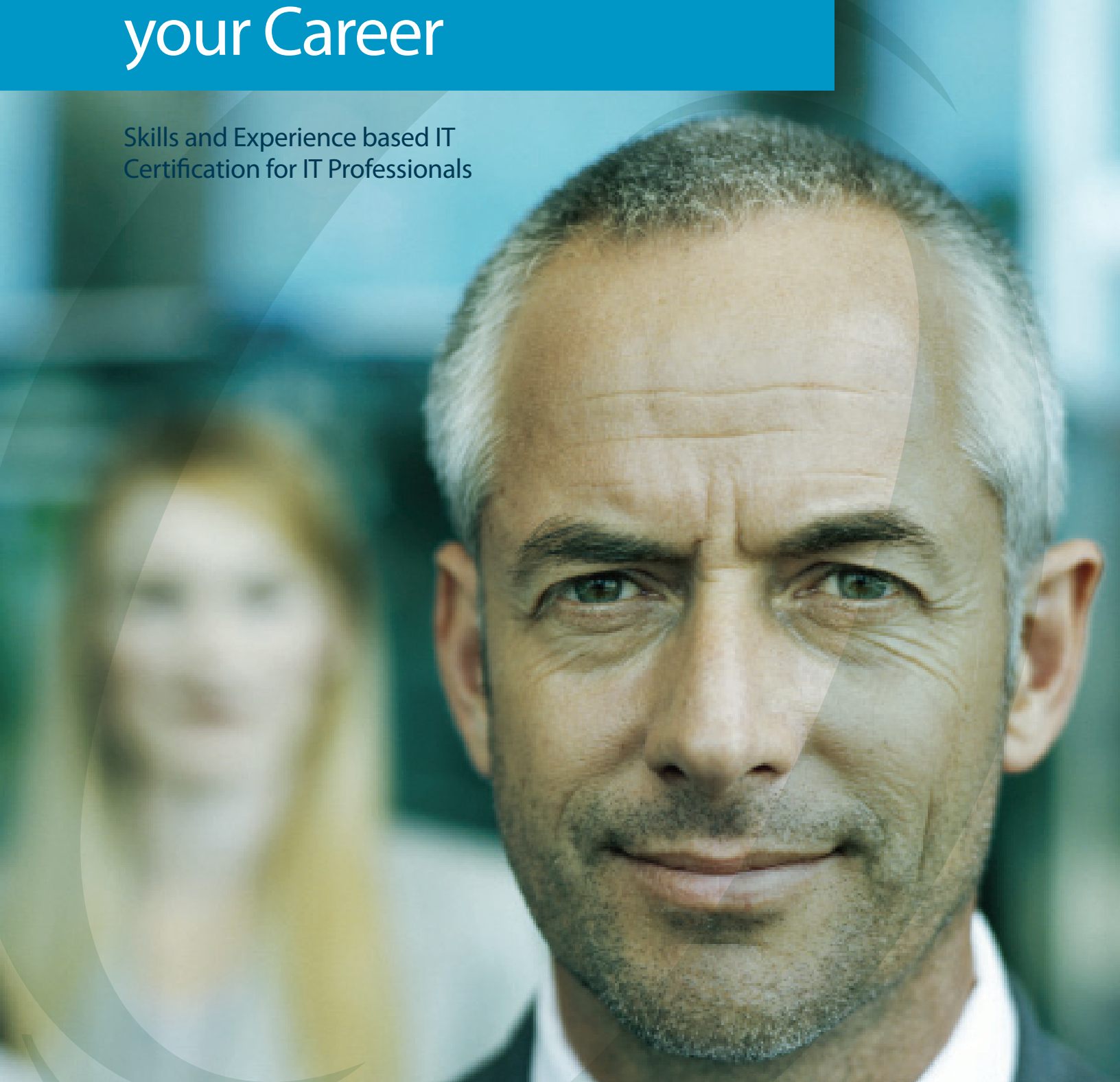


Open up your Career

Skills and Experience based IT
Certification for IT Professionals





Step ahead

Set yourself a step ahead of the rest with a globally recognized, vendor neutral, IT certification simply by demonstrating the skills and experience you already possess without additional training.

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 organizations and individuals need to be able to develop and deliver complex IT solutions that are both innovative and consistent on a global basis. To do this organizations need experienced and business aware IT professionals to plan, design, implement and operate these solutions to a recognized quality standard. If you can prove that you have the necessary skills and experience to meet these requirements then you can immediately differentiate yourself from the competition – a crucial factor in the current economic climate.

There are currently a large number of IT certifications available for individuals to prove that they have knowledge of a specific product or process. To achieve certified status you usually have to attend the relevant training course or read the appropriate self study material before passing an industry recognized examination. However, passing the test does not necessarily mean that you can perform the tasks you are "qualified" to do.

The Open Group has 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. The fact that they are global and vendor neutral makes them unique within the IT industry and they are fast becoming much sought after certification programs.

The IT Architecture Certification (ITAC) and IT Specialist Certification (ITSC) programs allow individuals to differentiate themselves from other IT professionals by achieving a certification that is:

Peer Reviewed

A board of certified IT Architects or IT Specialists ensures 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.

Why go for The Open Group certification?

The Open Group skills and experienced based programs offer both IT Architects and IT Specialists a unique opportunity to stand out from the crowd as individuals who not only have expertise in vendor specific products but also have proven business skills and have made significant contributions to running successful projects.

As most employers are looking for experienced professionals the ITAC and ITSC programs provide them with a globally recognized benchmark for both their internal recruitment requirements and for deploying third party personnel on business critical IT projects. Therefore, achieving ITAC or ITSC status will improve your career prospects and if you are a contractor it could be the differentiator when it comes to winning those elusive new contracts.

In a recent article on www.inforworld.com by Tom Kaneshige of IDC entitled "Hot tech certifications in a cool job market" The Open Group ITAC program is identified as one of the leading certification programs in the IT industry.

The article points to a Foote report of 22,000 IT professionals covering 170 IT certifications and it suggests that in terms of pay growth, ITAC is one of the top five must-have certifications.)

IT Specialist Certification (ITSC)



The Open Group ITSC program 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.

It 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 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/itsc/cert

IT Architect Certification (ITAC)



The Open Group ITAC program 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 2300 people certified worldwide and the program is now recognized as the premier skills and experienced based certification for IT Architects.

The program is split into three levels of Certification:

Level 1: Certified IT Architect

Level 2: Master Certified IT Architect

Level 3: Distinguished Certified IT Architect

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/itac/cert

How does TOGAF relate to the ITAC program?

TOGAF™

The Open Group defines TOGAF (The Open Group Architecture Framework) 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 ITAC 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 300 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.
- 50% of members from North America, 25% from Europe, and 25% from Asia-Pacific; 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; TOGAF Architecture Development Method 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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