

Title:

## **Boost Your Career with Virtualization Certifications from Top Vendors**

Body:

The appetite for cloud-based data, applications and services, delivered on demand through shared computing resources, shows no signs of waning. That's because the benefits of cloud computing – including reduced IT costs, more scalability, better business continuity, faster software updates, ease of collaboration and flexibility for the workforce – are so compelling for organizations. Traditional data centers are rapidly giving way to more agile, hybrid infrastructures built on virtualization. So the need for IT professionals with virtualization skills is growing faster than ever, and today's employers recognize how those with virtualization certifications can help them close their skills gaps.

Subhead:

### **Virtualization is the Foundation of Cloud Computing**

Body:

Organizations want to reap the myriad benefits of virtual environments: reduced costs from having fewer physical servers, fast provisioning, increased uptime, better disaster recovery and greater IT staff productivity. Cloud computing is supported by a virtual platform of server OS and storage devices, giving users access to secure and segregated instances created from a wide variety of bare-metal server options. While public cloud environments are virtualized by design at the hypervisor layer, system architects also recognize the value of running their on-premises infrastructure with the same design to create private clouds that maximize resources. Organizations can share a single, physical instance of a resource or an application with multiple users. Basically, virtualization is the enabling technology for private cloud delivery and allows organizations to fully leverage the value of cloud computing.

But without expertise, it's a formidable undertaking for organizations to design, build, maintain and grow hybrid cloud infrastructure. That's why the IT job market for virtualization roles remains hot. Virtualization is a must-have technology skill set for IT pros who work with software, systems, networks or IT infrastructure and architecture. Becoming a virtualization expert also pays well: those who have the right certifications earn an average salary of \$112,995 per year<sup>1</sup>. Those in senior-level positions make up to \$139,000<sup>2</sup>.

Subhead:

### **Virtualizations Certifications Are All About the Platform**

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Body:

With virtualization, choosing the right certification starts with knowing which platforms you'll use. The top virtualization certifications come from vendors such as Cisco, Citrix, Microsoft, Oracle and VMware, and cover their unique virtualization technologies and tools. Whether you're looking to start or advance your career in virtualization, having certifications from one or more of these vendors on your résumé will provide better job opportunities within your company as well as increase your salary potential.

### **VMware**

VMware is a widely used virtualization technology. vSphere, the company's virtualization platform, helps businesses run, manage, connect and secure applications across data centers and the cloud. VMware offers vendor-approved virtualization certifications for levels including associate, professional, advanced professional and design expert.

### **Citrix**

Citrix's mobile workspace solutions facilitate connecting and collaborating in real time. The company provides server, application and desktop virtualization services for more than 400,000 organizations worldwide—about 98% of the Fortune 500. Citrix offers virtualization certifications at the associate, professional and expert level.

### **Cisco**

Cisco's Unified Computing System (UCS) is a data center platform for virtualization. Many Cisco technologies also integrate with Citrix and VMware virtualization solutions. Cisco data center credentials validate your knowledge and skills in designing, implementing, maintaining and troubleshooting enterprise-level data centers that host business-critical applications.

### **Microsoft**

Most modern businesses have multiple Microsoft products in their infrastructure. Technologies like Azure and Windows Server are prominent in the cloud and virtualization space. Microsoft certifications are extremely popular with employers<sup>3</sup>. They demonstrate that you can implement the commonly used Microsoft virtualization technologies.

### **Oracle**

Oracle's virtualization solution is less common among organizations, so someone certified to manage it could have a career advantage with employers that use the technology. It would be considered niche expertise that could command higher salaries.

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## Choosing the Right Training Provider for Your Virtualization Certification

Body:

To ensure you can earn certifications from these prominent vendors, you'll want to learn from an industry-leading training provider. It's important to choose a training provider that offers vendor-approved courses. Virtualization technology vendors create the curriculum and set the standards for the certifications that only they can award. Many training centers also administer the certification exams that they develop at their approved testing centers. Some training vendors write their own curriculum and might not be teaching what's on the exams. A vendor-approved training provider will ensure their courses are updated with the latest versions of vendor technology and standards, better preparing students to pass the exams.

Tech Data's ExitCertified has delivered courses to IT pros like you since 2001. ExitCertified offers vendor-approved, instructor-led and self-paced training in the classroom, on site at your location, or through the [iMVP](#) instructor-led, online platform. ExitCertified's expert instructors have earned awards and recognition from several vendor partners and IT organizations by offering courses that thoroughly prepare IT professionals for certification exams. And your learning can continue beyond the certification through ongoing e-mentoring and learning subscriptions.

ExitCertified offers 90 [virtualization certification](#) courses from 10 vendors, including Citrix, VMware, Microsoft, Cisco, Oracle, Red Hat, IBM, Veeam, Nutanix and NetApp.

Subhead:

## Now Go Get Those Opportunities

Body:

With the ongoing popularity of virtualization technologies and the continuous need of qualified professionals to install and maintain them, virtualization certifications can provide a solid foundation for your career growth. [Talk to ExitCertified](#) today to choose the virtualization certification that interests you the most. Enjoy your certification journey!

1. Forbes, "[15 Top Paying IT Certifications of 2018](#)," 12 Marc 2018
2. Business News Daily, "[Best Virtualization Certifications for IT Pros](#)," 15 Jul 2019.
3. Tech Republic, "[11 Most Popular IT Certifications That Make the Most Money](#)," 20 Jan 2020.

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