Be Certified! Stand Out!

Which one should I go for? Which one is going to benefit me in the long run? The answer is pretty straightforward.
Research about the field that you want to get in and what is the value of having a certification. The courses offered by the IT department does give you some options of certifications that you can take right after finishing the course.

Exam 70-461: Querying Microsoft SQL Server 2012/2014 (After IFT530, MS-IT)
This exam is intended for SQL Server database administrators, system engineers, and developers with two or more years of experience, who are seeking to validate their skills and knowledge in writing queries.

Exam 98-364: Database Fundamentals (After IFT433, BS-IT)
This exam is intended for candidates who are seeking to prove introductory knowledge of and skills with relational databases, such as Microsoft SQL Server.

For more questions on the certifications, reach out to our faculty Dr. Usha Jagannathan.

WHAT'S TRENDING IN THE IT WORLD

Bitcoin and Blockchain

Perhaps no other piece of technology has garnered the amount of media frenzy in the recent years, especially in the past couple of months, as Bitcoin. With the rise in the value of Bitcoin by close to 100,000 percent over the last five years, is it just a speculative bubble? Or is it something revolutionary, capable of upending our established financial industry?

To understand Bitcoin, we need to look into the underlying technology: blockchain. A helpful analogy would be the peer-to-peer file sharing protocol BitTorrent, but something even more powerful and disruptive. Blockchain eliminates the need of a central trust or agency which verifies the authenticity of two parties who desire to conduct business with each other. It is an “open, distributed ledger that can record transactions between two parties efficiently and in a verifiable and permanent way”, according to Wikipedia. A block contains transaction details along with other information like timestamp and pointer to previous block. It cannot be modified without altering all the subsequent blocks in the blockchain which must be verified by the network majority, making it extremely hard to fake transactions.

The bitcoin blockchain is a public ledger recording Bitcoin transactions. This is what makes Bitcoin a digital currency, and knocks out banks from the picture. Bitcoin mining is a decentralized computational process serving two purposes: confirming transactions and adding the blocks to the blockchain, and create new bitcoins in each block. When a block is discovered, the miner is awarded certain number of bitcoins previously agreed-upon by everyone in the network, along with any fees paid by users sending the transaction.

Every day, more and more merchants are accepting Bitcoin as a payment option. Uber started accepting Bitcoin in Argentina in July 2016. KFC Canada briefly accepted Bitcoins. Wall Street banks Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs have embraced Bitcoin future trading. But will Bitcoin be the dominant currency of the future? Only time will tell, but the blockchain technology for one is here to stay.

January 2018 Newsletter!!
Have a fabulous, productive 2018 everyone!
Grad Alumni Talks

Vipul Sarin

Working as a Software Developer in Apple's Silicon Engineering group. He develops software applications and tools to manage Apple's distributed computing environment.

As an advice to the students of the IT department, he says it is best to maintain a consistent and high GPA, and to try to continuously practice technical interview skills with friends and keep technologically up-to-date.

Dhruvrajsinh Parmar

He is currently a Software Development Engineer at Amazon with previous work experience as a Programmer Analyst at Walmart. He has worked on a wide range of technologies from mainframes to Big Data and has immensely portrayed his quick grasping skills.

Saurabh Pant

Software Engineer at Microsoft. An earlier TA for capstone projects, he is currently working on Business Intelligence projects for Microsoft. He has interned at Microsoft as a Service Engineer before joining the company as a full time employee.

Dr. Jim Helm - Better known as The Wireless Guru by us students. Don’t let the fact that he is the Program Chair for the IT degree scare you, this professor is easy to approach and will help you understand problems and questions that TA’s alone cannot. On his free time look for him at football games supporting his favorite team, the Arizona Cardinals.

Dr. Joseph Kuitche - You better get a running start in his classes. Dr. Kuitche's passion is in solar technology, but you wouldn't guess it from his homework and test expectations.

Dr. Usha Jagannathan - She plans her lessons entirely hands-on around real world knowledge with a mix of industry facts geared to pass certifications to set you for your career path. Her dedication to her students is apparent each day, and extending outside of the classroom with her willingness to help students (even during her lunch break) that is unmatched in the department.

Dr. Robert Rucker - He prepares students to have well-rounded knowledge and his experience in the industry is vast. His lessons cover more than what is listed in the syllabus.

Mr. Damien Doheny - Always has entertaining PowerPoints and commentary, and breaks up his presentations to keep things interesting! Make that break a quick one though, 5 minutes on his watch is closer to 30 seconds! You can find him in his office most of the time, and willing to give advice and guidance on anything from class work to what classes to pursue in the degree.

Mr. Carlos Rodriquez - Expect to know topics to present in his classes! He believes that the best way you learn is to teach. He always has a few minutes to chat about motorcycles and what we should be studying outside of class.

Dr. Asmaa Elbadrawy - She is impressive in her own study habits and expects you to try and be the same! Her lessons are full of instructions and is always available and quick to respond to any questions.

Dr. Mehdi Sookhak - KNOWS HIS STUFF! His interest in the security field is shown through each lesson with the added discussions of each power point. His straight forward answers and added insight on topics help students understand more than books alone.

Mr. David Shafer - Believes in teaching by doing, so his lessons always have follow along demos and interesting real-world examples to help relate topics to students. With his relaxed personality you always have a friend right around your corner.

Mr. Thomas Pearson - Teaching here at ASU as well as community college, Mr. Pearson has an interesting background and REALLY loves Linux systems! His enthusiasm in each topic is contagious, each lesson flows into the next topic seamlessly.
Starbucks Undergrad Alumni Success Story

My name is Luke. I am a recent graduate (Dec '17) from ASU in BS-IT. I work as a store manager for Starbucks and attended ASU through the Starbucks College Achievement Plan. I was attending the local community college and I needed something that provided me with flexible hours. I have received a 44% tuition grant from Starbucks every semester, and the remaining amount that I pay gets reimbursed directly on my paycheck at the end of the final semester. I cannot begin to tell you how relieving it is to know that I have received a world-class education and that I could exit ASU with minimal debt. If anyone has questions about the College Achievement Plan offered by Starbucks, how to obtain a position with Starbucks, or my time well spent during my IT program through ASU Online, I would be happy to answer those questions. You can feel free to reach me at lukemccubbins@asu.edu.

**vBomb App**

Anirban Bhattacharya, Master’s student, class of May ‘18, takes a huge dive into the field of mobile application development and Augmented Reality. He has multiple apps and games in the Apple App Store. The latest one is an AR based app called vBomb for photobombing with Virtual Objects. He is currently working as a Research Assistant to develop a light-weight video streaming server for Android and iOS devices.

**Secure Online Voting System**

An interesting project initiated by the team - Apoorva Telukuntla, Tiffany Sweeney and Brandon Gatto. These students built an online voting system exploring almost all the fields of IT. They worked on building the infrastructure, creating the database, enhancing the security features, a user-friendly UI and many other interesting fields. The project is still ongoing and currently Ruchira and Hyun have joined the team to continue working with the biometrics sensors and creating the entire system.

**Learner Information System**

Ishwar Kattur & Deepika Villa, MS-IT students, class of May ‘18, are currently working on building a "Learner Information System" which is a functional, scalable and queryable data repository built by structuring the data coming in through different online data sources for Open Scale courses of EdPlus at Arizona State University.

**Elastic Container Management System**

Pramod Mekapothula, MS-IT student, class of Dec ‘18, holds a U.S. patent on Elastic Container Management System. The invention overcomes the problem of fixed resource allocation of resources including CPU, Memory, network bandwidth and Docker containers. This prevents a service disruption during container switch, by dynamically scaling up or down the resources of container based on resource utilization of the container, without disrupting the services running on the container. A migration of the containers is carried out between hosts in a network when a host running the container runs out of the resources.