

# Open up your Workforce

Incorporate our skills and experience-based IT certifications into your organization by becoming accredited by The Open Group





# Let us help you with certification

Our ready-to-use, globally recognized, and vendor-neutral IT certification programs can help you enhance your own professional development frameworks and save you both time and money.

Our experienced employees and industry experts from our prestigious international membership have helped The Open Group to create two skills and experienced-based IT certification programs that are valued by both individuals and organizations across the globe.

## Why use The Open Group certification programs?

In most of today's corporate organizations, the demand for experienced IT architects and IT specialists continues to grow in line with an increasing number of projects that are focused on aligning IT strategy to business requirements. The current merger and acquisition activity on an international basis, the need for compliance, and the expectation of a high quality of service also mean that it is crucial to have the right expertise working on these complex IT projects.

The Open Group has developed the IT Architect Certification (ITAC) and IT Specialist Certification (ITSC) programs to help address this problem. These certifications 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 fact that they are peer reviewed, globally recognized, and vendor-neutral makes them unique within the IT industry and they are fast becoming much sought-after certification programs.

Both programs focus on the proven achievement of a certain level of professionalism and experience in a chosen area of specialization. This allows for a more accurate comparison between the actual skills of IT professionals from different backgrounds and facilitates the effective staffing of large international projects. The various levels of certification can also serve as milestones in the professional development of IT architects and IT specialists and provide some independent recognition of their abilities.

The Open Group programs have been designed in such a way that they can easily be incorporated into the learning and development platforms of most organizations. This could then provide you with the capability to establish an IT architect and IT specialist profession framework.

For details of The Open Group certification programs, visit [www.opengroup.org/certification](http://www.opengroup.org/certification).

## Benefits of the programs

- Help with the staff recruitment and retention process
- Avoid the cost of developing and operating an in-house certification program
- Set benchmarks for skills and capabilities against open, global standards
- Ensure that employees can demonstrate an understanding of technology, can apply those skills, and are professional
- Allow for the development of individuals towards an industry standard
- Raise the brand value of your organization

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

We have certifications for programmers, database administrators, and network engineers. These certifications are specific to the technology and platforms that are used within our organization. Certification at an architectural level should be based on open standards and be vendor and technology-neutral. That is why The Washington Post chose The Open Group as its certification authority for IT Architects.

Tom Burke  
Chief Architect  
The Washington Post, USA

## 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 2,300 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](http://www.opengroup.org/itac/cert).

## 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.

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 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](http://www.opengroup.org/itsc/cert).

### The Certification process

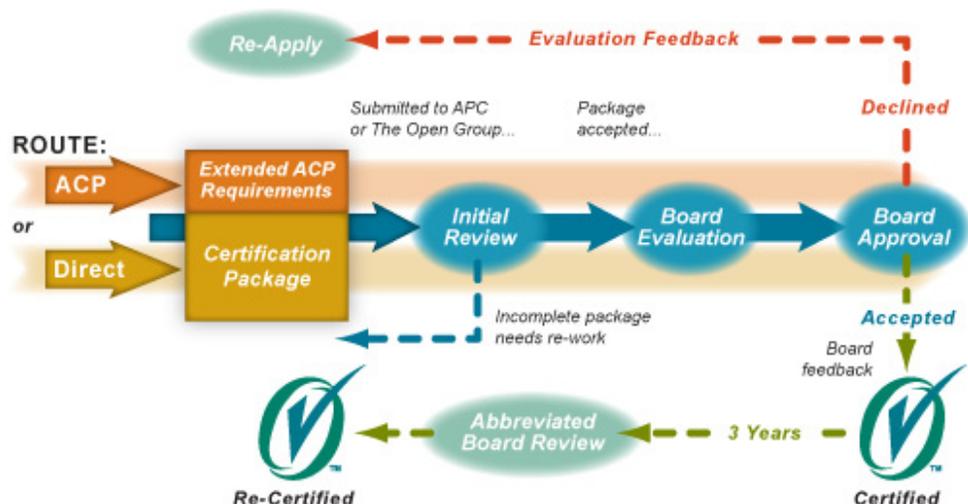
The Open Group supports two different routes to certification:

- Via Direct Certification: Application is made directly to The Open Group. The Direct route is available to individual practitioners, as well as to IT professionals who are working in organizations that do not have an Accredited Certification Program (ACP).
- Via Accredited Certification Programs (ACPs): IT professionals applying for certification via an ACP must be employees of the accredited organization. Application is made through the ACP.

### How do individuals achieve certification for ITAC and ITSC?

The process for achieving certified status is the same for both programs. You submit a certification package that details your skills and experience in your chosen area. If your package is accepted by our Certification Authority, you will then be interviewed either by telephone or face-to-face (depending on the certification level) by three separate board members. Each of the board members will be certified by The Open Group and will either accept or decline your application.

For details of The Open Group certification programs, visit [www.opengroup.org/certification](http://www.opengroup.org/certification).



## The best way to get your organization accredited

In our experience, introducing a pilot program is the best way to evaluate the benefits of pursuing ITAC or ITSC accreditation for your company. So, how do you set up such a program and what would you achieve at the end of this process?

If, for example, your organization had a number of Enterprise and or IT/Solution Architects and you wanted a skills and experienced-based certification that would fit into your frameworks, then we would suggest that you do the following:

- Select 6 to 12 members of your team that you might want to put through the certification process.
- Use the ITAC Self-Assessment Tool to determine which level of certification these individuals should be aiming for; i.e.:
  - Level 1: Certified IT Architect
  - Level 2: Master Certified IT Architect
  - Level 3: Distinguished Certified IT Architect
- We would aim to group these individuals by geography and level of certification so that it makes co-ordination of interview boards easier for later on in the process.
- Candidates would then need to complete the relevant certification package, which may take approximately 40 hours. It involves explaining the detail of the projects they have worked on and providing references along the way. This will cover four areas:
  - Core Foundation Skills
  - Experience
  - Professional Development
  - Contributions to the Architect Community

Further details can be found at [www.opengroup.org/itac/cert](http://www.opengroup.org/itac/cert).

- The Open Group will facilitate mentoring as part of this process to ensure that candidates submit high quality certification packages.
- Following the acceptance of all the certification packages, we will organize interview boards either on your own site or at one of The Open Group offices.

While the pilot is taking place, we can provide you with advice and consultancy on how our programs could form part of your own professional development framework. The IPR involved in producing our documents and processes is freely available to organizations who are working towards accredited status. We have made the investment to develop these programs over a number of years and as a result this will save you significant amounts of time and money.

For further information on setting up a pilot program, email us at [itacinfo@opengroup.org](mailto:itacinfo@opengroup.org) or [itscinfo@opengroup.org](mailto:itscinfo@opengroup.org) depending on which program you are interested in.

We will continue our active involvement in the ongoing development of TOGAF and the IT Architect Certification (ITAC) program. ITAC, in our view, is tomorrow's standard architecture certification, akin to what PMI is for the program management community today.

Sascha Kuhlman  
Global Lead, Enterprise Architecture Program  
SAP

## Becoming accredited by The Open Group

Organizations such as IBM, Capgemini, HP, Computer Associates, and Raytheon have all become accredited by The Open Group. They have each had their own internal programs assessed by The Open Group and taken the required steps to achieve accreditation.

The process involves:

- Understanding the program and the process
- Preparing for accreditation by evolving and developing an internal program that meets The Open Group's stringent requirements
- Applying for accreditation
- Submitting supporting evidence
- Formal assessment
- Accreditation of your organization

In addition to meeting The Open Group's Conformance Requirements for the program, accredited organizations can add in their own corporate, industry, or cultural requirements. The program can also be linked to areas such as your performance management criteria and incorporated into your own career development programs.

The IPR that has been invested in these programs has been developed over a number of years and has involved subject matter experts from The Open Group's own staff and that of its international membership. The result is a substantial amount of high-quality documentation of criteria, processes, and quality management aspects.

## ITAC and ITSC Consultancy Services

The Open Group can help you to develop and implement our programs with the help of our consultancy partners. Current partners are:



Our partners can provide ITAC/ITSC advice and support in the form of various services such as:

- Guidance and best practices to organizations that want to establish an IT architect and IT specialist profession framework
- The best approach to achieve certification for your employees
- The development of competencies and skills listed in The Open Group certification tracks through ITAC/ITSC-compliant training
- The formation and development of training courses to guide your employees towards Open Group certification
- Employee assessments to determine which employees already qualify for Open Group certification or to identify the remaining gaps
- How The Open Group certification tracks might replace or complement your organization's internal certification tracks
- Accreditation of your organization's internal certification tracks by The Open Group

For further information, please contact Steve Philp on +44 (0) 118 950 8311 or email [s.philp@opengroup.org](mailto:s.philp@opengroup.org).

The Open Group accreditation review brought tremendous value to our internal Certified Architect Program—going through the process was worth the expense alone. Our purpose for accreditation was to validate the rigor and comprehensiveness of our own certification program. The opportunity for our internally certified architects to now acquire The Open Group Master ITAC certification is an added bonus. )

Chief Architect  
Major US Defense Contractor

## 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](http://www.opengroup.org).

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