

About Microsoft Certified Partners

Microsoft® Certified Partners are independent companies that can provide you with the highest levels of technical expertise, strategic thinking, and hands-on skills. Microsoft Certified Partners encompass a broad range of expertise and vendor affiliations and their real world perspective can help you prioritize and effectively deliver your technology solutions.

Why work with a Microsoft Certified Partner?

Microsoft Certified Partners have demonstrated expertise.

- Each Microsoft Certified Partner must employ a minimum number of Microsoft Certified Professionals (MCPs) who have a demonstrated level of technical expertise and the proven ability to deliver solutions featuring Microsoft products. MCPs must pass certification exams developed by Microsoft.

Microsoft Certified Partners have a broad-range of experience.

- Microsoft Certified Partners typically offer several areas of technical expertise including infrastructure, networking, office automation, e-commerce, collaboration, business intelligence, and other leading edge disciplines. Microsoft Certified Partner services include consulting, training, implementation, maintenance/support, and hosting services.

Microsoft Certified Partners have direct support from Microsoft.

- Microsoft Certified Partners have access to 24 x 7 x 365 support for your project whenever they need additional support from Microsoft.

Microsoft Certified Partners offer a real world perspective to your technology strategies.

- Microsoft Certified Partners have been in the business, on average, for more than 5 years. They bring experience to your projects gained through conducting similar projects over many years of service.

Microsoft Gold Certified Partners

Microsoft Gold Certified Partners are the elite Microsoft Business Partners who earn the highest customer endorsement.

They have the knowledge, skills, and commitment to help implement technology solutions that match your exact business needs. Microsoft Gold Certified Partners have passed the highest level of requirements from Microsoft and have demonstrated the most robust, efficient and scalable implementations of Microsoft

technologies in demonstrated enterprise customer deployments or an on-site Microsoft assessment

Microsoft Certified Professionals (MCPs)

To qualify for the Microsoft Certified Partner program, organizations must have at least two dedicated, full-time employees who are current MCPs. The only way to become Microsoft-certified is to pass a series of rigorous exams required for certification in eight different areas:

- **Microsoft Certified Systems Engineers** design, install, support, and troubleshoot information systems. MCSEs are network gurus, support technicians, and operating system experts.
- **Microsoft Certified Database Administrators** implement and administer Microsoft SQL Server databases.
- **Microsoft Certified Solution Developers** use development tools and platforms to create business solutions.
- **Microsoft Certified Professionals** are expert in at least one Microsoft operating system, development tool, or desktop application.