

Title / Titel

## **The Role of Software Testing Certifications in Developing Testers**

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Speaker(s) / Referent(s)

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**To whom is the presentation addressed? / An wen richtet sich der Beitrag?**

This presentation is actually targeted for all involved in the software industry. It is useful for the testing professionals in that it will provide them information about the current role and perceptions about certifications and to evaluate them more closely. For the managers, it will allow to see it from a tester's perspective and re-evaluate what the objective is for certifications. And lastly for trainers and training organization to see what value could be added and not only make it appears a money making business.

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**Keywords / Stichwörter**

ISQTB, Certifications, Testers

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**Abstract / Zusammenfassung**

Software testing certifications have gained considerable popularity and interest over the last few years. While there has been a debate about the usefulness of these certifications and the ultimate objective achieved, it is has been established by the number of professionals who take these exams that certifications provide an easy and uniform way for managers and organisations to bring their team members at an agreed level of understanding of the concepts and techniques essential to software testing.

Others might argue that it is used as a means to a profitable business. It is for these reasons that a survey has been conducted to understand and discuss the opinions and views of software testing professionals around the world on testing certifications such as ISEB and ISTQB.

In this presentation, the results of a survey conducted using an online questionnaire are discussed and presented to the audience to illustrate the current trends and perceptions about software testing certifications. The survey was posted to testing groups, forums and distributed to industry professionals to gather a wide range of response.

The results of the survey have been grouped together under four headings to present the information effectively. A brief description of each of the four groups is given below:

**Motivation:** Responses to these sets of questions indicate the background of the respondents, what their motivation was to joining a test team and whether certification was used as a tool for up skilling coming from a different background.

**System Testing Knowledge:** This set of questions requires the respondents to identify and rate the aspects and areas that they feel are important for a tester. It also requires them to rate their knowledge of system testing before and after the certification. The purpose is to highlight what difference the certification makes to knowledge and how much certification syllabi address what is important for a systems tester.

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**Certifications, Exams and the Ultimate Benefit:** As the heading suggests, these questions are aimed at understanding how the certifications and exams themselves are approached by the candidates and what in their opinion the ultimate benefit of being a certified tester is.

**Testing Community Awareness:** The questionnaire concludes with a couple of questions to assess the general awareness and involvement within the testing community to keep abreast of any developments.

While the survey is not an academic one; the results provide interesting insights into the role of certifications amongst software testing professionals. It would also provide information to the certification bodies and could lead to developing a more formal study and analysis of testing certifications and their role in the future of testing!

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### **Biography / Biografie**

Sarah Salahuddin is currently working as a Senior Test Analyst at HBOS since July 2008. She has recently completed her PhD in Software testing from the University of Sheffield. Her PhD research was focused on analysing the impact of changes on finite state machine test sets.

Before starting her PhD Sarah was working as a software test engineer for almost four years, and has been involved with testing a variety of software projects and products. Sarah has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan. She has attended several testing conferences and has also been a speaker at AsiaSTAR 2004 held in Canberra.

Sarah also holds the ISEB/ISTQB foundation and Intermediate certificates in Software testing.

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