



To:Certification and Training Working Group

Re:Minutes of Meeting on 3rd July 2008

Present:

Barrie Heptonstall	IBM, Technical Sales and Services Director (United Kingdom, Ireland and South Africa)
Pete Stevenson	SHH Associates Limited
Ken Austin	
Rodric Yates	IBM, Technical Strategy Manager, North East Europe
Mark Bunday	IBM Manager, Hursley System z Academy
Michael Lowe	IBM Technical Sales Manager System Z (UK & Ireland)
Rich Alner	BT
Mick Gray	EDS
Simon Adams	BCS
Geoff Simmons	JPMorgan Chase
Phil Howard-Knight	Bank of America
David Webster	Verhoef Training Limited
Arun Ramadoss	Micro Focus
Neil Price	TNT

Apologies:

David Laird	RSM Technology
Dave Siddorn	BT
Robin Halliwell	RSM Partners
Geoff Eggleston	IBM
Roger Fowler	IBM

Here are the key points from the meeting, updates from the last meeting are in [Blue](#).

No	Comments	Action
1	Pete Stevenson opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending, The meeting is being held as a telephone conference as there was not a large enough agenda for a full day meeting.	
2	Simon Adams gave an update on the current status of the BCS MTP, The BCS have been talking to e-skills (e-skills UK is a not-for-profit , employer-led organisation, licensed by government as the Sector Skills Council for IT and Telecoms) regarding the setting up of an MTP apprenticeship. It is hoped that some	

- government funding may be secured to help with this.
- Bank of America in the U.S. have contacted the BCS regarding the setting up of MTP exams over there. They would like to run a pilot as soon as it can be arranged. Simon Adams is progressing this. Simon will also give the names of the people that he is talking to to PHK. SA
- David Clarke, the CEO of the BCS is giving the keynote speech at this years' GSE UK National Conference.
- The BCS are talking to IBM re the development of the Performance and capacity planning stream. The person that they had hoped would be able to help is too busy at the moment. Michael Lowe (IBM) has made contact with UKCMG who have offered some help, SA and ML are pursuing this. SA/ML
- Some people from the CICS team in IBM Hursley have offered to help check the content of the CICS exams.
- SA is talking to IBM re including the MTP on the agenda for the next series of Technically Speaking Roadshows scheduled for November 2008, he is hoping to include a hands on demo. SA
- The first pilot of the exams in a box delivery method is scheduled soon, this will take place at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh. This is where the exam(s) can be hosted on a portable server in a customer location. Multiple exams can be run simultaneously in the same session. RSM
- IBM are close to completing the paperwork which will allow them to buy exam vouchers for distribution to customers. The idea is that IBM can provide a small number of vouchers to different customers to help get them interested in the MTP.
- The BCS are looking to see who would be the best international partners for the MTP in different geographical locations around the Globe. SA
- MG said that EDS have someone in Edinburgh who would like to take the MTP exams. SA to liaise with MG regarding possibility of this happening at RBS. SA
- BH also offered IBM Edinburgh as an alternate location.
- 3 Barrie Heptonstall gave an update on IBM recognition of the MTP. IBM UK Education now endorse the BCS MTP. Meetings have been held at a senior level between GSE UK(Phil Howard-Knight) and IBM with a view to gaining BH/PHK

global endorsement from IBM, there was a positive response from the initial meetings which now need to be followed up. There have been several exchanges of e-mails, but not much progress so far. BH and PHK to pursue.

- 4 A combination of Barrie H, Alan Whitfield, Simon Adams, Pete Stevenson, Phil Howard-Knight to meet with Senior reps preferably at CTO level, from vendor organisations to gain there support and participation in the BCS MTP. The people nominated to establish initial contact are :-
- | | |
|---|-------|
| BMC | SC |
| No update received from Simon, PS to chase. | |
| CA | PHK |
| PHK has e-mailed CA, no response as yet, he will chase. | |
| IBM SWG Hursley | MB |
| Mark Is getting all of the help that he needs from SWG at present. | |
| IBM STG Storage | BH |
| Barrie is talking to someone in Tucson, PS also offered the name of Bob Halem as someone who may help, he is based in San Jose. | |
| EMC | PS/GS |
| PS has sent an e-mail to EMC, no response as yet. GS offered to help with this. | |
| HDS | PHK |
| PHK has e-mailed HDS, still waiting for a reply. | |
| Compuware | |
| GE e-mailed BH with suggested contact, BH to follow up | BH |
| STK/SUN | |
| BH has written to SUN, no response yet. BH to follow up | BH |
| Micro Focus | |
| Arun Ramadoss from Micro Focus contacted PS after the last meeting to discuss how they could become involved in developing the MTP after a recommendation from IBM. They may be able to help with the COBOL certification in the Development stream. AR & PS spent some time speaking on the phone, and PS subsequently sent them some info on what is involved in writing modules/exams. AR to contact RSM/BCS to progress | AR/SA |
- 5 IBM to look further at how we integrate the University Programme/Hursley Programme/MTP and package this for discussion with our largest customers - 10th April - and then feedback GSE and BCS.
- MB produced a slide to illustrate how the programs may possibly be tied together to produce a roadmap to the MTP, this was well received and is definitely work in progress. PS has asked MB to expand this to a full presentation to for the National conference in October. Here briefly is an explanation MB

from Mark of the slide (attached)

I wanted to see if I could integrate the various initiatives we talked about at the previous meeting. Pulling together my work at Hursley, creating the z/OS Foundation Curriculum, to the work Malcolm Beatie is doing with Universities and the Academic Initiative and the BCS MTP Certification.

This roadmap attempts to illustrate how we might take a Mainframe Novice and over a period of months give them enough training and experience to pass the level 1 MTP exam. Starting at the top with the various entry points. I have chosen 5 but there could be more? IBM is already encouraging the teaching of Mainframe skills through the IBM Academic Initiative. And there is no reason not to include other Academic Institutions.

Moving across to the 3 boxes on the left and starting with I.T Students in their gap year. We have recently had an IT complete the Foundation Curriculum and pass the IBM Mastery exam.

Our clients and IBMers alike could take advantage of a version of the foundation curriculum similar to that which we run in Hursley, combining a blend of Formal and on-the-job experiential learning.

Once individuals have completed the foundation learning activities. We can grade their level of understanding of the basics by getting them to sit the "IBM System z Entry Level System Programmer Mastery Exam".

BH/RY

We then move onto the next level and gathering more applied skills and experience. To do this, we have 3 specific learning activities:

1. Formal Training - introduce more intermediate style courses, to go deeper into aspects of the mainframe or to broaden their areas of understanding.
2. Apprenticeships - this is about unleashing the folk with 20+ years of experience and getting them to share the "Art of the Job".
3. Job Rotations - specific work assignments to help gain valuable experience.

And, finally when the time is right, they sit the Level 1BCSMTP exam.

RY and BH to identify other technical folk from the other IBM System z business units to help scale the learning activities within the z/OS Foundation Curriculum

- 6 Capacity & performance - look at whether IBM can populate this with a framework - and then an exam
See BCS update.

ML

ML is talking to e-skills regarding the setting up of mainframe apprenticeships, with the MTP forming part of the program.

Strategic Systems Solutions Ltd is an IT Service and Delivery organisation operating in the UK and abroad. IBM are liaising with SSS regarding an apprenticeship programme for developers.

Specifically SSS provides mainframe delivery skills to their Financial Services clients. Those clients are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit a new generation of Adabas / Natural and COBOL developers.

As a result SSS have created an apprenticeship programme in conjunction with Leeds College of Technology. The goal is to hire up to 20 school leavers and train them in Adabas / Natural and general mainframe development skills, together with business awareness, over 2 years. Logicalis are providing a training LPAR and both IBM and Software AG are supporting.

This initiative is fully supported by their clients who, after 6 months, have indicated they will allow the new hires to take chargeable junior roles in their projects.

To date 9 school leavers have accepted offers of employment and further selection days are planned.

- 7 Establish links with Helen Trollman and Don Resnik MB
MB is in frequent contact with both people. He will try to get them more interested in the BCSMTP.
- 8 PS Spoke about the 2008 UK GSE National Conference. This will be held 28-29th October at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth. The T & C working group have four sessions reserved. The current plan is to have one session as an introduction to the BCSMTP, which will be an update from the one given last year, an expanded presentation on the roadmap to the MTP, given by Mark Bunday, a session on the system Z University program given by Malcolm Beattie, and the final session will be a meeting of this working group.

The full agenda for the Conference should be available in early August, see the GSE UK website, <http://www.gse.org.uk/>

The Next meeting will be a telephone conference on 10 September @ 10:00. A separate invite has been sent for this. If you have not received an invite and would like to attend, please e-mail peter.stevenson@shhassociates.com.



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IBM SWG

Build & Anticipate Skills

Mainframe Novice to BCS MTP

Mark Bunday

Mainframe Novice to BCS MTP Certified Road-map

