



To:Certification and Training Working Group

Re:Minutes of Meeting on 26th April 2007

Present:

Barrie Heptonstall IBM, Technical Sales and Services Director (United Kingdom, Ireland and South Africa)
 Simon Adams BSC, International Account Manager
 Alan Whitfield RSM, Sales Director
 Phil Howard-Knight Bank of America
 Pete Stevenson SHH Associates Limited
 David Laird RSM, Technical Director
 Roger Troughton BT
 Alex Whitfield RSM
 Mike Hill
 Ken Austin

Appologies:

Kerry Blundell Barclays Bank
 Roger Fowler IBM
 Simon Hutchings Nationwide
 Michael Roche Royal Bank of Scotland
 Neil Price TNT
 Paul Arnerich TSD
 John O'Neill EDS

Key points from the Meeting:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	Pete, Phil and Alan gave an overview of the background to the Certification process.	
2	<p>Simon gave a status report on BCS MTP within BCS:</p> <p>Roll-out of exams to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Computer Operations (Feb), Level 1 Production and Support (Feb) Level 2 z/OS Specialist (Feb) Level 2 Security Specialist (Mar) <p>Next to roll out are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1 Developer (July) Level 2 Data Storage (June) Level 2 Performance Specialist (Sept) Level 2 Computer Operations (Oct) Level 2 Senior Developer (Oct) <p>BCS peer review of exams was outlined</p> <p>Simon also explained that delegates with special needs and a disability are included within other areas of BCS certification programs and can be included with BCS MTP.</p> <p>A discussion about delegates whose main language was not English came to no firm conclusion (English is well established as the main language within the IBM mainframe community), but may need to be re-visited when the program rolls out to the rest of the world.</p>	

3	<p>IBM's role with BCS MTP .</p> <p>Barrie Heptonstall from IBM said he was impressed with the work done to bring the certification process to its current position.</p> <p>Barrie gave a very interesting introduction of his role within IBM, including the marketing role with the current spectrum of H/W and also IBM Education.</p> <p>He emphasized the continuing importance of the mainframe platform to the worldwide business community and the fact that it is still evolving.</p> <p>The role of certification is therefore important and, together with the IBM University program, will raise the profile of the mainframe for new intakes.</p> <p>Pete suggested a closer tie in between the IBM University program and the BCS MTP program would be helpful.</p> <p>Barrie said that CA and other vendors within the mainframe environment (both software and hardware) also need to be involved.</p> <p>Pete and Phil discussed the main players to be approached and how that could be achieved.</p> <p>Barrie suggested that his pre-sales technical support personnel may be good candidates for early certification. They would then be able to promote the certification process within the user community, and could also act as mentors for the next wave of certification candidates.</p> <p>Also, the idea of issuing vouchers to encourage customers to 'get the ball rolling' could help the program gain momentum.</p> <p>Barrie suggested that other exams which ought to be included within the BCS MTP include DB2, LINUX, WebSphere, eCommerce and Tivoli.</p> <p>Pete mentioned that the IBM provided DB2 certification program within IBM this does not currently naturally fit into the BCS MTP program , however DB2 had not been included in the initial BCS MTP portfolio to avoid conflict with the IBM program.</p> <p>It would be helpful to include IBM and other participating vendors' logos on the BCS flyer and to include the logos of those customers who are sponsoring their personnel through the BCS MTP program.</p>	PS, PH-K
4	<p>Alan suggested that a meeting be setup between the major mainframe training providers (IBM, RSM and Verhoef) to ensure suitable training cover for the BCS MTP program.</p>	AW, MH, BH
5	<p>Worldwide roll-out of BCS MTP :</p> <p>Worldwide companies want worldwide certification program.</p> <p>IBM involvement is therefore crucial.</p> <p>BoA in USA is interested but want IBM involvement.</p> <p>Key initial countries are USA and Germany.</p> <p>Also, China, India and Russia have emerging M/F installations.</p> <p>GSE European meeting next September. Phil to prepare pitch to promote certification within Europe.</p> <p>It was seen that Germany was a major country for early roll-out.</p> <p>BCS have contacts in USA, Japan, Brazil and the Middle East to promote the certification process later.</p> <p>There is a target to roll out the BCS MTP to the U.S by the end of 2007, further roll out options were discussed.</p>	PH-K
6	<p>As the take up of exams increases, there will be a requirement to have the ability to set-up exam rooms at suitable sites.</p> <p>Alex said that an 'exam appliance' can be provided, that is a small server with all the software installed required to run an exam. This exam appliance will connect to the Internet and download the required exam from the BCS MTP central</p>	

	servers. When the exam is complete all data will be uploaded back to the BCS MTP central servers. .	
7	Pete submitted a request for more GSE members get involved with the certification working group.	All
8	The examination web interface was demonstrated, with all attendees having the opportunity to use it in simulated examination conditions.	
9	It was agreed to arrange a conference call during mid-May to progress and to plan for the next Certification Working Group meeting to be in Mid-July.	MH, AW, BH, PS, PH-K