

## MCA: Microsoft Certified Architect

The Microsoft Certified Architect Program validates top industry experts in Information Technology Architecture.

The Program consists of Certified Architect professionals who hold the Microsoft Certified Architect credential. They have ten or more years of experience in Information Technology with at least three years of experience as practicing architects. They also have strong technical and leadership skills which help form a distinguished community.

Unlike other Information Technology certifications, the Certified Architect professionals in the Microsoft Certified Architect Program were granted the Microsoft Certified Architect credential by recommendation of other previously certified industry architects. As candidates, the professionals were required to present their knowledge to the Review Board and then they were required to gain the approval of previously certified architects who examined their progress as they moved through the rigorous Review Board process.

The certification that they hold serves as a target for other practicing solutions architects and infrastructure architects who have successfully applied frameworks and methodologies to create an architecture that serves the whole IT life cycle. These architects during candidacy can demonstrate how they've used multiple technologies to solve business problems and provide business metrics and measurements to describe the success or failure of the projects that they drive during the process.

Microsoft has now officially started the Microsoft Certified Architect Program. The Program recently concluded its first open [application process](#) for Microsoft Certified Architect: Infrastructure and Microsoft Certified Architect: Solutions and Microsoft expect to open the application process for those certifications again to the general public in early 2007.

### Microsoft Certified Architect: Messaging Program Overview

The goal of the Messaging Architect Program, the first Product or Depth Architect program under the Microsoft Certified Architect umbrella, is to provide the world's top tier training and certification on Microsoft Exchange Server to build a community of trusted messaging architects who can successfully address the most complex customer requirements.

See [How to Become a Microsoft Certified Architect: Messaging](#) for information about the application process and requirements for Microsoft Certified Architect: Messaging.

### Microsoft Certified Architect: Database Program Overview

The Database Architect program, the newest Technology Architect program under the Microsoft Certified Architect (MCA) umbrella, provides training and certification in Microsoft SQL Server to help you become a trusted database architect.

See [How to Become a Microsoft Certified Architect: Database](#) for information about the application process and requirements for Microsoft Certified Architect: Database