



SQL Server 2008

Microsoft Certified Master

SQL
skills

What is MCM?

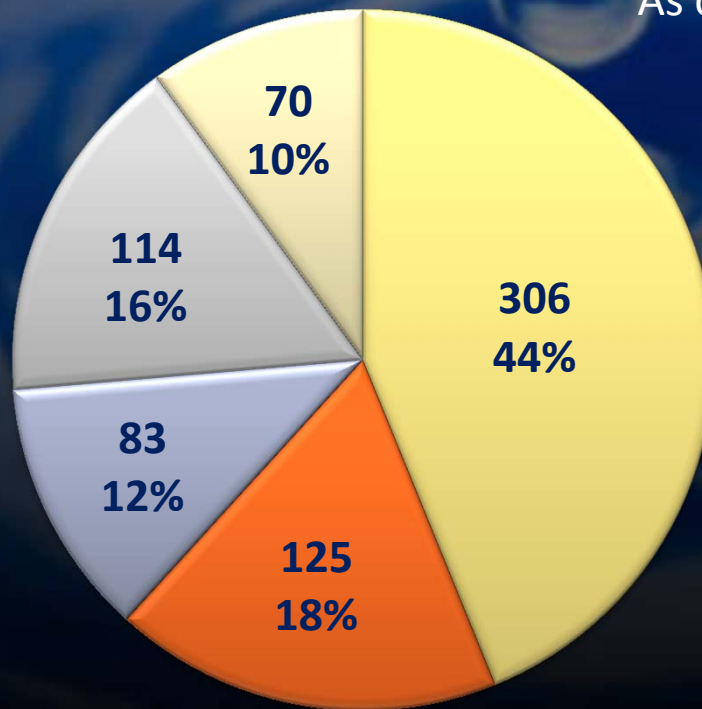
- ◆ Microsoft's most advanced technical certification
 - ◆ MCTS -> MCITP -> MCM
 - ◆ MCA * role based
 - ◆ Microsoft started SQL MCM back in 2006 (was called "SQL Rangers") and was re-launched as a public program in 2008
 - ◆ Why does this exist?
 - ◆ It's a way to identify experts who can handle the toughest SQL Server challenges and complex scenarios

MCM Landscape

Total MCM Certs Issued Worldwide: 698

As of July 19, 2011

Most MCMs
are Microsoft
employees



- Exchange
- Windows Directory
- OCS/Lync
- SQL
- SharePoint

Source: MSCert database

Legacy Program (before Oct 2010)

- ◆ **\$18,500** program fee
 - ◆ Doesn't include T&E
 - ◆ Opportunity costs (consultant audience)
- ◆ **3 weeks** on-site event
 - ◆ 3 “written” exams
 - ◆ 1 lab exam
- ◆ **Limited availability:** 1 site in Redmond, WA;
 - ◆ 3 times per year

A few legacy questions...

- ◆ Does 3 weeks “make” a Master?
- ◆ Does the 3 weeks apply to everyone? (varying experience, depth, breadth)
- ◆ Who was passing the Lab Exam at the end of this experience?
- ◆ Are we reaching the “uncertified masters” (particularly given the costs)?

Scaled-out Program

- ◆ Microsoft Certified Master
 - ◆ Scaled-out program
 - ◆ Announced at PASS Summit 2010
 - ◆ Knowledge exam: \$500
 - ◆ Lab exam: \$2000
 - ◆ Separation of training and exams
 - ◆ Get training when, where, and how you choose
 - ◆ Exams available in 61 (currently) highly secure Prometric testing centers worldwide

Why pursue?

- ◆ There are several ways to differentiate yourself – MCM is one option (and a significant one at that)
- ◆ Great way to push yourself and focus your efforts
- ◆ You'll be joining a community of likeminded professionals (including “friends of the MCM” community)
 - ◆ As questions
- ◆ You earn it – it is not awarded
- ◆ According to a Microsoft survey of existing MCMs - examples of benefits included increases in bill rate (50% increase was one example), salary (30% increase example), increased revenue.
 - ◆ Up to you to leverage it - your mileage will vary.

Resources

- ◆ New Path to MCM:
<http://www.microsoft.com/learning/en/us/certification/master-sql-path.aspx>
- ◆ MCM Prep Forum:
<http://borntolearn.mslearn.net/forums/ac/f/308.aspx>
- ◆ The Master Blog:
<http://blogs.technet.com/b/themasterblog>
- ◆ Architect Overview:
<http://www.microsoft.com/learning/en/us/certification/architect-review.aspx>