



Robert Half<sup>®</sup>  
Technology



# Lifelong Learning

## “The Value of Certifications”

HelpDesk BC

October 18, 2011



# Why Certify?

- Professional development
- Formalize skills and terminology
- Raise value to current employer
- Differentiation in job market



# Which Certs are Hot?

- Microsoft
  - MCP
  - MCSE
  - MCDST
- Project Management
  - PMP or equivalent
- Cisco
  - CCNA, CCNP



# Which Certs are on the rise?

- Business Analysis
  - IIBA (BABOK)
  - CBAP
- Agile Software Development
  - Scrum Master



# How to Certify?

- Self-paced learning
  - Books
  - E-learning
- Take a course
- Learn on the job



# Costs of Certifying

- Study materials
- Course fees
- Exam fees
- Time
- Maintenance and upkeep



# Employer's Perspective?

Opinions do vary:

a) Not interested in certs

versus

b) Must have certs to be considered

**Experience trumps all**



# Common Pitfalls

- Certify while you're working, do not wait until it's too late
- Join the community, and keep learning
- Test the waters before diving in
- Certs do not guarantee a better job, wage, position, etc



# Value of Experience

- Confirm interest and ability first
- Certificates should complement hands on experience, not replace
- Certifying can accelerate a promotion or job search, but not always



# Q&A

Thank you