

Value of the ITAC Certification Program

THE *Open* GROUP

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What is the ITAC program?

ITAC stands for IT Architect Certification

- ❑ Designed to validate the existence of those qualities and skills in a professional that enable the effective practice of IT architecture
- ❑ **Skills and experienced** based program not exam focused
- ❑ **Launched in 2005** with direct and indirect (via third party accredited programs) certification
- ❑ October 2008 – over **2300** people certified worldwide

Evolution of ITAC

- Members of The Open Group:
 - Organizations shared common IT Architect profession certification programs
 - Similar objectives from one organization to the next
 - Different criteria, processes and certification titles
 - Recognized value of standardizing certification criteria as a basis for promoting architecture profession

- IT Architect credentials did not lend themselves well to traditional professional certification methods:
 - Examinations
 - Practical Exams
 - Tied to corporate consulting strategies

Why use The Open Group's Program?

- ❑ The Open Group has a strong commitment to IT Architecture as a practice and can leverage industry recognition
 - Trusted provider in promoting the use and science of IT architecture
 - Success of **The Open Group Architecture Framework (TOGAF)**

- ❑ The **Association of Open Group Enterprise Architects**
- a professional body for Enterprise Architects
 - Launched in January 2007 it now has over 8,000 members

- ❑ The Open Group has an excellent record in developing global certification programs

- ❑ The Open Group has a long history of developing programs that promote open standards



<https://www.aogea.org>

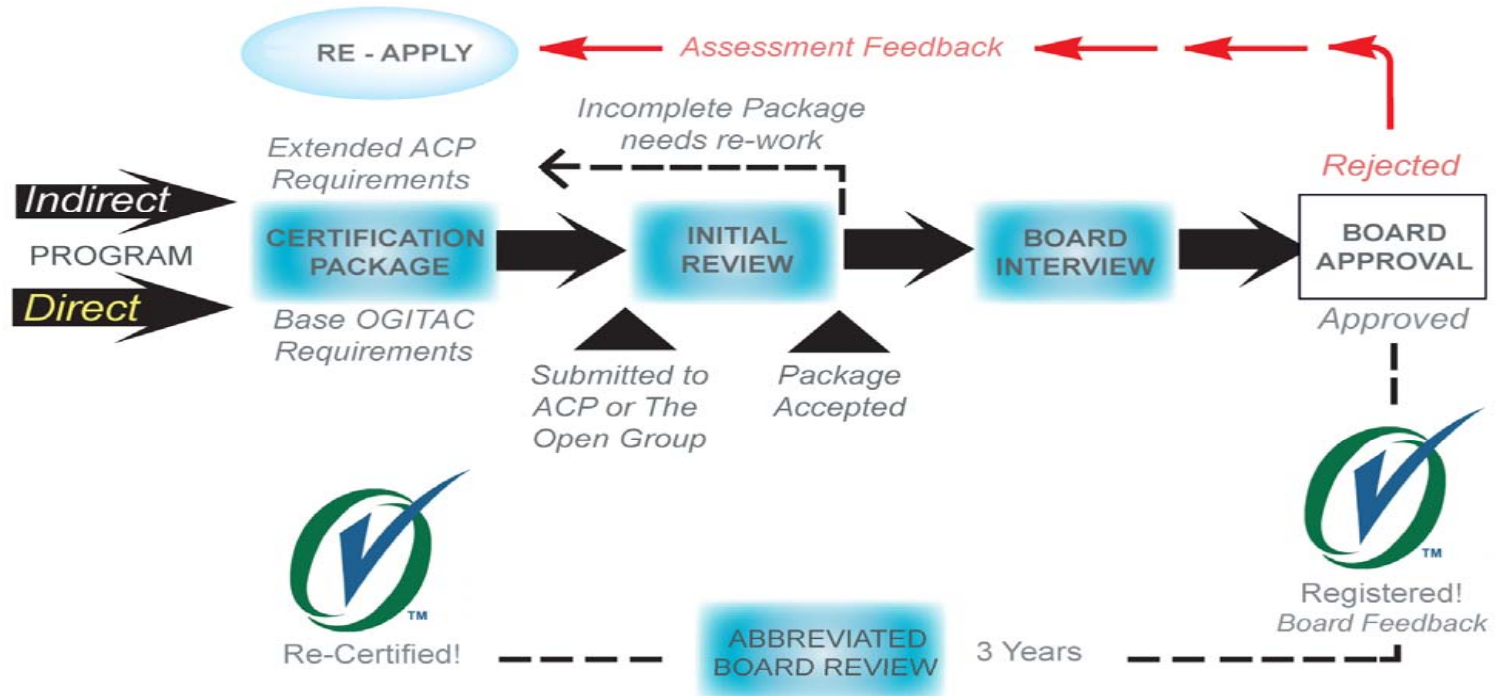
How it works

- ❑ One set of Conformance Requirements defining the skills and experience that an IT Architect must possess to achieve certification

- ❑ Individual architects may apply for certification directly to The Open Group
 - Certification Board will review all applications
 - Board will interview applicants

- ❑ Companies may apply to have their internal staff development certification programs Accredited by The Open Group
 - Architects certified through an Accredited program become Open Group certified

Certification Process



ITAC – 3 Levels of Certification

Distinguished Certified IT Architect



Has significant impact on the business as: Chief/Lead Architect, Enterprise Architect or IT Architect Profession Leader

Master Certified IT Architect



Can perform independently and take responsibility for delivery of systems and solutions as lead architect

Certified IT Architect



Can perform with assistance/supervision, with a wide range of appropriate skills, as a contributing architect

What differentiates ITAC from other credentials?

- ❑ **Skills and experience based:**
 - ITAC goes beyond validating the mastery of any specific knowledge base, ensuring that certified IT Architects and Enterprise Architects possess and exhibit characteristics commensurate with professional criteria based on best practices.
- ❑ **Peer-reviewed:**
 - A review board comprised of certified IT Architects ensures that the skills and experience of each candidate meet the rigorous qualification standards.
- ❑ **Vendor-neutral:**
 - Developed by a consortium of globally-recognized industry leaders and is warranted through administration and oversight by a vendor-neutral organization.
- ❑ **Global:**
 - These programs offer a worldwide set of standards for qualifying the skills, knowledge and experience of IT Architects and Enterprise Architects.
- ❑ **Portable:**
 - Because it is global and vendor-neutral, The Open Group ITAC certification is "portable." It is applicable wherever the IT Architect may choose to use it to distinguish his or her skills and experience. It is useful to organizations employing or retaining the services of IT Architects and Enterprise Architects wherever they may be deployed.

Benefits of the ITAC program

- ❑ For end user organizations:
 - A mark of assurance when contracting architecture services
 - A professional level qualification when hiring and retaining staff

- ❑ For vendor organizations:
 - Provides assurance to customers of the skills of their IT Architects
 - Avoids the cost of an in-house certification program
 - Reduces the training cost of new IT Architects

- ❑ For IT Architects:
 - Elevates the practice and quality control of IT architecture in the industry and the professionals who perform it
 - Provides an industry credential
 - Recognition for practitioners

Benefits of the ITAC program

- ❑ For **solution providers** deploying ITAC staff in their organization gives them a competitive advantage through industry and client recognition of their certified IT and Enterprise Architects
- ❑ A consistent and assured quality of service is guaranteed when clients request project proposals, procurement specifications and service level agreements.
- ❑ The ITAC program has been requested in **RFPs** for companies such as **Shell, General Motors** and various **government agencies**.

ITAC Program Momentum:

2306 people certified, working at 48 companies:-

- ACORD Corporation
- AIG
- ASC
- AT&T
- Accenture
- Adnovate BV
- Allstate Insurance
- Armstrong Process Group
- BK Larsson Consulting Ltd
- CA Inc.
- CGI
- CSC Computer Sciences Corporation
- Capgemini
- Carlson Companies
- Cisco Systems
- Cloud Howe Ltd
- Codecentric GmbH
- Computacenter
- Credit Suisse
- Criterion Systems
- Datamail
- Deloitte & Touche
- Deutsche Post AG
- Direct Energy
- EDS
- Education Finance Partners
- Enterprise IT Architecture, Inc.
- First Canadian Title
- Fortis
- GTECH Corporation
- Ganz
- Gulf Business Machines
- HP
- IBM
- ITA Consulting
- ITSC Bonn
- IntegrityOne Partners
- Intel
- Mavs Technology Solutions
- Microsoft
- QR Systems Inc
- Process Intelligence Inc
- Rapier Solutions Consulting Ltd.
- Riosoft Consulting
- Scotiabank
- TD Bank Financial Group
- Unisys
- University of Toronto

Run Accredited Certification Programs

Summary

- ❑ Certification is in strong demand because
 - It raises the quality of the professionals and of their work

- ❑ Skill based certification is in strong demand because
 - It distinguishes those individuals with the skills and expertise needed to develop IT architectures and deliver solutions

- ❑ ITAC certification is in strong demand because
 - Demand is being created in the marketplace for ITAC references in both RFPs and recruitment advertising. Companies such as **Logica CMG** and **Fujitsu Services** are currently looking to have significant numbers of their staff achieve ITAC status.

- ❑ Further information can be found at:
<http://www.opengroup.org/itac/cert>

Thank you!

Any Questions?