

NEWS RELEASE



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**COMMON to Launch Certification Program
Positioning Group as Hub for IT Talent**

RENO, Nev. – April 28, 2009 – COMMON president Randy Dufault announced the creation of a COMMON certification program that aims to deliver a way for business to recognize the very best IT talent. Mr. Dufault made his announcement at COMMON's Annual Meeting and Exposition, being held in Reno, Nev.

COMMON's certification program consists of two levels—COMMON Business Computing Associate (CBCA) and COMMON Certified Business Computing Professional (CCBCP). These certifications complement existing technical certification programs from IBM and others by ensuring individuals receiving the credential carry deep knowledge of all the computing aspects within a business. Both levels require applicants to pass exams developed by COMMON.

Recent graduates or other entry level professionals will be served by the CBCA credential exam. "Professionals or students who have passed our qualifying exam will, in our opinion, have the skills necessary for success in their first IT jobs," said Bill Hansen, COMMON Strategic Education Team Manager. "We want to deliver IT professionals to the workplace that have proven their competence and can provide an immediate benefit to their employers."

The qualifying exam to become a CBCA is scheduled to be introduced at COMMON's 2010 Annual Meeting and Exposition in Orlando, Fla. which will mark the organization's 50th year of supporting business computing on midrange server platforms.

"COMMON's 50th anniversary will be a time to commemorate the great features that have contributed to the longevity of midrange business computing platforms. But, it is also an opportunity to mark how much the organization and our profession has matured. Our certification program emphasizes how COMMON has become a force for market change; we are setting the standards for what qualified IT professionals need to be," Mr. Dufault said.

The CCBCP certification will help expand COMMON's role as a hub for businesses to find and develop the best IT talent. It is geared towards advanced IT professionals who have significant work experience in a business IT environment. The certification will require candidates to pass three exams that are scheduled to debut at the 2011 Annual Meeting and Exposition.

"There is more IT talent than ever before. We feel like COMMON's certifications provide a way for forward-thinking professionals to separate themselves from the rest of the field," said Mr. Dufault.

COMMON's Annual Meeting and Exposition takes place every spring. The event offers COMMON members and attendees unmatched networking opportunities with the best in their fields and the

opportunity to learn about the newest products and best practices for midrange users. This year's meeting offers more than 500 educational sessions and the world's largest Power Systems Exposition.

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COMMON is the world's largest users group of midrange IBM and IBM-compatible technology. The organization comprises more than 4,000 individual and corporate members. They represent more than 22,000 IT professionals involved with the IBM Power Systems (IBM i, AIX, Linux) and related solutions. For more information about COMMON, visit www.common.org.

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