Career Readiness Indicator Questionnaire

This questionnaire is designed to help guide the process for review of a Career Readiness Indicator (CRI). It is the responsibility of the local education agency proposing the addition of the CRI to gather the information and submit it to Josh Laney, Assistant Director for Workforce Development. Answers should be as concise as possible. Information should be submitted as a completed packet, not piecemeal. Additional information may be included at the discretion of the applying agency if it might be pertinent to the evaluation process.

Contact information for person filling out questionnaire

Full Name of the Proposed Career Readiness Indicator: TestOut Switching Pro, TestOut Routing Pro, TestOut Linux Pro
Cluster and program for which the CRI is being proposed: IT: Network Systems & Computer Services
Submitting Local Education Agency: Center Point High School
LEA Contact Name: Rick Shirley
LEA Contact Email: rick@jefcoed.com
LEA Contact Phone number: 205.379.3400 x110732
Date of submittal: 6/13/2018

Why do we want this CRI?

1. What school system(s) are partnering with industry to request the CRI? Jefferson County
2. What industry is asking for the CRI? (List multiple if applicable.) Information Technology
3. What companies within the industry are requesting this CRI? (Attach letters of request on company letterhead.) Corporate America Credit Union, Hoover City Schools IT Department, FoundLocals
4. What entity, company, or testing agency is the “owner” of the CRI? (Who determines what it takes to earn the CRI?) TestOut Corporation, TestOut.com, Travis Wilde, twilde@testout.com, 800.877.4889 x328
5. Provide any Alabama specific employment data available which directly relates to this CRI. Alabama department of labor projects 525% growth rate of computer occupations through 2014. Additionally, CyberSeek reports 4,405 job openings for Cyber Security in Alabama and Forbes has reported a 2 million job shortage by 2019.

How does one actually get the CRI?

6. How long does it take for a student to earn this CRI? 60-80 hours
7. How does the student earn the CRI? Industry Credential is an online, computer based skill and knowledge assessment.
8. Is there a minimum age requirement for gaining the CRI? No
9. Are students required to be graduates before earning the CRI? No
10. Are there minimum pre-requisite course requirements for earning the CRI? No
11. What equipment is required to train for this CRI? Standard computer equipment only.
12. Does the earning of the CRI require the student to have computer access for the testing? Yes

How much does it cost and what resources are required?

13. What is the cost of the exam for earning this CRI? $89, including training materials.
14. Is there a practice test available from the CRI issuer or from other parties? Yes
a. If yes, does the practice test have a cost in addition to the actual exam and if so, how much? **Yes, included with purchase of training materials.**
b. Can rights to the practice material be purchased once or is there a recurring fee? **N/A**

15. Who can administer the exam? **The course instructor.**

16. Is special certification or licensure required for a teacher to administer the CRI? **No**
   a. If yes, what is the cost for gaining the appropriate licensure?
   b. Is this a one-time or recurring fee?

17. Is site, facility, or equipment certification required for administering the CRI? **No**
   a. If yes, what costs are included?
   b. Is this a one-time or recurring fee?
March 21, 2017

Dr. Phillip Cleveland
Director
Alabama Department of Education
5114 Gordon Persons Building
50 North Ripley Street
Montgomery, AL. 36104-2101

Dear Dr. Cleveland:

I am writing this letter to discuss the TestOut Switching Pro, Routing Pro, & Linux Pro certification tracks. These tracks would be a great addition to the Career Readiness Indicators (CRI) list for schools in Alabama. While these three avenues of technology are key to the base knowledge of any IT professional, learning a command-line driven approach will prepare students for more than just switching, routing, and Linux. The command-line driven approach is in almost every system we touch in the field. From VMWare ESXi administration, SAN storage units, to Microsoft Powershell, the command-line style approach is alive and well in our industry today. When we are on the hunt to fill a new position in our company, seeing this certification on a resume would definitely put the candidate as a front runner compared to the competing certification tracks.

In addition, other TestOut tracks, such as the TestOut PC Pro & Network Pro tracks, have already reached the CRI list. I know these additional certification tracks will work well together. Keeping the learning environment familiar and consistent will aid the students as they progress through the tracks available to them.

Lastly, I have seen TestOut’s hands on approach in their material. Compared to other certification tracks, the student does not simply memorize facts and take a test. There’s so much more involved. As an IT professional that yearns for more knowledgeable job applicants in the workplace, I would strongly recommend this certification track for the CRI list for our schools in Alabama.

Sincerely,

Luke Lang
Systems Administrator
Corporate America Credit Union
June 7, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

FoundLocals opened in 2008 as a boutique marketing firm. As we have grown throughout the years and have added 100’s of clients, security for hosting our client’s assets and data has become ever more important. Cyber-attacks have become a daily occurrences and holding data “hostage” has become even more common. The city of Atlanta just recently had a major cyber-attack which has cost the city over 11-million dollars so far.

Because of our concerns to protect our clients and their data, we make sure that we recruit the best security pros. As the security field has evolved, it has become pertinent to note that apart from general certification, there are other salient “skills” which prospective applicants must possess to have an upper hand in our recruitment process. These skills have been known to be beneficial to careers such as data center support specialist, senior support specialists, and even security support specialists and to the organization to which such skills are deployed.

Over the last few years, it has become obvious that candidates who possess the TestOut Switching Pro, Routing Pro, or Linux Pro certifications have, by far, out-performed their counterparts who do not. We have come to realize that candidates with these certifications excel when it comes to tasks encompassing management of software and hardware components, managing networks, user and file systems, setting up new systems and general proficiency with the Linux command line.

As employers of IT security pros, we care very much about security and efficiency. We would like to state at this juncture that special considerations are given to candidates with these certifications during our recruitment processes as they have, over time, proven to be more efficient and productive compared to candidates who do not have these qualifications.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Krenz | CMO | Founder
888-974-5554
Robert@FoundLocals.com
www.FoundLocals.com
Board of Education
Deanna Bamman
Craig Kelley
Kermit Kendrick
Amy Mudano
Amy Tosney

Dr. Kathy Murphy,
Superintendent

June 12, 2018

Mr. Joshua Laney
Senior Director for Workforce Development
Alabama State Department of Education
PO Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36104

Mr. Laney:

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing today to recommend that the Routing Pro, Switching Pro, and Linux Pro certifications be qualified as career readiness indicators.

TestOut does an outstanding job of vetting the knowledge of individuals that obtain their certification. While other vendors test the explicit knowledge of a certification candidate, TestOut ensures that one is able to apply that knowledge by challenging the candidate in an interactive multi scenario environment that more accurately simulates the real world.

When making a hiring decision, when I encounter an applicant that possess any of these three certifications, I have full confidence that they are more than capable of performing the tasks associated with networking and/or Linux. For this reason, I prefer to hire candidates with these certifications and want to provide my unwavering support for categorizing these certifications as career readiness indicators for any student in the state of Alabama.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Julian Smith
Coordinator of Information Technology
2016 Cybersecurity Skills Gap

Too Many Threats

$1 BILLION: PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION (PII) RECORDS STOLEN IN 2014

97% BELIEVE APTs REPRESENT CREDIBLE THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC STABILITY

MORE THAN 1 IN 4 ORGANIZATIONS HAVE EXPERIENCED AN APT ATTACK

$150 MILLION: AVERAGE COST OF A DATA BREACH BY 2020

1 IN 2 BELIEVE THE IT DEPARTMENT IS UNAWARE OF ALL OF ORGANIZATION'S INTERNET OF THINGS (IOT) DEVICES

74% BELIEVE LIKELIHOOD OF ORGANIZATION BEING HACKED THROUGH IOT DEVICES IS HIGH OR MEDIUM

2 MILLION: GLOBAL SHORTAGE OF CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONALS BY 2019

3X RATE OF CYBERSECURITY JOB GROWTH VS. IT JOBS OVERALL, 2010-14

84% ORGANIZATIONS BELIEVE HALF OR FEWER OF APPLICANTS FOR OPEN SECURITY JOBS ARE QUALIFIED

Too Few Professionals

Cyberattacks are growing, but the talent pool of defenders is not keeping pace.

Although attacks are growing in frequency and sophistication, the availability of sufficiently skilled cybersecurity professionals is falling behind. Cybersecurity Nexus (CSX) is addressing this gap by creating a skilled global cybersecurity workforce. From the Cybersecurity Fundamentals Certificate for university students to CSXP, the first vendor-neutral, performance-based cybersecurity certification, CSX is attracting and enabling cybersecurity professionals at every stage of their careers.


** "Employees" refers to data security professionals at organizations that potentially have access to survey respondent's personal information.

https://cybersecurity.isaca.org

January 2016