

ISTQB Certification

Setting the Standard for Tester Professionalism



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Past President ISTQB www.istqb.org

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Agenda

- ✦ What is tester certification?
- ✦ What are the ASTQB and ISTQB?
- ✦ What are the levels of certification?
- ✦ What is the impact of certification:
 - ❏ On the tester?
 - ❏ On the organization?
 - ❏ On the testing profession?



Software Tester Certification

- ✦ Tester certification confirms, through objective, carefully-designed exams, the professional capabilities of software testers
- ✦ ISTQB's approach
 - ❖ Practical, real-world focused
 - ❖ Supports a career path with levels of certification
 - ❖ Promotes the software testing profession
 - ❖ Represents the distilled wisdom of many experts including practitioners, consultants, trainers, and academics
 - ❖ Training is *not required* to take exams
- ✦ Last two points in particular distinguish ISTQB's approach from other testing certifications



ASTQB

- ⊕ Composed of recognized experts
- ⊕ Mix of practitioners, consultants, trainers, and academics
 - ⊗ Patricia McQuaid, President (academic), Joe Gance, Vice President (practitioner), Randy Rice, Treasurer (trainer)
 - ⊗ Debbie Friedenbergl, Technical Advisory Group Chair (practitioner)
 - ⊗ Rex Black (consultant/trainer), Taz Daughtrey (academic/practitioner), Jerry Everett (internal trainer), Judy McKay (consultant/practitioner), and Andrew Pollner (trainer)
 - ⊗ Lois Kostroski, Managing Director
- ⊕ Develops and administers exams
- ⊕ Licenses exams worldwide
- ⊕ Accredits trainers
- ⊕ Participates in ISTQB activities



ISTQB

- ✦ Composed of 47 National Boards : ASTQB, ANZTB, ATB, BSTB, BySTQB, BNTQB, BSTQB, CSTB, CSTQB, CFTL, CaSTB, DSTB, ESTB, ETB, FiSTB, GTB, GSTB, HASTQB, HTB, ITB, ITQB, ISTB, ITCB, ITA-STQB, JSTQB, JOSTQB, KTB, LSTQB, LTB, MSTB, NSTB, NTB, PTB, PSTQB, RSTQB, KSATB, SGTQB, SASTQB, SEETB, SSTQB, SLSTQB, SSTB, STB, TTB, USQB, UKTB, and VTB
- ✦ A collegial, sharing organization
- ✦ Working parties (composed of National Board delegates) define syllabi (bodies of knowledge), glossary, processes, etc.
- ✦ These working parties distill the collective experience and wisdom represented across boards (~5,000 person-years)



Foundation Certification

✦ Entry-level certification: 0+ years of experience

✦ Goals

- ✦ Ensure a broad understanding of the fundamental best practices and key concepts in software testing
- ✦ Provide a foundation for professional growth

✦ Syllabus/body of knowledge covers

- ✦ Fundamentals of testing, testing in the software lifecycle, static techniques, white-box and black-box test design, test management, and testing tools
- ✦ Syllabus-based training courses are typically 3-5 days

✦ Status: The working party completed the Foundation Syllabus 2010 in early 2010, the National Boards reviewed and approved it, and the ISTQB released it in March 2010



Advanced Certification

- ✦ Mid-level certification: 5+ years experience
- ✦ Goals
 - ❖ Ensure an understanding of advanced best practices and key concepts in software testing by committed test professionals
 - ❖ Support on-going professional growth
- ✦ Syllabus/body of knowledge covers
 - ❖ Advanced behavioral (black-box) testing for independent testers; test automation, advanced structural (white-box) testing for testers and programmers; and, sophisticated test management concepts
 - ❖ Syllabus-based training courses must be 5 days each (15 days total)
- ✦ Status: A new Advanced syllabus was released in October 2007. A working party is developing a new advanced syllabus, scheduled for 2012.

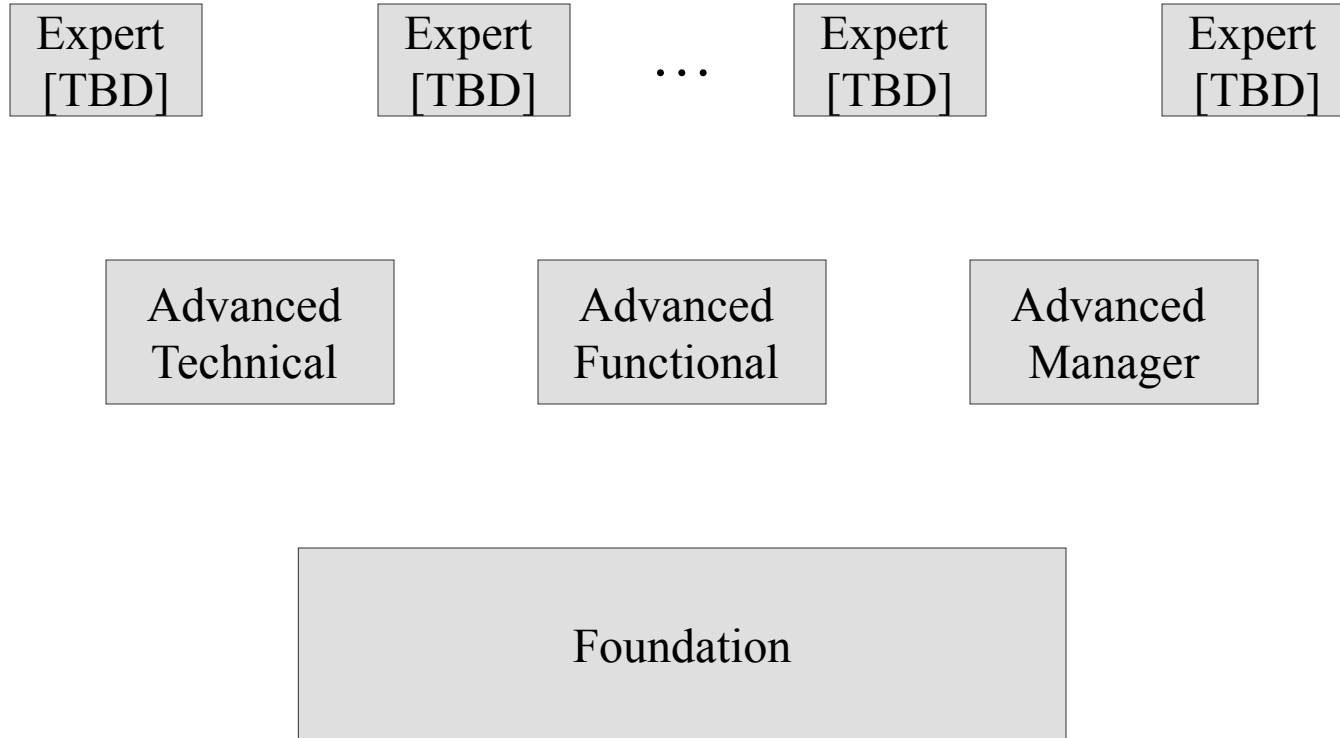


Expert Certification

- ✦ Guru-level certification: 8+ years experience
- ✦ Goals
 - ❖ Ensure consistent understanding and execution of proven cutting-edge techniques by seasoned test professionals
 - ❖ Lead the software testing profession
- ✦ Syllabi/bodies of knowledge may cover
 - ❖ Improving the test process, test automation, test management, security, and more
 - ❖ Syllabus-based training courses will be offered
- ✦ Status: Improving the Test Process and Test Management will go live in 2011. Other working parties are developing two other new expert syllabi.



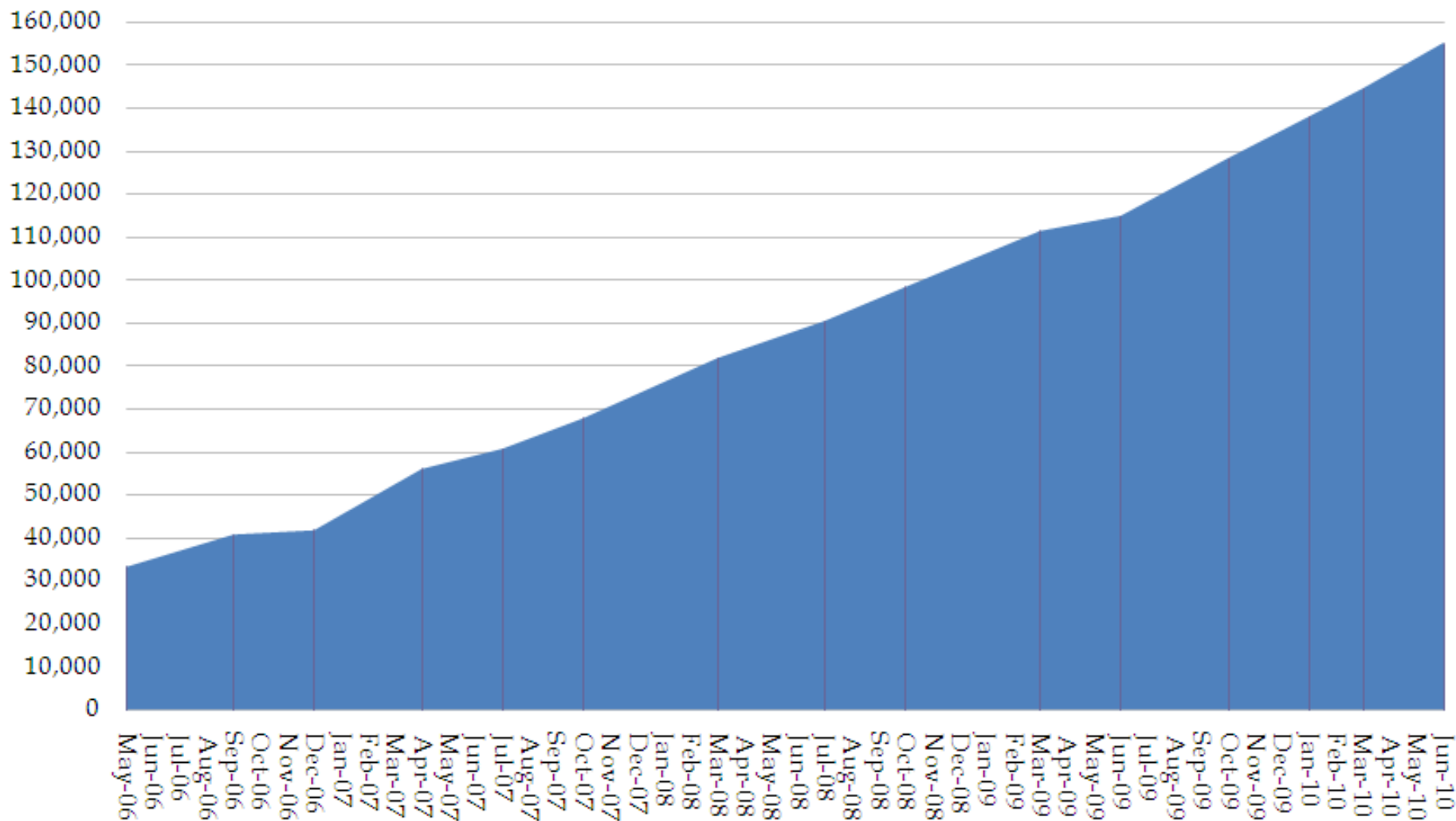
Visualizing the Levels of Certification



Relative size of figures indicates expected relative numbers of potential certificate holders (not to scale). There will be more than four expert certifications.



ISTQB by the Numbers*



* Last available graphic, as of Jun 2010.

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Value of Certification

✦ To the tester

- ✦ Demonstrate mastery of the best practices and key concepts in the field
- ✦ Advance career and opportunities in competitive market

✦ To the organization

- ✦ Ensure better testing for better software and lower costs of poor quality
- ✦ Achieve consistency and re-usability of testing

✦ To the profession

- ✦ Build on our best work and stop going in circles
- ✦ Define the profession and what professional testers know



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