Informatics Europe
Panel on academic education and industrial certification

CEN/ISSSS Workshop on ICT-SKILLS
e-Certification in Europe

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Zurich
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What is e-Certification?

Process of gaining a “credential” in a ICT particular skill
• granted by a recognised body
• on achievement of an acceptable standard
• defined and judged by quality assured processes

Examples
• Degree in Computing
• Member of a professional body eg MBCS
• European Certification of Informatics Professional EUCIP
• European Computer Driving Licence ECDL
• Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer MCSE
• A Plus
Value of e-Certification

• To employee / candidate – to improve pay / prospects

• To (prospective) employer – badge of competence

• To customer – confidence in supplier

• To supplier – promotional tool

• To vendor – to protect distribution channel

• To public – confidence in IT professionals
Characteristics of e-certification

• Certification jungle?

• Parallel universe?

• Vital eco-system supporting the parent labour and product markets?
The universes converge

- SAP University Alliance
- Portugal – Oracle Network Academy
- Italy – EUCIP in university syllabus
- UK – public funding for industry certifications

And lots of others...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action 1.</th>
<th>Update e-certification statistics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action 2.</td>
<td>Mapping main organisations involved in e-certification (at country and European level)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Action 3.</td>
<td>Methodology for mapping certifications onto emerging e-Competence Framework</td>
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<td>Action 4.</td>
<td>European Model for e-certification schemes</td>
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Action 1: Metrics

- Update HARMONISE data (at country and European level)
- Standardised metrics
- Top 10 to 12 certifications
- Seven large countries
- Data sheet
- Mid 2008, and again mid-2009
- Annual process

UK
Poland
Germany
France
Italy
Spain
Netherlands

Microsoft
Cisco
Novell
Sun
IBM
ISEB
ITIL
Eucip
SAP
CompTIA
Oracle
ISACA
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Vendors</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>Mid 2007</th>
<th>Mid 2008</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cisco</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>700</td>
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<td>3200</td>
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<td>SAP</td>
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<td>185</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td></td>
<td>456</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other vendors</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>CompTIA</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>800</td>
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<td>CISSP</td>
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**Number of certifications worldwide 000s**

3.7 fold growth 2000 to 2007
Action 2: Organisational Maps

- Organisational maps for each country (and Europe)
  - Government Ministries and agencies
  - Trade bodies
  - Professional organisations
  - Certification bodies

- UK, Germany, Italy

- In hand: Netherlands, Poland, Ireland, EU
Action 3: Positioning e-Certification

- Methodology for positioning e-certifications against new e-Competence Framework (and hence to EQF)
- Mapping results for 2-3 worked examples

Work with Framework and Career Service projects

Most difficult task: obtain trustworthy information
### Examples of positioning to e-CF

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**Oracle DBA**

**MCSE**

**ISEB Basic systems analysis**
Action 4: European Model

Regulation

Laissez-faire certification jungle

European Model for e-Certification

Work with e-certification suppliers and all stakeholders
Who is the model for?

- Certification providers
  - Vendor, eg Microsoft, Oracle, Cisco
  - Neutral, eg CompTIA
  - Independent, eg ISEB, EUCIP
Purpose of the standard

• To “articulate” individual qualifications against e-Competence Framework
  – By level and by topic
  – And thus against EQF too

• Help learners and employers to select appropriate qualifications

• Improve value and recognition of qualifications

• Hence increase the market by improving inter-operability
Elements of the “model”

- Trustworthy means of positioning individual qualifications (and justifying that)
- Quality assurance of the certification
  - Maintaining the syllabus
  - Marking and verification
- Scheme for annual collection of market statistics
- Clear information to prospective candidates
- “Open” – allow entry from other schemes
- “Recognition”
- ISO 17024 and new 24773
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