

Carl Corcoran MBCS CITP



'CITP gives employers the confidence that an individual has a valuable set of skills and experience, and is certified to use them.'

Carl Corcoran, IT senior consultant, Accenture UK

Carl Corcoran tells us he became a CITP because he wanted to 'cement his 10 years of industry experience into a meaningful, industry-endorsed qualification that was rigorous enough to be taken seriously'.

He began his IT career in BT Plc as a graduate management trainee and now works as an IT senior consultant within Accenture UK's technology growth platform.

Now knowing the calibre required for CITP, having been assessed at SFIA level 5 across a broad range of competencies, Carl believes the status represents a new level of professionalism in IT, providing him with industry verification of his skills and experience.

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THE MOTIVATION

Carl Corcoran's interest in IT began with his first computer, a ZX Spectrum which he says 'loaded from tapes and took an absolute age – but it was great.'

From there on, he was fascinated by IT's ability to connect people together no matter where they are.

Carl didn't take a conventional route into IT; his A-levels focused more on business skills. But he found a course at the University of Staffordshire that was BCS accredited and didn't need an IT or mathematics background. It included a gap year at British Telecom securing him a job as a graduate trainee when he qualified.

He spent six years with BT developing his project and program management skills in various roles including leading a global team on a large scale data warehouse project. He also worked as an internal ISO 9001 auditor gaining interviewing and process reengineering skills he says still benefit him today as a senior consultant at Accenture UK.

Prior to being head-hunted by Accenture UK, Carl became business intelligence manager for PHS Group.

'After ten years in the IT industry, I wanted to move my career to a new platform', explains Carl. 'I was already a Professional member (MBCS) and wanted to make more out of my membership. This is when I considered CITP.'

THE JOURNEY

'For me, gaining Chartered status is no small achievement,' Carl continues. 'It requires a broad and deep knowledge that not many can claim.'

'There are many practitioners entering the industry with little or no quality broad experience calling themselves consultants. This dilutes the value of those with genuine ability. CITP is going to help eliminate this and I strongly encourage others to become certified to drive up quality in the industry.'

'I found the initial CITP assessment quite straight-forward but the examination was tough.'

'The interview and presentation also required a great deal of thought. Highlighting salient points in my career to prove competency was a challenge; but none more so than then being cross-examined by my peers – there was nowhere to hide!'

It was while he was progressing his application for CITP that Carl was approached by Accenture UK and he now works as a senior consultant within their technology growth platform.

THE BENEFITS

CITP proved the perfect way for Carl to elevate his career status: 'Chartered status stamps an industry benchmark on your CV' says Carl.

'My Certificate of Current Competence signals that I perform at SFIA level 5. I don't just say I can do it, I can prove it.'

'This gives employers the confidence that an individual has a valuable set of skills and experience and is certified to use them.'

As a BCS member, Carl also takes a keen interest in the BCS community. He arranged a site visit, in his previous role, with a contact from a BCS event which subsequently influenced a major software purchase.

'The BCS member community offers access to contacts and businesses that aren't always accessible through day to day activities and which shouldn't be overlooked.'