

Microsoft advocates Chartered IT Professional (CITP) status for its consultants



'Building close working relationships with blue-chip companies and government departments often calls for us to be able to formally demonstrate our professional credentials to an industry-recognised standard,' says Microsoft Consulting Services (MCS) General Manager, Colin Brown. 'We've been considering how best to do this.'

MCS are now meeting this requirement through a corporate membership scheme with BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT, and a new agreement which allows them to process applications for the award of CITP status.

'We believe the CITP programme represents today's benchmark of IT excellence and professionalism and it's starting to gain international industry recognition'

Colin Brown, General Manager, Microsoft Services

THE SITUATION

Microsoft Consulting Services delivers consulting and support services to businesses worldwide to help them gain maximum value from their investment in Microsoft technology. Their leading-edge technical consulting knowledge, combined with a strong network of partners, enables them to save customers money and deliver best practice – reducing risk and accelerating time-to-value.

The UK headquarters in Reading is the base for 270 highly-skilled and experienced consultants. They are experts who share a wealth of knowledge, strengthened by their close connection with the groups that develop Microsoft's product portfolio.

The team already has an excellent reputation for delivery and has won numerous industry awards and accreditations, yet customers increasingly require formal validation of professional capability.

THE ASPIRATION

It was following the Institute's recent rebrand that senior managers within MCS started to take notice of the advancements being made by the Institute – in particular the updated Chartered IT Professional (CITP) status.

'The new vision for CITP status impressed us and led us to believe that the Institute is heading in the right direction, in line with our own vision of the IT industry,' says Colin Brown. 'It's exactly what we were looking for.'

The CITP standard was shaped by extensive consultation with Industry and Government to identify the areas of knowledge and skills required by the IT industry.

The rigorous assessment process includes peer assessment and a test of applicants' core body of IT knowledge. Successful candidates earn CITP status as well as a Certificate of Current Competence which remains valid for five years, after which revalidation is required.

THE TRANSFORMATION

MCS has now aligned the company's internal processes to meet the requirements for processing applications for CITP status, up to the point of award.

Their first step was the adoption of a corporate membership scheme with the Institute, providing Professional membership for its consultants.

Senior managers within MCS then worked closely with the Institute to set up the CITP processing agreement

THE RESULTS

- Agreement in place for Microsoft to process applications for CITP status internally
- Formal recognition of professionalism for Microsoft consultants

which enables their Professional members to achieve CITP status as an integrated part of the team's professional development programme.

The agreement means that the Institute remains the awarding body for CITP and MCS can proactively develop the credentials of its IT professionals in line with the CITP standard.

'Chartered IT Professional status is a great way to demonstrate the quality of our consultants' says Colin Brown, General Manager, Microsoft Services, 'and we hope that the participation of our consultants in this programme will help further enhance its reputation.'