How to get SAP Certified in Solution Manager – a Step by Step Guide

Applies to:
SAP Solution Manager

Summary
In this paper, I explain the processes involved to get certified in Solution Manager, where to find details about the certification exam, how to register for the certification exam, what study materials to use for the exam, and where to find them. At the end of the paper, I have developed sample questions – the question format is similar to the certification exam questions.

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Author Bio
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Introduction:
Recently I read a blog post written by a top analyst. In the post, the analyst explained that due to the current economic climate, the goal to attract and retain talent is not at the top of the priority list for many companies. It is still important, but it has moved towards the bottom of the list. The author of the post then explained that many companies view SAP certification as a differentiator when they are looking to hire someone. In today’s uncertain economic situation, any strategy to make you stand out from the crowd is a plus. SAP actively encourages its consultants and partners to take official certification exams.

In many of the SAP certification exams, there are questions about the Solution Manager. In other words, questions on this topic can appear in exams that are not specifically focused on SAP Solution Manager. Therefore, preparing for SAP Solution Manager certification can provide a benefit to you on other certification exams as well.

The Certification Portal:
SAP Education maintains a certification portal that provides details on the different levels of certification and the certification exams available for Solution Manager (Figure 1). You can view this portal at http://www.sap.com/usa/services/education/certification/index.epx

Figure 1 SAP Education certification portal
SAP currently offers two levels of certification: associate and professional. Currently, only associate level exams are available for the SAP Solution Manager track. SAP has stated that a professional level certification for Solution Manager should be available before the end of 2009.

Associate level certification exams are about 60 minutes long and contain about 40 questions. This exam contains questions that are similar to the exercises found at the end of each chapter in the recommended study guides. For the different Solution Manager / E2E exams, only one study guides is suggested.

On the other hand, the questions for the yet-to-be-released professional level certification exams will test you on both your implementation experience and the questions from the study guides. SAP is also planning to introduce a master level/subject matter expert level examination in the near future.
Find an Exam:

As shown in Figure 1, from the SAP Certification Portal, click on the link, “Find an Exam”. SAP Education offers a number of exams for the SAP Solution Manager track so you can find a certification that is suitable for you.

Clicking on the link, takes you to a page where you can find specific certifications using three drop-down option menus. As shown in Figure 2, for the purposes of this example I selected SAP Solution Manager, Applications, and Application Consultant. I then clicked the Find button.

Figure 2 Find a certification exam

The results are shown in Figure 3. Two application consultant exams are currently available.

CERTIFICATION FINDER

Find a certification

Please select one or more criteria

| SAP Solution Manager | Applications | Application Consultant |

Find | Reset

Certification Roles

- SAP Certified Solution Consultant SAP NetWeaver 7.4 - Solution Manager Implementation Tools
- SAP Certified Solution Consultant - SAP Solution Manager 4.0 Implementation Tools

Figure 3 Exams available for the application consultant

In Table 1, I have listed the exams that are currently available in the SAP Solution Manager track. These are the exams that can appear after you enter your search specifications.

Note: SAP adds new exams regularly, and there is a possibility that new exams could have been added since the writing of this article.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Code</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C_SM100_06</td>
<td>Application Consultant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C_SM310_06</td>
<td>Application Consultant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 1 Certification exams available for the SAP Solution Manager track

There is an SAP Solution Manager exam available for many roles, whether you are a functional consultant, application consultant, technology consultant or an IT administrator.
Getting Details on the Exams:

After you use the certification finder in Figure 3 and identify the certification exam that you would like to take, click the displayed link. For my example, I chose SAP Certified Solution Consultant - SAP Solution Manager 4.0 Implementation Tools. You are taken to the specific certification web page (Figure 5).

**CERTIFICATION ROLE**

**SAP CERTIFIED SOLUTION CONSULTANT - SAP SOLUTION MANAGER 4.0 IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Associate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus Area</td>
<td>Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Product Group</td>
<td>Platform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solution</td>
<td>SAP Solution Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description**

This certification path will demonstrate your fundamental understanding of SAP Solution Manager 4.0 implementation tools, empowering you to implement your solution efficiently and effectively. Armed with this knowledge, you’ll be positioned to make a meaningful contribution as a solution consultant in a team setting.

**Certification Tests**

- [C_SM40_08 - SAP Certified Solution Consultant - SAP Solution Manager 4.0 Implementation Tools](#)

Figure 5 Certification page for SAP Certified Solution Consultant - SAP Solution Manager 4.0 Implementation Tools

On this page, you can see details on the certification level, the focus area (Applications or Technology) and a description of the exam. Click the link displayed under Certification Tests highlighted in Figure 5. This takes you to the page shown in Figure 6.
Figure 6  Certification Exam details

Note: For the exam in Figure 6, the duration is one hour. The web page displays it as one day, which is a mistake.

This details screen gives you all details about this particular exam, SAP Certified Solution Consultant - SAP Solution Manager 4.0 Implementation Tools. Take note of the booking code displayed at the top of the page (C_SM310_06 in this case). When you register for an exam, you should register for the latest version of that particular exam. SAP is slowly phasing out older versions of the exams.

The certification web page in Figure 6 tells you the number of questions on the exam and the duration of the exam. It also provides details about the competency areas that are tested, the relative importance of each of the competency areas, and the topics under each of the competency areas. I have found this section to be particularly useful. It gives you ideas about which competency areas you should concentrate on during your preparation for the exam.

Preparing for the Exam:

The study guide to use for certification exam preparation is displayed in the Primary column on the certification test page (Figure 6). You can find copies of study guides in the SAP Service Marketplace at https://service.sap.com/TrainingContent.

For an associate level exam, the recommended study guide is sufficient for the certification exam. Some certification exams have more than one recommended study guide. In the study guide, complete all the exercises that are given at the end of each chapter. The questions in the certification exam are similar to these exercises.
In Figure 7, click on the “English” title and the available study guides for all SAP modules are displayed. If you are taking an SAP Solution Manager applications consultant exam, click SMI. If you are taking an End-to-End (E2E) exam, click E2E.

These study guides can be downloaded to a local drive and you can study offline if required. You must have access to the SAP Service Marketplace to download these study guides.

If you do not have access to the SAP Service Marketplace, the content in SAP Help (http://help.sap.com) is a resource for exam preparation. The SAP PRESS Book SAP Solution Manager Enterprise Edition by Matthias Melich and Marc O. Schäfer is another resource that can help you prepare for the exam. You can also review the Solution Manager forum in the SDN and see if there are any postings that focus on exam preparation. If you know of other SAP professionals preparing for the exam, it is also helpful to form study groups. You can use study groups to network and learn from other users. You can also receive training through the SAP Education. All associate level exams test the knowledge gained from classroom training. You can read more about these classroom trainings on the SAP Education website (http://www12.sap.com/usa/services/education/certtraining/solution_manager.epx).

SAP Education conducts classroom training for many of these exams. You can access the SAP Education webpage, http://www.sap.com/usa/services/education/certtraining/solution_manager.epx to get additional information about these classes and to find a class that you might interested in.
About the Certification Exam:

Many of the SAP Solution Manager associate level exams last about an hour. Depending on the exam, the number of questions varies from 30 to 40.

A few basic pointers about the certification exam are:
- You should bring two forms of identification
- Try to arrive fifteen minutes early
- There are no essay questions
- You will not need to draw any diagrams
- The questions are in the format of multiple choice and true or false questions
- If a question has more than one correct answer, the question will mention this
- If you are not confident about a question, you can bookmark the question and return to it later
- You take the exam on a computer
- No discussions are allowed and you are not allowed to refer to any study materials

Based on the analysis done by SAP and the implementation partners, it was discovered that with sufficient preparation, the pass rate on the first try is over 82%. On the other hand, only 52% of the people who took the exam with little or no preparation were able to pass the exam on the first try. The secret to success on the certification exam is to prepare yourself well. Spend at least four to six weeks preparing before taking the exam.

Registering for the Exam:

It costs US$500 to take the associate exam. If you are not successful in your first try, you can retake the exam up to a maximum of three times for the same release. You must pay the exam fee every time you take the certification exam. Check with SAP Education regarding the cancellation and reschedule policies.

You must be physically present at the exam center to take the exam — you cannot take it online. SAP Solution Manager certification exams are offered at the SAP office test centers. The SAP Office in the Newton Square, PA offers the exam on all Fridays. You can read about the exam schedules and the SAP offices where you can take the exam on the SAP Education webpage (http://www12.sap.com/usa/services/education/certification/exam.epx). Some of the SAP Solution Manager exams are offered at the PearsonVUE test center. You can get more details about these exams at http://www.pearsonvue.com/sap.

Taking the Exam:

Now I'll share some sample questions. These sample questions do not appear on the certification exams. They are simply meant to help you understand the format of the exam. Table 2 provides the answers to the sample questions.

Note: DISCLAIMER: These sample questions are for self-evaluation purposes only and do not appear on the actual certification exams. Answering the sample questions correctly is no guarantee that you will pass the certification exam. The certification exam covers a much broader spectrum of topics, so make sure you have familiarized yourself with all topics listed in the Exam Competency Areas before taking the certification exam.
1. Select the benefits of SAP Solution Manager from the list of items below.
   Note: There are 2 correct answers to this question.
   a) Ensure reliability
   b) Reduce total cost of ownership
   c) Reduce return on investment
   d) Increase total cost of ownership
   e) None of the above

2. SAP Solution Manager supports which of the following scenarios:
   Note: There are 3 correct answers to this question.
   a) Monitor Service Desk
   b) Manage change requests
   c) Implement SAP solutions
   d) End-to-End Diagnostics
   e) Link to change requests

3. System Landscape Directory (SLD) is an SAP Netweaver Component.
   a) True
   b) False

4. When evaluating SAP components, SAP EarlyWatch Alert (EWA) monitors the following:
   Note: There is more than one correct answer to this question.
   c) General component status
   d) Hardware
   e) System configuration
   f) Database administration

5. Identify the steps that are part of the ASAP methodology.
   Note: There is more than one correct answer to this question.
   a. Business blueprint
   b. Realization
   c. Regeneration
   d. Project preparation
   e. Final preparation

6. What are the main types of roadmaps?
   Note: There is more than one correct answer to this question.
   a) SAP roadmaps
   b) Solution Composer roadmaps
   c) Roadmap Composer roadmaps
   d) Implementation roadmaps

7. The three components that define the concept of Solution Monitoring are:
   Note: There are three correct answers to this question.
   a. Business Process Monitoring
   b. System Monitoring
   c. Change Request Management
   d. Customizing
   e. Service Level Management

8. The purpose of the ASAP methodology is to implement SAP solutions across multiple industries and customer environments.
   a. True
   b. False

Which transaction code is used to access the Solution Directory?
   c. DSWP
   d. SOLUTION_MANAGER
   e. SOLMAN_DIRECTORY
   f. SMT1

9. Which transaction code is used to provide an overview of the active projects in the
organization?
  a. SOLAR_PROJECT_ADMIN
  b. SOLAR01
  c. SOLAR02
  d. SMSY

10. Transaction SMSY is used to create the following:
   a. Logical components
   b. Related RFC destinations
   c. Both A and B
   d. None of the above

11. Which transaction is used for automated data collection and the refresh of system information?
   a. SMSY_SETUP
   b. SMSY
   c. Both A and B
   d. None of the above

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question #</th>
<th>Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>a, b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>b, c, d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>All of the above are correct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>a, b, d, e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>a, b, e</td>
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<tr>
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<td>a</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>c</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Answer key for sample questions
Related Content


Find an Exam Webpage: http://www.sap.com/usa/services/education/certification/findexam.epx

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