

## Cisco Career Certifications

**Certifications Transform Lives.** Bassem Kattan, Resident network consultant for Saudi Telecom's IP-Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) network

Beginning his networking career while still in college pursuing a degree in electrical engineering, Bassem Kattan's first computer was powered by a 486 SX2 50 chip. Now working as a contractor for Saudi Telecom and Cisco, Bassem has gotten used to having much more processing power at his disposal.

A lifelong learner, Bassem's first experiences in IT were born out of his love of gaming. He learned how to change memory allocations and create LANs to build better playing environments. Finding that he had a talent for networking, Bassem was soon the proprietor of his own computer shop.

**“I found that with every certification exam I took, a new door in my career opened up to me. Being certified gave me more leverage than my noncertified colleagues.”**

— Bassem Kattan, Resident network consultant for Saudi Telecom's IP-Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) network

The next step in his career evolution came when he took a contract position in the Republic of Congo. Here Bassem came across Cisco enterprise computing solutions. “When I arrived at the site,” he recalls, “I was shocked to see so many racks and equipment that I had no idea existed. Router? Firewall? Voice gateway? What is this big black box with a logo that looks like a bridge?”

Tackling the challenges of his new position, Bassem started to study in earnest. He downloaded documentation CDs and PDFs and spent nearly all of his evenings in the Congo learning about the equipment that now filled his workday. Within weeks, he started the process of acquiring Cisco certifications.

Traveling back to Lebanon on vacation, Bassem took his first Cisco examination and received his CCNA certification. It was to be the first of many. “The thirst for knowledge was so overwhelming that I decided to go on. Soon I had my CCNP, CCIP, and later a CCIE.”

Now working as a contractor for both Cisco and Saudi Telecom, Bassem credits his certifications and breadth of knowledge with his present professional success. “I found that with every certification exam I took, a new door in my career opened up to me,” he said. “Being certified gave me more leverage than my noncertified colleagues

Bassem sums up his present career path by stating: "I cannot see myself pursuing any other career line than IT, and I'm hoping to reach a level of expertise where I can fit into any provider network."

Moving forward, Bassem is planning to complete his second CCIE (service provider) and to continue his work in the telecom and enterprise-computing solutions fields. "I'd like to open my own consultancy company, to apply all the knowledge and customer support ideals that I've acquired to this point, so that I can provide perfect services for my clients."

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about Cisco Career Certifications, go to: <http://www.cisco.com/go/getcertified>.



**Americas Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
170 West Tasman Drive  
San Jose, CA 95134-1706  
USA  
[www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)  
Tel: 408 526-4000  
800 553-NETS (6387)  
Fax: 408 527-0883

**Asia Pacific Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
168 Robinson Road  
#28-01 Capital Tower  
Singapore 068912  
[www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)  
Tel: +65 6317 7777  
Fax: +65 6317 7799

**Europe Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems International BV  
Haarlerbergpark  
Haarlerbergweg 13-19  
1101 CH Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
[www-europe.cisco.com](http://www-europe.cisco.com)  
Tel: +31 0 800 020 0791  
Fax: +31 0 20 357 1100

Cisco has more than 200 offices worldwide. Addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers are listed on the Cisco Website at [www.cisco.com/go/offices](http://www.cisco.com/go/offices).

©2006 Cisco Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. CCVP, the Cisco logo, and the Cisco Square Bridge logo are trademarks of Cisco Systems, Inc.; Changing the Way We Work, Live, Play, and Learn is a service mark of Cisco Systems, Inc.; and Access Registrar, Aironet, BPX, Catalyst, CCDA, CCDP, CCIE, CCIIP, CCNA, CCNP, CCSP, Cisco, the Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert logo, Cisco IOS, Cisco Press, Cisco Systems, Cisco Systems Capital, the Cisco Systems logo, Cisco Unity, Enterprise/Solver, EtherChannel, EtherFast, EtherSwitch, Fast Step, Follow Me Browsing, FormShare, GigaDrive, GigaStack, HomeLink, Internet Quotient, IOS, IP/TV, iQ Expertise, the iQ logo, iQ Net Readiness Scorecard, iQuick Study, LightStream, Linksys, MeetingPlace, MGX, Networking Academy, Network Registrar, Packet, PIX, ProConnect, RateMUX, ScriptShare, SlideCast, SMARTnet, StackWise, The Fastest Way to Increase Your Internet Quotient, and TransPath are registered trademarks of Cisco Systems, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and certain other countries.

All other trademarks mentioned in this document or Website are the property of their respective owners. The use of the word partner does not imply a partnership relationship between Cisco and any other company. (0609R)