

Industry News from IT Skills Research (Sep 06)

ADVAL PLACED IN ADMINISTRATION

AdVal Group Plc has failed to sell its bespoke e-learning business and has appointed an administrator. Although the company did sell off its generic e-learning business carried out by Maxim (only recently acquired from KnowledgePool), it has run out of funds. [Sep 2006](#)

RISK MANAGEMENT MEETS IT AT NEW HORIZONS

New Horizons is partnering with ebis (European Business Information Services Ltd) to provide courses in various aspects of risk assessment, corporate intelligence and due diligence. Four courses will be available from November: Detecting, Investigating & Preventing Employee & Identity Fraud; UK Corporate Information for Investigators & Business; Money Laundering – Risk Management and Investigation; and International Corporate Information. The courses are hands-on, with real-world case studies, and are also available as tailored on-sites. [Sep 2006](#)

XPERTISE ADDS SUN TO ITS PORTFOLIO

Xpertise and Sun Microsystems have joined forces Sun-accredited Java™ training courses at Xpertise's Northwest and Midlands training centres. Xpertise, which has been providing Java training in the UK for nearly a decade, joins a select number of organisations authorised to provide Sun's official Java training in the UK. [Sep 2006](#)

IT TRAINING AWARDS 2007: CALL FOR ENTRIES



The Institute of IT Training hosts the annual IT Training Awards to recognise outstanding examples of high standards, best practice, innovation and excellence in IT training. So if you are proud of your achievements and would like to win the recognition you deserve within the IT training profession, submit your entry and put your team in the spotlight at the IT training industry's night of the year. There are 13 categories in the IT Training Awards 2007, including two new awards – Training Department of the Year (Public Sector) and Learning Facilities of the Year. Entry is free, and the closing date for entries is 31 October 2006. The awards will be presented at The Dorchester in London, on 1st February 2007. [Sep 2006](#)

MICROSOFT SUES TESTING MATERIALS VENDOR

Microsoft has filed a lawsuit in the US against testing materials vendor TestKing, alleging that the company is illegally selling the actual answers to its certification exams. The suit, filed in Seattle, claims that the "defendants have provided and are providing, without license or permission from Microsoft, the original copyrighted exam content from Microsoft Certification Exams." The lawsuit claims multiple counts of copyright infringement and asks for a permanent injunction to stop TestKing from continuing to sell or distribute the materials. It also seeks damages. On its site, TestKing claims to sell test training materials for a wide variety of different technology companies' certifications in addition to Microsoft's. (*Reported by certcities.com*) [Sep 2006](#)

WBT SYSTEMS ACQUIRED BY HORIZON TECHNOLOGY GROUP



WBT Systems, a leading provider of enterprise e-learning solutions, has announced its acquisition by Horizon Technology Group plc. Horizon is a technical integrator and distributor of IT products in the UK and Ireland. The company is listed on the London and Dublin stock exchanges and is headquartered in Dublin. Horizon says WBT Systems will continue to operate independently, and will continue to market and develop its TopClass e-Learning Suite. [Sep 2006](#)

E-SKILLS UK REPORTS SKILLS GAPS

Findings from the latest e-skills UK ICT Inquiry show that the percentage of firms reporting ICT skills gaps increased in Q1 of 2006, and the consequent impact of these gaps on UK businesses reached the highest level recorded in a year. The percentage of firms reporting a skills gap increased from 12% to 14% but on the impact scale of 0-100, where 0 is 'no effect' and 100 is 'company closure', firms reporting

gaps in the skills of ICT staff rated the effects at a worrying 48. The research also found that on average each ICT position advertised externally will attract around 26 applications, but just seven applicants will fully match the requirements set out within the job description: that on average it takes 42 days to recruit a new ICT professional compared with 32 days for other workers: and that despite skills gaps being more common, one in five firms said that they would still not train staff over the coming year. [Sep 2006](#)

QCA ACCREDITATION OPENS UP FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) has recognised the BCS as an awarding body for the BCS Professional Examinations. This will enable course providers to apply for government funding if they offer courses leading to BCS exams. Funding (from the LSC) may be used by course providers, for example, to subsidise ongoing running costs associated with the courses. BCS was already accredited by the QCA as an awarding body for the ECDL. The latest move extends recognition to the level 4 Certificate in IT, level 5 Diploma in IT and level 6 Professional Graduate Diploma in IT. [Sep 2006](#)

ETHICAL HACKING TRAINING: PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE



High-quality training providers worldwide have an opportunity to provide university accredited IT Security courses by becoming 7Safe Accredited Training Partners (ATP). Five leading edge, Masters-level courses are now available under the ATP licence. The courses can be taken separately, leading to professional qualifications when combined with distance-learning university assessments, and also contribute Masters-level credits toward to the world's first Postgraduate Certificate in Penetration Testing and Information Security. 7Safe's courses are already available in Ireland following Ashfield Computer Training's acceptance as the first Accredited Training Partner (ATP). [Sep 2006](#)

TECHNOLOGY IN BUSINESS FAST STREAM FOR GRADUATES

The Cabinet Office has launched the first Technology in Business Fast Stream for the Civil Service. It will form part of the Civil Service Fast Stream, an accelerated training and development programme for able graduates, and will provide an entry route for talented graduates interested in delivering technology-enabled change within the public sector. Technology in Business Fast Streamers will be selected for their potential to become future Chief Information Officers or leaders of large scale, IT-enabled business change. IT is one of the largest professions in government and its members are responsible for delivering projects totalling £14 billion of annual government expenditure. [Sep 2006](#)

NEW BIRMINGHAM CENTRE FOR QA INTERQUAD



QA InterQuad has opened new purpose-built premises in central Birmingham, including nine state-of-the-art training rooms that will offer a wider range of courses for local businesses and individuals. The new offices are closer to public transport links and restaurants, being situated just moments from Birmingham New Street Station. The company says it has seen a strong increase in the requirement for training in the last twelve months, as companies begin to see the benefits of improving the skills of their staff, and the new centre will allow more people in the area develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. QA InterQuad is holding an open day at the centre on the 5 October. [Sep 2006](#)

CISCO CCNP CERTIFICATION CHANGES




Cisco has announced a comprehensive update of the Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) certification. Cisco has redesigned and upgraded the CCNP curriculum to include Advanced Technologies and incorporate its next generation network platform products. The new courses are designed to better support end-to-end IP infrastructure and advanced technologies. Router and Switch Security, QoS and High Availability, Wireless LANs and VoIP have been integrated into the CCNP curriculum. [Sep 2006](#)

COMPUTEACH LAUNCHES RECRUITMENT SERVICE


IT training provider Computeach has launched a recruitment service for businesses seeking qualified IT professionals. Computeach Recruitment UK will work with organisations to find suitable candidates for IT roles, selecting students from its pool of graduates to fit specific business requirements. Hellen Lisle, a

former Midlands Businesswoman of the Year who heads up Computeach Recruitment, explains: "This new strand of the business signifies a renewed focus from Computeach. We are working with commercial organisations to ensure that only the most relevant candidates are short-listed, and showing our commitment to students past and present in assisting them in changing their careers." Each Computeach Recruitment candidate will have completed a relevant IT qualification via a distance-learning course, and training in soft skills to equip them to work effectively as part of team within a commercial organisation. Computeach is currently working with clients such as Kalamazoo, Pipex, Capita and Messagepad to provide this service. [Sep 2006](#)

KNOWLEDGEPOL HELPS BA TO DELIVER TRAINING

 KnowledgePool is helping British Airways to provide customer service and operations training as well as commercial, management development and professional training. KnowledgePool's associate trainers and project managers are working with BA's trainers to consolidate and deliver existing training programmes and to design, develop and deliver new programmes on demand for BA staff. KnowledgePool also coordinates and administers the training and provides weekly updates to BA's training management team. [Sep 2006](#)


JUDGES FOR WORLD OF LEARNING AWARDS

 World of Learning 2006 has named the members of its judging panel for the World of Learning Awards, which "recognise and reward organisations and individuals whose achievements have notably advanced workplace productivity and performance". The panel of experts includes representatives from Lloyds TSB, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, The Training Foundation, The British Learning Association, Effective Learning Solutions and Conference Centres of Excellence. The awards will be presented on 14 November at the NEC, Birmingham. [Details](#) [Sep 2006](#)

QA INTERQUAD CANDIDATE REACHES FINAL OF BCS AWARDS

QA InterQuad Principal Technologist, Dave Britt, has been selected as a medallist for the British Computer Society 'Trainer of the Year' award for 2006. Britt has been selected as one of four medallists based on his achievements in the past twelve months, featuring a range of successful bespoke programmes focusing on Microsoft Windows technology. He is currently working with new Microsoft technologies to develop the next generation of QA InterQuad courses. As a medallist, Britt will present to a panel of judges before the final decision is reached. The awards will be announced at a black-tie dinner in London in December. [Sep 2006](#)

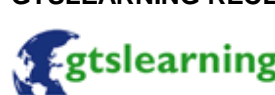
RFID4U AND UCE INTRODUCE COMPTIA RFID+

 RFID4U, which claims to be the US's largest RFID training company, and UCE Birmingham Technology Innovation Centre have joined forces to bring the CompTIA RFID+ certification training to the UK market. RFID4U's curriculum and its RFIDQ practice tests for RFID+ have been reviewed and approved by CompTIA through its Authorized Quality Curriculum (CAQC) programme. The first course from the new alliance is scheduled for November. [Sep 2006](#)

BROADSKILL ADDS LEARNINGGUIDE

BroadSkill is expanding its offering to include LearningGuide's electronic performance support application. Henry Jodrell, Sales and Marketing Director at BroadSkill, says: "The market for electronic performance support systems is growing rapidly as organisations seek to embed learning and support into the workplace, where it is needed the most. LearningGuide will be offered through our performance and learning services business enabling us to integrate learning and support resources into client projects." [Sep 2006](#)

GTSLEARNING RECEIVES PERFORMANCE AWARD

 gtslearning has been named as Element K's European Region Award Winner, reflecting the success of its strategic push into blended and online learning solutions. gtslearning is an international distributor for Element K's online learning

solutions, and the award recognises gtslearning's achievement of the fastest market growth in the EMEA region. More than 2,000 business skills and IT course titles are currently available from gtslearning using a hosted, brandable learning management system, supported by additional blended solutions such as LiveHelp 24x7 support. [Sep 2006](#)

QUASAR MANCHESTER NOW OPEN

Quasar has opened new premises in the heart of Manchester city centre to complement its existing facilities in London and Watford. The new centre offers spacious and well equipped training rooms, a luxury café offering hot and cold food, Costa coffee and plasma TV. Quasar continues to specialise in end user IT applications training, and the new centre has been built to satisfy increasing demand in the Manchester area. [Sep 2006](#)

TOMS FROM TRAINERBASE



TrainerBase, the online portal for freelance training consultants and contractors, has launched an innovative Trainer Opportunity Management System (TOMS), to structure and automate the communication process during the first round of contract recruitment. The new system allows advertisers to post contract notices anonymously and manage the first round of selection and communications online. Email messages are generated automatically by the system and sent to both the advertiser and an applicant when activity takes place. [Sep 2006](#)

INTELLEGO WINS CONTRACT WITH ENDSLEIGH

Intellego, the AIM-listed training and support services business, has won a contract with Endsleigh Insurance Services. Intellego will provide Endsleigh with the Team Trainer software simulation and user documentation tool which automates the development of software process documentation and the creation of customised, client-specific e-learning. [Sep 2006](#)

RHEMA PARTNERS WITH MARTIN TRAINING ASSOCIATES



A new transatlantic link between two providers of business training will bring US expert Martin Training Associates' full range of management workshops to the European corporate management skills market. Rhema Group will provide Martin Training programmes and products to Martin's own clients in Europe, and to Rhema group clients - delivering management programmes in the areas of Project Management, Risk Assessment, IT Management, Project Interventions and Project Planning. Rhema's clients include multinationals BOC Group, Société Générale and Reed Business Information. [Sep 2006](#)

CHANGEFIRST HELPS ZURICH TO MANAGE CHANGE



Zurich Financial Services Group has introduced a change management methodology to provide a better and more cost effective way of implementing and managing change within its Group IT function. UK firm Changefirst has provided the methodology and already trained 53 European and North American programme managers within Zurich's Group IT function. Called People-Centred Implementation (PCI), Changefirst's methodology focuses on the people issues of transformation and can be used for organisational and strategic initiatives such as cultural change, restructuring, quality/service improvements and mergers as well as new hardware/software installations. [Sep 2006](#)

NEW RELEASE OF ENGINEROOM FROM WATSONIA

Watsonia Publishing has announced a new release of EngineRoom, which it claims is "the very latest technology in task-based courseware design". For anyone who creates their own training materials, EngineRoom offers a fully customisable authoring layer in which to write their content, and allows the author to concentrate on the tasks and procedures that readers need to learn. The authoring layer takes care of the rest – the layout, the structure and even the placement of visuals and exercises. EngineRoom is designed to work with any Microsoft Word-based learning content. It can be use it with customers' own training materials, or Watsonia's extensive content library of IT-based training titles. Existing customers include The National Trust, Mothercare, Volvo, Ernst & Young and Thomson Directories, along with many local authorities, colleges and universities. [Sep 2006](#)

SKILLSOFT DEAL EXTENDED



LandSecurities

Land Securities, the commercial property owner and manager, has extended its agreement with SkillSoft to supply e-learning across the business. The two-year deal, worth over £215K, sees SkillSoft providing online desktop training to around 2,000 employees and delivering Land Securities-branded training via its learning portal, SkillPort. Land Securities has also added business and IT content and will be using SkillSoft's virtual classroom technology to create bespoke training modules. The company says it has saved £33,500 in six months on customer service training for its 99-strong call centre personnel. [Sep 2006](#)

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