



CLOUD FIRST CAREERS EPISODE 5: CERTIFICATIONS IN CLOUD

PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

Chhavi Sachdev: Hello and welcome to another episode of the Accenture Cloud First Careers Podcast. My name is Chhavi Sachdev, I'm your host for this series. Join me as I engage in conversations with Cloud professionals at Accenture. Listen to how they do extraordinary things with Cloud. This is the Accenture Cloud First Careers Podcast. Our guests on this final episode are Cloud experts who have a remarkable number of Cloud certifications. Between them they have a total of 36 certifications! If you're amazed, wait until you hear more about how they have done it, where they apply all these certifications, the benefits to their careers, and what's next for them. Ashok Kumar is a lead cloud architect with Accenture in India. You heard from him on our third episode on the future of Cloud with remote work. He has had an interesting start with Cloud. He was initially hesitant about the technology and then slowly embraced it with full vigour.

Ashok Kumar: My cloud certification journey started at the end of 2016-2017, where I thought I have to learn cloud end-to-end. I took a couple of certifications from AWS, and I thought that this will be sufficient for me to understand cloud.

Ashok: After these two certifications, there was a gap of more than a year. After a year, what I realized is while working with various customers, the expectation is vast. When we work in cloud, customers expect us to be experts in development, to be experts in security, experts in networking, experts in migration of databases. I realized if we want to be in cloud, we need to be aware of various different areas. So I went ahead and did a few more certifications. It became like a passion for me. So, I started completing the certifications.

Chhavi: Ashok has come really far over the years and that passion has led to 28 certifications under his belt! He's not alone in achieving this feat. You might remember Samantha Fischetti from our episode on inclusion and diversity. Samantha is with the infrastructure consulting team at Accenture Brazil. She has been working in Cloud since 2013, loves her job and is keen on encouraging more people to join Cloud. She started focusing on upskilling herself in 2020 and has already completed 8 certifications so far! She says Cloud is all about new technology, about giving customers the best products and services.



Chhavi: And for her it was about being able to help her clients better that drove her towards more certifications. And she says, there's no shortcut to this.

Samantha Fischetti: It is very important to create a mindset that knowledge needs to be constant. Make time for training and certification. Take a lot of resilience for calls, and a lot of willpower.

Chhavi: For anyone who wants to start their career in cloud infrastructure, Samantha says it's all about building skills.

Samantha: The first is to study a lot and improve your knowledge about new technologies, about cloud providers.

Chhavi: There's no denying that technical skills are key. Samantha says that even before jumping on to certifications, the first thing one should do is work towards soft skills, which can then become a foundation to build on.

Samantha: In my opinion, soft skills are more important than technical skills. Because we are now in a new world, we need to improve our resilience, our collaboration. Technologies always change, and to work in cloud infrastructure, we need some key soft skills to get the recommended way to the journey in cloud.

Chhavi: Even for Ashok, certifications are about building one skill on top of the other. And from being uncertain about whether Cloud was for him at all, he now helps other colleagues at Accenture get certified. He tells us about an internal initiative that he's part of called Cloud Elevate -- which helps accelerate upskilling across the organization, and it's really useful for

anyone who wants to learn Cloud.

Ashok: Cloud Elevate initiative started sometime in May or June 2020. And it was an initiative which was started at a scale of 50,000 associates. I have been involved with the Cloud Elevate team since beginning. And we have been involved in the area where I work in to help associates to get themselves certified. Today, more than 2,000 associates who are already cloud certified, and there are 4,000 to 5,000 more who are pursuing their journey for cloud certifications and upscaling themselves to cloud.

Chhavi: That sounds like a massive task but so rewarding! Ashok has more advice to share: once you figure out what certification you want to do, the next step is to keep it time-bound rather than stretching it out.

Ashok: Keep any certification preparation, time bound. So, once they start any learning for a certification, take time off to complete it within the time frame, don't stretch too much. I have seen people who are postponing it, and then they are never able to complete. So better to keep it time on and go for it and complete the certifications. Generally, a certification takes one to three months. And that amount of time based on the current skill and the current expertise of associate, try to keep it within this timeframe and try to complete the certification.

Chhavi: Now moving on to the technical aspects. How can certifications potentially help you? Samantha has some answers.

Samantha: With this certification, I am able to think about how is the best way to give the services and the product with velocity and quality to customers and clients.



Samantha: And when you get this kind of certification, we will be able to think the best and the easy ways with the lasting quality to product and services.

Chhavi: Ashok agrees. He says no knowledge and skill is ever wasted.

Ashok: What I enjoy most is every certification gives some kind of knowledge. This knowledge is relevant when we go and talk to the customer. But some bit of every certification give us some kind of expertise to go in front of customer, to give them the directions, define the strategies for them in various areas. Each of these certifications help me at least to be more prepared when I go and have meaningful discussions with the customer.

Chhavi: Samantha concurs: Adding to her previous certifications makes her foundation even stronger and helps her give the best advice to her clients.

Samantha: When I am called to go to our clients, I seek the opportunities to improve their operation model and principal operation model in cloud and I develop my recommendations. Our clients need the recommendations about what the best skills we need, what the best people we need, what disruptor we need to put here to get the best benefits about cloud.

Chhavi: Everything that Ashok and Samantha shared with us for this episode was so inspiring and valuable. The bottom line here is that cloud infrastructure is growing, there's demand for it — so anyone interested in this space should work on both their soft skills and technical skills.

We hope you enjoyed and learned from this podcast series! At the Accenture Cloud First Careers Podcast. our goal was to inspire and inform your journey if you are thinking of venturing into the world of Cloud. This is the final episode of this series. In case you missed any of the previous episodes, you can go back any time and listen to us cover a variety of topics within Cloud. This is the Accenture Cloud First Careers Podcast!

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