

Tech Tip of the Month...

Have you ever wished you could easily open two, three, or even four instances of the same program? Maybe you want to check your email in one Internet Explorer window, manage your stock portfolio in a second window, and take over the Second Life world in a third. Well, Windows 7 lets you do just that. Simply hold down the SHIFT key while left-clicking on the first instance of the program in the Windows taskbar, and presto! A second instance is opened.



LTS Lowdown

May 2011

Outside IT Training on the Cheap

As you all know we have been caught up in an economic slow-down (recession) for the past couple of years. I recently read an article that I would like to briefly bring to light a topic that should be very important to all of us who are in or are working to get in to the IT industry. This concept actually holds true to any field that one has employment or trying to gain employment. The topic is; always be on the search and actively participating is some kind of training. This training can be either officially sanctioned by your Employer, or if no funds are available then unofficially on your behalf. The old adage "knowledge is power" pretty much holds true in all levels of employment, and don't we all want more power and control in our jobs?

Extracurricular training in your field does not have to be expensive, and in most cases just requires your time. Here are a couple ideas that I believe can benefit anyone working anywhere. First, look for **User Groups** especially in the IT field are plentiful and for the most part free. This is a great way to participate in a shared knowledge forum. Many times there is free "shlock" or food given a way on a regular basis. *(continued)*

Congratulations...

Chris Cabernoch

- 98-366 – MTA: Networking Fundamentals

KC Clayton

- 98-366 – MTA: Networking Fundamentals

Tom Dorcey

- 98-366 – MTA: Networking Fundamentals

Mitch Jones

- 70-640 – MCTS: Windows Server 2008 Active Directory
- SY0-201 – Security+

Alfred Martin

- 220-701 – A+ Essentials

Robert Moffet

- 220-701 – A+ Essentials



LTS Lowdown page 2

May 2011

The second way is through **Technical Conferences**; there are always IT conferences going on in the local area or regionally. Sometimes these can be very inexpensive, and yet provide a wealth of knowledge through demonstrations or presentations. Refer to the article link below for additional ideas on how to attend for cheap.

The third source is **Books, Industry Magazines or the Web**. The IT industry has an abundant ongoing supply of new information being released through the above mentioned mediums on a weekly or monthly basis. You can find great Books very inexpensively at used books stores (Powell's Technical Books), on the internet at <http://www.abebooks.com/> or online free IT Mags. Lastly, there are tons of online **Videos** that are prevalent throughout the web. There are some great sites that give away free info for the taking if we can just take some time to learn. There are some sites like <http://www.proprofs.com/> and youtube.com that provide great insight.

We all want to get a leg up on the "other guy/gal" that we are applying against or working with. You are all taking steps to get your formal education to achieve your employment goals. Anything that you can do to add to mix of you Certification training or current job will help. Many times that job decision or raise comes down to the little things/extras. Make sure you have those extra nuggets that are out there for the taking in your bag of IT experiences. It can and will make the difference!

The article that many of these ideas came from was on CertCities.com:
<http://certcities.com/editorial/features/story.asp?EditorialsID=104>

-Jeff Blomquist

Thanks from the LTS Team!

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