

# *ISTQB Certification*

*Setting the Standard for Tester Professionalism*



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# *Agenda*

- ✦ What is tester certification?
- ✦ What are the ASTQB and ISTQB?
- ✦ What are the levels of certification?
- ✦ What is the impact of certification:
  - ❑ On the tester?
  - ❑ On the organization?
  - ❑ On the testing profession?



# Software Tester Certification

- ❖ Tester certification confirms, through objective, carefully-designed exams, the professional capabilities of software testers
- ❖ ISTQB's approach
  - ❖ Practical, real-world focused
  - ❖ Supports a career path with levels of certification
  - ❖ Promotes the software testing profession
  - ❖ Represents the distilled wisdom of many experts including practitioners, consultants, trainers, and academics
  - ❖ Training is *not required* to take exams
- ❖ Last two points in particular distinguish ISTQB's approach from other testing certifications



# ASTQB

- ✦ Composed of recognized experts
- ✦ Mix of practitioners, consultants, trainers, and academics
  - ✦ Patricia McQuaid, President (academic), Joe Gance, Vice President (practitioner), Randy Rice, Treasurer (trainer)
  - ✦ Debbie Friedenbergl, Technical Advisory Group Chair (practitioner)
  - ✦ Rex Black (consultant/trainer), Taz Daughtrey (academic/practitioner), Jerry Everett (internal trainer), Judy McKay (consultant/practitioner), and Andrew Pollner (trainer)
  - ✦ Lois Kostroski, Managing Director
- ✦ Develops and administers exams
- ✦ Licenses exams worldwide
- ✦ Accredits trainers
- ✦ Participates in ISTQB activities



# ISTQB

- ✦ Composed of 47 National Boards : ASTQB, ANZTB, ATB, BSTB, BySTQB, BNTQB, BSTQB, CSTB, CSTQB, CFTL, CaSTB, DSTB, ESTB, ETB, FiSTB, GTB, GSTB, HASTQB, HTB, ITB, ITQB, ISTB, ITCB, ITA-STQB, JSTQB, JOSTQB, KTB, LSTQB, LTB, MSTB, NSTB, NTB, PTB, PSTQB, RSTQB, KSATB, SGTQB, SASTQB, SEETB, SSTQB, SLSTQB, SSTB, STB, TTB, USQB, UKTB, and VTB
- ✦ A collegial, sharing organization
- ✦ Working parties (composed of National Board delegates) define syllabi (bodies of knowledge), glossary, processes, etc.
- ✦ These working parties distill the collective experience and wisdom represented across boards (~5,000 person-years)



# *Foundation Certification*

✦ Entry-level certification: 0+ years of experience

✦ Goals

- ✦ Ensure a broad understanding of the fundamental best practices and key concepts in software testing
- ✦ Provide a foundation for professional growth

✦ Syllabus/body of knowledge covers

- ✦ Fundamentals of testing, testing in the software lifecycle, static techniques, white-box and black-box test design, test management, and testing tools
- ✦ Syllabus-based training courses are typically 3-5 days

✦ Status: The working party completed the Foundation Syllabus 2010 in early 2010, the National Boards reviewed and approved it, and the ISTQB released it in March 2010



# *Advanced Certification*

- ✦ Mid-level certification: 5+ years experience
- ✦ Goals
  - ✦ Ensure an understanding of advanced best practices and key concepts in software testing by committed test professionals
  - ✦ Support on-going professional growth
- ✦ Syllabus/body of knowledge covers
  - ✦ Advanced behavioral (black-box) testing for independent testers; test automation, advanced structural (white-box) testing for testers and programmers; and, sophisticated test management concepts
  - ✦ Syllabus-based training courses must be 5 days each (15 days total)
- ✦ Status: A new Advanced syllabus was released in October 2007. A working party is developing a new advanced syllabus, scheduled for 2012.



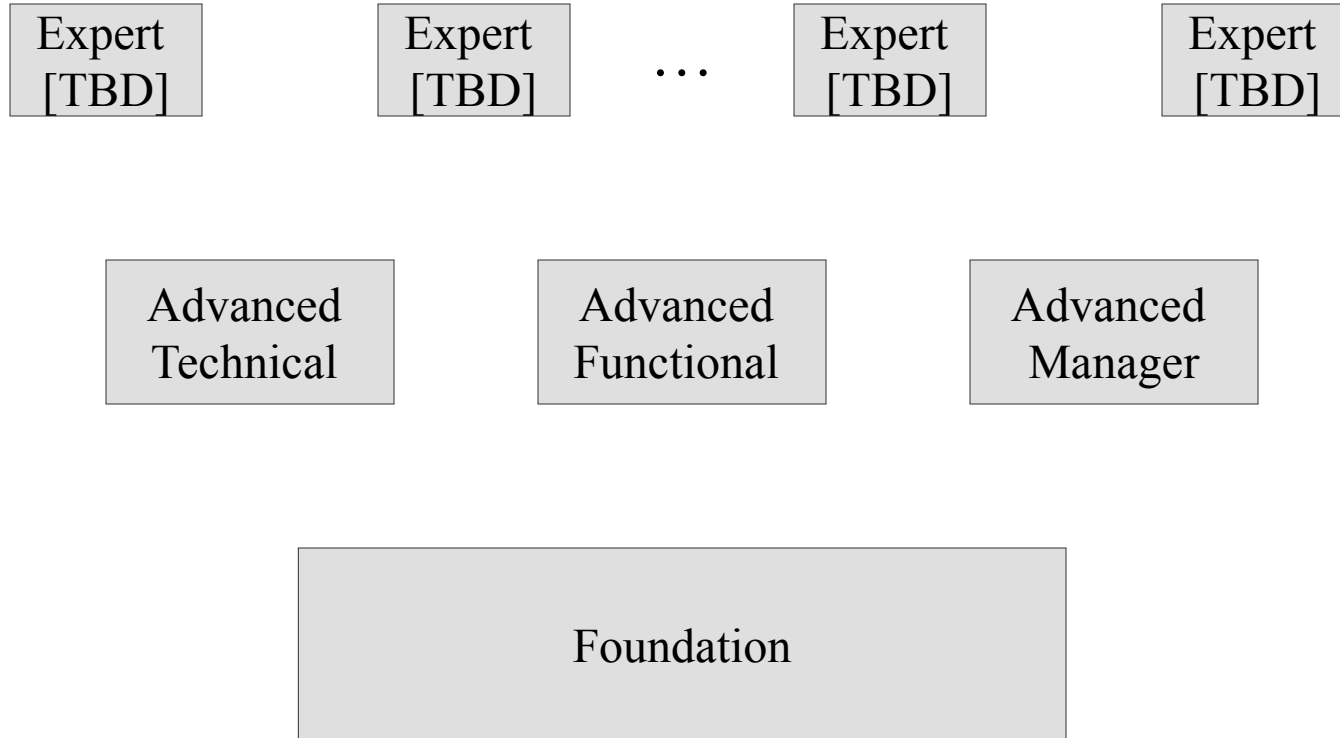
# *Expert Certification*

- ✦ Guru-level certification: 8+ years experience
- ✦ Goals
  - ❖ Ensure consistent understanding and execution of proven cutting-edge techniques by seasoned test professionals
  - ❖ Lead the software testing profession
- ✦ Syllabi/bodies of knowledge may cover
  - ❖ Improving the test process, test automation, test management, security, and more
  - ❖ Syllabus-based training courses will be offered
- ✦ Status: Improving the Test Process and Test Management will go live in 2011. Other working parties are developing two other new expert syllabi.





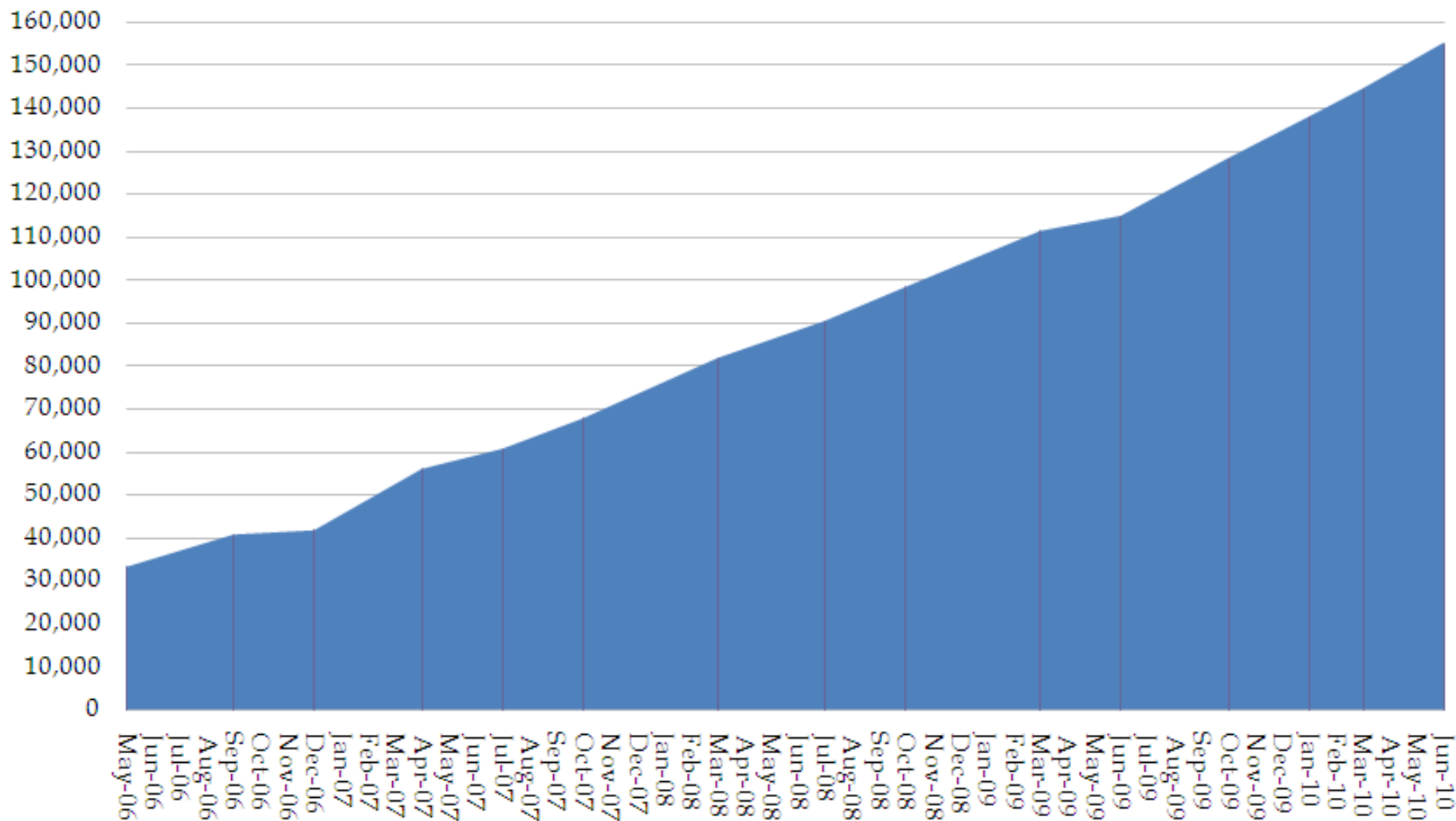
# Visualizing the Levels of Certification



Relative size of figures indicates expected relative numbers of potential certificate holders (not to scale). There will be more than four expert certifications.



# ISTQB by the Numbers\*



\* Last available graphic, as of Jun 2010.

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# *Value of Certification*

## ✦ To the tester

- ✦ Demonstrate mastery of the best practices and key concepts in the field
- ✦ Advance career and opportunities in competitive market

## ✦ To the organization

- ✦ Ensure better testing for better software and lower costs of poor quality
- ✦ Achieve consistency and re-usability of testing

## ✦ To the profession

- ✦ Build on our best work and stop going in circles
- ✦ Define the profession and what professional testers know



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