

Getting Certified in PowerBuilder



Powersoft gives experienced PowerBuilder developers the opportunity to become certified in the product's use. Powersoft has created the Certified PowerBuilder Developer (CPD) program, which is designed to recognize individuals as skilled PowerBuilder developers.

Key Benefits of Certification

The CPD program provides a number of benefits that range from being recognized within your own company to being recognized throughout the PowerBuilder community:

- **Internal company recognition.** Consulting companies are often gauged by how many PowerBuilder CPDs they have in their employ, and often become preferred vendors because of their acknowledged expertise. CPDs also will be recognized by their company's employees as people to come to with PowerBuilder questions.
- **Industry recognition and leadership.** Clients can feel confident in the PowerBuilder applications that a CPD develops for them, and other developers look to CPDs for leadership and knowledge, based on their certification.
- **Official certification kit.** Powersoft provides each CPD with a certification kit, which includes a wallet and a card, a certificate, and a CPD logo sheet.
- **Use of the CPD logo.** As a CPD, you are permitted to include the CPD logo on all your business literature.
- **Listing in the CPD directory.** Powersoft places your name in the CPD directory as a qualified resource to provide design and implementation services for PowerBuilder solutions. This directory is available through all the media Powersoft provides.
- **Technical support.** CPDs receive a preferred rate when they sign up for Powersoft's technical support.
- **Powersoft communication.** Powersoft informs CPDs of all opportunities to keep their PowerBuilder skills up-to-date.

Levels of Certification

There are currently two levels of certification: Associate and Professional. To attain certification requires that you pass Powersoft's rigorous tests that have been constructed around real-world use of PowerBuilder. They test your ability to apply PowerBuilder in real-world situations.

CPD Associate Certification

To become an Associate-level CPD you are required to pass two tests. The first is on PowerBuilder fundamentals, and the second is on advanced PowerBuilder concepts. Both of these tests have questions in the forms of multiple choice, short answer, and true/false.

The CPD Fundamentals Test

The fundamentals test is used to assess your basic knowledge of PowerBuilder concepts, and includes topics such as the development environment, transaction management, PowerBuilder painters, the PowerScript language, and DataWindow concepts. There are also general questions that cover client/server computing, object-oriented programming, event-driven processing, graphical user interfaces, relational databases, and basic SQL.

The CPD Advanced Concepts Test

The advanced concepts test assesses your ability to use advanced concepts and techniques to develop complex applications. This test covers understanding the development environment, transaction management, PowerBuilder painters, the PowerScript language, advanced DataWindow techniques, and object-oriented programming.

How to Prepare for the CPD Associate Certification Tests

The CPD Associate tests are based, for the most part, on the available PowerBuilder training courses. See Appendix B, “PowerBuilder Resources,” for a list of Powersoft training partners near you. To prepare for these tests, the following training courses are recommended:

For the CPD Fundamentals test, try these courses:

- Transition to the Client/Server Environment
- Introduction to PowerBuilder
- Effective GUI Design for PowerBuilder

For the CPD Advanced Concepts test, try these courses:

- Mastering DataWindows
- PowerBuilder Performance, Tuning, and Techniques
- Object-Oriented PowerBuilder Development

CPD Professional Certification

To gain the CPD Professional level of certification you must first have obtained an Associate-level CPD certification. You are then required to pass the PowerBuilder application test.

The PowerBuilder Application Test

The PowerBuilder application test takes 2½ hours and was designed to test your PowerBuilder expertise. You are required to build a small application that solves a series of problems. Your grade is based on your ability to solve problems and follow directions, as well as how clean and effective your code is.

How to Prepare for the CPD Professional Certification Test

The CPD Professional test is based entirely on your real-world experience with PowerBuilder. The best way to prepare for this test is to have been using PowerBuilder for a while and to have developed a number of systems.

Maintaining Certification



CPD certifications are no longer tied to a period of time—they are now version specific.

This is the new policy introduced by Powersoft. It addresses what developers are doing in practice. CPD Associates or Professionals currently qualified on the 4.0 tests are considered certified in Version 4.0. Version certifications now only expire when Powersoft no longer officially supports a version. Generally, Powersoft only supports two versions at any one time (therefore, Version 3.0 of PowerBuilder will no be supported with the release of 5.0). This means that any CPDs that are certified in 3.0 and have not passed the maintenance test for 4.0 have a three-month grace period to become certified in either 4.0 or 5.0. CPD Professionals are given a six-month grace period to become recertified by taking the Professional maintenance test.

The beta 5.0 Associate maintenance test should be available after one month of Version 5.0 being publicly released, and the beta 5.0 Professional maintenance test will be available after two months of Version 5.0's release. Final versions of both of these tests will be made available six months after the release of Version 5.0.

Registering for Certification Tests

All Powersoft certification tests are administrated by Drake Prometric and are given at authorized Drake testing centers. Contact the following regional Drake testing centers for more information:

The Drake North America Service Center covers Canada, the United States, and Puerto Rico. The telephone number is 1-800-407-3926.

The Drake England Regional Service Center covers Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. The telephone number is 0800-592-873. To register, call the local service center and use the registration number 44-71-437-6900.

The Drake German Regional Service Center covers Austria (0660-8582), Belgium (078-11-7414), Germany (013-83-97-08), Italy (1-6787-8441), the Netherlands (06-022-7584), and Switzerland (155-6966). To register, call the local service center and use the registration number 49-211-500-9950.

The Drake France Regional Service Center covers France, Spain, and Portugal. To register, call the local service center and use the registration number 33-1-4289-8749.

There are also centers in Latin America and Asia. To obtain more information on these sites, CPD testing, course schedules, or authorized training partners, see Appendix B or contact the Powersoft faxline:

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| North America | 508-287-1600 |
| United Kingdom | 44-628-416500 |

You can request the following faxline documents:

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| 1616 | CPD Program Description |
| 1622 | North America CPD Directory |
| 1624 | International CPD Directory |
| 7690 | Description of Courses |
| 7699 | Schedule of Courses |
| 7299 | Authorized Training Partners |

