

INSIFT, Institute of Storage, Integration and Future Technologies A Knowledge Centre on Information Management

INSIFT, an organization formed to impart knowledge and train people on the existing and future technologies on the backup and storage domain, is started by India's only focused storage integrator, ACE DATA Devices Ltd. in affiliation with SNIA.

The objective is to educate and train people through comprehensive vendor and product neutral education on storage technologies. INSIFT has tie ups with international players for the courseware & the certifications of the same and the faculty includes leading industry speakers on storage technologies, says Mr. Neeraj Mediratta, the founder of INSIFT and MD, Ace Data. Analyzing our experience of almost a decade now in the storage industry we can clearly infer that that the most important thing people need is comprehensive education on the technologies, adds Neeraj

According to a recent IDC study titled 'The Expanding Digital Universe: A Forecast of Worldwide Information Growth Through 2010', information will grow at a CAGR of 57% between 2006 and 2010 and in non-Japan Asia Pacific markets it will grow 30 to 40% faster than the mature economies. As per industry estimates, the booming information market is expected to create a demand of 1 million new storage professionals by 2012 globally.

There's already a dearth of storage professionals in India which we aim to fulfill through INSIFT. Moreover, today, the responsibilities of the storage networking professional and the engineers who build storage networking products have become more and more complex. IT professionals and MIS departments are now required to maintain the integrity of the data ensuring that it is always available, affordable and manageable. It's very critical for a storage professional to keep themselves abreast of the latest developments in the technologies, products and systems related to their domain.

We, at INSIFT, have looked into depth in each of these issues and have designed appropriate knowledge mechanism. Courses conducted by INSIFT range from entry level Foundation courses to Storage Architectural level. There's a **Workshop** for the System Administrators called **INSIFT Confluence**. **INSIFT Confluence** is a knowledge forum in form of seminars, events, and conferences to share the recent developments in the storage domain. Everyone responsible for storage service delivery and support for new and existing storage products and services can attend these workshops. Also, from System Administrator to CIO, CEO depending on the usability of the subject as we will be covering varied topics in these workshops…

Then there's **INSIFT SCP**, a **Short Term Program** certified by SNIA for internationally recognized SNIA S10-101 Storage Network Foundation examination. The candidate, after obtaining this certificate can appear for the Storage Certified Professional Exam - SCP 2008. Earlier the students had to go abroad for this short term program costing them approximately US\$2,395 (Rs.1 Lakh) which will now cost them just Rs.25,000 at INSIFT.

These courses cover different formats (Face to face, internet, physical and virtual labs, and seminars) and regardless of technical skill set, INSIFT has an appropriate course for all its students.

To be eligible for INSIFT SCP, a person needs to have a basic level of IT literacy including at least six (6) months experience in IT and/or Storage Networking Operations. Advanced computer skills

and knowledge in at least one operating system and technical skills as a team member to develop complex solutions is required.

Today's workshop is highlighting challenges faced by our clients related to storage technologies. It is a refresher course updating them on new developments and enhancements on backup and storage technologies deployed at their premises. We are also highlighting the latest trends, technologies and strategies impacting the IT Storage. More than 35 representatives from companies like EXL, Airtel, Ernst & Young, etc are attending today's workshop.

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