

My CBAP Journey

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As Socrates (469-399 BC) said, "True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing. And in knowing that you know nothing, that makes you the smartest of all".

The more you know, the more you know you don't know.

The more you know, the more perceptions you possess to discover challenges. Getting certified does not mean you will suddenly become a super Business Analyst and have your performance boosted 200%. Sorry, it does not work like this. However, during the study process, you will be more capable to see challenges with the increase of knowledge. Simply, enable you to make more correct decisions with more alternatives.

After reading my story, I hope you would be encouraged to join us, feel what we felt, and eventually benefited from the knowledge you learnt.

Ax To Grind

I was certified as PMP in 2009. During the study, I started to have more insight to project management related matters, of what could be done better. That journey has shaped me to be a professional Project Manager. Think as a professional, act as a professional.

In 2009 summer, I asked myself, "what's next?". Knowledge in Project Management helps you organize people and stuffs, so to achieve a common goal. Whilst, knowledge in Business Analysis helps you find out and analyze root challenges, elicit and organize information, so to tackle the "right" problem. I was a business analyst at that time, and would like to explore more on the industrial best practice... my ax to grind.

Yet To Enroll

You need CDU and adequate business analysis experience for the enrollment. It is "well-known" that filling in the experience form takes plenty of time. If you have bought the study guide - *CBAP Certification Study Guide (2nd Edition)*, you can send a request to Watermark Learning for a template to help you filling the experience requirement.

I have enrolled a seminar by Fuji Xerox, another one by KB Management. It was a great experience as tutors were professional and walked us through the BABOK with their interpretations towards "Business Analysis". It gave me a fundamental knowledge of what BABOK and the CBAP exam are about.

All You Need Is...

Three tools only to pass the exam. Save your pocket money.

1) The BABOK

Well, of course. All knowledge base comes from here. If you are a member of IIBA, you will be able to download a digital version, free of charge.

2) A Study Guide

You need a study guide unless you have plenty of time to reorganize knowledge in the BABOK. The *CBAP Certification Study Guide (2nd Edition)* played an indispensable role in my study. Mnemonics introduced in the study guide helped a lot to pass the exam.

3) Practice

There were few mock-up questions available in the market. *CBAP(C) Online Study Exam* is an excellent tool for exam question practice. It has over 900 questions and it is cost effective (see Reference).

Side story: I was in Hawaii for vacation a month before the exam. Remember that I was in the airport waiting for boarding. I was killing my time with my iPhone and found an iPhone app by chance. The app is called "*CBAP Exam Prep - Certified Business Analysis Professional*" (see Reference). It does not contain a huge question database, but more than enough for you to enjoy when you are on the road.

Knock The Exam Door

My tips - have a good picture of what BABOK tries to tell, refer to the Study Guide chapter by chapter, remember the mnemonics, and practice.

I have spent 6 months on-and-off studying, and every weekend in the month of the exam. If you do what I have done, then trust me, you will be fine.

Okay, What's Next?

There is no right or wrong in performing business analysis activities. However, you will know what to do so to elicit "real" business requirements, instead of solely taking orders. The mindset and technique by BABOK give us a lot of insights to discover where the real problem is - not only in your career, but also daily life.

Currently I am studying Global MBA, offered by the Business School of The University of Manchester. Should you need more information or a beer, feel free to contact me at LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/daniel-chu/1/289/783>

The more you know, the more you know you don't know.
Enjoy the unknown.

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