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# Best Big Data Certifications For 2016

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| I.   Top 5 Big Data Certs | ⌄ | ‹ › |
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**The field of big data, analytics and business intelligence is all the rage these days, and the number of certifications is ticking up accordingly. What's more, IT professionals with big data and related certs are growing in demand.**

Today's organizations ⬈ are looking for more and better ways to wrangle the voluminous amounts of data available to them and pull out only the information they need. Big data is mainly about storing, managing and transferring very large sets of data and making it accessible for analysis. Although "very large" is an emphatic word that most editors cut from written content, it applies in this case. Data sets are so large, in fact, that ordinarystorage systems and platforms often can't handle the load, forcing data scientists to dump data they think they don't need to focus on data that's relevant to a particular project, or move the data to much bigger digs.

Data ⬈ analytics is the practice of examining the raw data to draw conclusions and identify patterns. Business intelligence involves the collection and organization of information to report on business activities, often pulling data from those very large data sets.

Along with the surge in big data interest has come a growing number of certifications, which seek to recognize the skills needed to work with enormous data sets. The target audience is IT professionals with a background in analytics, data mining, business intelligence ⬈ or data management, along with a knack for and interest in mathematics and statistics. Individuals with big data or related certifications are in reasonably high demand, and usually command salaries of $90,000 or more. Senior data scientists can expect a salary in the $130,000 to $160,000 range.

We chose to take a detailed look at certifications from Microsoft, Cloudera, EMC, Oracle and SAS. However, because of the cachet big data certifications hold in the IT industry, it was difficult to select only five. To that end, you'll see some excellent certifications summarized in the last section, only because coverage ⬈ limitations prevailed.

Before you begin exploring the featured certs, take a look at Table 1, which contains the results of an informal search of various job boards to see which certifications employers are looking for. These results are a snapshot in time from a particular day, time, and geography and may not reflect the actual job demands in your locality at the time of your search, but they should give you a good idea of where to begin your search.

## Table 1: Job Board Search Results

| Cert | SimplyHired | Indeed | Dice | LinkedIn | TechCareers | JustTechJobs | Total |
|------|-------------|--------|------|----------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| Cloudera Data Scientist | 103 | 114 | 63 | 598 | 24 | 20 | **922** |
| EMC Data Scientist | 20 | 8 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 11 | **54** |
| MCSE: Business Intelligence | 24 | 24 | 1 | 259 | 8 | 9 | **325** |
| Oracle Business Intelligence | 834 | 648 | 116 | 484 | 159 | 1,597 | **3,838** |
| SAS Certified Predictive Modeler | 8 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **17** |
| SAS Certified Statistical Business Analyst | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **0** |

We appreciate the feedback on big data certs from Trevor Smith and TechExams.net, which helped, in part, to choose our top five picks for 2016. Now let's take a closer look at these best big data certifications.

MCSE: Business Intelligence

CCDP:DS: Cloudera Certified Professional: Data Scientist

EMCDS: EMC Data Science Associate

Oracle Business Intelligence Certification

SAS Business Intelligence Certifications