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Automatic Certification - Unisys to create online training
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Automatic Certification**Unisys to create online training**By Ramin P. Jalshgari

Unisys Corp. has hit upon one sure-fire way to help keep the IT labor shortage at bay: Keep staff trained, certified, and mentored. In a \$25 million dollar, five-year deal with education software company CBT Systems, Unisys will use Internet technology to solve management issues surrounding training and certification processes for its IT staffers.

"We had been using CBT software to train internal employees, so this was the next logical step to serve our mobile workforce," says Anthony Cirillo, director of communications for Unisys University, the company's training division. "This will allow us to offer a consistent way of training and tracking employee certifications so we can deploy their services quicker and better."

Under the agreement, CBT will manage training services for Unisys from Executrain and Global Knowledge, as well as certification programs for products from Microsoft, Cisco, Lotus, Novell, and others.

The training system will be based on a competency-based learning model coupled with a curriculum of interactive education offerings and instructor-led courses delivered over Unisys's intranet. Exams necessary for industry and vendor certification will be administered over the network. Students will also be able to access special programs such as chat and threaded discussion groups and real-time educational resources on curriculum topics.

"The program will provide us with a better-skilled workforce, and the return on investment will be quantified in the billable man-hours that will ultimately translate into greater customer

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