CompTIA.

CertMaster Learn Tech+
FC0-U71

RELEASE NOTES

Welcome to the latest version of CertMaster Learn Tech+ FC0-U71! The team at CompTIA has been hard at work developing a learning product that will create a personalized learning experience for students. With the understanding that skill-based learning happens best through hands-on, guided practice, the course leverages a variety of assets to deliver a rich, engaging learning experience. As a result, you'll see a fresh new approach to learning and the way content is presented in the course. This guide is designed to walk you through what to expect as you get started with Tech+ FC0-U71.

Approachable. Interactive. Engaging.

CertMaster Learn Tech+ FC0-U71 now utilizes a **learning progression model** to help students learn concepts and actively build skills related to the course objectives and job task requirements. This learning methodology uses a series of steps to contextualize what they're learning, elaborate on areas where additional instruction is needed, and provide relevance through practice and personalized feedback. Learners then apply what they learned and demonstrate the skills they've gained through lab activities and quizzes. The course is broken into modules and lessons, and different activities throughout the course take learning to the next level by providing hands-on skills practice and personalized instruction. The learning progression model makes learning come alive and presents students with a more interesting interactive experience, increasing their retention of what they learn.

This learning progression model includes the following steps, which are repeated throughout the courseware:

1. Contextualization (Inquiry and Reflection)
2. Elaboration (Models and Explorations)
3. Relevance (Practice and Feedback)
4. Agency (Contextualized Application)
5. Mastery (Artifacts and Demonstrable Evidence of Learning)

Refined Video Instructional Philosophy

CertMaster Learn Tech+ FC0-U71 has been developed to use video where it has the most impact. Therefore, the course was written with a **text-first, media-supported** mindset. Video content is used to drive learning by presenting animations of complex topics and providing screen demos of practical skills rather than simply serving as a substitute for text. The learning experience now includes text alongside video, and video is served up at the point where it's needed the most. For CertMaster Learn Tech+ FC0-U71, there are 140 videos in the course, the majority of which are embedded in the text.

Who moved my videos?

Rather than wrapping all instruction into videos or relying on text alone to convey information, the course content is a mix of text, video, and graphics. This allows for:

- Flexibility in the speed learners work through the content. Students who have more experience can go through it faster, students who are newer can work through it slower.
- Shorter, more targeted media. By combining text and media together to explain a topic, graphics or video content can rely on the context to jump into the meat of the instruction. This means less time in videos watching introductions or setting the stage, and a greater emphasis on the core content being taught in the video.
- Better flow of content. Mixing text and video content together allows for the transition between the two to be more seamless.
- Easier searching and reviewing of the content. Instruction locked in a video is difficult to find on review without already knowing where to look or rewatching the entire video.

If you are looking for videos to support in-classroom learning, videos suitable for that purpose will be available with the instructor resources for Tech+ FC0-U71.

What does the usage data tell us?

When we examined the usage data from existing TestOut courses, we learned that most students didn't watch the videos in the courses for very long. A majority of students either skip them, let them play in the background, or skim through the interactive script to get the information more quickly than the video can present to them. Therefore, we refined our video instructional philosophy to reinforce learning and improve pedagogy.

Competency Assessment

For those familiar with TestOut Pro Certifications, Competency Assessments now serve as the summative assessment at the end of the course with this version refresh.

Students who pass the Competency Assessment will receive a **CompTIA Certificate of Competency** in the Domain area, for example: CompTIA Certificate of Competency in Technology Fundamentals. A downloadable and printable PDF will be available within the platform, providing a credential especially appropriate for candidates at the start of their career. Backed by the power of the CompTIA brand, the CompTIA Certificate of Competency is a credential that will that help a student stand out to employers as they enter the job market. With this change, students will enjoy the dual benefit of receiving a CompTIA Certificate of Competency as well as being prepared for the CompTIA Certification Exam.

Why are TestOut Pro certifications being discontinued?

The certifications are being replaced with a Certificate of Competency, which serves as a meaningful credential for students.

Once CompTIA and TestOut combined learning product lines, it became important to reconcile the types of assessments and certifications offered by the organization as a whole. While TestOut exams are high quality, performance-based, and carefully developed, they do not utilize the same development process and standards nor the same exam delivery requirements as CompTIA certifications. With this change, students have the option to receive a certificate of competency indicating their learning achievement, and then also go on to receive the accredited CompTIA certification that holds high regard within the industry.

What's the difference between a Certificate of Competency and a CompTIA Certification?

Certificates provide reliable, one-time recognition of acquired knowledge and focus on the development and recognition of skills. The certificate itself can provide proof of learning (and an additional layer of validity) to third parties.

Certifications provide legally defensible, valid certification of an individual's knowledge or skills related to a job role. Outcomes are often used by employers to make hiring, promotion, or other similarly high-stakes decisions. Certification programs generally require maintenance and renewal to prove knowledge and skills are relevant as the profession changes over time. The attainment of certification serves as a reliable predictor of employee success and sets a high bar for a profession. Certification programs are accredited by third parties to ensure adherence to assessment standards and best practices.

What's included in CertMaster Learn Tech+

Learning Content

The course teaches terms, concepts, strategies, and more that students need to succeed in the industry using text, video, and other media. Students finish the course with an understanding of basic IT tools and an understanding of topics such as networking, hardware, application software, and mobile computing among emerging technologies.

Note: Instructors familiar with the TestOut IT Fundamentals Pro course will notice a more integrated learning experience, with most video content moving from the course outline to living in line with text and graphics.

Interactives

Intermittent in the course are interactive examples in line with the instructional text. These experiences are short, quick experiences that give students a chance to see a newly learned idea or concept in action. Examples may include:

- Seeing a principle or concept in action.
- Changing something and seeing how that changes other elements on-screen.
- Finding the right tools or buttons to accomplish a short and specific task.

These experiences are ideal for giving students a chance to interact with core concepts in the topic that are abstract or difficult to practice in a lab environment.

Hands-on Skills Experience

The course uses lab simulation activities to build student confidence in completing hands-on activities and progress to attempting more challenging tasks. The labs in the course give students meaningful experience performing true-to-life tasks. This results in students finishing the course not just with knowledge-level learning, but practical skills.

Exam Practice

The course is aligned with the official certification exam objectives and gives students practice questions and experiences to prepare them to pass the exam.

Competency Assessment + Certificate of Competency

Instructors can assign their students the Competency Assessment. This is a performance-based assessment that uses simulated labs as items to have students demonstrate skills in key tasks associated with the course material. This is the equivalent of the TestOut Pro Certification from the TestOut IT Fundamentals Pro course. Students who pass the competency assessment will be issued a CompTIA Certificate of Competency in Technology Fundamentals. This assessment is commonly used by instructors as a comprehensive, skills-based final exam for their students.

For a more complete walkthrough of CertMaster Learn Tech+ FC0-U71 and outline mapping to CertMaster Learn ITF+ FC0-U61 and TestOut IT Fundamentals Pro, please refer to the Course Guide and Transition Mapping asset under Instructor Resources on the CertMaster platform.