Exam 98-361: Software Development Fundamentals

Candidates for this exam are seeking to prove core software development skills. Before taking this exam, candidates should have a solid foundational knowledge of the topics outlined in this preparation guide. It is recommended that candidates be familiar with the concepts of and have hands---on experience with the technologies described here either by taking relevant training courses or by working with tutorials and samples available on MSDN and in Microsoft Visual Studio.

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Objective Domain

Understanding Core Programming

- **Understand Computer Storage and Data Types.**
  - how a computer stores programs and the instructions in computer memory; memory stacks and heaps; memory size requirements for the various data storage types; numeric data and textual data
- **Understand Computer Decision Structures.**
  - various decision structures used in all computer programming languages; If decision structures; multiple decision structures such as If...Else and switch/Select Case; reading flowcharts; decision tables; evaluating expressions
- **Identify the Appropriate Method for Handling Repetition.**
  - For loops, While loops, Do..While loops, and recursion
- **Understand Error Handling.**
  - structured exception handling

Understanding Object-Oriented Programming

- **Understand the Fundamentals of Classes.**
  - properties, methods, events, and constructors; how to create a class; how to use classes in code
- **Understand Inheritance.**
  - inheriting the functionality of a base class into a derived class
- **Understand Polymorphism.**
  - extending the functionality in a class after inheriting from a base class; overriding methods in the derived class
- **Understand Encapsulation.**
  - creating classes that hide their implementation details while still allowing access to the required functionality through the interface; access modifiers