Course Title: Citrix XenDesktop Administrator

Course Description:
Citrix XenDesktop is a comprehensive desktop virtualization solution that allows organizations to transform their desktop environments from device-centric management to user-centric private clouds where desktops and applications are delivered as an on-demand service. With XenDesktop, the operating system, applications and data are decoupled from the underlying PC hardware and moved to the datacenter, where they can be centrally managed and secured. Instead of juggling thousands of static desktop images, IT can manage and update the operating system and applications once, from one location.

Course Prerequisite(s):
Solid foundation in Microsoft server administration, operating systems and networks.

Course Objectives:
Build proof-of-concept and production XenDesktop environments; assign virtual desktops to users; customize user experience through policies.

Lesson Plan:
Module 1: Introduction and Course Overview
• Overview
• Course Outline
• Citrix Education
• Course Evaluation and Completion Certificate

Module 2: Introducing XenDesktop
• Select the appropriate XenDesktop edition for a scenario. Determine the best virtual desktop model for each user group.
• Build a single-server XenDesktop proof of concept.

Module 3: Configuring the Hypervisor for Desktop Delivery
• Illustrate the communication process between the controller, hypervisor, and a user device during desktop delivery.
• Create a library of ISO images that virtual machines can access. Create a Windows virtual machine.
• Import and copy a virtual machine. Identify storage components.

Module 4: Installing and Configuring XenDesktop
• Install XenDesktop in a production environment.
• Prepare Active Directory for the XenDesktop installation.

• Install the controller, which brokers connections between end users and their virtual desktops. Configure a XenDesktop site to centrally manage virtual desktop and user settings.
• Enable secure web access to virtual desktops.
Module 5: Managing Desktop Catalogs and Groups

• Delegate site administration tasks.
• Prepare a virtual desktop for delivery to end users.
• Manage desktops as a single entity by creating a desktop catalog.
• Modify all desktops in a catalog by making changes to the master virtual machine.

Module 6: Customizing the User Experience

• Configure Profile management.
• Decide which application delivery method to use for a given scenario. Explain how XenDesktop policies interact with Microsoft GPOs. Restrict or allow certain XenDesktop features using policies.
• Apply policies based on the characteristics of a session. Define the precedence of policies to avoid conflicting settings.

Module 7: Monitoring XenDesktop Sites

• Monitor site activity in Desktop Director.
• Monitor site performance to identify potential resource issues. Search for problem virtual machines in real time.

Module 8: Streaming Desktops to Virtual and Physical Machines

Determine when to include Provisioning services in a XenDesktop environment.
• Plan for the installation of Provisioning services.
• Install Provisioning services.
• Create and configure a store to manage virtual disks.
• Create and configure device collections to manage target devices.

Module 9: Creating a Shared vDisk

• Determine whether to enable read-only or read/write access to virtual disks.
• Choose the best write cache location for a given scenario.
• Copy a golden image to a virtual disk that can be streamed to a target device.

Module 10: Administering Provisioning Services Components

• Manage connections to target devices. Add new target devices.
• Organize target devices to simplify administration tasks. Modify target device properties.
• Integrate Provisioning services with Active Directory. Create a streamed desktop catalog.
• Update a virtual disk.

Module 11: Delivering Local VM Desktops

• Determine when to include XenClient in a XenDesktop environment. Identify the XenClient infrastructure.
• Install and configure Synchronizer for XenClient.