



# Certification: Good, Bad, or Indifferent?

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# Certification and Security



- Certification assists in strengthening security when:
  - You know what the person certified knows
  - You can arrange job functions so that the most appropriate people get each task





# This Requires ...

- Knowing a common body of knowledge appropriate to the task
  - Contents of a CBK for secure software development not agreed upon
  - “Best practices” may not always be “best”
- Ability to communicate
  - Must know (or be able to figure out) what information is needed



# How to Do a CBK



- People agree graduates should know basic facts, applications
  - Focus on principles that hold always
  - Avoid facts, applications that change rapidly
- Degree certifies some level of mastery of subject
  - Students may take tests, do projects
  - What is mastered depends on CBK of awarding institution



# How It Gets Adopted



- Slowly!
- Faculty members must accept it
- Do ***not*** try to force adoption of a CBK using threats or cuts in funding
  - You lose **all** the program, even those parts that are good
  - Your CBK may not meet my needs



# Limits of Certification



- Implies someone has been exposed to a set of material
- States someone has passed one or more hurdles designed to demonstrate mastery

***⇒ does not assure that they have really mastered the material!***





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