



# COMMON - A Users Group

Your Independent User Group of  
20,000 IT Professionals

## MEMBER BENEFITS





# Your Professional Association

COMMON - A Users Group is the largest user group community of IT professionals and IBM technology users. Representing a membership of over 20,000 IT professionals, COMMON is an integral part of the Power Systems community with leading initiatives in education, networking, and certification. Your membership organization is comprised of everyday users, IBMers, industry experts, vendors, recognized speakers, and members of the academic community.

With a 50+ year history of providing leading education, invaluable networking opportunities, advocacy for the users, and certifying business computing professionals, COMMON is your professional resource that will help advance you in your career for years to come.

COMMON membership provides an array of benefits and opportunities that only the largest Power Systems user group in North America can provide, including:

- Premier educational events, including the Annual Meeting and Exposition and the Fall Conference & Expo.
- Leading online education that include in-depth Webinars, hands-on Virtual Labs, FREE Virtual Conferences and Webcasts.
- CONNECT, a bi-monthly digital magazine that focuses on delivering the latest from industry experts.
- Connector, an e-newsletter that gives up-to-date info on COMMON.
- COMMON Career Center, a job board specific to our industry.
- Discounted exam pricing for the independent and recognized COMMON Certification Program.
- ...and much more -- visit [www.common.org/benefits](http://www.common.org/benefits)

# Your Community

You are part of the largest user group community of IT and Power Systems professionals. A key aspect of belonging to a professional association, such as COMMON, is the unprecedented opportunity it provides members to network, learn, and connect with one another. Many of our longtime members have found this to be the most valuable benefit of COMMON membership. Creating contacts in your field through networking that you can call upon for practical help, technical support, or guidance is a great way to differentiate yourself and succeed in your career.

COMMON provides many networking opportunities through our conferences and expositions, and virtually – connect with vendors, colleagues, companies, IBMers, and peers.



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# Leading Independent Education

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COMMON is a leading education provider for IT professionals delivered by industry experts from a user perspective without any corporate bias – you learn how something works, or is used, in a practical business setting. Impassioned users in the community who have for many years reaped the benefits of COMMON often volunteer their knowledge and skills to give back to this community of peers and the next generation of members.

This key differentiator makes COMMON's education offerings world-class and our in-person conferences the best in the industry, attracting thousands of working business computing professionals. The education offered through COMMON allows you to continue to grow and excel in your field with hands-on knowledge.

With a wide variety of education formats available to members, both through in-person events and online education, you have unprecedented choices on how you want to continue to learn.



“COMMON is a leading education provider for IT professionals delivered by industry experts from a user perspective without any corporate bias – you learn how something works, or is used, in a practical business setting.”

**Annual Meeting and Exposition** | The largest conference event of its kind for Power Systems and IT professionals offering over 300 sessions, workshops, and labs, invaluable networking opportunities, industry expert speakers, and the largest Expo of its kind.

**Fall Conference & Expo** | A cost-effective and time-saving conference offering everything specific to the IT professional - over 100 sessions and workshops, expert speakers, networking events, and a tabletop Expo - all in 2 1/2 days.

**IT Executive Conference** | A high-level conference tailored for IT managers and decision-makers that focuses on forward-looking, strategic topics affecting the IT and Power Systems industry.

**Virtual Conference** | A FREE, full-day, online conference complete with leading educational sessions, expert speakers, and expo - available from anywhere with internet at no cost to attend.

**Webinars** | In-depth web-based seminars from an industry expert that provide detailed education on a specific topic, delivered over multiple hours and sessions, or as an all-day event.

**Webcasts** | Free, one-hour long streams led by an industry expert on a industry-relevant topic - available as archives as well.

**Virtual Labs** | Hands-on in-depth lab education with an expert, offering demos, lectures, exercises and more from home or office.

These events provide access to hundreds of educational sessions from experts and IBMers on leading topics that are important for you. You also get access to leading vendors and solution providers, and endless networking opportunities.



# World-Class Certification

The COMMON Certification Program, with its Associate and Professional credentials, attests to your technical skills and your business acumen. The exams were developed by long-time members of COMMON from all different industries and academic institutions, and are recognized as industry experts – these are the same subject matter experts that have written other industry-recognized certifications. The Business Computing certifications measure, and attest to the expertise you possess to effectively integrate technical skills and business knowledge to help advance yourself and your organization. Start with the Associate credential, designed for young professionals with less than 3 years experience, then build towards the Professional certification as you develop practical working knowledge .

COMMON also offers a technical certification for those who would like a credential in ILE RPG programming: Certified Application Developer - ILE RPG on Power on IBM i. This credential is a great way to get certified as a programmer and showcase your current programming skills.

“*Stand out in the ever-competitive job market and gain a distinct career advantage by earning a COMMON Certification.*”

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# Career Opportunities

COMMON's mission to foster leadership, facilitate networking and career opportunities with industry leaders, and career success has in resulted the creation of the largest Power Systems and IT related job board available. The COMMON Career Center allows potential employees and employers in the Power Systems-related industry to search for and connect with each other securely and confidentially for the best possible match. COMMON also provides opportunities for students and young professionals new to the industry to get a head start in today's competitive environment with sections for internships and entry level jobs. The COMMON Career Center is only one of many ways members can take advantage of offerings from COMMON to advance or find the career right for them.



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[www.common.org](http://www.common.org)