# Transcript: IT Podcast - Ep 92 - C849 Tips with Ray Randolph and Jessica Galterio

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Speaker #1 (Narrator):

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Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Hello, and thank you for joining us today with the IT Audio Series. My name is Jessica Galterio. I've been a program mentor since 2015. Today I'm joined by Ray Randolph, a course instructor since 2017. Thank you for joining me, Ray.

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

Thank you for having me.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

I would like to talk today about C849 Cloud foundations. What is your course about?

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

Well, really it's a course that is based on the Cloud and it gives you the foundation of the AWS and where they start at. This is the beginning, the exam for anyone who's thinking about transitioning into Cloud duties.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

What are the key resources that are used in this course?

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

There are a couple of different ones. There's the AWS academy itself. We do use that particular resource, but there are so many different resources. There's Pluralsight, Udemy with a guy named Stephanie Marco, who does an excellent job in breaking down the foundations course. But there are a lot of resources that actually offer the particular structure for the course.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Great. If a student is struggling with the way one resource phrases the information, it's not common for them to look at another one. Is that correct?

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

Not uncommon at all. Most people do use two or three different resources, but that can also be part of the problem using too many different resources because there's a lot of information out there.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

I see. Is that part of what are the common barriers for students in this course, there's too much information?

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

The common barriers is, for one, AWS when you look at them as a whole, the Cloud service has a lot of services. One barrier is students start to think that they have to focus on all of the services that AWS offers. But truly the test is based on what we call four domains, the Cloud concepts, security compliance, technology and then billing and pricing.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

I see. What are the best ways for students to get through this course quickly?

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

Getting through quickly. I don't want to say get through quickly. I say take your time, especially because this course transitions into the AWS SysOps course, which is an associates certification, which is definitely much harder than this particular course. But what this course does is offer you the foundation for SysOps. You'll be able to understand how the acronyms, the different services, and the different offering that AWS has.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

I see. It makes sense to really spend time with this stuff to set up a solid foundation.

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

Absolutely.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Perfect. What type of assessment is it?

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

It's an objective assessment, 65 questions. Either single answer or multiple choice.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

I see. You can take that with Amazon's Web proctoring service. Is that correct?

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

Yes. With Pearson VUE. Pearson VUE is the one who offer the testing for Amazon.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Got it. Give us a couple of top tips for the exams. Is there anything that the students should be looking out for?

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

First, I definitely want to say this. Do not take practice exams over and over again rather than focusing on the material. If you take the practice exams over and over again, you start to memorize the questions. But if you can answer a question by reading the first sentence in a practice exam, then you really need to stop there. When it comes to the overall exam itself, you have to define the question. Generally, the questions are scenario-based but when we talk about the domains, the Cloud Concepts, security and compliance technology and billing and pricing, the question may be focused on building pricing, but they may include something from another domain within there. One of the terms they use is S3, which is just basically Amazon's way of doing online storage. If they ask you the cheapest price for this or the cheapest solution, that would be, we'll say S3 Glacier. However, because they started off with talking about S3 itself, your mind starts to think that they're talking about the technology when they're really talking about billing in pricing.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Are the practice test questions phrased similarly so you'd have to sort through and figure out what they're really asking you?

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

No, some questions are and there are so many sites out there, they just offer bogus tests exams, we have the answers and most people don't. But if you take the 10 practice questions that Amazon has, they show you the format that they've been asking in. If you take the questions or practice exams on Udemy or somewhere like Neal Davis, they also have the format that those questions are being asked in.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Great, so you can really start to see how you need to sort through the question. That's perfect.

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

Yeah, because it's really about breaking that question down and understanding what they're asking for.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

What about this course excites you? What do you think students can do once they have this exam?

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

You're setting a foundation. When I look at it, it's not about passing the exam, but once you understand and have the knowledge behind you, the Cloud is continually to grow. It continues to grow. I think it's been over 60 percent over the last three to four years and you can really position yourself in a great place once you graduate or even before you graduate to have an outstanding job in Cloud. You can take this information if a company's not using Cloud and still transition and use it within a regular organization that you just on-premise equipment.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

That's really interesting.

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

You just have to change the way you think.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

That's all. I'm really excited to hear this information about this course. I know it can be a tough one, but it sounds like with the guidance that you and your team provide, you should really be able to help any student conquer it.

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

Yes, we're definitely here to help and we always say, don't hesitate to contact us for any questions or anything that you may need.

Speaker #2 (Jessica Galterio):

Perfect. Well, thank you so much for joining me today Ray. I really appreciate it and thank you for listening to the IT Audio Series.

Speaker #3 (Ray Randolph):

Thank you.

Speaker #1 (Narrator):

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