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# An even younger success story

By Malcolm Kelly

Well, that's our computer community service for the month.

Dave Tan Nguyen, a grade nine student in Ajax, picked up the July issue of *We Compute* this summer and saw our story on Kuru Pathmanathan, the 15-year-old who became one of the youngest in North America to hold an A+ technical license from the Com-

puter Technology Industry Association.

Nguyen, who is 14, thought he could beat that, studied two months from the manual and passed his exam last month.

"When I read the article 'Not the typical summer job for a teenager', it made me want to do it too," said the youngster, in a letter to *We Compute*. "Kuru is right. The CompTIA

Continued on Page 45

## MORE TRAINING NEWS ON PAGE 45

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## MORE TRAINING NEWS

# University without leaving home

By Malcolm Kelly

You can now attend more than 95 accredited California universities — including the University of California, Southern California, Stanford and Pepperdine — without leaving the comfort of your house.

WebU (no football team or fight song, as yet), in effect a huge online

course catalogue, lists a large variety of online courses from those and other California institutions who are experiencing a boom in Web learning.

Cal-Berkeley, for example, had 1,748 students registered for this fall's courses, while Stanford had 700.

Found at [www.california.edu](http://www.california.edu), the

California Virtual University (WebU) is in its first official year.

"In the last two years, interest in distance education really clicked," said Andy DiPaolo, executive director of the Stanford Center for Professional Development.

"The cost of entry has dropped significantly. A school used to (need) a building with all kinds of equipment to transmit course material and only big companies could afford to pick it up.

"Now, you (just) need a Web server and some audio and video equipment," he said. ■



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## Even younger success story

Continued from Page 39

A+ certificate is not that difficult."

Holding the entry-level certificate qualifies the two teens for part-time and summer jobs that include hardware repairs and upgrades, software installation and troubleshooting for all PC and Mac systems.

"You can make \$30-\$35 an hour," said Pathmanathan, back in July. "There are lots of shops looking for certified people."

An American-based organization, CompTIA is a central agency and advocate for computer resellers, manufacturers, distributors and training companies across North America, with 7,500 members.

Cost of taking the A+ certificate is \$195 (US) for the manual, with testing done regularly in Toronto.

Go to [www.comptia.org](http://www.comptia.org) for information.

"Thanks a lot," said Nguyen. "If the article was never published, I do not think I could have had the self-esteem to do it!"

You're welcome. ■

## Courses for under \$10?

If you don't have \$10,000 to chuck around for computer training, STREET Technologies is offering an affordable alternative. Try \$9.95.

Courses ranging from Windows 98 and Lotus Notes 4.5 through Photoshop and Internet Explorer 4.0 to HTML Programming are available for as little as a nickel less than \$10 per week.

You can even access the programs with an Internet connection as slow as a 14.4-Kbps modem, and they can also be had through many Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Most course bundles include beginner, intermediate or advance levels.

Courses can be surveyed at [www.learninguniversity.com](http://www.learninguniversity.com). MK

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