

CCNP Security Certification

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Overview



Increasing Demand for Network Security Practical Skills

Cisco has noticed the evolution of the network security professional and its relevance to the industry. The speed at which network security is evolving demands more practical hands-on skills in network security engineering and has made network security performance more visible to the entire organization. The network security engineers in the marketplace today understand the products and the discipline of good network security as well as the practices and mandates of industry and government for compliance while protecting their organizations from increasingly savvy threats seeking to compromise their systems. Cisco network security engineers have real-world security implementation and troubleshooting skills.

Job-Ready Practical Skills

The Cisco CCNP® Security certification program is a practical, relevant, job-ready certification curriculum aligned closely with the specific tasks expected of these highly demanded professionals. Cisco realizes that the role of the network security engineer is tasked with increased focus on configuration responsibilities as the technical consultant and device specialist on a security team; therefore, the CCNP® Security curriculum is specific to the best practices of the network security engineers using the latest Cisco equipment, devices, and appliances.

Network Security Engineering Best Practices

The CCNP Security program validates advanced knowledge and skills required to engineer secure network

infrastructures using the latest Cisco security devices, technologies, and appliances. The curriculum emphasizes the real-world best practices of network security engineering utilizing Cisco IOS® Software security features, Cisco ASA adaptive security appliance features, secure virtual private network (VPN) connectivity, Cisco Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPSs), Cisco security management tools, and techniques to optimize these technologies in a single, integrated network security solution.

Achieving CCNP Security Certification

CCNP Security certification offers employers job-ready training and skills as tangible proof of experienced, professional-level network security engineers for today's demanding security environment. Industry forecasts show that in the next five years, the industry will need double the number of network security professionals, and most of them will need to be recognized by an industry certification.

Requirements

The CCNP Security program is a three-year certification program intended to recognize the Cisco network security engineers who have the necessary skills to test, deploy, configure, maintain, and troubleshoot Cisco network security appliances and Cisco IOS Software devices that establish the security posture of the network. Prior to attempting the CCNP Security certification or any of its associated security specialist certifications, individuals must meet the requirements for the Cisco CCNA® Security certification and have at least one to three years of experience in the field of network security.

CCNP Security Certification

Learning@Cisco
Overview

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge

Completion of the CCNA Security certification requires the prerequisite exams and recommended training shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Required Exams and Recommended Training

| Required Exams | Exam Name and Recommended Training |
|--|---|
| 640-802 or 640-822 & 640-816 | CCNA Composite or Interconnecting Cisco Network Devices 1 (ICND1) & Interconnecting Cisco Network Devices 2 (ICND2) |
| 640-553 | Implementing Cisco IOS Network Security (IINS) |

The CCNP Security curriculum requires the exams and recommended training shown in Table 2.

Table 2 CCNP Security Exams and Recommended Training

| Required Exams | Exam Name and Recommended Training |
|----------------|--|
| 642-637 | Securing Networks with Cisco Routers and Switches (SECURE) |
| 642-627 | Implementing Cisco Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) |
| 642-617 | Deploying Cisco ASA Firewall Solutions (FIREWALL) |
| 642-647 | Deploying Cisco ASA VPN Solutions (VPN) |

CNSS 4013 Recognition

The National Security Agency (NSA) and the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) recognize that Cisco security courseware meets the CNSS 4013 training standard. By being compliant, the Cisco [CCNP Security](#) certification program provides the required training for network security professionals who assist federal agencies and private sector entities to protect their information and aid in the defense of the nation's vital information resources.

This advanced standard is intended for System Administrators responsible for the security oversight or management of critical networks.

This formal NSA and CNSS certification gives Cisco the authority to recognize those candidates who have demonstrated that they have met the CNSS 4013 training standard.

Candidates who have met the standard will be issued a letter of recognition acknowledging their completion of the related requirements. This letter of recognition can be used as confirmation of having met the CNSS 4013 requirements.

CCNP Security Product/Technology Security Specialist Certifications

Within the CCNP Security curriculum are several network security engineering specialist certifications for cross training and staff development. Intended for individuals who specialize in one or more technologies or products that make up the network security infrastructure, these specialist certifications offer a convenient validation of skills and competency for network security solutions in the areas of intrusion prevention, VPNs, perimeter firewalls, high availability, IEEE 802.1x, mobile access, Network Admission Control (NAC), and Cisco IOS Software security features embedded in the latest Cisco routers and switches.

The following security specialist certifications are included in the CCNP Security curriculum:

Cisco ASA Security Specialist Certification

The Cisco ASA Security Specialist certification recognizes security professionals who have attained specialized in-depth expertise and proven knowledge of the recommended best practices in designing, implementing, maintaining, and troubleshooting network security solutions using the adaptive security appliance technologies. The Cisco ASA adaptive security appliance is a best-in-class product, widely deployed, and in use at leading enterprises and service providers worldwide. The Cisco ASA Security Specialist certification is recognized as the benchmark security product certification for engineers, consultants, and architects who configure advanced Cisco ASA adaptive security appliance firewalls and VPN solutions, including advanced protocol handling, remote-access VPN, Cisco IOS SSL VPN, site-to-site VPNs, high-availability VPNs, and failover features (see Table 3).



CCNP Security Certification

Table 3 Cisco ASA Security Specialist Certification

| Required Exams | Exam Name and Recommended Training |
|----------------|---|
| 642-617 | Deploying Cisco ASA Firewall Solutions (FIREWALL) |
| 642-647 | Deploying Cisco ASA VPN Solutions (VPN) |

Cisco Firewall Security Specialist

Cisco firewalls are ubiquitous in the world of network security today. Professionals with the skills to design, implement, and maintain Cisco firewall solutions using the Cisco ASA adaptive security appliance and zone-based firewall solutions in Cisco routers and switches are in high demand. The Cisco firewall security specialist is a focused certification that validates skills and knowledge in implementing perimeter security solutions using Cisco security appliances. These certified specialists are actively involved in developing secure business solutions and designing and delivering multiple levels of secure access to the network (see Table 4).

Table 4 Cisco Firewall Security Specialist Certification

| Required Exams | Exam Name and Recommended Training |
|----------------|--|
| 642-617 | Deploying Cisco ASA Firewall Solutions (FIREWALL) |
| 642-637 | Securing Networks with Cisco Routers and Switches (SECURE) |

Cisco IOS Security Specialist

The Cisco IOS Software security specialist demonstrates the hands-on knowledge and skills required to secure networks using Cisco IOS Software security features embedded in the latest Cisco routers and switches as well as the widely deployed Cisco security appliances. Cisco IOS Software security specialists are able to secure the network environment and provide security services based on Cisco IOS Software, as follows: zone-based policy firewall; Cisco IOS Software IPS; user-based firewall; secure tunnels using IP Security (IPsec) VPN technology including public key infrastructure (PKI), Virtual Tunnel Interface (VTI)/Dynamic VTI (DVTI), Group Encrypted Transport VPN (GET VPN), and Dynamic Multipoint VPN (DMVPN); 802.1X authentication; and advanced switch security features (see Table 5).

Table 5 Cisco IOS Security Specialist Certification

| Required Exam | Exam Name and Recommended Training |
|---------------|--|
| 642-637 | Securing Networks with Cisco Routers and Switches (SECURE) |

Cisco IPS Specialist

The Cisco IPS is a primary appliance to maintain the security posture of networks. Information systems security (INFOSEC) and network professionals who have the skills to properly deploy and configure the Cisco IPS are in high demand. Cisco IPS specialists are professionals who can deploy, configure, and troubleshoot this appliance to work well in a complete security solution. Cisco IPS specialists can operate and monitor Cisco IOS Software and IPS technologies to prevent, understand, and respond to intrusion attempts (see Table 6).

Table 6 Cisco Intrusion Prevention Security Specialist Certification

| Required Exam | Exam Name and Recommended Training |
|---------------|--|
| 642-627 | Implementing Cisco Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) |

Cisco VPN Security Specialist

Cisco offers numerous VPN solutions and configurations. Cisco VPN solutions are widely deployed in many of today's networks. Many enterprises and service providers deploy these numerous VPN solutions at any given time for their various customers and organizations, from simple point-to-point tunneling to multilayer, dynamic, high-availability VPNs. Cisco VPN security specialists can configure, maintain, troubleshoot, and support these various VPN solutions using Cisco IOS Software and the robust Cisco ASA adaptive security appliance (see Table 7).

CCNP Security Certification

Learning@Cisco
Overview

Table 7 Cisco VPN Security Specialist Certification

| Required Exams | Exam Name and Recommended Training |
|----------------|--|
| 642-637 | Securing Networks with Cisco Routers and Switches (SECURE) |
| 642-647 | Deploying Cisco ASA VPN Solutions (VPN) |

Recertification

CCNP Security exams can be utilized to recertify your professional and security specialist certifications. Achieving or recertifying any of the certifications in Tables 3-7 automatically extends active associate, specialist, and professional-level certifications up to the point of expiration of the last certification achieved. Cisco professional-level certifications are valid for three years, and specialists are active for two years. To recertify, certificate holders should pass any 642 exam that is part of the professional-level curriculum or any Cisco CCIE® written exam or Cisco CCDE™ written exam or current CCDE practical exam or Cisco Certified Architect (CCAr) interview and the CCAr board review before the certification expiration date.

Accept Only the Best

Only Cisco Authorized Learning Partners deliver the official CCNP Security curriculum. Authorized training ensures that certificate holders will gain the knowledge and expertise

that they need to be successful in today's competitive IT business environment. Cisco Authorized Learning Partners offers a comprehensive set of training resources, from instructor-led courses to remote-access labs and e-learning solutions to improve technology expertise. Other benefits include the following:

- Learning skills on the latest Cisco products and software: Authorized learning partners expose students to the latest revisions and newest products to help accelerate their skills for years to come.
- Consistent expertise: Certified Cisco instructors assure students and businesses the same level of expertise, quality, and service from one class to the next.
- Updated training: Cisco Authorized Learning Partners are aware of the latest product and technology updates, exam changes, and teaching methods.
- High student satisfaction: Cisco Authorized Learning Partners are required to maintain a high level of satisfaction ratings.

Learn More

For more information or to register for this program, visit <http://www.ciscolearningnetwork.com>.

