Cisco Security Certifications

Increasing Demand for Practical Network Security Skills

Cisco has taken note of the evolution of the role 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. Network security engineers in the marketplace today understand the products and the discipline of good network security, the practices and compliance mandates of industry and government, and the need to protect their organizations from increasingly sophisticated threats to their systems. Cisco network security engineers have real-world security implementation and troubleshooting skills.

Job-Ready Practical Skills

The Cisco CCNA® Security, CCNP® Security, and CCIE® Security certification programs are practical, relevant, and job-ready certification curricula aligned closely with the specific tasks expected of these in-demand professionals. Cisco realizes that the network security professional increasingly must focus on design, configuration, and support responsibilities as the technical consultant and device specialist or expert on a security team. Therefore, the Cisco Security curriculum is specific to the best practices of network security administrators, engineers, and experts using the latest Cisco equipment, devices, and appliances.

Achieving CCNA Security Certification

CCNA Security certification offers professionals job-ready training and skills. The certification lays the foundation for job roles such as network security technician, administrator, and network security support engineer. Candidates gain knowhow in securing information and devices using the latest Cisco security hardware and software solutions.

Requirements

The CCNA Security program is a three-year certification program intended to provide baseline security knowledge and skills for network professionals interested in network security. Skills taught and validated include testing, deploying, configuring, maintaining, and troubleshooting Cisco network security solutions that establish the security posture of the network. Before attempting the CCNA Security certification, candidates must meet the requirements for Cisco CCENT certification and have at least one to three years of experience in the field of networking.

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge

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

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Table 1 CCENT Required Exam and Recommended Training

Required Exams	Exam Name and Recommended Training
100-101	Interconnecting Cisco Network Devices Part 1 (ICND1)

Completion of the CCNA Security curriculum requires the exams and recommended training shown in Table 2.

Table 2 CCNA Security Exam and Recommended Training

Required Exam	Exam Name and Recommended Training
210-260	Implementing Cisco Network Security (IINS)

CNSS 4011 Recognition

The U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) and the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) recognize that Cisco CCNA Security courses meet the CNSS 4011 training standard. Compliance with this standard means that the Cisco CCNA 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 information resources vital to the nation.

This standard is intended for information security professionals responsible for identifying system vulnerabilities, investigating and documenting system security technologies and policies, and analyzing and evaluating system security technologies.

Achieving CCNP Security Certification

In the demanding security environment, CCNP Security certification offers employers proof of job-ready training and skills from experienced, professional-level network security engineers. Industry forecasts show that, in the next five years, the number of network security professionals will need to double, and most of these professionals will need the validation of an industry certification.

Requirements

The CCNP Security program is a three-year certification program intended to distinguish the Cisco network security engineers who have the necessary skills to test, deploy, configure, maintain, and troubleshoot the Cisco network security appliances and Cisco IOS Software devices that establish the security posture of the network. Before 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.

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge

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

The CCNP Security curriculum requires the exams and recommended training shown in Table 3.

Table 3 CCNP Security Exams and Recommended Training

Required Exam	Exam Name and Recommended Training
300-206	Implementing Cisco Edge Network Security Solutions (SENSS)
300-207	Implementing Cisco Threat Control Solutions (SITCS)
300-208	Implementing Cisco Secure Access Solutions (SISAS)
300-209	Implementing Cisco Secure Mobility Solutions (SIMOS)

CNSS 4013 Recognition

The U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) and the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) recognize that Cisco security courseware meets the CNSS 4013 training standard. This compliance means that 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 information resources vital to the nation.

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

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

Achieving CCIE Security Certification

The CCIE Security Certification program recognizes individuals who have the knowledge and skills to implement, maintain, and support extensive Cisco network security solutions using the latest industry best practices and technologies. This program is the industry standard for recognition and rewards for network security engineers who have demonstrated expert-level performance in implementation, configuration, and troubleshooting of Cisco network security solutions.

Requirements
The CCIE Security Certification program is a two-year certification program intended to recognize Cisco network security experts 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. Attaining and maintaining this performance-based, practical certification proves skills that are only achievable by distinct experts in the network security field. This certification carries prestige that is envied by security professionals worldwide. To gain Security CCIE certification, candidates not only must prove their theoretical knowledge of security best practices but also must demonstrate them in a lab environment with real equipment using real-world scenarios.

Prerequisite Skills and Knowledge
There are no formal prerequisites for Cisco CCIE Security certification. Candidates must first pass a written qualification exam and then pass the corresponding hands-on lab exam. Candidates are expected to have an in-depth understanding of the exam topics and are strongly encouraged to have three to five years of job experience before attempting certification.

The CCIE Security curriculum requires the exams shown in Table 4.

Table 4 CCIE Security Exams

Required Exam	Exam Name
350-018	CCIE Security Written Exam
	CCIE Security Lab Exam

Recertification

Cisco CCIE Security written exam can be used to recertify your associate and professional level certifications. Achieving or recertifying any of the certifications that are detailed in Tables 2 through 4 automatically extends active associate and professional-level certifications up to the point of expiration of the last certification achieved. Cisco professional-level certifications are valid for three years. To recertify, certificate holders should pass any 600 or 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 CCAR® interview and the CCAR board review before the certification expiration date.

Learn More

Learn more about the available Cisco Security Training.