

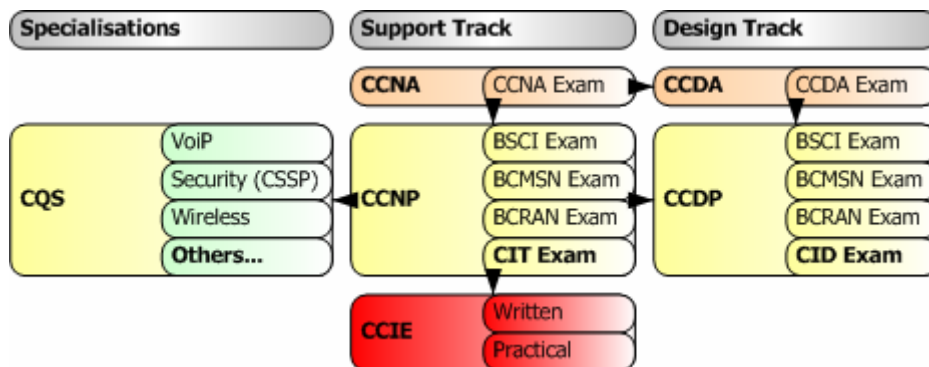
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CCNP FAQ

What is CCNP?

CCNP stands for Cisco Certified Network Professional. CCNP is the second of three Cisco Certifications; the other two are CCNA, (Cisco Certified Network Associate,) and CCIE, (Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert.)

[CQS, Cisco Qualified Specialist certifications are also available in areas such as security and voice]



Cisco publishes a document describing CCNP certification and its benefits at: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/certprog/pdf/CCNP.pdf>

How do I become a CCNP?

In order to become a CCNP you must have a CCNA qualification and pass either two or four exams. If you choose to take four exams they will be:

604-503	Building Scalable Cisco Networks	BSCN
604-901	Building Scalable Cisco Internetworks	BSCI
604-504	Building Cisco Multilayer Switched Networks	BCMSN
604-505	Building Cisco Remote Access Networks	BCRAN
604-506	Cisco Internetwork Troubleshooting	CIT

Alternatively you may take exam 604-901 and a combination of the other three, known as the Foundations exam, no. 640-841.

These are electronic, computer-based exams, which can be taken at any certified testing centre in the world. The most well know testing provider is Sylvan Prometric.

What are the exams like?

Exam Number	Questions	Time Limit	Required Pass Mark
604-901 – Routing	60-70	75	690
604-504 – Switching	60-70	75	699/Variable
604-505 – Remote Access	66	90	700
604-506 - Troubleshooting	60-70	75	Variable

The exams are mainly a series of multiple-choice questions of which you must select either a single correct answer or multiple correct answers depending on the instructions given.

Occasionally you will have to drag and drop graphics into the correct sequence, enter IOS commands, choose from a large list of commands or perform similar tasks.

Cisco have now added simulation questions where you will have to use simulated DOS prompts and HyperTerminal sessions to perform certain configuration tasks.

- A simulation of this type of question can be found at:
http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/certprog/testing/simulation/demo_sim.html
- An exam format tutorial can be found at:
<http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/certprog/testing/simulation/tutorial.html>

For further information on exam testing visit the Sylvan Prometric or VUE websites at:
<http://www.sylvanprometric.com> and <http://www.vue.com> respectively.

What are the simulation questions like?

You will have to use simulated DOS prompts and HyperTerminal sessions to perform specific configuration tasks correctly. These questions can be very time consuming, as you will have to type in a fair amount of information

How many simulation questions are there?

Usually no more than two.

Is context sensitive help (?) available in the simulations?

Yes. However, the help system is more limited than that available on real Cisco equipment.

Can I bring a calculator into the exam?

No. If Cisco considers that a question requires calculation that you could not perform manually, on paper, an aid will be provided. This normally takes the form of a table, i.e. a list of 1 to 255 in decimal with corresponding hexadecimal values.

Can I mark questions and review them later?

No. Once you have selected your answer and clicked the Next> button you may not return to the question for review. Obviously this makes the marking of questions redundant.

What if I'm asked for 3 correct answers and only get 2 right?

You must get all of the required correct answers, otherwise you are judged as having answered incorrectly and will not get any marks for the question.

How much does it cost?

Exams cost £105 in the U.K and \$100 in the U.S.
The foundation exam costs £210 in the U.K and \$200 in the U.S.

What kind of training and study do I need to prepare?

Being a CCNA is a prerequisite for any CCNP course or exam. Ideally you will have practical experience in the relevant area the course or exam covers.

Cisco recommends the following training path order:

- 604-901 Building Scalable Cisco Networks BSCI
 - Course outline: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/cust/classes/C-TRN-BSCI.html>
 - Exam outline: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/certprog/testing/pdf/bsci.pdf>

- 604-504 Building Cisco Multilayer Switched Networks BCMSN
 - Course outline: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/cust/classes/C-TRN-BCMSN.html>
 - Exam outline: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/certprog/testing/pdf/bcmsn.pdf>

- 604-505 Building Cisco Remote Access Networks BCRAN
 - Course outline: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/cust/classes/C-TRN-BCRAN.html>
 - Exam outline: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/certprog/testing/pdf/bcran.pdf>

- 604-506 Cisco Internetwork Troubleshooting CIT
 - Course outline: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/cust/classes/C-TRN-CIT.html>
 - Exam outline: <http://www.cisco.com/warp/public/10/wwtraining/certprog/testing/pdf/cit.pdf>

What books should I read?

The series of books published by Sybex and written by Todd Lammell are generally highly regarded.

- Cisco Press, (www.ciscopress.com), publishes a wide variety of study material. For any exam the official course book and the Exam Certification Guide are recommended.

- Obviously, search Amazon for a better deal and a wider range.

I want to purchase some equipment to practise with, what should I get?

Generally the cost of even basic routers is prohibitive however if you have the money I would recommend:

3x Cisco 25xx series router with version 12.x of the Cisco IOS with IP Plus feature set

- Can be very expensive; check out www.ebay.com or a similar web auction site for cheaper second-hand equipment.
- This router can have a huge variety of ports, however all come with two serial ports. I would recommend the 2501, which comes with a standard Ethernet port.

2x Cisco switch with fast Ethernet uplink port(s)

Some cheap or freeware packet analyser software.

Is Network+ better?

The Network+ course and exam are not comparable to CCNP courses or exams. The Network+ course and exam are more general and simplistic than even the CCNA and are designed for beginners and novices.

What do I get once I pass?

On passing all the required exams you will get a wallet card, certificate and cardboard frame and the right to use specific CCNP logo's on your business cards and website.

You also gain access to the Cisco Certification Tracking System at: <http://www.cisco.com/go/certifications/login>, which allows you to track your certification progress and more.

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