New Cisco Certified Design Expert (CCDE) Certification Program Summary

Cisco's new CCDE certification identifies networking professionals who have expert-level knowledge and skills in network design. CCDE is an expert-level Cisco certification and parallel to the Cisco CCIE® certification in terms of difficulty and expertise.

The CCDE certification emphasizes network design principles and theory for the infrastructure of the network. It also recognizes the expertise and technical acumen of designers who can assess and translate network business requirements into technical specifications that in turn are incorporated into successful network designs.

Q: What types of knowledge and skills are assessed by the CCDE exams?

A: The CCDE exams assess the ability of highly experienced, advanced network designers and architects to understand and manipulate design scenarios for an IP routing infrastructure. CCDE candidates must also be able to create "implementation-ready" technical specifications and other work products that can be used by network engineers for implementation in large-scale IP networks.

Q: Who are the best candidates for CCDE accreditation?

A: The CCDE certification is intended for candidates who have day-to-day responsibilities for creating work products that cover IP routing network infrastructure design. Candidates should also have:
- A minimum of seven years job experience in network engineering
- A thorough understanding of networking infrastructure principles
- An in-depth understanding of the topics in the exam blueprints

Q: Why was the CCDE certification created?

A: Cisco created the CCDE certification in response to strong customer demand. Employers want a way to identify highly experienced network designers and architects who can evaluate business requirements and create appropriate design solutions for the network infrastructure. Employers also want network designers who can address all aspects of existing and new networking technologies and trends.

Q: How does a candidate attain CCDE certification?

A: Attaining CCDE certification requires successfully passing two exams:
- CCDE Qualification Exam: 352- 001 *(ADVDESIGN)*
- CCDE Practical Exam: (TBD)
  Note: Candidate must pass the CCDE Qualification Exam before registering for the Practical Exam.

Q: Are there any prerequisites for attaining CCDE certification?

A: There are no perquisites for attaining the CCDE certification. However, it is highly recommended that candidates have seven years of networking experience and/or a certification equivalent to CCIE.

Q: Is any training available or required for CCDE certification?

A: Currently, no formal training is required for the CCDE certification. However, a recommended reading list includes various industry publications, Cisco Press publications, and various industry training programs including the Cisco Routing and Switching and Design curriculum. This reading list is available at:
http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/le31/le29/learning_recommended_training_routing_switching.html

Q: What are the differences between the CCDE and CCIE certifications?

A: The CCDE certification is focused on professionals responsible for network design. In contrast, the CCIE certification is focused on professionals responsible for network implementation and operation.

Q: Will CCDE certification be a new requirement for the CCIE program?

A: No, the CCIE program requirements remain the same.

Q: Will passing the CCDE qualification exam recertify my existing CCIE?

A: Yes, passing the CCDE qualification exam acts a recertification agent for CCIE like any other CCIE written exam.

Q: What is the relationship of the CCDP and CCDE certifications?

A: CCDP is a professional-level design certification that assesses a designer's ability to architect solutions in a converged enterprise network model. These solutions should include recommended practices and a methodology for achieving high network availability in a campus infrastructure architecture. The CCDP exam assesses an individual's technical capability to create scalable designs. In comparison, the CCDE exam assesses a candidate's ability to troubleshoot a design and make design tradeoffs where appropriate. Additionally, a CCDE certification holder can evaluate the comparative business value of different network designs.

Q: What is the value of CCDE certification to a networking professional?

A: CCDE-certified professionals will enjoy these benefits:

- Validation and recognition of your expert-level design expertise
- Ability to differentiate design skills and expertise within your organization and the broader networking community
- New, design-focused opportunities for professional development

Q: What is the value of CCDE certification to employers?

A: Employers who hire CCDE-certified professionals will gain the advantages of:

- Validation of the skills offered by network design employees and job candidates
- Improved ability to create a successful network architecture
- A new opportunity to develop and recognize senior-level network employees for improved loyalty and retention

Q: What is the value of CCDE certification to Cisco channel partners?

A: Partners who hire CCDE-certified professionals will benefit from:

- Recognition of the partner's design expertise
- Differentiation of design and operational skills as a staff competency
- Ability to recruit network design employees

Taking the CCDE Exams

Q: When will the CCDE exams be available?

A: The CCDE Qualification Exam is available as of January 22, 2008. The CCDE Practical Exam is expected to be available in late 2008, however, early registration for qualified CCDE candidates will be available in July 2008.

Q: Where can I take the CCDE exams?

A: The CCDE Qualification Exam is available at all Pearson VUE testing center locations worldwide. The CCDE Practical Exam is expected to be available only at select Cisco locations worldwide. All candidates must pass the CCDE Qualification Exam prior to scheduling the CCDE Practical Exam.

Q: What is the structure of the CCDE Qualification Exam?

A: The CCDE Qualification Exam is a two-hour, written test that covers design principles and concepts for an advanced networking infrastructure.

Q: What is the structure of the CCDE Practical Exam?

A: The CCDE Practical Exam is an eight-hour, scenario-based exam that will test your ability to identify, manage, and create advanced infrastructure design solutions for large-scale networks.

Receiving CCDE Certification

Q: If I pass both CCDE exams will I receive a CCDE number like CCIE certification holders?

A: Yes, all expert-level Cisco certifications receive a unique number. You will receive a CCDE number if you pass both CCDE certification exams.

Q: Will there be a CCDE logo?

A: Yes, a unique CCDE logo will be awarded to all active CCDE-certified participants.

Q: Do I need to take the CCDE exams within a certain timeframe?

A: You may take the CCDE Qualification Exam whenever it is offered. However, you must pass the CCDE Practical Exam within three years of passing the CCDE Qualification Exam to achieve CCDE certification.

For More Information

Q: Where can I get more information about the CCDE certification?

A: Visit the CCDE Web site at: www.cisco.com/go/ccde

Requirements for CCDE Certification

There are no formal prerequisites for CCDE certification; other professional certifications or training courses are not required. However, to pass the CCDE exams you should have:

- At least seven years of job experience in network engineering
- A thorough understanding of networking infrastructure principles
- An in-depth understanding of the topics in the exam blueprints

CCDE candidates must first pass a written qualification exam and then the subsequent practical exam. You can review the exam preparation materials and candidate profile in the certification preparation center: (http://forums.cisco.com/eforum/servlet/CertCom?page=main).

Step One: CCDE Qualification Exam

You must pass the two-hour, written CCDE Qualification Exam, which covers design principles and concepts for an advanced networking infrastructure. When you pass the CCDE Qualification Exam, you are eligible to schedule the CCDE Practical Exam.

- Written Exam Information
- Schedule and Pay for Written Exam

Step Two: CCDE Practical Exam

The CCDE Practical Exam is still in development, however it will be an eight-hour, scenario-based exam that will test your ability to identify, manage, and create advanced infrastructure design solutions for large-scale networks. You must pass the CCDE Practical Exam within three years of passing the CCDE Qualification Exam to achieve CCDE certification.

For more information about the new CCDE certification, visit the CCDE website at www.cisco.com/go/ccde.

If you require further assistance, you may speak to a Customer Support Representative, Monday through Friday, at (800) 553-6387 (US/Canada) or (408) 526–4000 (International).