



# Preparing for the New Network—New Courses and Certifications

## Frequently Asked Questions

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## General FAQ

### Q1. Why is Cisco changing the Cisco certification portfolio?

A. This initiative is built on the technology transition that Cisco has driven in the networking industry. “Unleashing the full capabilities of the new network” means that there are entirely new capabilities in the network, and this fundamentally changes “how networking is done”. To fully leverage the capabilities of the new network, networking and software skills are key.

The new Cisco Certification program introduces CCNA, CCNP, and CCIE certifications that maintain the high-quality standards known to the industry yet have been streamlined based on market demands and learner preferences. The program is designed for agility, value, and leadership. It lets people choose the skills they want to develop and encourages lifelong learning.

New DevNet Associate and DevNet Professional Certifications provide software skills for network engineers and software developers who work with Cisco technologies.

This allows us to combine the strengths of our Cisco certified community, Networking Academy community, and DevNet community, and build the workforce for the next generation of businesses built on Cisco technologies.

### Q2. What is changing exactly for the CCNA and CCNP certification levels?

A. We’re enhancing the certification program to bring you:

- Streamlined and updated certification paths, including,
  - A consolidated and updated CCNA for networking engineers - one course, one exam covers the fundamental topics for all network technologies. The new CCNA is focused on IP foundation and security topics along with wireless, virtualization, automation and network programmability.
  - New DevNet certifications at the associate, specialist and professional levels, to validate your software development skills.
  - Specialist certification options to validate your skills in line with your job role and interests including Cisco Enterprise Advanced Infrastructure Specialist
- The ability to start where you want - no prerequisites to start earning your associate, specialist, professional or expert level certification.
- Continuing education credits for recertification and ongoing development are now available for CCNA, CCNP and Cisco Certified Specialists.
- Digital badging for completing training courses.

### Q3. When will the new certifications be available?

A. The exams corresponding to the new revisions will be available beginning **Feb 24, 2020**. This 8-month window is longer than for previous revisions and allows for a graceful transition to the new courses.

### Q4. How long is my current CCNA R&S certification good for?

A. It will remain active until the existing expiration date and can be extended by 3 years by completing a recertification exam any time between now and Feb 2020. For additional information on certification details we encourage you visit [Cisco.com/NextLevel](https://Cisco.com/NextLevel).

### Q5. When is the last day to earn the CCENT Certification?

A. The CCENT certification can be earned by passing the ICND1 (100-105) exam by July 31, 2020.

**Q6. With the CCENT Certification date extended to July 2020, are there plans to change the ICND-2 exam deadline?**

A. There are no plans to extend ICND2 or any other exam except for ICND1. This is a tactical change that was negotiated to support the academies that are currently focused on delivering CCENT training and that will be offered in the coming academic year.

**Q7. How long is my current CCENT Certification good for?**

A. It will remain active until the existing expiration date and can be extended up to 3 years by completing the ICND1 (100-105) exam any time between now and July 31, 2020.

**Q8. How does this impact the Cisco Networking Academy?**

A. Over the next 8 months, new CCNA courses will be released that are aligned to the CCNA certification exams coming in February 2020. There will also be certification preparation materials to support students who are scheduled to complete their courses after the new exams are available. In order to provide a preview of the changes related to CCNA, a preliminary draft of the scope and sequence document will be made available on June 26, 2019. Please note that the design of these CCNA courses will continue over the next several months so please treat this document as preliminary and subject to change. In addition, new CCNP Labs and Exams will be released that are aligned to the CCNP Enterprise exams coming in February 2020.

**Q9. Which Networking Academy courses will be impacted?**

A. All 4 CCNA R&S courses and Labs & Exams for CCNP ROUTE, SWITCH and TSHOOT will be revised as part of the certification changes over the next 8 months.

**Q10. What will the impact be on the Networking Academy CCNA courses?**

A. In November new CCNA courses that align to the new CCNA certification will be made available. These new courses will contain several enhancements including improved course layout, expanded use of learning tools emphasizing hands-on learning, improved assessment security, and new user experience with enhanced accessibility conformance. In the meantime, we encourage Networking Academy instructors to continue to offer current courses as these topics remain relevant to prepare students for a networking career. In addition, new certification preparation modules will be available in November to help students who complete existing courses prepare for the new certifications. Translations of both courses and preparation modules will roll out during the first half of 2020.

**Q11. What will the impact be on the Networking Academy CCNP Labs & Exams?**

A. The new CCNP Enterprise certification has been streamlined to require 2 exams that include routing and switching topics and will have new labs, accordingly, the existing Networking Academy CCNP R&S labs and exams will be updated to support the new certification topics.

**Q12. What CCNP courses/certifications will be developing labs and exams?**

A. The 2 CCNP Enterprise courses we are targeting for labs and assessments are the CCNP Enterprise Core (300-401 ENCOR) and the CCNP Enterprise Advanced Routing and Services (300-410 ENARSI) concentration which is similar to the existing TSHOOT course. Note that these labs and assessments are still in the preliminary scoping phase and not yet committed to the portfolio. More information will be provided once these are fully defined.

**Q13. What will the impact be on the Networking Academy CCNA Security course?**

A. The current CCNA Security course will continue as is and will align to Cisco training credential.

**Q14. What will the impact be on the Networking Academy CCNA Cybersecurity Operations course?**

A. The current CCNA Cybersecurity Operations course will continue as is aligned to the Cyber Ops certification.

**Q15. Will this impact future Networking Academy courses?**

A. The addition of the DevNet track into Cisco's new certification framework will allow expansion of the Networking Academy portfolio to enable support for new skillsets related to software defined networking and application developers. Details for new Networking Academy offering(s) related to this new track will be announced at a later date.

**Q16. How will this impact students in current Networking Academy courses?**

A. We believe there will be significant upside for students and are committed to minimizing challenges during the transition. Students should continue in their current courses. For students who are ready to take the CCNA certification prior to February 24, 2020, we encourage them to proceed and take the current certifications. They will be grandfathered into the new certifications.

For students who are ready to take the CCENT exam prior to July 31, 2020, we encourage them to proceed and complete their CCENT certification. Although CCENT certification will be retired after July 2020, it will remain active for 3 years after the date of completion.

For students that will not be ready to take the current CCNA R&S certification exams before February 24, 2020, certification preparation modules for the new CCNA will be made available beginning in November. These modules will help prepare students with new topics related to wireless, security, automation and networking programmability, knowledge which they will need for the new exams available after February 24, 2020.

**Q17. Will there be supplemental materials to help current students prepare for the new certification exams?**

A. Yes, certification preparation modules are targeted to be available in November in English and translated versions released in beginning of 2020.

**Q18. When will new courses be available to support the new certifications?**

A. The CCNA v7.0 courses (English) are targeted to be available in November 2019 with translations available in the first half of 2020. The new CCNP labs and exams are targeted to be available in January 2020.

**Q19. When will translations of the new courses be available?**

A. Translated versions of CCNA v7.0 courses are targeted to be released throughout first half of 2020.

**Q20. Will the new CCNA courses require additional instructor training?**

A. Additional instructor training is not required but we highly recommend that instructors review the CCNA 7.0 Bridging Course content. The Bridging materials will cover topics new to CCNA v7, such as security, wireless and network automation.

**Q21. When will badging be available and for which courses?**

A. Networking Academy badges are targeted to roll out for the new CCNA courses and expand to other courses in the learning portfolio. More details on rollout timing will be provided over the next several months before the CCNA courses are released in November 2019.

**Q22. Will instructors and instructor trainers need to be re-accredited?**

A. CCNA R&S v6 instructors and instructor trainers who are currently qualified to teach all 4 courses (ITN, RSE, ScaN, CN) will be qualified for the new CCNA v7.0 courses. There are no changes to the ITQ renewal requirements. We highly recommend these instructors and instructor trainers study the new content in CCNA v7 that will be covered in future Instructor Professional Development (IPD) sessions.

For CCNA R&S v6 instructors who are currently qualified on fewer than the 4 courses, please refer to the table below:

CCNA R&S v6 Course Qualification(s)	CCNA v7 Qualification Earned	Materials to Review*
CCNA 1 (Intro to Networks)	CCNA 1	No additional
CCNA 1 (Intro to Networks) CCNA 2 (Routing & Switching Essentials)	CCNA 1 CCNA 2	CCNA2 v7
CCNA 1 (Intro to Networks) CCNA 2 (Routing & Switching Essentials) CCNA 3 (Scaling Networks)	CCNA 1 CCNA 2 CCNA 3	CCNA3 v7 + Bridging Course
CCNA 1 (Intro to Networks) CCNA 2 (Routing & Switching Essentials) CCNA 3 (Scaling Networks) CCNA 4 (Connecting Networks)	CCNA 1 CCNA 2 CCNA 3	Bridging Course

Self-enroll in the IPD Week class at <http://cs.co/ipd20> to view CCNA v7 technical sessions.

**Q23. What guidance can you provide on equipment bundles for CCNA courses?**

A. Current designs for CCNA v7 lab topologies leverage equipment on the current CCNA R&S v6 equipment list and include options to utilize a 2 router + 2 switch + 1 wireless router physical equipment bundle that is described in the CCNA v7 Scope and Sequence document.

**Q24. When will the Networking Academy DevNet Associate aligned course be available?**

A. The DevNet Associate certification exam will be available in February 24, 2020. Current Networking Academy courses including Emerging Technology Workshops, IoT, and Programming courses can help students develop network programmability skills. In addition, the Networking Academy is planning to develop a course aligned to the new DevNet Associate certification at some point in the future. Dates and details will be announced when they are available.

**Voucher FAQ**

**Q25. Will a certification exam discount voucher that was issued for the current #200-125 CCNA Routing and Switching exam work on the new CCNA exam that is releasing February 24, 2020?**

A. No, certification exam discount vouchers can only be used on the specific version of the exam for which they have been issued.

**Q26. Will supplemental vouchers that have been purchased for the current #200-125 CCNA Routing and Switching exam work on the new CCNA exam that is releasing February 24, 2020?**

A. No, supplemental vouchers can only be used on the specific version of the exam for which they have been issued.

**Americas Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems, Inc.  
San Jose, CA

**Asia Pacific Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems (USA) Pte. Ltd.  
Singapore

**Europe Headquarters**  
Cisco Systems International BV Amsterdam,  
The Netherlands

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