

The Benefits of Earning Cisco CCNA Certification

Technical professionals who support small Cisco networks can earn CCNA certification from Novell to become designated a Cisco Certified Network Associate. This certification validates that the associate has a particular level of knowledge and expertise in networking for the small office / home office market.

To become CCNA certified, associates must be able to install, configure, and operate LAN, WAN, and dial access services for small networks (100 nodes or fewer), including, but not limited to, use of these protocols: IP, IGRP, IPX, Serial, AppleTalk, Frame Relay, IP RIP, VLANs, RIP, Ethernet, and Access Lists.

According to Cisco, a CCNA will have the expertise to perform the following tasks:

- Install and configure Cisco switches and routers in multiprotocol internetworks using LAN and WAN interfaces.
- Provide level 1 troubleshooting service.
- Improve network performance and security.

Typical CCNA candidates are technical professionals seeking credentials, individuals who are new to networking, or those who are re-training. CCNAs will be best suited for positions like help desk engineer, field technician, level 1 systems engineer, and level 1 systems integrator.

How can becoming CCNA certified help you? Not only will it allow you to strengthen your skills in the installation, configuration, and maintenance of simple networks, it can also enhance your employment opportunities. With the designation of CCNA, you will establish credibility in the eyes of your employer or potential employer, leading to more job opportunities and the potential for increased compensation.

If you are interested in becoming CCNA certified, go to the Cisco Certifications site at www.cisco.com/go/certifications for more detailed exam information. This site will provide further links to Prometric and VUE (Virtual University Enterprises), the approved testing vendors.

The CCNA is an entry-level certification from which many professionals opt to continue their certification studies toward a specialty in the CCDA, CCNP, or CCIE.

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