



Cisco Certified Design Expert (CCDE) Certification

Recognition for senior network professionals who design networks to serve business needs

About CCDE

The Cisco Certified Design Expert (CCDE) certification identifies networking professionals who have expert-level knowledge and skills in network design. The CCDE certification is parallel to and, in some areas higher than, the levels of expertise in the Cisco CCIE® certification.

The CCDE certification emphasizes network design principles and theory at the infrastructure level. This prestigious credential recognizes the architectural expertise of network designers who can support the increasingly complex networks of global organizations by effectively translating business strategies into evolutionary technical strategies.



The role of a Network Designer

A network architect translates business needs into end-to-end network designs that bring value to the enterprise. The CCDE certification assesses network design expertise that crosses the traditionally separate areas of voice, video, data, and storage. This broader, solution-oriented approach to network design is intended to encompass multiple technology areas and products from multiple vendors. Beyond basic network design,

a CCDE-certified professional must know how to make the design tradeoffs that realize the value of advanced technologies such as unified communications while maintaining high levels of network security and performance.

With a solutions approach, the network designer can also successfully integrate acquired networks or expand networks to support new services or more users, all while achieving the desired return on network investments. And, a CCDE-certified professional should know how to integrate changes into the organization's existing, multi-vendor infrastructure without disrupting network service.

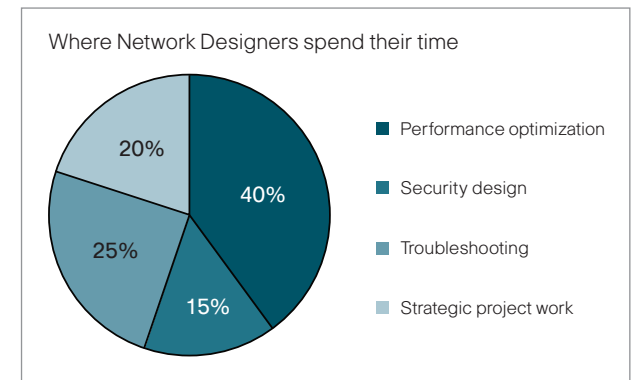
Focused on expert-level network design

Today, expert networking professionals are asked to shift their focus from the detailed view of network implementations and operations to the larger view of network design and architecture. To be successful in meeting this challenge, a design expert must have knowledge in a broad range of domains: the network itself and how it enhances business applications, data storage, and communications services. Senior designers need to know how to develop a network design document, build a business case, and translate business requirements into network designs and implementation plans.

Cisco created the CCDE program to recognize senior-level network designers and architects. The program also gives senior operations and support network engineers a validated professional development path for moving into a network architecture role that participates in business strategy.

The CCDE certification is intended for candidates who have day-to-day responsibilities for designing an IP network. Candidates should have a minimum of seven years job experience in network engineering and a thorough understanding of network infrastructure principles and design topics.

The CCDE exams assess the ability of highly experienced network designers and architects to design a Layer 3 IP routing infrastructure. CCDE candidates must 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.



Source: Forrester Research

The benefits of CCDE certification

Certification is a well-known way to advance employment skills. A recent IDC study, commissioned by Cisco, found a significant shortfall between the supply of qualified professionals and the demand for advanced networking skills in every major geographic region. In some areas of the world, demand exceeds supply by up to 40 percent.

As the wave of network technology adoption increases, with growth rates of 15 to 35 percent, Cisco customers need to hire many more network engineers to plan, design, and create new networks for their companies. This need creates an opportunity for network design professionals to reap the rewards of a career with tremendous growth and huge demand for their skills.



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Recipients of CCDE certification will enjoy:

- Validation and recognition for expert-level design expertise
- The ability to differentiate design skills and expertise within the professional's organization and the broader networking community
- Design-focused opportunities for professional development
- Passing the CCDE Qualification Exam also fulfills the recertification requirement for active CCIE certification holders

Cisco has found that organizations with knowledgeable network designers and architects consistently have networks that are aligned with corporate business strategy for reduced downtime, easier troubleshooting, improved performance, and simpler enhancement. Employers who hire CCDE-certified professionals also gain the advantages of:

- Validation of the skills offered by network design employees and job candidates
- Improved ability to create a successful network architecture that meets business requirements
- Expertise to recognize and appropriately adopt new networking technologies and trends
- A new opportunity to develop and recognize senior-level network employees for improved loyalty and retention

Find out more

For more information on the Cisco Certified Design Expert Certification, visit www.cisco.com/go/CCDE

To view the CCDE Video on Demand, go to <http://tools.cisco.com/cmn/jsp/index.jsp?id=69924>

For more information on Cisco career certifications, visit www.cisco.com/go/getcertified