The Increasing Demand for Service Provider Network Professionals

As the service provider space continues to grow and change, many service providers are looking to transform from providers of basic services to “Experience Providers.” An Experience Provider offers fully integrated, personalized voice, video, and data services to anyone, anywhere, anytime using any device, and does this securely, reliably, and seamlessly. A properly installed and maintained IP next-generation network is critical to making this transition.

The Cisco CCNA Service Provider (SP) certification program was built on the growing demand for professionals who can build and maintain a robust IP next-generation network in the service provider environment. By participating in this Cisco SP certification program, network engineers are trained to deliver a scalable, optimized network capable of rapid expansion, able to support the ongoing introduction of new services, and meet the needs of other customer requirements.

Job-Ready Practical Skills

The Cisco CCNA Service Provider certification program was specifically developed to deliver job-ready, practical skills and knowledge to configure, optimize, and troubleshoot the service provider network environment. The certification aligns with the actual job tasks of network engineers working on next-generation service provider networks. These job tasks include understanding and interpretation of network design, configuration and verification of an end-to-end SP network, and high-level troubleshooting and support.

Certification candidates learn the service provider network environment job-ready, practical skills by using labs based on Cisco SP carrier class hardware along with the latest Cisco IOS-XR, Cisco IOS-XE, and Cisco IOS Software. This offers a good balance between technology and job role, and prepares network engineers to build modern, scalable, and reliable SP networks.

Curriculum

The CCNA Service Provider curriculum covers the breadth of networking technologies deployed in the service provider network, including the role of carrier-class equipment. It also introduces the candidate to the IP Next-Generation Network (IP NGN) architecture, and provides network engineers with information and practice activities to configure, optimize, and troubleshoot a service provider network.

The curriculum includes Building Cisco Service Provider Next-Generation Networks, Part 1 (SPNGN1), which covers the basic knowledge and skills necessary to support a service provider network, and Building Cisco Service Provider Next-Generation Networks, Part 2 (SPNGN2), which covers the knowledge and skills necessary to implement and support a service provider network. The curriculum also includes classroom activities with remote labs that are useful to gain practical skills for deploying basic Cisco IOS, Cisco IOS XE, and Cisco IOS XR Software features to operate and support service provider networks.
Achieving CCNA Service Provider Certification

To obtain a CCNA Service Provider certification, a candidate must pass the following two exams: the Building Cisco Service Provider Next-Generation Networks, Part 1 (SPNGN1) 640-875 exam, and the Building Cisco Service Provider Next-Generation Networks, Part 2 (SPNGN2) 640-878 exams. These exams test and validate knowledge of the major components of a network and helps candidates to understand how service provider networks function.

Candidates can prepare for this exam by taking the SPNGN1 and SPNGN2 instructor-led training (ILT) courses offered through our Cisco Learning Partners. In addition, learners can prepare by reviewing the study materials available on the Cisco Learning Network website, https://learningnetwork.cisco.com/.

Requirements

The CCNA Service Provider certification program is a 3-year certification program intended to recognize network engineers, designers, and systems engineers that work in the service provider environment. There are no prerequisites for the CCNA Service Provider certification exams. However, it is recommended that a candidate have at least 1–3 years of experience working in the service provider network environment.

Recommended Skills and Knowledge

The following table contains information related to exams and recommended training associated with CCNA Service Provider certification:

Table 1: Exams and Recommended Training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Numbers</th>
<th>Recommended Training Course Names</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>640-875</td>
<td>Building Cisco Service Provider Next-Generation Networks, Part 1 (SPNGN1) instructor-led training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>640-878</td>
<td>Building Cisco Service Provider Next-Generation Networks, Part 2 (SPNGN2) instructor-led training</td>
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