



## Frequently Asked Questions: CCNA Security

Last updated October 20, 2008

**Q. Why is Cisco Networking Academy creating the CCNA Security course?**

**A.** As announced in September 2008, we have been researching requirements for security, voice, and wireless skills for Cisco Networking Academy students. Research conducted by Forrester Consulting on behalf of Cisco shows a growing demand for skills in entry-level networking positions.

From May through August 2008, we gathered feedback from members of the Networking Academy global community through interviews, focus groups, and surveys to determine the best way to support our students in obtaining these skills. The results overwhelmingly indicated that teaching security skills is first priority. Therefore, we are developing a **CCNA Security** course, an entirely new security course that will align with the CCNA Security certification.

**Q. When will the CCNA Security course be released?**

**A.** Based on global feedback to provide course content as early as possible so academies can prepare to teach the course, we aim to provide a Beta version of the CCNA Security course in April 2009. The CCNA Security Beta course will be provided to academies to use for instructor training and preview purposes. It will include all the course elements except Packet Tracer activities and assessments.

The global, generally available (GA) release of CCNA Security course is scheduled for July 2009, and student classes can be offered at that time.

**Q. When will the Scope and Sequence document be available?**

**A.** We plan to provide a draft Scope & Sequence document in December 2008. It will be a draft version because we will still be in the midst of our course development cycle and some changes may be expected as we continue. We will provide another draft version in April 2009 with the release of the Beta version of CCNA Security course.

**Q. Are there any pre-requisites for students to enroll in CCNA Security course?**

**A.** For optimal student success, it is strongly recommended that students have CCNA level knowledge prior to enrolling in CCNA Security Course. Since students may also may obtain CCNA level knowledge outside of the Networking Academy program, the business rules in Academy Connection will not have any pre-requisites.

**Q. Will Packet Tracer support the new CCNA Security course?**

**A.** Yes, a new version of Packet Tracer will be released to support the security protocols needed for the CCNA Security course. The new version of Packet Tracer is scheduled to be available at the same time as the General Availability of CCNA Security course in July 2009.

**Q. Will CCNA Security course align to any other certification?**

**A.** The CCNA Security course will mainly align with the CCNA Security certification. It will help prepare students to take the Implementing IOS Network Security (IINS) exam (640-453). We may look at other industry certifications to understand what topics may be covered in CCNA Security course, but the primary goal of this course is to align with CCNA Security.

**Q. What are the main elements of CCNA Security course?**

- A.** The CCNA Security course will consist of:
- 1 semester-long (~70-hour) e-learning course
  - Minimally, one complex hands-on lab per chapter; additional labs may be added based on content balancing and instructional value
  - Chapter exams
  - 1 Skills Based Assessment
  - 1 final exam
  - Packet Tracer activities

The CCNA Security course will be delivered in the same Graphical User Interface (GUI) as CCNA Discovery / CCNA Exploration curricula.

**Q. What are the equipment requirements for CCNA Security course?**

**A.** The CCNA Security course will leverage the same topology as the CCNA Discovery / CCNA Exploration equipment so there should not be any additional equipment required to support the topology. While we want to minimize the equipment requirements for CCNA Security, there may be additional investment required for memory upgrades and advanced IOS images. More details on the memory and IOS image upgrades will be provided as we continue with the development of the course.

**Q. Can Packet Tracer be used to replace the lab bundles for the new CCNA Security course?**

**A.** No, Packet Tracer is not a replacement for lab equipment. We recommend the use of physical equipment for hands-on learning. This is a key differentiator relative to other programs. Packet Tracer simulations increase access to performance-based assessment and are designed to provide learning opportunities that compliment the hands-on lab experience.

**Q. What are the instructor training options and requirements for teaching CCNA Security?**

**A.** Instructor training will be required for new instructors. For existing Network Security instructors (NS1 and NS2) and CCNP: Implementing Secure Converged Wide-Area Networks (ISCW) instructors, training is not required, but it is strongly recommended. Existing instructors will be encouraged to read the new CCNA Security curricula and the training materials, lab materials, and presentations.

**Q. Will the new CCNA Security course be translated into other languages?**

**A.** No, there are no plans to translate this course. Like all Networking Academy courses, the content is authored to be translation-friendly

**Q. Will there be any migration plans from current NS1 and NS2 courses to the CCNA Security course?**

**A.** No. CCNA Security is an entirely new course and **not a replacement** for NS1 and NS2 courses. The CCNA Security course will prepare students to take the Implementing Cisco IOS Network Security (IINS) exam (640-453) for the new associate-level CCNA Security certification. The NS1/NS2 courses covered other and more advanced security topics which prepared students to take the Securing Networks with Cisco Routers and Switches (SNRS) and Securing Networks with PIX and ASA (SNPA) exams of the Cisco Certified Security Professional (CCSP) certification.

**Q. Are there any plans to have a course covering the advanced security topics currently in NS1 and NS2?**

**A.** No, there are no plans to replace NS1/NS2 courses or to create a Networking Academy course that teaches more advanced security concepts at the professional-level CCSP certification.