

Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)

Website: www.comptia.org
Address: 1815 S. Meyers Road, Suite 300
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181-5228, USA
Phone: +1 630 678 8300
Fax: +1 630 268 1384

The Computing Technology Industry Association has more than 16,000 members in more than 89 countries. As a leading trade association it works to advance industry growth, advance public policy on information technology and develop vendor-neutral IT certifications. To date 600,000 IT professionals worldwide have achieved CompTIA certifications. One of the most widely know CompTIA certifications is CompTIA A+.

In 2002, the CompTIA announced a new foundation-level certification: CompTIA Security+. The Security+ certification is aimed at IT professionals such as system and network administrators with up to two years work experience who are not security professionals per se but who have certain security responsibilities and would benefit from a security qualification. Among organisations who recognise Security+ are:

- U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation
- IBM
- Microsoft
- Motorola
- Novell
- RSA Security
- Sun Microsystems
- VeriSign
- U.S. Secret Service
- Information Systems Audit and Control Association

CompTIA Security+

The CompTIA Security+ certification is appropriate for IT professionals who are new to the information security profession. Ideal candidates for Security+ certification are system and network administrators, senior help desk personnel, and other IT professionals whose core job function is not security but who would benefit from a foundation-level security qualification. Although not required, it is recommended that Security+ candidates already hold CompTIA Network+ or comparable certification.

To obtain the Security+ certification candidates need to take and pass the computerised multiple-choice Security+ exam at any Prometric or VUE testing centre worldwide. The examination is 100 questions long and is to be completed in 90 minutes. The content of the examination is divided into five domains as follows:

1. General security concepts	30%
2. Communications security	20%
3. Infrastructure security	20%
4. Basics of cryptography	15%
5. Operational/organisational security	15%

The passing score is 764 graded on a scale of 100–900. As with other Prometric/VUE examinations the score is calculated and displayed immediately at the end of the examination session. The examination fee is variable and depends on the location of the testing centre, number of booked exams and CompTIA membership status of candidates. The average examination fee is US\$ 200.

Training for the CompTIA Security+ qualification is available in many forms from a number of training providers. Self-learning options include certification guides and computer-based training solutions; instructor-led courses include both face to face and online tuition. For more detailed information on Security+ and available training please visit CompTIA at www.comptia.org.