Cisco Systems

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Cisco Systems is one of the world's leading networking and security solutions vendors. In addition to its comprehensive internetworking products line Cisco is also a leading provider of integrated solutions, consulting, training, and certification. Currently the following security certifications are available from Cisco Systems:

- Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert Security
- Information Systems Security Professional
- Cisco Certified Security Professional
- Cisco Firewall Specialist
- Cisco Intrusion Detection System Specialist
- Cisco Virtual Private Networks Specialist

Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert Security (CCIE Security)

CCIE Security is Cisco Systems' highest security certification intended to identify top network security experts. Introduced after the international success of the Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert in Routing and Switching certification, CCIE Security continues Cisco's tradition of certification excellence in the network security area. Although CCIE Security is a vendor qualification and largely focuses on Cisco Systems' solutions it also requires a deep understanding of network security and protocols as a whole.

CCIE Security certification requirements consist of the following:

- A passing score on the 100 questions long multiple choice computerised CCIE Security qualification exam administered at VUE and Prometric testing centres worldwide; and
- A passing score on the practical one-day laboratory exam administered at a Cisco CCIE testing laboratory.

The first examination is intended to test candidate's theoretical knowledge of network security and Cisco solutions; the second practical lab exam tests candidates on their ability to apply theoretical knowledge in solving practical problems and implementing Cisco security solutions. Candidates must first obtain a passing score on the qualification exam before being allowed to register for and take the practical lab exam.

The cost of both CCIE Security examinations is US\$ 1,550 (US\$ 300 + 1,250) not including training, preparation materials or travel.

For more information on the CCIE Security certification and up to date certification requirements please visit Cisco Systems at www.cisco.com.

Information Systems Security Professional (INFOSEC)

By virtue of a certification granted to Cisco Systems by the U.S. National Security Agency and the U.S. Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) those who satisfy the following requirements (completion of 5 exams) are recognised as Information Systems Security Professionals under the NSA 4011 training standard:

- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
- Securing Cisco IOS Networks (Exam 642-501)
- Cisco Secure PIX Firewall Advanced (Exam 642-521)
- Cisco Secure Virtual Private Networks (Exam 642-511)
- Cisco Secure Intrusion Detection Systems (643-531)

For more information on the Information Systems Security Professional (INFOSEC) certification please visit Cisco Systems at www.cisco.com and the U.S. National Security Agency at www.nsa.gov.

Cisco Certified Security Professional (CCSP)

The Cisco Certified Security Professional certification is a relatively recent addition to the existing Cisco Professional qualifications (Cisco Certified Network, Design and Internet Professional – CCNP, CCDP, CCIP). CCSP is a professional qualification in its own right; however, it may also be seen as a stepping stone to the Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert in Security. To obtain the CCSP designation candidates must satisfy the following requirements:

a) Hold a valid CCNA or CCIP certification
b) Pass the following exams:
   • Securing Cisco IOS Networks (Exam 642-501)
   • Cisco Secure PIX Firewall Advanced (Exam 642-521)
   • Cisco Secure Intrusion Detection System (Exam 643-531)
   • Cisco Secure VPN (Exam 642-511)
   • Cisco SAFE Implementation (Exam 642-541)

The CCSP designation is valid for three years and must be renewed by passing the current versions of appropriate examinations. For more information on available training and resources please visit Cisco Systems at www.cisco.com.

Cisco Firewall Specialist

The Cisco Firewall Specialist qualification demonstrates understanding and knowledge of Cisco firewall solutions – Cisco IOS and Cisco Private Internet Exchange (PIX). The requirements for the Cisco Firewall Specialist designation are as follows:

a) Valid CCNA certification and
b) passing score on the following 2 examinations:
   • Securing Cisco IOS Networks (Exam 642-501)
   • Cisco Secure PIX Firewall Advanced (Exam 642-521)

The Cisco Firewall Specialist certification is valid for two years and must be renewed by passing current versions of appropriate examinations. For more information please visit www.cisco.com.

Cisco Intrusion Detection System Specialist

The Cisco IDS Specialist certification is one of the three Cisco security specialist qualifications. Cisco IDS Specialists are examined on their mastery of Cisco IOS and Cisco Secure Intrusion Detection System solutions. The requirements for the Cisco IDS Specialist certification are as follows:

a) Valid CCNA certification and
b) passing scores on the following 2 examinations:
- Securing Cisco IOS Networks (Exam 642-501)
- Cisco Secure Intrusion Detection System (Exam 643-531)

Like other Cisco specialist certifications the Cisco IDS Specialist qualification is valid for two years and must be renewed by passing the current versions of appropriate examinations.

Cisco Virtual Private Networks Specialist

Like the other two Cisco security specialist designations (Cisco Firewall Specialist and Cisco IDS Specialist) the Cisco VPN Specialist qualification requires a valid Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification and passing grades on the following two examinations:

- Securing Cisco IOS Networks (Exam 642-501)
- Cisco Secure Virtual Private Networks (Exam 642-511)

Cisco VPN Specialist certification is valid for two years and must be renewed by passing the current versions of appropriate examinations. For information on training and exam registration please visit Cisco Systems at www.cisco.com.