

Cisco Network Security Specialist Certification

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FAQ

Cisco Network Security Specialist certifications are for security professionals who possess specific knowledge and skills that are applicable to key Cisco products and technologies. Security specialists perform critical duties within partner and customer environments that make up security solutions, and these organizations rely on specialists to be current and relevant to the latest products that make up these solutions.

Cisco now offers six Network [Security Specialist certifications](#):

- [Cisco IPS Specialist](#)
- [Cisco Network Admission Control Specialist](#)
- [Cisco ASA Specialist](#)
- [Cisco IOS Security Specialist](#) *new*
- [Cisco Firewall Security Specialist](#) *new*
- [Cisco VPN Security Specialist](#) *new*

Program Specifics

Q. Which exams do I need to take for the new specialist certifications?

A. Refer to the following tables for the list of required exams.

Table 1 Cisco ASA Specialist

Required Exams	Exam Name and Recommended Training
642-617	Deploying Cisco ASA Firewall Solutions (FIREWALL)
642-647	Deploying Cisco ASA VPN Solutions (VPN)

Table 2 Cisco Firewall Security Specialist

Required Exams	Exam Name and Recommended Training
642-617	Deploying Cisco ASA Firewall Solutions (FIREWALL)
642-637	Securing Networks with Cisco Routers and Switches (SECURE)

Table 3 Cisco IOS Security Specialist

Required Exam	Exam Name and Recommended Training
642-637	Securing Networks with Cisco Routers and Switches (SECURE)

Table 4 Cisco IPS Specialist

Required Exam	Exam Name and Recommended Training
642-627	Implementing Cisco Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)

Table 5 Cisco VPN Security Specialist

Required Exams	Exam Name and Recommended Training
642-637	Securing Networks with Cisco Routers and Switches (SECURE)
642-647	Deploying Cisco ASA VPN Solutions (VPN)

Table 6 Cisco Network Admission Control Specialist

Required Exam	Exam Name and Recommended Training
642-591	Implementing Cisco NAC Appliance (CANAC)

Q. Can I achieve a Cisco Certified Network Security Specialist certification without achieving a professional certification?

A. No, the new Security Specialist certifications require that you obtain Cisco CCNA® Security certification before being awarded a specialist certification.

Q. How long are the Network Security Specialist certifications active? When do I need to recertify them?

A. The specialist certifications are active for two years. Candidates must recertify every two years or pass a professional security exam or an expert exam in any other track. The following are the recertification options every two years:

- Pass any current 642-XXX Security Professional Level Exam, or
- Pass any current Cisco CCIE® Written Exam, or
- Pass the current Cisco CCDE™ Written Exam, or the current CCDE Practical Exam, or
- Pass the Cisco Certified Architect Interview *and* the Cisco Certified Architect Board Review

Achieving or recertifying Cisco CCNP®, CCDE or any CCIE automatically extends your active specialist certification(s) up to the point of expiration of the last certification achieved.

Existing Certification

Q. If I have already passed a professional-level security certification such as Cisco CCSP®, do I need the CCNA Security certification as a prerequisite?

A. It depends on which exams you completed and when you passed them. Check your records in the [Certification Tracking System](#) and review your individual certification progress.

Q. Cisco had Firewall and VPN Security Specialist certifications in the past. Since then, I have let my certification expire. Do I automatically get the new specialist certification?

A. No, if it has expired, you must take all the requisite exams to gain the certification. Check your records in the [Certification Tracking System](#) and review your individual certification progress.

Q. I have kept my specialist certification active by taking other security exams. Do I keep my old specialist certification, or do I need to get the new one?

A. Check your records in the [Certification Tracking System](#). If you have kept it active, it will reflect any active as well as earned certifications. You may be awarded the new Cisco Firewall, VPN, or IOS Security Specialist certifications as some older exams qualify.

Q. If I have my CCNP Security certification, do I automatically receive the new Security Specialist certifications?

A. No, it depends on which exams you used to achieve your CCNP Security certification. Check your records in the [Certification Tracking System](#) and review your individual certification progress.

Q. If I pass the new Security Specialist courses and receive my certifications, would I automatically receive the CCNP Security certification?

A. No, it depends on which exams you use to attain your certification. Check your records in the [Certification Tracking System](#) and review your individual certification progress.

Q. Will I receive a certificate if I qualify for one of the new Security Specialist certification?

A. Yes, only if you have passed the requirements and obtain it as a new certification. You will not receive a new certificate when you recertify. Check your records in the [Certification Tracking System](#) and review your individual certification progress.

Course Resources and Study Materials

Q. Are the exams for the new Security Specialist certifications available?

A. Yes, exams are available at any participating Pearson VUE locations worldwide. To register for an exam, visit <http://www.vue.com/cisco/>.

Q. Where can I take the exams?

A. The exams are available through all authorized Pearson VUE testing centers. To register for an exam, visit <http://www.vue.com/cisco/>.

Q. Are the training courses for the new Security Specialist certifications available?

A. Yes, they are available through participating Cisco Authorized Learning Partners. To find and register for a course, locate an authorized Cisco Learning Partner in your area. Visit the Cisco Global Learning Partner Locator at <http://www.cisco.com/go/clplocator>.

Q. Are there any self-study materials such as Cisco Press that are recommended to prepare for the new exams?

A. Cisco Press offers a series of related books and study materials. Titles include exam study guides (for exam preparation), exam preparation guides, and certification preparation materials. You can find more at the Cisco Press website. Candidates also should check the [Cisco Learning Network](#) for other relevant learning materials, book lists, online documentation, and other resources.

The following is a sample of self-study resources available from Cisco Press. For more resources, visit the Cisco Press website <http://www.ciscopress.com>.

- Secure Official Certification Guide
 - Rough Cut Edition– (Rough Cuts provide online access to pre-publication manuscript)
 - Print and eBook Edition–
- Firewall Quick Reference (eBook)–
- Firewall Official Certification Guide
 - Rough Cut Edition– (Rough Cuts provide online access to pre-publication manuscript)
 - Print and eBook Edition–
- VPN Quick Reference (eBook)–
- VPN Official Certification Guide
 - Rough Cut Edition– (Rough Cuts provide online access to pre-publication manuscript)
 - Print and eBook Editions–
- IPS Quick Reference (eBook)–
- IPS Official Certification Guide
 - Rough Cut Edition–
 - Print and eBook–