

DevNet Associate Certification Guide

Top Cisco resources to plan and prepare for certification



DevNet Associate Certification Guide



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DevNet Associate Overview

IT teams needs skilled workers with software skills as well as infrastructure knowledge. Cisco Certified DevNet Associate certification validates those exact skills. This certification is poised to launch a new generation of IT careers. One of them could be yours.

Cisco Certified DevNet Associate Overview is about writing apps and code for the network

This certification can help you pioneer the network of the future on the Cisco platform. If you already know software development and DevOps workflows, Cisco DevNet certification is a natural next step. Or, if you're a network engineer or technician, and are looking to add coding and API calls to your skill set, the Cisco DevNet Associate is a great entry point.

Cisco Certified DevNet Associate might be the certification for you if:

- · You have a background or interest in coding
- You like to invent new, more efficient ways to get things done
- · You like logic puzzles, Sudoku, Legos, or Minecraft
- You thrive in dynamic environments and love to keep learning new things

Here are some job titles that DevNet certification can prepare you for:

- NetDevOps Engineer
- Network Engineer
- Network Administrator
- SW Engineer Developer
- Automation Engineer
- Site Reliability Engineer
- DevOps Engineer (NetDevOps)
- Cloud Infrastructure Engineer



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And while you build your skills, you're also building your income. Here's proof. Skillsoft's Global Knowledge 2021 IT Skills and Salary Report examined data from over 9,300 technology professionals, with 92 percent holding at least one certification. When surveyed, the most cited benefit of certification was also the top factor attributed to salary increases: an improvement in the quality of their work.

Training and certifications pay off – and organizations know it. Three out of four IT decision-makers worldwide reported a skills shortage in their department – a 145 percent increase since 2016. Even more, almost 50 percent believe that certifications close organizational skills gaps. That makes certified candidates stand out in a pool of applicants during the hiring process.

When you focus on DevOps, you'll learn how to provide solutions faster, more often, more reliably, and aligned with business requirements. Take the first step toward a more rewarding, in-demand career by earning your Cisco Certified DevNet Associate certification. It can help your résumé stand out and give you a foot in the door.

Here's what you need to know to get started.



Cisco Certified DevNet Associate Training and Certification Program At-a-Glance



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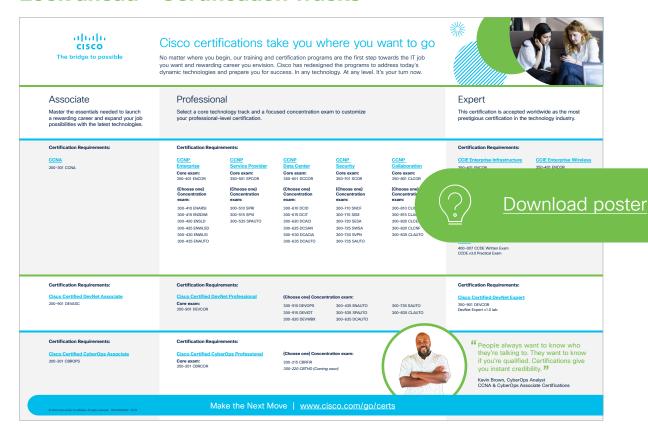
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Look ahead - Certification Tracks





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As you can see, a Cisco Certified DevNet Associate certification is one of many steps you can take on your learning journey. With each step, you build your knowledge base—and your reputation—to become increasingly valuable to any IT organization.



Here are the different Cisco DevNet certifications you can earn:

ightarrow Associate

Proof that you've mastered the essentials to build your IT career

→ Expert

The most prestigious certification you can obtain

ightarrow Professional

Focus on a core technology track to sharpen your specialized expertise

ightarrow Specialist

Enhance your networking knowledge in tech such as security, data center, or video

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If you're just starting out on your DevNet journey, get to know these key terms:

Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and REST APIs

APIs are published instructions to interface with a product or service. APIs enable developers to assemble a command or request for a service or data, to submit it, and to receive any output. They are published and maintained by the vendor.

Continuous Integration/Continuous Development (CICD)

A CICD system provides automated builds and tests for creating software, making configuration changes, or completing other deployment tasks. When using a CICD pipeline, coders can continually merge their changes to a main branch of an existing application, run integration tests on changes, keep changes small, and minimize the potential for problems due to multiple, gated test result requirements.

Data formats (XML, JavaScript Object Notation [JSON], YAML Ain't Markup Language [YAML])

Common data formats that are both machine-readable and human-readable for providing input to programs and applications using interfaces (APIs).

DevOps

A combination of Development (Dev) and Operations (Ops), DevOps focuses on automation, regularly allowing failures that can be automatically fixed with mitigated risks, as well as connecting business outcomes to the availability goals for a given system. The DevOps movement makes developers responsible for deployment and also has teams use coding workflows and tools to manage infrastructure.



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Infrastructure, containers, and virtual machines

Infrastructure is a generic term for the underlying devices, physical or virtual, that provide computing power or storage capacity or networks, used to deliver software or applications. Virtual machines can emulate a computer system and are typically built as images, providing the same functionality as the physical computer. Containers package up software and dependencies into one descriptive file that contains everything to run an application, regardless of the underlying systems.

Network data models (YANG, RESTCONF, NETCONF)

YANG is a data modeling language for configuration and state data for network devices. It stands for Yet Another Next Generation. RESTCONF and NETCONF are protocols defined by a standards body, so that you can manage configuration of network devices modeled with YANG.

Python

A general-purpose, interpreted programming language. Python emphasizes code readability with whitespace requirements, so it's approachable and powerful. Many network automation applications and tutorials are centered around Python.

Software Development Kit (SDK)

A platform for writing programs and applications targeting an API. Often includes documentation, configurations, and tools (such as compilers or linkers) to write and execute the code to interface with the API.

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This is where the real work happens. You'll need two things: the exam blueprint, and a strategy for learning, studying, and practicing.

The <u>DevNet exam blueprint</u> is the basis for the certification exam. It defines the contents of both the exam and the official training course, and it should be your roadmap for studying. If you can successfully complete the tasks defined for each topic on the blueprint, you're ready for the exam.



Keep in mind: when the verb for a topic area is "describe," you won't need the same depth of knowledge for that topic as when the verbs are "configure," "troubleshoot," and "design."

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Here are several training options to help you prepare:

- <u>Cisco Guided Study Group-DevNet</u> offers you a 12-week journey toward certification, where you'll join a mix of participants from various backgrounds and skill levels, with guidance from a live coach.
- Use the <u>Cisco Learning Locator</u> to find instructor-led courses, both in-person and virtual.
- If books are your thing, check out the <u>Cisco Press Cisco Certified DevNet</u> <u>Associate DEVASC 200-901 Official Cert Guide</u>, a perfect addition to your self-study plan.
- The <u>DevNet Preparation Bundle</u> helps you prepare for the 200 901 DEVASC exam.



Regardless of how you prepare for the exam, it's crucial for you to get your hands on the gear to practice. This is called "labbing," as in "practicing in a lab environment." Your ability to execute critical tasks will be tested on the exam, so you need to practice. Lab early. Lab often. Then lab some more.

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When you're ready to take the exam, register with <u>Pearson VUE</u>, our testing partner.

On exam day, you'll be in a controlled environment to ensure fairness and to give you the best, most consistent experience. During the exam, it will be just you and your knowledge and experience versus the test. Keep track of the time, read each question carefully, answer each one (and if you don't know the answer, try to eliminate one or more options and then guess), and keep moving to the end.

After you pass the exam, you can link your digital certification badge to all your social media profiles to tell the world what you've achieved.

And now, you can take certification exams online, so you can stay on track, even when you can't travel to a testing center.



To view a walk-through demonstration of the various exam question types and how they function, check out the <u>Cisco Certification Exam Tutorial Videos</u> page.



DevNet Associate Exam Topics

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Still thinking about getting certified? Click DevNet Associate Essentials for more details about the program. It will help you make the best decision.



Already decided to get certified, and want to start studying? Click DevNet Associate Prep to find the ultimate resources to develop your self-study plan.

You'll find a summary of learning resources, including exam outlines, Cisco Press books, the Cisco Learning Network, and more by reviewing the DevNet Prep Learning Map. Together these resources add up to over 70 hours of self-study preparation.

Other DevNet Associate resources include:

DevNet Associate Certification

Download 200-901 DEVASC:

DevNet Associate Exam Topics

Cisco Learning Network DevNet Community

Cisco Learning Blog

Certification Blogs

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At Cisco, we designed the DevNet Associate certification program to help you take advantage of the new advances in application design, software development, and automation. As software and the network grow more and more interconnected every day, IT professionals are using automation and DevOps to scale and secure their networking infrastructures.

The opportunities to maximize this potential are boundless. Yet there are simply not enough qualified candidates to go around. Here's your chance to be one of them.

Prove your skills with certification. Learn to harness the power of Cisco technology in your applications and user experiences. Build your career with Cisco by certifying your in-demand software and networking automation skills. And join the Cisco ecosystem of innovation and set yourself apart from other developers and networkers.

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Use this <u>email template</u> to let your manager know why training and certification is so beneficial for you-and for them. Get the help you need to transform your career, your income, and your skill set.

Whether you're a software developer, networking professional, or both, a DevNet Associate certification gives you the know-how you need—and the industry recognition that translates into jobs and possibilities.





Ask your manager to sponsor your training. Once they understand the benefits to your organization, they will be eager to learn more and support you with next steps.

