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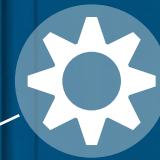
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# Learning@Cisco Data Center e-Guide





## Introduction

It's an exciting time to be involved with the data center. The era of digital transformation currently invigorating us has certainly not overlooked this vital IT sector. Fast disappearing are the days where data center professionals live in a siloed world just tending server farms. Today's next-generation data center calls for a new breed of data center pro: someone who understands how to analyze, simplify, automate, and protect data—what Cisco calls the “ASAP data center.”

To be at the forefront of this next generation, you'll need to understand how to design, implement, and manage a complex, modern data center infrastructure. You'll need to know about unified computing, virtualization, Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI), and data center automation and orchestration. Cisco is happy to say that the Data Center certification program has been revitalized to get you ready.

In this e-guide, explore with us the growth of the data center market and the job roles it is spurring, the curricular and exam changes we have undertaken across our Data Center certification portfolio to meet the demands of the next-generation data center, a wealth of resources for self-study and formal training, and a list of people and groups to connect with to guide your journey. I hope you will share our excitement in the data center's current transformation whether you are a Cisco Data Center certification holder looking for career momentum, a participant in another certification track wanting to broaden your horizons, or someone new to certification but eager to find a pursuit that promises to be vibrant and rewarding for years to come.



**Karen Louie, Portfolio Manager,  
Data Center Certifications and  
Product Training, Cisco Services**

### Data Center Technologies and Skills

- NW engineering
- Unified communications
- Virtualization
- Automation
- Cloud integration
- Policy-driven infrastructure
- Software Defined Networking (SDN)
- Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI)
- Hyper-converged infrastructure
- Soft skills (negotiation, relationship management, project management)

## Data Center Tracks

### CCNA Data Center

Gain the knowledge you need to install, configure, and maintain data center technology, including data center networking concepts and technologies, storage networking, unified computing, network virtualization, data center automation and orchestration, and Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure (ACI).

- **200-150 DCICN:** Introducing Cisco Data Center Networking (DCICN) v6.0
- **200-155 DCICT:** Introducing Cisco Data Center Networking Technologies (DCICT) v6.0

### CCNP Data Center

Get the skills needed to design, implement, and manage a modern data center infrastructure, and be highly qualified for senior roles in complex data centers chartered with enabling digital business initiatives.

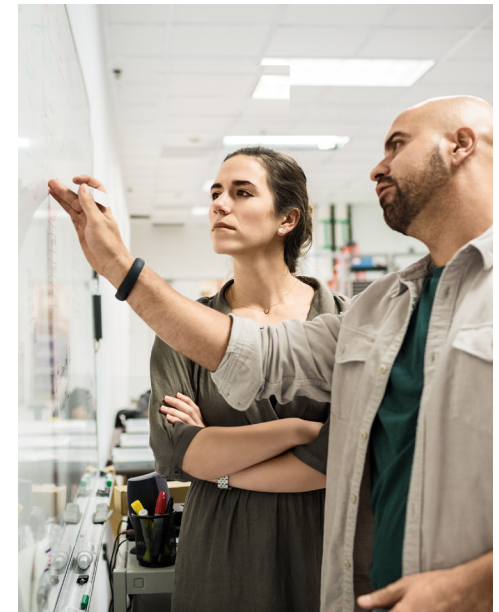
- **300-175 DCUCI:** Implementing Cisco Data Center Unified Computing
- **300-165 DCII:** Implementing Cisco Data Center Infrastructure
- **300-170 DCVAI:** Implementing Cisco Data Center Virtualization and Automation
- **300-160 DCID:** Designing Cisco Data Center Infrastructure
- **300-180 DCIT:** Troubleshooting Cisco Data Center Infrastructure

### CCIE Data Center

CCIE-level certifications are accepted worldwide as some of the most prestigious IT certifications. Validates the expert-level skills required for planning, designing, implementing and troubleshooting today's Data Center infrastructure.

There are no formal prerequisites for CCIE certification. Other professional certifications or training courses are not required.

- **400-151 DCICNL:** CCIE Data Center
- **CCIE Data Center Lab Exam**



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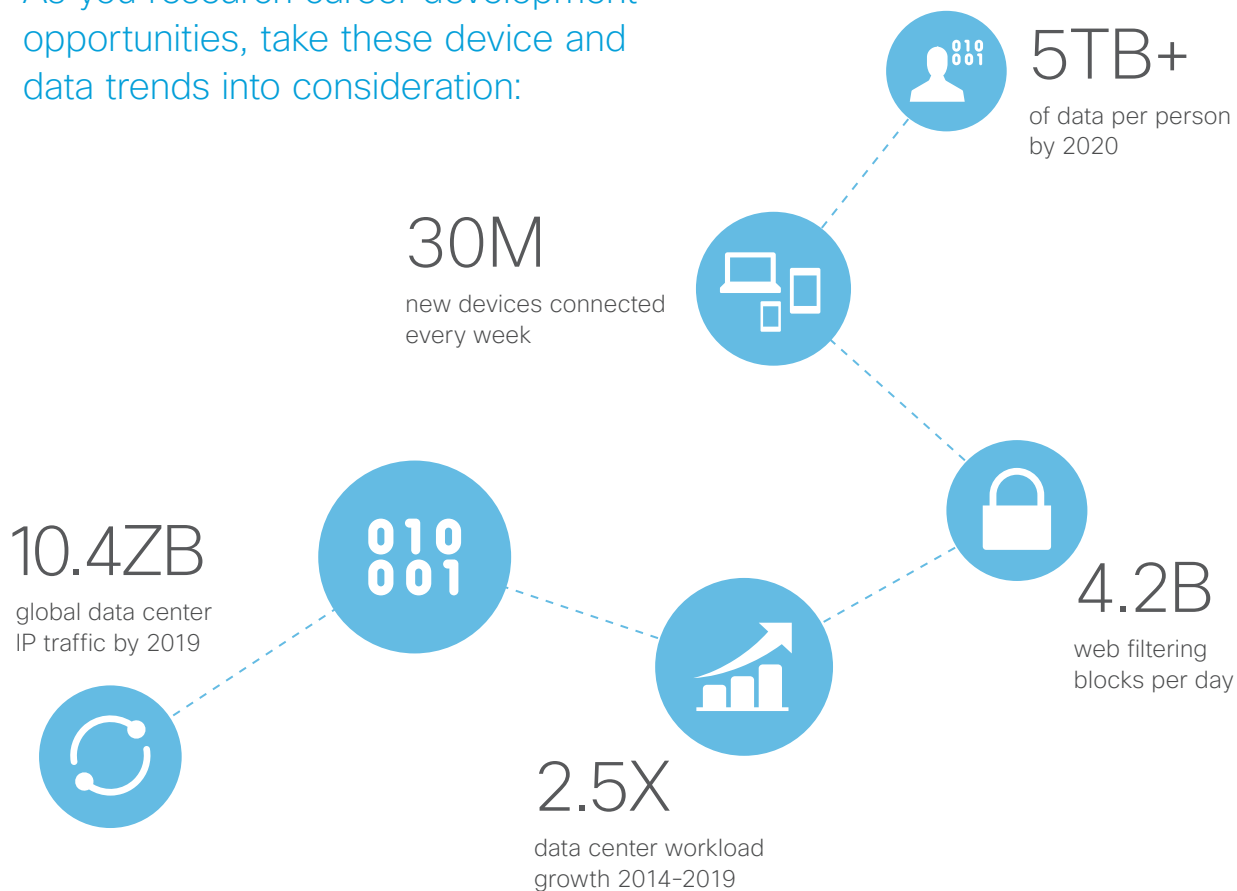
## Data Center Growth Means Career Opportunities

An enterprise-class data center is key to supporting new business models involving IoT, Big Data, and modernizing existing business-critical applications. With these trends hyper-connecting people, devices and machines, networking, computational capabilities and storage are all on the rise. All of these trends are converging in the next-generation data center and driving demand for IT professionals who design, install, and maintain Cisco Data Centers.

As you research career development opportunities, take these device and data trends into consideration:

### In-Demand Job Roles

- Network engineer
- Data center engineer
- Network administrators
- Systems engineers
- Data center administrators
- IT consultants
- Support engineers
- IT architect



## Curriculum Update

Cisco enriches training and certification portfolio in support of latest skills and technologies needed for digital business transformation.

To support the skills needed for world-class digital business transformation, Cisco has made significant updates to its data center certification track. The revised data center certifications make sure that practitioners are uniquely qualified for key roles in sophisticated data center environments.

The ability to connect data, processes, and experiences is necessary for digital business transformation. Enterprises need to access data from anywhere, analyze it and make real-time decisions closer to where that data was created to fuel innovation and improve business outcomes. Cisco is at the forefront of preparing professionals for today's expanding job roles in networking, security, cloud, and data center. Cisco is also delivering training for new skills requirements, such as network programmability and data analytics, to keep networks and networkers in the forefront of innovation.



**Tejas Vashi, Senior Director,  
Product Strategy and Marketing,  
Cisco Services**

### Major Updates to the Data Center Certification Track



The [CCNA Data Center](#) now has new content and extensive hands-on learning that teaches the basics of cloud computing, automation, and orchestration of the data center infrastructure, Cisco UCS director basic functions, and application centric infrastructure.



The [CCNP Data Center](#) focuses on data center networking, unified computing, virtualization, Cisco Application Centric Infrastructure, and data center automation and orchestration to validate IT professionals' skills in the latest technologies and best practices.



The recently enhanced [CCIE Data Center](#) certifies expert level skills focused on in depth data center solutions and emerging technologies needed to design, implement and manage an complex, modern data center environment.



## Customer Story

### Riding High with Data Center

The sky's the limit for a former "IT guy" who transitioned to data center management.

Before he was 30 years old, Rickey Keith was well on his way to being an IT pro. After he earned his degree and gained valuable experience doing IT management for a hospital in Alaska, he landed his current position in New Orleans. While he was developing his career, he also acquired more than a dozen IT Cisco Certifications.

### Data Center Is the Brains

But Rickey believes it's his Data Center training and certification that delivers the most value right now for his employers and clients.

"The data center is the brains of the environment," he says. "This is where all the critical activities and processes happen, which makes it central to the way a company operates. Even small enterprises have it in some form, so data center management is a great career. If you can keep the data center functioning, you can keep the whole enterprise operating."

He adds that understanding cloud management is now a basic skill for managing the data center. "This is especially important as more companies move into the cloud because they can't maintain those services on site. This means that more Data Center-certified people will be needed. It's an excellent choice if you're looking for job security and advancement."

Rickey's plans don't stop there: "In the next few months, I plan to earn my CCIE in Data Center, which is a big leap."

With a career arc that's the envy of many young engineers, Rickey feels lucky to be doing something he loves. "I'm so lucky that I have a passion for the technology, the storage, the Cisco servers, and especially the data centers."

### For More Information

To begin your exploration of Cisco Data Center certifications, visit: [www.cisco.com/go/dccert](http://www.cisco.com/go/dccert).

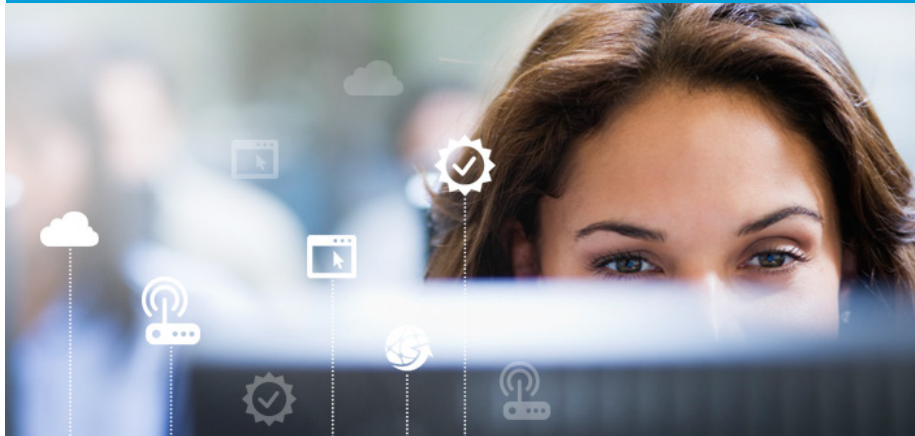


"We're in a digital age, and even small companies are moving to the cloud and to data centers."

—Rickey Keith  
Service Operations Manager,  
Universal Data

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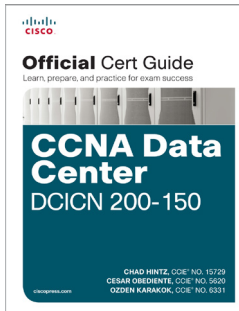
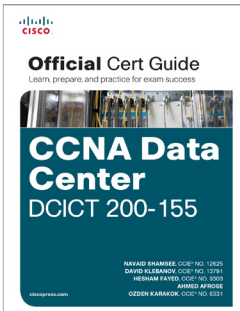






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## Data Center Self Study Starter Kit

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 <p>Make a <a href="#">training plan</a> to fill in the missing components</p>	 <p><a href="#">Join</a> a study group</p>	
 <p><a href="#">Schedule</a> the exam with Pearson VUE</p>	 <p>Staying focused and caffeinated</p>	



## Connections: People and Groups to Follow



### Cisco Data Center



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[@ciscoDC](#)



[@CCIE21921](#) Lukas Krattiger, Cisco  
Principal Technical Marketing Engineer



[@CCIE5952](#) David Jansen,  
Cisco Distinguished Systems Engineer



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Data Center certifications today.



### Further Resources



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