



# Future-Proof Your Career: CCNA Routing and Switching

Digital transformation is changing the world. This is especially true in the business world, where every company must take full advantage of technology to remain competitive. Today, every business initiative is also a technology initiative. IT professionals are not only required to stay on top of technology advancements, but also business practice and process improvements.

The Internet of Things (IoT) is now the engine that moves businesses forward. But IoT itself continues to evolve. And top technology initiatives, including security, cloud, big data, mobility, application development, network design, systems/services integration, data center operations, and enterprise architecture, are increasing in importance.

What does this mean for you and your career? Now more than ever, IT managers are relying on certifications as proof of knowledge of all these new IT skills, as well as the core routing and switching background that supports so much of IT. Is your certification currently inactive? In a recent study, 60 percent of IT hiring managers acknowledged that there's a shortage in critical IT skills. These managers also indicated that they value certifications, both in terms of having certified professionals on staff and hiring new candidates.<sup>1</sup> And when you have the skills that are so vital for businesses to succeed, a world of new possibilities opens up to you.

## The Changing Role of Core Network Engineers

As enterprises adopt programmable network architectures, the expertise required of core network engineers is evolving. CLI-based interactions with routing and switching infrastructures are giving way to controller-based interactions driven by business and application policies.

To meet this demand, Cisco has updated its most popular certification, CCNA Routing and Switching, to enable IT professionals to fully harness the power of the latest Cisco technologies. Those who have let their CCNA Routing and Switching certification lapse will want to pay attention to these changes.

The CCNA Routing and Switching certification has been updated to meet these latest shifts in technologies:

- Awareness of programmable network (SDN) architectures and the separation of control plane and data plane
- Expanded VPN topics to include DMVPN, site-to-site VPN, and client VPN technologies
- Increased focus on IPv6 routing protocols, configuration, and knowledge

- Understanding of cloud resources deployed in enterprise network architectures
- Knowledge of QoS concepts, including marking, shaping, and policing mechanisms to manage congestion of various types of traffic

Through the continually evolving training and certification available as part of CCNA Routing and Switching, you'll be able to prove to your current and future managers and organizations that you are equipped with the latest and most powerful know-how in terms of industry solutions.

One of the top reasons certification holders let their credentials lapse is because they have secured a position where they no longer technically require a current certification. But, with technology changing so fast, this might be the right time to reconsider.

## Cisco Certified Professionals Earn More—and Gain More

Professionals with Cisco network administration skills earn 9 percent higher salaries.<sup>2</sup> And 65 percent of certified employees surveyed confirm that certification has had a positive impact on their professional reputation.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, when asked how certifications have helped them the most, certified professionals mention being able to perform their jobs more efficiently, gaining newfound confidence for taking on projects, or enjoying higher performance ratings.<sup>3</sup>

As a Cisco CCNA-certified professional, you'll be uniquely prepared to design, deploy, monitor, and troubleshoot the network infrastructure at the heart of IoT. And you'll put yourself on the path to professional recognition and a promising IT career.

Are you ready to prepare for the next generation of the Internet and re-engage with certification? To register for our Routing and Switching webinar series and to learn more about the certification updates, visit [www.cisco.com/go/ccna](http://www.cisco.com/go/ccna).

1. Learning@Cisco Hiring Manager Survey, 2015

2. Robert Half Technology's 2016 Salary Guide

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