
Foreword

"The will to succeed is useless without the will to prepare"...Henry David Thoreau

The CCIE program is designed to help individuals, companies, industries, and countries succeed in an era of increasing network reliance by distinguishing the top echelon of internetworking experts. If that sounds like a lofty mission, then our standards for excellence are equally high.

To achieve the CCIE certification is to ascend the pinnacle of technical excellence in the IT profession. While CCIEs inevitably gain extensive product knowledge on their way to certification, product training is not the program objective. Rather, the focus is on identifying those experts capable of understanding and navigating the intricacies and potential pitfalls inherent in end-to-end networking, regardless of technology or product brand.

The first step along the CCIE path is for individuals to take a challenging written exam designed to assess their knowledge across a range of technologies and topologies relevant today. If their scores indicate expert-level knowledge, candidates then proceed to the performance-based CCIE Certification Lab Exam. Administered only by Cisco Systems, this hands-on exam truly distinguishes the CCIE program from all others. Candidates must demonstrate true mastery of internetworking through a series of timed exercises under intense conditions simulating today's mission-critical IT world.

Becoming CCIE Certified requires significant investment in education and preparation by each candidate. Moreover, a rigorous and mandatory biyearly recertification process ensures the commitment is long lasting and helps guarantee program integrity. These rigid requirements ensure that CCIEs are leaders with a proven and enduring commitment to their career, the industry, and the process of ongoing learning.

Cisco does not require candidates to complete specific training in preparation for either the written exam or the performance-based component of the CCIE certification process. The program is intended to identify hands-on experience and acquired expertise rather than the completion of specified course work. If you have committed yourself to beginning the journey toward achieving CCIE certification, *CCIE Routing and Switching Exam Certification Guide* can help ensure that your valuable preparation time is invested wisely. By providing candidates with typical exam subject matter, topic summaries, and practice and review questions that test the comprehensive networking knowledge expected, the *CCIE Routing and Switching Exam Certification Guide* can greatly assist in certification preparation. It offers you complete, late-stage exam preparation guidance that will enable you to assess your strengths and weaknesses and focus your study where you need the most help.

Lorne Braddock
Director, CCIE Program Group
Cisco Systems, Inc.