

Certification Rankings - Alphabetical by Vendor/Title

Vendor	Name	Level	Time	#Exams	Cost	Experience	\$\$\$	Rank	Comments
<b>Weighting:</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>		<i>Experience and average pay values double in ranking computations.</i>
Adobe	Adobe Certified Associate	2	3	1	1.5	2	4	19.5	Individual exams available for PhotoShop, Dreamweaver, and Flash
Adobe	Adobe Certified Expert (ACE Specialist)	4	6	3	4.5	4	6.5	38.5	Tracks available for Design, Web, Video, Rich Internet Apps, and Technical Communications: 2 exams in each track are required, as is one additional elective.
Adobe	Adobe Certified Expert (ACE Master)	6	12	6	9	6	8.5	62	Number of exams varies from 4-6 depending on Master track (Design: 5; Web: 6; Video: 4; Rich Internet Apps: 6; Technical Communications: 4)
Apple	Apple Certified Support Professional (ACSP)	2	6	1	2	2	4.5	24	Exam: \$200  Mac OS X Support Essentials 10.6 Exam (9L0-403)
Apple	Xsan 2 Administrator	2	6	1	2	4	6	31	Apple IT exams: \$200 each  Verifies a candidate's knowledge of Apple's SAN file system for Mac OS X. An Xsan Administrator is responsible for the life cycle of Xsan, including installation, deployment, and infrastructure. To earn Xsan Administrator certification, candidates must pass one required exam: Xsan 2 Administration Exam (9L0-622).
Apple	Apple Certified System Administrator (ACSA)	4	12	4	6.5	4	5	44.5	Exams: \$200 each
Brocade	Brocade Certified Fabric Professional (BCFP)	2	6	1	1.5	2	9	32.5	Exam: \$150
Brocade	Brocade Certified Architect for FICON (BCAF)	4	12	1	1.5	8	11	56.5	Exam: \$150
Brocade	Brocade Accredited Internetworking Specialist	2	6	1	1.5	2	8	30.5	Exam: \$150

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BICSI	Registered Communications Distribution Designer (RCDD)	4	12	2	5.25	8	8	55.25	<p>* Format: 3 hours, 120 questions, closed-book, multiple choice                      * Pricing: Members—\$325; Nonmembers—\$525                      * Exam Retake Fee (if applicable): Members—\$110; Nonmembers—\$285</p> <p>To sit for the RCDD credential, you must have passed the ITS Fundamentals examination and have at least one of the following:</p> <p>* Five years ITS design experience                      * Two years verifiable ITS design experience and three years additional ITS equivalents chosen from combinations of experience, approved education and approved ITS license/certification</p> <p>The RCDD credential is valid for three years. Within each three-year period, all RCDDs must obtain a minimum of 45 BICSI-approved continuing education credit (CEC) hours. As part of this 45-hour requirement, attendance in at least one BICSI conference during the three-year period is mandatory. The RCDD registration must be renewed every three years. Click here for additional renewal information.</p>
Check Point	Check Point Certified Security Administrator (CCSA)	2	12	1	2.00	2	6.5	34	<p>Exam: \$150 to \$200                      90 minutes</p> <p>One exam per specialty. Specialties include: R70 and R71.</p>
Check Point	Check Point Accelerated Security Expert (CCSE)	6	18	1	2.00	6	9	57	<p>Exam: \$150 to \$200</p>
Check Point	Check Point Managed Security Expert (CCMSE)	6	18	2	4.00	6	11	64	<p>Exams: \$150 to \$200</p> <p>* CCSE R70                      * 6 months to 1 year of experience with Check Point products</p>
Check Point	Check Point Certified Master Architect (CCMA)	6	18	1	13.50	6	13	76.5	<p>2-hour written exam + 8-hour hands-on lab exam</p> <p>Must also hold CCSA, CCSE and CCMSE.                      Five years experience recommended.</p>

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Cisco	Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician (CCENT)	2	3	1	1.50	2	4.5	20.5	Exam: \$150 No prereqs  Entry-level
Cisco	Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)	4	3	1	2.50	4	5	28.5	Exam: \$250 Specialty CCNA certifications available for Service Provider Operations (CCNA SP Ops), security (CCNA Security), voice (CCNA Voice), and wireless (CCNA Wireless). Certification valid three years; recertification required.
Cisco	Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP)	6	12	3		4	7	43	Exam: \$150 to \$300 Prereqs: Valid CCNA certification or any CCIE Certification  Specialties include: Service Provider Operations (CCNP SP Ops), and Wireless (CCNP Wireless). Recertification exam required after 3 years.
Cisco	Cisco Certified Design Professional (CCDP)	6	12	3	4.50	6	8.5	54.5	Exam: \$150 Applications must hold CCDA and CCNA certifications or any CCIE designation. Recertification exam required after three years.
Cisco	CCNA Security	4	18	1	3.00	6	7.5	53	Exam: \$150 to \$300 Prereqs: CCNA or any CCIE Certification
Cisco	CCNP Security	6	18	4	3.00	6	8.5	60	Exam: \$150 to \$300 Prereqs: CCNA Security or any CCIE Certification
Cisco	Cisco Certified Internet Expert (CCIE)	8	24	2	17.50	8	14	95.5	Written exam: \$350 Lab exam: \$1,400 Several specialties available: Routing and Switching, Security, Service Provider, Service Provider Operations, Storage Networking, and Voice and Wireless. Written exam and lab exam required. Lab exam must be completed within three years of written exam. CCIE or CCDE exam required within the 24 month period prior to recertification.
Citrix	Citrix Certified Administrator (CCA)	2	12	1	1.50	2	8	36.5	Exam: \$150  Four general tracks (1 exam each) One Platinum track (3 exams)
Citrix	Citrix Certified Enterprise Administrator (CCEA)	4	24	6	10.00	4	9	70	

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Citrix	Citrix Certified Advanced Administrator (CCAA)	6	12	2	34.95	6	9	84.95	Exams: \$150 Training: \$3,195 Certification Requirements  A05 Implementing Citrix XenApp 5.0 for Windows Server 2008 or A23 Citrix XenApp 5 for Windows Server 2003: Administration* or 259 Citrix Presentation Server 4.5 and XenApp 5.0 for Windows Server 2003: Administration* * CXA-300-1 Advanced Administration for Citrix XenApp 5.0 for Windows Server 2008 * A08 Advanced Administration for Citrix XenApp 5.0 for Windows Server 2008
Citrix	Citrix Certified Enterprise Engineer for Virtualization (CCEE)	6	12	2	4.50	6	9	54.5	Applicants must hold CCA for Citrix XenApp, Citrix XenServer and Citrix XenDesktop.
Citrix	Citrix Certified Integration Architect (CCIA)	6	24	7	13.00	6	11	84	Two tracks available: Virtualization track (must hold CCEE for Virtualization) and Citrix XenApp track. Some exams waived for holders of CCA certification.
Citrix	Citrix Certified Instructor (CCI)	8	24	4	5.00	8	10	77	Four tracks available: Application Virtualization, Application Networking, Server Virtualization, and Desktop Virtualization. Certification valid for calendar year. Subscription program: \$500
CompTIA	A+	2	3	2	3.36	2	3.5	21.36	Exam: \$168 (non-member price)  Prior to Dec 31, 2010, certification is valid for life. After January 1, 2011, certifications valid for 3 years.
CompTIA	Project+	4	12	1	2.39	4	5.5	38.39	Exam: \$239 (non-member price)
CompTIA	Linux+	2	9	2	3.36	2	4	28.36	Exam: \$168 (non-member price)
CompTIA	Network+	4	3	1	2.39	4	4	26.39	Exam: \$239 (non-member price) Certifications obtained before Dec 31, 2010, do not expire. After January 1, 2011, certification valid for three years.
CompTIA	Security+	2	3	1	2.58	2	4.5	19	Exam: \$258 (non-member price) Certifications obtained before Dec 31, 2010, do not expire. After January 1, 2011, certification valid for three years.
CompTIA	CTT+	6	3	2	4.78	6	5.5	38.78	Exam: \$239 each (non-member price)  Required exam parts: Two - CompTIA CTT+ Essentials and either the Classroom Trainer or Virtual Classroom Trainer

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CWNP	Certified Wireless Network Administrator (CWNA)	2	12	1	1.75	2	5.5	31.75	Exam: \$175 Must recertify every three years. Average salary for CWNA in 2009: \$94K
CWNP	Certified Wireless Security Professional (CWSP)	6	12	2	4	6	6.5	49	Exams: \$175 and \$225  Must hold CWNA. Recertification required every three years. Average salary for CWSP in 2008: \$95K
EC-Council	Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)	6	12	1	28.95	6	9.5	78.95	Exam: \$250 You must show 2 years of work experience in security related field. On an average you can expect to be paid around \$15,000 to \$ 45,000 per assignment.
EC-Council	Computer Hacking Forensic Investigator (CHFI)	6	12	1	28.95	6	6.5	72.95	Exam: \$250 Multiple course delivery options are available. Starting salaries in the field can range as high as \$85,000 to \$120,000.
Help Desk Institute (HDI)	Desktop Support Technician (DST)	4	6	1	1.50	4	3.5	27.5	Exam: \$145
IACIS	Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE)	4	12	1	27.45	4	6.5	65.45	Exam: \$750 Take training or just take exam. Must retake exam every three years.  After peer review phase: The CFCE certification phase is an independent process by which candidates must examine media from a hard drive and submit a skills assessment document. Candidates must also complete a written examination that encompasses all of the CFCE core competencies and contains 100 questions. Candidates must achieve a score of 80% on the practical and written exercises. Candidates must also submit a notarized document declaring the work completed was independent and unassisted.

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ISACA	Certified Information System Auditor (CISA)	6	18	1	4.15	6	8.5	58.15	Early exam registration: Member \$415, Non-member \$545 Ordinary exam registration: Member \$465, Non-member \$595  Fee is early registration for member fee. Must have five years experience in information systems auditing, control or security work experience. One hundred twenty hours of continuing education required every three years.
ISACA	Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)	6	12	1	4.15	6	8	51.15	Early exam registration: Member \$415, Non-member \$545 Ordinary exam registration: Member \$465, Non-member \$595  Fee is early registration for member fee. Must have five years experience in information security field. One hundred twenty hours of continuing education required every three years.
ISACA	Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT (CGEIT)	4	12	1	4.15	6	8	49.15	Early exam registration: Member \$415, Non-member \$545 Ordinary exam registration: Member \$465, Non-member \$595  Fee is early registration for members fee. Must have five years experience managing governance of IT enterprises.
ISACA	Certified in Risk and Information System Controls (CRISC)	6	12	1	NA	6	6.5	44	Grandfathering without exam OR one exam beginning June 2011  Experience required: Five 5 years IT or business; three years CRISC focus areas. One hundred twenty hours of continuing education required every three years.
ISFCE	Certified Computer Examiner (CCE)	6	12	1	3.95	6	5.5	45.95	Exam: \$395  Prerequisites: training course, exam, 18 months experience in digital forensic examinations.
ISC-squared	System Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP)	4	8	1	4.69	6	5	39.69	Exam: \$250 (early registration); \$300  One year experience in Access Controls; Analysis and Monitoring; Cryptography; Malicious Code; Networks and Telecommunications; Risk, Response and Recovery; or Security Operations and Administration required. Annual fee required. Recertification every three years with minimum of 60 CPEs.
ISC-squared	Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)	6	12	1	5.99	6	7.5	51.99	Exam: \$549 (early registration); \$599  Must have five years information security experience in two or more domains. Annual fee required plus 120 CPE (Continuing Professional Education) every three years.

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ITIL	Service Management Foundation Certification	2	6	1	1.65	2	6	26.65	
ITIL	Practitioner Certificate in IT Service Management	4	24	1	2.50	4	8	55.5	Must have ITIL Foundation Certification.
ITIL	Service Manager Certificate	6	12	1	2.85	6	7	47.85	Must have at least one ITIL Practitioner certifications.
Linux Professional Institute	LPIC-1	2	6	2	3.20	2	5.6	28.4	Exams: \$160 each No prereqs Recertification by exam required every five years.
Linux Professional Institute	LPIC-2	4	6	2	3.20	4	6.7	36.6	Exams: \$160 each Pre-Requisites: You must have an active LPIC-1 certification to receive LPIC-2 certification, but the LPIC-1 and LPIC-2 exams may be taken in any order. Recertification by exam required every five years.
Linux Professional Institute	LPIC-3	6	6	1	2.60	6	7.5	42.6	Exam: \$260 Must hold LPIC-2 certification. Two tracks available: LPIC-3 Core or LPI Specialty. Additional specialty exam required for Specialty track. Recertification by exam required after five years.
Microsoft	Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS)	2	6	1	1.25	2	6	26.25	Exam: \$125  Over 50 paths available. Some require second exam.
Microsoft	Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP)	4	9	1	1.25	4	6.5	36.25	Exams: \$125 Two to four exams required  Twelve tracks available. Depending on track, up to five exams may be required.
Microsoft	Microsoft Certified Master (MCM)	6	24	3	18.00	6	9	81	Must be Microsoft employee or current MS Certified Professional. One or more relevant MCITP exams required depending on track. Five master certifications available; both class and lab training and exams required.
Microsoft	Microsoft Office Specialist	End User	3	1	0.75	End User	3.8	#VALUE!	Exam: \$75
Microsoft	Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT)	8	6	2	5.00	8	8.5	54	

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Novell	Novell Certified Linux Administrator (CLA)	2	12	1	1.25	2	6.6	33.45	
Novell	Novell Certified Linux Professional (CLP)	4	12	1	1.95	4	5	36.95	
Oracle DBMS certs	OCA	2	6	2	2.20	2	6.8	29.8	Serval tracks available. Exams taken vary depending on track.
Oracle DBMS certs	Oracle Certified Professional (OCP) - Oracle Database	4	12	1	30.50	4	8.8	73.1	Three tracks available; some require two tests.
Oracle DBMS certs	Oracle Database Administrator Certified Master (OCM)	6	24	1	56.00	6	9.7	118.4	Must currently hold Oracle Certified Professional. Completion of two advanced courses required plus Oracle Database Certified Master Exam.
Oracle MySQL	Oracle Certified Associate (OCA) - PL/SQL	2	6	2	2.20	2	6.8	29.8	
Oracle MySQL	Oracle Certified Professional (OCP) - PL/SQL Developer	4	12	1	1.95	4	8.8	44.55	Exam: \$195 Must currently hold OCA - PL/SQL certification.
Oracle MySQL	OCP mySQL Administrator	4	12	2	5.00	4	7.5	46	
Oracle Sun Java	<u>OCA Java SE</u>	4	12	2	3.00	4	8	45	
Oracle Sun Java	OCP Java SE Programmer	4	12	2	3.00	4	8.5	46	
Oracle Sun Java	OCP Java EE Web Component Developer	4	12	2	3.00	6	9.5	52	
PMI	Project Management Professional (PMP)	6	12	1	5.55	6	7.2	50.95	Certification requires combination of education and experience: No degree-Five years experience, 7,500 hours leading project; and 35 hours formal education. Degree: Bachelor's degree with three years experience and 4,500 hours leading projects. Sixty hours of professional development required every three years.



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Red Hat Certification	Red Hat Certified Technician (RHCT)	2	4	1	3.99	2	6.8	28.59	Recertification required after one major product release.
Red Hat Certification	Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE)	6	6	1	7.99	6	7.8	48.59	Recertification required after one major product release.
SANS GIAC	GIAC Systems and Network Auditor (GSNA)	6	12	1	8.99	6	6.8	53.59	Recertification required every four years. Maintenance fee required.
SANS GIAC	GIAC Certified Firewall Analyst (GCFA)	4	12	1	8.99	4	8.2	50.39	
SANS GIAC	GIAC Certified Intrusion Analyst (GCIA)	4	12	1	8.99	4	6.5	46.99	
SANS GIAC	GIAC Certified Forensic Analyst (GCFA)	6	12	1	8.99	6	6.8	53.59	Recertification required every four years. Maintenance fee required.
SANS GIAC	GIAC Information Security Professional (GISP)	4	12	1	8.99	4	7.2	48.39	
SANS GIAC	GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC)	4	12	1	6.99	2	5.2	38.39	
SANS GIAC	GIAC Security Expert (GSE)	8	24	5	40.00	6	11	111	
SAP	SAP Certified Technology Consultant	2	24	1	5.00	2	13	62	
SNIA	SNIA Certified Storage Professional (SCSP)	2	12	1	2.00	2	7.2	35.4	
SNIA	SNIA Certified Storage Engineer (SCSE)	2	18	2	4.00	2	8.5	47	

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SNIA	SNIA Certified Storage Networking Expert (SCSN-E)	6	24	3	7.50	6	9.5	71.5	
Solarwinds	Solarwinds Certified Professional (SCP)	2	12	1	1.50	2	6.2	32.9	Recertification required every three years.
VMWare	VMWare Certified Professional (VCP)	2	12	1	3.70	2	7.2	37.1	
VMWare	VMWare Certified Advanced Professional (VCAP)	4	18	1	1.75	4	9	50.75	Must currently hold VMWare Certified Professional 4.