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Get a comprehensive overview of the topic areas tested in your certification exam. Ask the publishers to restore access to 500,000+ books. IT Certification and Training company Computing Technology Industry AssociationTrade nameCompTIA (January 1, 1982–present)FoundedJanuary 1, 1982; 43 years ago (1982-01-01)Headquarters3500 Lacey Road Suite 100 Downers Grove, IL 60515, U.S.Number of locationsUnited StatesArea servedGlobalProductsTechAmerica (2014–present)WebsiteOfficial website The Computing Technology Industry Association, more commonly known as CompTIA, is an American trade association that issues temporary vendor-neutral professional certifications for the information technology (IT) industry. All certifications issued by CompTIA expire 3 years after obtainment, reissuance requires repurchase and retesting.[1] However, certifications issued prior to January 1, 2011 do not expire.[2] Almost all certifications have accreditation from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) on dates valid from 2008 till 2028 available on the ANSI website.[3][4][5][6] IT Fundamentals+ (ITF+): covers foundational IT concepts, basic IT literacy, and terminology and concepts of the IT industry. It is considered the first step toward the A+ certification.[7] ITF+ will soon be replaced by Tech+. [8] Cloud Essentials: a pathway to the Cloud+ credential. The CompTIA A+ Logo The Network+ Logo used for certified programs, repair shops, contractors, and technicians A+; represents entry-level competency as a computer technician and covers various technologies and operating systems.[9] Cloud+: both cloud computing and virtualization. Maps to DOD 8570 Standards.[10] CySA+: Cybersecurity Analyst. The certification focuses on cyber-threat detection tools and analysis to identify vulnerabilities and risks. In January 2018, the certification was renamed from CSA+ to CySA+ as a result of a trademark dispute.[11] Data+: focuses on data mining, manipulating data, visualizing & reporting data, statistical methods, and governance. Linux+: A single exam known as XK0-004[12] that is renewable through the CE program.[13] the certification covers Linux operating systems, from their installation and use to the basics of applicable free software and open source licenses. Was formerly a two-part exam LX0-103 and LX0-104 in partnership with Linux Professional Institute.[14] Network+: used to measure skill as a network technician.[15] PenTest+: intermediate-level certification focusing on penetration testing, covers risk analysis, threat detection, and penetration testing and ethical hacking tools and methodologies.[16] Currently aligns with the DOD 8570 standard. Security+: security certification that builds off of the network security knowledge covered by the Network+ certification.[17] Server+: focuses on server-specific hardware and operating systems, IT environments, disaster recovery and business continuity.[18] Server+ had updates released in 2005, 2009, 2018, and 2021.[19] CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner (CASP+) is the highest level certification in CompTIA's cybersecurity pathway after Security+, CySA+, and PenTest+. The CASP+ certification was accredited by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) on December 13, 2011.[3] The CASP+ exam will certify that the successful candidate has the technical knowledge and skills required to conceptualize, design, and engineer secure solutions across complex enterprise environments. In March 2013, the U.S. Department of Defense approved the certification as a baseline certification accepted for Information Assurance Technical Level III, IS Manager Level II and IA Systems Architect and Engineer Levels I and II.[20] The name of CASP+ is being changed to SecurityX upon the release of exam version CAS-005 in December of 2024. [21] (Note: For A+ up through CASP+ one can renew or extend their certification by satisfying in these cases 20 to 75 CEUs a.k.a. "Continuing Education Units," over the three-year period.) [22] Project+: In 2001, CompTIA acquired the Project+ project management certification program from Gartner. The program, previously called "IT Project+", was updated in 2003.[23][24] Certified Document Imaging Architect (CDIA+), is a certification for competency in document imaging, document management, and enterprise content management. Retired on December 1, 2017.[25] Healthcare IT Technician certification focused on IT in the healthcare industry and was aimed at IT professionals who install and maintain electronic health record systems. Retired on February 28, 2017.[26][27] Certified Technical Trainer (CTT+) certification is a vendor-neutral certification that is applicable to training professionals in all industries. Originally administered in 2001 through The Chauncey Institute, the CTT program was acquired by CompTIA and renamed as CTT+. It was created through a collaboration of the Information Technology Training Association, Inc. (ITTA) and the Computer Education Management Association (CedMA).[28] Retired on October 31, 2023, although anyone who had earned the CTT+ certification will remain certified after the retirement date. [29] In January 2018, CompTIA released stackable certifications:[30] Specialist CompTIA IT Operations Specialist (A+/Network+) CompTIA Systems Support Specialist (A+/Linux+) Professional CompTIA Cloud Admin Professional (Network+/Cloud+) CompTIA Network Infrastructure Professional (Network+/Server+) CompTIA Linux Network Professional (Network+/Linux+) Specialist CompTIA Secure Infrastructure Specialist (A+/Network+/Security+) Professional CompTIA Secure Cloud Professional (Security+/Cloud+) CompTIA Security Analytics Professional (Security+/CySA+) CompTIA Network Vulnerability Assessment Professional (Security+/PenTest+) CompTIA Network Security Professional (Security+/PenTest+/CySA+) Expert CompTIA Security Analytics Expert (Security+/CySA+/CASP+) CompTIA Security Infrastructure Expert (Security+/CySA+/PenTest+/CASP+) CompTIA offers trustmarks to businesses to certify their security capabilities and credentials. The CompTIA Security Trustmark+ is based on the NIST Cybersecurity Framework and demonstrates compliance with key industry regulations such as PCI-DSS, SSAE-16, HIPAA, and others reliant on the NIST Framework. It is based on a third-party assessment of security policies, procedures and operations. CompTIA offered additional trustmarks, a Managed Services Trustmark and a Managed Print Trustmark, that were retired on Sept. 30, 2021.[31] CompTIA was created in 1982 as the Assocoie of Computer Dealers (ABCD).[32] ABCD later changed its name to the Computing Technology Industry Association.[citation needed] In 2010, CompTIA moved its headquarters into a new office space in a facility in Downers Grove, Illinois.[33] By 2014, over one million people worldwide had earned A+ certification.[34] CompTIA established a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization called Creating IT Futures.[35] The CompTIA portal moved to a hybrid version of the open-access model in April 2014 with exclusive content for dues-paying members.[36][37] The move expanded the organization's reach to engage a broader, more diverse set of members, and within a year, CompTIA's membership grew from 2,050 members to more than 50,000 in 2015.[38] Skillsboost, CompTIA's online resource for schools, was launched in June 2015. It contained resources for students, parents and teachers to promote the importance of computer skills.[39][40] CompTIA Vendor Summit is an annual conference exclusively for people attending ChannelCon that attempts to address issues within the IT industry.[41] CompTIA held its first annual ChannelCon Vendor Summit in 2015. By the close of 2016, the organization claimed to have more than 100,000 members worldwide.[citation needed] In January 2017, CompTIA launched an IT professional association built on its acquisition of the Association of Information Technology Professionals.[42][43] The organization releases industry studies to track industry trends and changes. Over 2.2 million people have earned CompTIA certifications since the association was established[44] and certifications are issued in over 120 countries. CompTIA administers its exams through Pearson VUE testing centers. CompTIA initially lobbied against the right to repair, claiming: "Hackers are constantly trying to break into a wide range of devices, including computers, servers, smartphones, and other industrial and consumer electronics. Any weakening of the current standards, including sharing sensitive diagnostic tools and proprietary hardware data, could expose customers to risk. Manufacturers also have strong concerns about unauthorized independent service providers who may take risks or cut corners and provide service without training or following safety standards." [45] Additionally, manufacturers make significant investments in the development of products and services, and the protection of intellectual property is a legitimate and important aspect of sustaining the health of all industry, including third party software developers who rely upon the device's DRM to protect their software from hackers. However, the bill compromises the intellectual property that creators invested heavily in to develop." [45] CompTIA permanently stepped back from all lobbying activity related to right to repair legislation as of February 3, 2020. [46] Previously, CompTIA marketed its flagship A+, Network+, and Security+ certifications as being valid for a lifetime. In January 2011, CompTIA changed the status of these certifications so that they would expire every three years. Under this proposal, certified individuals would have to re-certify for the exams or pay a yearly maintenance fee for a CEU (Continuing Education Units) system. CompTIA modified the guidelines so that only certificates received after January 1, 2011, would need to be renewed every three years and would require documented continuing education hours.[47] The un-expirable certificates, issued before 2011, are officially called Good-for-Life, updating the Good-for-Life certification with an expirable certification does not replace the Good-for-Life certification.[48] Strata Exam Computer repair technician List of computer security certifications ^ "Overview Continuing Education and Renewal | CompTIA IT Certifications". Default. Retrieved 2021-12-31. ^ CompTIA Good-for-Life Certifications, access date April 3, 2018. ^ a b "Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)". www.ansi.org. Retrieved 2016-01-30. ^ Tara Seals (February 20, 2017). "CompTIA Unveils Cyberanalyst Certification". InfoSecurity. ^ Simon Quicke (February 20, 2017). "CompTIA extends security certification coverage". Computer Weekly. ^ Sara Barker (February 21, 2017). 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If you're ready to start preparing for your next role in cybersecurity including in-demand AI training, consider earning credentials from a tech industry leader by enrolling to earn the Google Cybersecurity Certificate. What is CompTIA Security+?Security+ is the entry-level cybersecurity credential offered by non-profit trade association CompTIA. It's often the first certification in information security that an IT professional earns. By showing potential employers that you have the core skills required for a cybersecurity role, you may find more job opportunities as a more competitive candidate.Read more: 8 Popular Cybersecurity Certifications What does the CompTIA Security+ exam cover?The CompTIA Security+ ranks as the most popular certification for cybersecurity professionals for good reason. It focuses on hands-on, practical security skills in six major domains. Preparing yourself for the exam gives you a broad base of practical knowledge and skills you'll need to handle real-world security situations. Here's a list of the domains and topics covered on the exam:Threats, attacks, and vulnerabilities: This includes social engineering attacks, network denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks, and vulnerabilities found in Internet of Things (IoT) and embedded devices.Architecture and design: Expect focus on enterprise, cloud, and hybrid environments.Implementation: This domain covers topics like identity and access management, cryptography, end-to-end security, and public key infrastructure (PKI).Operations and incident response: This section tests your knowledge of incident response procedures, including threat detection, security controls, risk mitigation, and digital forensics.CompTIA Security+ prerequisitesThere are no formal requirements to take the Security+ exam. However, CompTIA recommends that you have two years of experience in IT administration with a security focus. It may also be a good idea to have an up-to-date CompTIA Network+ certification first.Read more: The CompTIA Certification Path ExplainedCompTIA Security+ exam detailsEarning your Security+ certification requires passing a certification exam. Let's take a closer look at the details of this exam as of December 2023.Exam codeSY0-601Cost (US)\$392Number of questions90Passing score750 (from 900 possible)Test length90 minutesPrerequisitesNoneRecommended ExperienceCompTIA Network+ and two years of experience in IT administration and securityTypes of questions on the CompTIA Security+ examYou'll find two types of questions on the latest version of the Security+ exam, traditional multiple-choice questions and performance-based questions (PBQs). PBQs test your ability to solve security problems in a simulated environment; you might be asked to install and configure a firewall or set up a wireless network, for example.PBQs often appear toward the beginning of the exam. If you get stuck on a question, you can flag it for review and return to it if you have extra time at the end of the exam. All of your work will be saved. Some PBQs may offer partial credit, so it's a good idea to complete as much of the question as you can. Complete the sample PBQ on the CompTIA website before your exam so you'll have a better idea of what to expect.The latest version of the Security+ exam was launched in November 2020. This version covers five domains, including three new or updated domains from the last exam. These new domains—Implementation, Operations and Incident Response, and Governance, Risk, and Compliance—reflect the evolving industry. As you prepare for the exam, be sure your materials cover the 601 exam objectives. Is the Security+ certification worth it?Passing the Security+ exam often requires an investment of both time and money. The return on your investment will depend on your personal career goals. If you're interested in pursuing a career in cybersecurity, having a credential like the Security+ on your resume could give you a competitive edge as you apply for jobs. But there are other potential benefits as well. Preparing for the exam can be a good way to develop your cybersecurity skills, giving you greater confidence in your ability to handle real-world security threats. Earning your Security+ is a major accomplishment. It could also be the first step in a long career in cybersecurity. As you advance in the field, you may choose to pursue other certifications to qualify you for better opportunities. How much can I make with a Security+ certification?Many jobs in the information security field use the skills and knowledge tested by Security+. Here's a look at some available job titles on LinkedIn that request or require this certification, along with their average yearly pay in the US from Glassdoor:SOC analyst: \$91,376 Systems administrator: \$92,103Vulnerability analyst: \$120,084 Database administrator: \$105,501Cybersecurity consultant: \$124,745Information security analyst: \$114,570Information systems architect: \$142,213Cyber threat hunter: \$104,398Read more: 5 Cybersecurity Career Paths (and How to Get Started)The CompTIA Security+ is one of seven certifications approved by the US Department of Defense as an information assurance (IA) baseline certification. Earning this certification meets the minimum certification requirement for IAT Level II jobs. Other entry-level cybersecurity certificationsThe Security+ isn't the only entry-level certification worth considering. Here's a quick comparison of some other popular options.Security+Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP)Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC)ProviderCompTIA(ISC)EC-CouncilGIACVendor neutralYesYesYesYesFocusGeneralGeneralPenetration testingGeneralCost (US)\$392\$249\$950 to \$1,199\$2,499PrerequisitesNoneOne year paid work experience or degree in cybersecurityTwo years of work experience or completed EC-Council trainingNoneLinkedIn job postings (US)795,85015,7446,0024,348How to prepare for the CompTIA Security+ examThere's more than one way to prepare for the Security+ exam. How you choose to prepare will depend on your previous experience, current knowledge, and learning style. Here are some options to consider. Read more: 10 Test-Taking Tips to Set You Up for Success1. Exam prep coursesSeveral organizations offer exam preparation courses specifically for the Security+ exam (including CompTIA). Registering for a course can give structure to your learning and help ensure that you cover all the required topics. As you're researching courses, make sure to find one that covers the latest version of the exam (SY0-601).2. CompTIA Security+ practice testsTaking a practice test can help you identify what topics you might need to study up on while giving you a feel for what it's like to take the actual test. This could have the added benefit of calming nerves on test day. CompTIA offers a free practice test for the Security+, though you can find many others with a quick internet search. If you're preparing for the exam on your own, it might help to take a practice test early in your preparation to assess where you are, then again a couple of weeks before your exam date to determine where you still need to study.3. Cybersecurity learning resourcesIf you'd prefer to build your own program to prepare for the exam, you'll find no shortage of resources out there to help you—everything from books and website articles to blogs and podcasts. Here are a few resources recommended by those who've passed the exam to get you started:Professor Messer: This popular YouTube channel features 177 free videos specifically for the latest Security+ exam. They're also available as a podcast.CompTIA Security+ Get Certified Get Ahead: SY0-601 Study Guide: This book by Darril Gibson, available as an ebook or paperback, covers the exam objectives with more than 300 practice test questions with detailed explanations. Quizlet: Build your own set of flashcards to study acronyms.4. CompTIA Security+ exam tipsNo matter how you choose to prepare for the certification exam, here are some tips to help you do your best.Use flashcards to help you memorize acronyms and port numbers.Read all the answer options in multiple choice questions carefully, and eliminate the ones you know are wrong before choosing your answer.If you're unsure about a question, flag it for review and come back to it later if you have time.Pay attention to words like "best," "most," and "least" in the test questions. These can sometimes help you narrow down your answer options. Take sample tests from more than one vendor (if your budget allows). Continue preparing until you can reliably pass with an 80 or 90 percent.Answer every question, even if you have to guess. CompTIA does not penalize your score for wrong answers.You can reschedule your exam up to 24 hours before your appointment time. Feel free to take advantage if you feel you need more time to prepare.Join the CompTIA groups on Reddit and Discord to connect with others studying for the exam.Start earning your cybersecurity credentials today on CourseraWhen you're ready to prepare for the CompTIA Security+ exam, you can get targeted, guided practice with CompTIA's a+ cyber Specialization. Or, if you're interested in starting your career in cybersecurity, consider the Google Cybersecurity Professional Certificate on Coursera. This program is designed to help individuals with no previous experience find their first job in the field of cybersecurity, all at their own pace. The courses cover topics such as security models, tools that are used to access and address threats, networks, and more.