

Certification Rankings - By Rank

Vendor	Name	Level	Time	#Exams	Cost	Experience	\$\$\$	Rank	Comments
<i>Weightings:</i>		1	1	1	1	2	2	Rank	<i>Experience and average pay values double in ranking computations.</i>
SANS GIAC	GIAC Security Expert (GSE)	8	24	5	15.98	6	11	111	Exam Cost: Written and lab exam required; Written exam - \$399 USD; Lab exam - \$1199 USD (Total cost, \$1598). Note: Candidates must pass the written exam before they can take the lab exam. The lab exam is 2-days in length. Prerequisites: GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC), GIAC Certified Incident Handler (GCIH), and GIAC Certified Intrusion Analyst (GCIA) with 2-gold; substitution options are available; visit website for complete details. Recertification: Must recertify every 4 years; Credential holders must pass the current written exam to recertify. Specializations: None listed
Cisco	Cisco Certified Internet Expert (CCIE)	8	24	2	18.50	8	14	96.5	Exam Cost: Written exam: \$350, Lab exam: \$1,500 Note: You must pass written exam before you can schedule the lab exam. Lab exam must be completed within three years of written exam. Prerequisites: no formal training required Recertification: CCIE certification is valid for two years. CCIE, CCDE, or CCAr exam required within the 24 month period to recertify. Specializations: Routing and Switching, Security, Service Provider, Service Provider Operations, Storage Networking, Voice, and Wireless.
Oracle DBMS certs	Oracle Database Administrator Certified Master (OCM)	6	24	1	21.66	6	9.7	84.06	Exam Cost: \$2166 USD Prerequisites: Must currently hold Oracle Database Administrator Certified Professional; completion of two advanced required courses at \$3,250; forms certifying forms; and complete fulfillment kit request. Recertification: Specializations: None listed
Citrix	Citrix Certified Integration Architect (CCIA)	6	24	7	13.00	6	11	84	Exam Cost: Two tracks available: Virtualization track (must hold CCEE for Virtualization) and Citrix XenApp track. Some exams waived for holders of CCA certification. Prerequisites: Citrix Certified Enterprise Engineer (CCEE) for Virtualization; extensive field experience is recommended. Candidates must also agree to the CCIA for Virtualization program agreement available in Certification Manager and complete online profile questionnaire available in Certification Manager. Recertification: Specializations:

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Citrix	Citrix Certified Advanced Administrator (CCAA)	6	12	2	33.45	6	9	83.45	Exam Cost: 2 exams plus required training, \$150 for exam and training: \$3,195 Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: None listed Specialization: None listed
Microsoft	Microsoft Certified Master (MCM)	6	24	4	18.60	6	9	82.6	Exam Cost: \$125 USD application fee for review and processing; \$18,500 program fees; 3 written exams plus 1 lab exam required Prerequisites: three weeks classroom training, experience varies depending on track chosen, MCITP or MCSE certification required depending on track chosen Recertification: None listed Specializations: Five certifications are available: Microsoft Exchange Server 2010, Microsoft Lync Server 2010, Microsoft SharePoint Server 2010, Microsoft SQL Server 2008 (training is not required for this specialization), and Microsoft Windows Server 2008 R2: Directory.
Check Point	Check Point Certified Master Architect (CCMA)	6	18	2	15.00	6	13	79	Exam Cost: 2 exams; one written exam, \$300; one lab exam, \$1200 Prerequisites: CCSA, CCSE, and CCSE Plus credentials; 5-years Check Point and 8-years IT experience recommended Recertification: Specializations: None listed
Oracle DBMS certs	Oracle Certified Professional (OCP) - Oracle Database	4	12	1	34.45	4	8.8	77.05	Exam Cost: 1 exam; \$195 Prerequisites: Oracle DB Administrator Certified Associate (OCA); completion of required training course \$3250 Recertification: Specialization: Three tracks available: some require two tests

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Citrix	Citrix Certified Instructor (CCI)	8	24	2	5.00	8	10	75	Exam Cost: Attend training and pass the teach back portion; Attain at least one course teaching authorization by passing the associated exam for the course with the determined CCI qualifying score CCI subscription fee of \$500 USD also required. Prerequisites: Virtualization track: possess Citrix Certified Enterprise Engineer for Virtualization, possess Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS): Windows Server 2008 Applications Infrastructure, Configuration or Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS): Upgrading Your MCSE on Windows Server 2003 to Windows Server 2008 certification. Networking track: Possess Citrix Certified Administrator for Netscaler 8 or 9. Both tracks must attend Instructor-led training for teaching authorizations on all new products, meet all Train-the-trainer T3 requirements, accept Instructor Agreement terms; complete subscription program application, required course. Recertification: For 2012, CCIs must ensure a minimum of 10 student evaluations for Metrics That Matter (MTM) are submitted each quarter. Current CCIs must meet all 2012 requirements to remain compliant. Specializations: The 2012 CCI program consists of the following two tracks: Virtualization (XenApp, XenDesktop, and XenServer) and Networking (NetScaler). CCIs must complete the requirement of one track in order to be part of the program.
EC-Council	Computer Hacking Forensic Investigator (CHFI)	6	12	1	28.95	6	6.5	72.95	Exam Cost: \$250 Prerequisites: CEH recommended Recertification: Certification valid for three years; 120 continuing education credits must be obtained to recertify with at least 20 credits earned each year. Specializations: none listed

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SNIA	SNIA Certified Storage Networking Expert (SCSN-E)	6	24	3	7.50	6	9.5	71.5	Exam Cost: 3 exams; \$200 USD each Prerequisites: In addition to passing the required exams, credential seekers must also complete one of the following SNIA Certification Partner product credentials: NetApp Certified Data Management Administrator (NCDA), Hitachi Data Systems Certified Professional (HCP), Hitachi Storage Solutions Specialist (Japan), Cisco Data Center Storage Networking Design Specialist, Cisco Data Center Storage Networking Support Specialist, EMC Proven Professional - Specialist Level (EMCST) (EMCSA) (EMCTA)(EMCIE) (EMCCE), ASE - HP StorageWorks, ASE - HP StorageWorks (2005), ASE - HP StorageWorks Nearline Storage, Brocade Certified SAN Manager (BCSM), or Brocade Certified Fabric Professional (BCFP) 2010 (#143-070). Credential costs vary by vendor and begin at \$150 USD. Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
Cisco	CCNP Security	6	18	4	8.00	6	8.5	65	Exam Cost: 4 exams, \$200 USD each Prerequisites: CCNA Security, or CCSP, or CCNA plus SND exam Recertification: CCNP Security valid for three years. Exam required before certification expiration to recertify. Specializations: NA
SAP	SAP Certified Technology Consultant	2	24	1	5.00	2	13	62	Exam Cost: \$500 USD Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
Check Point	Check Point Managed Security Expert (CCMSE)	6	18	1	2.00	6	11	61	Exam Cost: \$100 to \$200 Prerequisites: CCSE R70, 6 months to 1 year of experience with Check Point products Recertification: Specializations: None listed

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Adobe	Adobe Certified Expert (ACE Master)	6	12	5	7.50	5	8.5	58.5	Exam Cost: 4-5 exams depending on track chosen, \$150 USD each Prerequisites: Must pass current exam for each product in the product suites; all exams must be on the same product version Recertification: Must recertify 90-days after exam is retired. Specializations: Design Master (Acrobat Professional, InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop), Web Master (Acrobat Professional, DreamWeaver, Flash, Illustrator, and Photoshop), and Video Master (After Effects, Flash, Illustrator, Photoshop, and Premier)
ISACA	Certified Information System Auditor (CISA)	6	18	1	3.95	6	8.5	57.95	Exam Cost: 1 exam; online registration by 2/8/2012: Member - \$395, non-member - \$545; mail or fax registration by 2/8/2012: Member - \$445, non-member - \$595; online registration by 4/4/2012: Member - \$445, non-member - \$595; mail or fax registration by 4/4/2012: Member - \$495, non-member - \$645. Prerequisites: A minimum of 5 years of professional information systems auditing, control or security work experience (as described in the CISA job practice areas) is required for certification. Substitutions and waivers of such experience, to a maximum of 3 years, may be obtained. Recertification: Valid for three years; 120 CPU hours required to recertify with 20 hours required annually. Annual maintenance of \$40 for members and \$85 for non-members required. Specialization: None listed
Check Point	Check Point Accelerated Security Expert (CCSE)	6	18	1	2.00	6	9	57	Exam Cost: \$200 The current exam is based on CCSE R71 content. The CCSE R75 exam will be available in the 4th quarter of 2011. CCSE R70/71 certification can be updated by passing 2 mobile Training Blade exams. Prerequisites: One year experience, CCSA R70/R71 or CCSA R70/71 Upgrade Certification, training recommended but not required. Recertification: valid for 1 year Specializations: None listed.
Cisco	Cisco Certified Design Professional (CCDP)	6	12	3	6.00	6	8.5	56	Exam Cost: 3 exams, \$200 USD each Prerequisites: CCDA and any CCNA certification or any CCIE certification. Recertification: CCDP valid for three years. Exam required before certification expiration to recertify. Specializations: Security, Service Provider Operations, Voice, and Wireless

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EC-Council	Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)	6	12	1	5	6	9.5	55	Exam Cost: 1 exam; \$500 USD Price of training not available. Prerequisites: 1) Attend a CEH training course; or 2) show 2 years of work experience in security related field, submit \$100 non-refundable Eligibility Application Fee, and exam application form. Recertification: Certification valid for three years; 120 continuing education credits must be obtained to recertify with at least 20 credits earned each year. Specializations: None listed.
Citrix	Citrix Certified Enterprise Engineer for Virtualization (CCEE)	6	12	2	4.50	6	9	54.5	Exam Cost: 2 exams Prerequisites: Applicants must hold CCA for Citrix XenApp, Citrix XenServer and Citrix XenDesktop. Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
SANS GIAC	GIAC Certified Forensic Analyst (GCFE)	6	12	1	8.99	6	6.8	53.59	Exam: \$899 USD (Note: The fee for GIAC Alumni is \$749) Prerequisites: Training is recommended but not required. Recertification: Must recertify every 4 years; 36 Certification Maintenance Units (CMUs) required; CMUs must be obtained after the two-year mark of obtaining the certification and before the certification expires; CMUs may be obtained through exams, training/teaching, and publishing. Specializations: None listed
SANS GIAC	GIAC Systems and Network Auditor (GSNA)	6	12	1	8.99	6	6.8	53.59	Exam Cost: \$899 (Note: The fee for GIAC Alumni is \$749) Prerequisites: Training is recommended but not required. Recertification: Must recertify every 4 years; 36 Certification Maintenance Units (CMUs) required; CMUs must be obtained after the two-year mark of obtaining the certification and before the certification expires; CMUs may be obtained through exams, training/teaching, and publishing. Specializations: None listed
Brocade	Brocade Certified Architect for FICON (BCAF)	4	12	1	1.5	8	11	52.5	Exam Cost: \$150 Prerequisites: Training recommended but not required Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed

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Microsoft	Microsoft Certified Trainer (MCT)	8	6	0	5.50	8	8.5	52.5	No exam. Applications fee \$400 USD if delivering professional developer or Microsoft dynamic courses; \$150 USD if delivering Microsoft information worker courses only Prerequisites: MCP certification, evidence of presentation skills by presenting evidence of one of the following: 1) completion of COMPTIA CTT+ credential; or 2) attend and pass presentation skills course; or 3) prove you are a certified instructor for Microsoft, Cisco, Citrix, Novell, or Oracle; or 4) proof you are an instructor at an academic institution. Recertification: Annual recertification required Specializations: May certify to deliver professional developer or dynamic courses or certify to deliver Microsoft information worker courses only.
ISC-squared	Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)	6	12	1	5.99	6	7.5	51.99	Exam Cost: \$549 (early registration); \$599 Prerequisites: Candidates must be endorsed by another ISC2 professional. Effective January 1st 2012, professional work experience requirements for the CISSP will remain five years, but the domains will change. Candidates should check the website for domain updates. Recertification: Annual maintenance fee of \$85 required. Recertification is required every three years. Candidates must gain 120 credits for recertification with a minimum of 20 CPEs must be posted during each year of the three-year certification cycle. Specialization: None listed
Cisco	Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP)	6	12	3	6.00	4	7	51	Exam Cost: 3 exams, \$200 USD each Prerequisites: Valid CCNA certification or any CCIE Certification Recertification: CCNP valid for three years. Must pass one exam before certification expiration to recertify. Specializations: Service Provider Operations (CCNP SP Ops), Security (CCNP Security), Voice (CCNP Voice), and Wireless (CCNP Wireless). Additional exams are required for specializations.

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ISACA	Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)	6	12	1	3.95	6	8	50.95	Exam Cost: 1 exam; online registration by 2/8/2012: Member - \$395, non-member - \$545; mail or fax registration by 2/8/2012: Member - \$445, non-member - \$595; online registration by 4/4/2012: Member - \$445, non-member - \$595; mail or fax registration by 4/4/2012: Member - \$495, non-member - \$645. Prerequisites: minimum of five years of information security work experience, with a minimum of three years of information security management work experience in three or more of the job practice analysis areas. The work experience must be gained within the ten-year period preceding the application date for certification or within five years from the date of originally passing the exam. Some substitutions for experience requirement are allowed. Recertification: Valid for three years; 120 CPU hours required to recertify with 20 hours required annually. Annual maintenance of \$40 for members and \$85 for non-members required. Specializations: None listed
PMI	Project Management Professional (PMP)	6	12	1	5.55	6	7.2	50.95	Exam: Computer based exam: \$405 for PMI members; \$555 for non-PMI members; Paper based exam: \$250 for PMI members; \$400 for non-PMI members. Prerequisites: Certification requires combination of education and experience: No degree-Five years experience, 7,500 hours leading project, plus 35 hours project management education. Degree: Bachelor's degree with three years experience, 4,500 hours leading projects, plus 35 hours project management education. Recertification: Sixty hours of professional development required every three years. Specializations:
VMWare	VMWare Certified Advanced Professional (VCAP)	4	18	1	2.25	4	9	50.75	Exam Cost: \$225 USD Prerequisites: Must possess VMware Certified Professional on VMware vSphere 4 (VCP4) Recertification: Specialization: Available in Datacenter Administration (DCA) and/or Datacenter Design (DCD)

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Cisco	CCNA Security	4	18	1	2.50	6	7.5	50.5	Exam Cost: \$250 Prerequisites: CCNA or any CCIE Certification Recertification: CCNA Security valid for three years. Exam required before certification expiration to recertify. Specializations: NA
BICSI	Registered Communications Distribution Designer (RCDD)	4	12	1	5.45	8	8	50.45	Exam Cost: 1-exam, \$345 members; \$545 non-member Prerequisites: Five years ITS design experience; or two years verifiable ITS design experience plus three years additional ITS equivalents chosen from combinations of experience, approved education and approved ITS license/certification. Recertification: 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. Specializations: None listed
SANS GIAC	GIAC Certified Firewall Analyst (GCFW)	4	12	1	8.99	4	8.2	50.39	Exam Cost: \$899 (Note: The fee for GIAC Alumni is \$749) Prerequisites: Training is recommended but not required. Recertification: Must recertify every 4 years; 36 Certification Maintenance Units (CMUs) required; CMUs must be obtained after the two-year mark of obtaining the certification and before the certification expires; CMUs may be obtained through exams, training/teaching, and publishing. Specializations: None listed
ITIL	ITIL Master Qualification	8	24	0	NA	10		50	Exam Cost: No exam Note: Credential is in beta and expected to be generally available late 2011. Prerequisites: Possess ITIL Expert credential; minimum five years experience in advanced leadership, management or high level advisory roles; Submit an application; Prepare and submit a Proposal outlining real life situations where ITIL practices and processes can be implemented; Prepare and submit a Work Packages documenting and demonstrating how ITIL was implemented in the Proposal; Participate in a face to face interview Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed

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Oracle Sun Java	OCP Java EE Web Component Developer	4	12	2	3.00	6	9.5	50	Exam Cost: 1 exam; \$300 USD Prerequisites: OCP Java SE 5 or 6 Programmer or Sun Certified Java Programmer Recertification: Specializations: None listed
CWNP	Certified Wireless Security Professional (CWSP)	6	12	2	4	6	6.5	49	Exams Cost: 2 exams; \$175 and \$225 USD Prerequisites: Certified Wireless Network Administrator (CWNA) Recertification: The CWSP certification is valid for three years. To recertify, pass the current CWSP exam, or earn the CWNE certification. Specializations: None listed
SANS GIAC	GIAC Information Security Professional (GISP)	4	12	1	8.99	4	7.2	48.39	Exam Cost: \$899 USD (Note: The fee for GIAC Alumni is \$749) Prerequisites: Training is recommended but not required. Recertification: Must recertify every 4 years; 36 Certification Maintenance Units (CMUs) required; CMUs must be obtained after the two-year mark of obtaining the certification and before the certification expires; CMUs may be obtained through exams, training/teaching, and publishing. Specializations: None listed.
ISACA	Certified in Risk and Information System Controls (CRISC)	6	12	1	3.95	6	6.5	47.95	Exam Cost: 1 exam; online registration by 2/8/2012: Member - \$395, non-member - \$545; mail or fax registration by 2/8/2012: Member - \$445, non-member - \$595; online registration by 4/4/2012: Member - \$445, non-member - \$595; mail or fax registration by 4/4/2012: Member - \$495, non-member - \$645. Prerequisites: A minimum of at least three (3) years of cumulative work experience performing the tasks of a CRISC professional across at least three (3) CRISC domains is required for certification. There are no substitutions or experience waivers. Experience must have been gained within the 10-year period preceding the application date for certification or within five years from the date of initially passing the examination. Recertification: Maintenance fees and a minimum of 20 contact hours of CPE are required annually. In addition, a minimum of 120 contact hours is required during a fixed 3-year period. Annual maintenance of \$40 for members and \$85 for non-members required. Specializations: None listed

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SNIA	SNIA Certified Storage Engineer (SCSE)	2	18	2	4.00	2	8.5	47	Exam Cost: 2 exams; \$200 USD each Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
SANS GIAC	GIAC Certified Intrusion Analyst (GCI)	4	12	1	8.99	4	6.5	46.99	Exam Cost: \$899 USD (Note: The fee for GIAC Alumni is \$749) Prerequisites: Training is recommended but not required. Recertification: Must recertify every 4 years; 36 Certification Maintenance Units (CMUs) required; CMUs must be obtained after the two-year mark of obtaining the certification and before the certification expires; CMUs may be obtained through exams, training/teaching, and publishing. Specializations: None listed
ISACA	Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT (CGEIT)	4	12	1	3.95	6	8	46.95	Exam Cost: 1 exam; online registration by 2/8/2012: Member - \$395, non-member - \$545; mail or fax registration by 2/8/2012: Member - \$445, non-member - \$595; online registration by 4/4/2012: Member - \$445, non-member - \$595; mail or fax registration by 4/4/2012: Member - \$495, non-member - \$645. Prerequisites: Five (5) or more years of experience managing, serving in an advisory or oversight role, and/or otherwise supporting the governance of the IT-related contribution to an enterprise is required to apply for certification. A minimum of 1 year of experience relating to the development and/or maintenance of an IT governance framework along with broad experience directly related to any two or more of the remaining CGEIT domains is required. Other experience, education, etc. may be substituted for up to two (2) years of the five years of required IT governance experience. Recertification: Valid for three years; 120 CPU hours required to recertify with 20 hours required annually. Annual maintenance of \$40 for members and \$85 for non-members required. Specializations:
Apple	Apple Certified System Administrator (ACSA)	4	12	4	8	4	5	46	Exams: 4 exams, \$200 USD each Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed

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Oracle Sun Java	Oracle Certified Professional (OCP) Java SE 6 Programmer	4	12	2	3.00	4	8.5	46	Exam Cost: 1 exam; \$300 USD Formerly Sun Certified Java Programmer (SCJP) Note: OCP Java SE 7 exam is in beta; beta exam can be taken for \$50 USD Prerequisites: OCA Java SE certification required Recertification: Specializations: None listed OCP Java SE 7 beta: http://education.oracle.com/pls/web_prod-plq-dad/db_pages.getpage?page_id=504
ISFCE	Certified Computer Examiner (CCE)	6	12	1	3.95	6	5.5	45.95	Exam Cost: \$395 Prerequisites: Completion of CCE Bootcamp or 18 months verifiable experience conducting digital forensic examinations or document self-study deemed acceptable by the Certification Board Recertification: Certification valid for two years. Candidates must pay \$75 recertification fee, complete 40 CPE hours, and complete three digital forensic examinations. Specializations: None listed
IACIS	Certified Forensic Computer Examiner (CFCE)	4	12	1	7.50	4	6.5	45.5	Exam Cost: \$750 Certification is two-phase: 1) Peer review - candidates must complete four practical exercises; and 2) Certification phase - candidates must start this phase within three months of completion Peer Review; written exam required; report due on practical exam given in form of forensic image of hard-drive. Prerequisites: May take IACIS Basic Training (entitled candidates entry into next available cycle) OR may complete application and pay \$750 fee (formerly known as "External CFCE" program). At least 72 hours of computer digital forensic education required. Extensive experience recommended. Recertification: Valid until third year following certification; all certification materials due by 12/31 of recertification year. Specializations: None listed

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Oracle Sun Java	Oracle Certified Associate (OCA) Java SE 5/6 Programmer	4	12	2	3.00	4	8	45	Exam Cost: 1 exam; \$300 USD Note: OCA Java SE 7 is currently in beta; beta exam can be taken for \$50 USD Prerequisites: Training recommended but not required Recertification: None listed; certifications upgrade as new java releases become available Specializations: None listed Java SE 7 beta: http://education.oracle.com/pls/web_prod-plq-dad/db_pages.getpage?page_id=504
Oracle MySQL	OCP mySQL Administrator	4	12	2	3.90	4	7.5	44.9	Exam Cost: 2 exams; \$195 USD each (\$390 total) Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: Specializations: None listed
Red Hat Certification	Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE)	6	6	1	4.00	6	7.8	44.6	Exam Cost: 1 exam; \$400 USD Prerequisites: Must possess Red Hat Certified System Administration (RHCSA) credential Recertification: Until release of Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6 (RHEL6), certification was current for two major releases. With release of RHEL6, certification is current for a 3-year calendar based window. Credential holders must pass an Enterprise exam to recertify. Specializations: None listed
Oracle MySQL	Oracle Advanced PL/SQL Developer Certified Professional	4	12	1	1.95	4	8.8	44.55	Exam Cost: \$195 USD (Option 1, cheapest route) Option 1 - OCA PL/SQL credential plus exam; Option 2 - for candidates who do not possess OCA; 3 exams Prerequisites: Option 1 requires OCA PL/SQL credential Recertification: Specialization: None

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Linux Professional Institute	LPIC-3	6	6	1	2.60	6	7.5	42.6	Exam Cost: 1 exam for core designation, \$260. Additional exams required for specialty designations. Prerequisites: Must hold LPIC-2 certification. Recertification: Active for 5-years. Since the LPIC-3 certification requires only one exam candidates may retake that exam or any of the LPIC-3 "specialty" exams (e.g. LPI-302, LPI-303, etc.) to attain recertification status for LPIC-3. Therefore the successful completion of a single LPIC-3 "specialty" exam will recertify the candidate's LPIC-3 level and all other prior LPIC certifications (e.g. LPIC-1 and LPIC-2). Specializations: Mixed Environments, Security, High Availability and Virtualization, Web and Intranet, and Mail and Messaging. An additional exam is required for each specialty designation.
SANS GIAC	GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC)	4	12	1	8.99	2	5.2	42.39	Exam Cost: \$899 (Note: The fee for GIAC Alumni is \$749) Prerequisites: Training is recommended but not required. Recertification: Must recertify every 4 years; 36 Certification Maintenance Units (CMUs) required; CMUs must be obtained after the two-year mark of obtaining the certification and before the certification expires; CMUs may be obtained through exams, training/teaching, and publishing. Specializations: None listed
Microsoft	Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP)	4	9	2	3.00	4	6.5	39	Exam Cost: Number of exams required vary from 2-6 depending on specialization; each exam is \$150 USD. Prerequisites: One or more Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS) certifications. Recertification: MCITP exams retire when the related technology is two versions old. The certifications still appear on your transcript but are listed as "retired" or "legacy." An upgrade path, which allows candidates to earn the certification with fewer exams (usually one), is available for individuals who hold the certification on the previous version of the technology. Specializations: Candidates choose a MCITP certification in one or more of the following areas: SharePoint Server, Lync Server, Exchange Server, Microsoft Office Project Server, Microsoft SQL Server, Windows Server, or Windows Client

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<i>Weightings:</i>		1	1	1	1	2	2	Rank	<i>Experience and average pay values double in ranking computations.</i>
CompTIA	CTT+	6	3	2	4.92	6	5.5	38.92	Exam Cost: 2 exams; \$246 USD (non-member price) Candidates must take CompTIA CTT+ Essentials, and at least one of the two designations: Classroom Trainer or Virtual Classroom Trainer Prerequisites: Candidates will need to supply a video or recording of their classroom or virtual classroom sessions. Recertification: Not listed Specializations: Non listed
Adobe	Adobe Certified Expert (ACE Specialist)	4	6	3	4.50	4	6.5	38.5	Exam Cost: 3 exams (2 required plus one elective), \$150 USD each All exams must be on the same versions Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: Must recertify within 90-days after your exam is retired. Specializations: Specialist certification recognizes proficiency in a specific medium such as print, web, or video. Certification tracks available in Design, Web, Video, Rich Internet Apps, and Technical Communications
CompTIA	Project+	4	12	1	2.46	4	5.5	38.46	Exam Cost: 1 exam; \$246 USD (non-member price) Prerequisites: None Recertification: None Specialization: None listed
Novell	Novell Certified Linux Professional (CLP)	4	12	1	1.95	4	5	36.95	Exam Cost: 1 exam, \$195 USD Prerequisites: CLA requird Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed

Certification Rankings - By Rank

Vendor	Name	Level	Time	#Exams	Cost	Experience	\$\$\$	Rank	Comments
<i>Weightings:</i>		1	1	1	1	2	2	Rank	<i>Experience and average pay values double in ranking computations.</i>
Linux Professional Institute	LPIC-2	4	6	2	3.46	4	6.7	36.86	Exam Cost: 2 exams, \$173 each Prerequisites: 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: Recertification is recommended after two years from the date of the certification designation to retain a current certification status. However, to RETAIN an ACTIVE certification status, a certification holder is REQUIRED to recertify within 5 years of the certification designation. Recertification requires that the individual candidate passes all up-to-date exams that are only required for the highest earned certification designation. After successful recertification, the designation status will be updated to ACTIVE for a period of FIVE years.exam required every five years. Specializations: None listed
Citrix	Citrix Certified Administrator (CCA)	2	12	1	1.50	2	8	36.5	Exam Cost: \$150 Prerequisites: Training recommended but not required. Recertification: Not listed Specialization: None listed
VMWare	VMWare Certified Professional (VCP)	2	12	1	2.25	2	7.2	35.65	Exam Cost: \$225 USD Prerequisites: Must hold VCP 4 certification; VCP 5 candidates must take two required courses at total cost of \$4,690 Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
ISC-squared	System Security Certified Practioner (SSCP)	4	8	1	2.50	6	5	35.5	Exam: \$250 (early registration); \$300 Prerequisites: Candidates must be endorsed by another ISC2 professional. Effective January 1st 2012, professional work experience requirement for the SSCP will remain at one year but must be in one of the new seven domains. Recertification: Annual maintenance fee of \$65 per year required; Certificate holders must recertify every three years. Sixty (60) CPEs required to recertify with a minimum of 10 CPEs must be posted during each year of the three-year certification cycle. Specialization: None listed

Certification Rankings - By Rank

Vendor	Name	Level	Time	#Exams	Cost	Experience	\$\$\$	Rank	Comments
<i>Weightings:</i>		1	1	1	1	2	2	Rank	<i>Experience and average pay values double in ranking computations.</i>
SNIA	SNIA Certified Storage Professional (SCSP)	2	12	1	2.00	2	7.2	35.4	Exam Cost: 1 exam; \$200 USD Note: This exam will be withdrawn on January 17, 2012 and replaced by COMPTIA Storage+ Powered by SNIA. Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
Check Point	Check Point Certified Security Administrator (CCSA)	2	12	1	2.00	2	6.5	34	Exam Cost: \$200 Prerequisites: 6 months to 1 year of experience with Check Point products recommended Recertification: Specialization: None listed
Novell	Novell Certified Linux Administrator (CLA)	2	12	1	1.25	2	6.6	33.45	Exam Cost: \$125 USD Prerequisites: two required courses; \$495 each (\$990 total) Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
Solarwinds	Solarwinds Certified Professional (SCP)	2	12	1	1.50	2	6.2	32.9	Exam Cost: \$150 USD; may vary depending on the country Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: required every three years. Specializations: None listed
Brocade	Brocade Certified Fabric Professional (BCFP)	2	6	1	1.5	2	9	32.5	Exam Cost: \$150 Prerequisites: Training recommended but not required Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
CWNP	Certified Wireless Network Administrator (CWNA)	2	12	1	1.75	2	5.5	31.75	Exam Cost: 1 exam; \$175 USD Prerequisites: None Recertification: The CWNA certification is valid for three years. To recertify, pass the current CWNA exam, or pass the current CWSP, CWAP, or CWDP exam to earn the CWSP, CWAP, or CWDP certification. Specialization: None

Certification Rankings - By Rank

Vendor	Name	Level	Time	#Exams	Cost	Experience	\$\$\$	Rank	Comments
<i>Weightings:</i>		1	1	1	1	2	2	Rank	<i>Experience and average pay values double in ranking computations.</i>
Oracle DBMS certs	Oracle Database Administrator Certified Associated (OCA)	2	6	2	3.20	2	6.8	30.8	Exam Cost: 2 exams; \$320 USD cheaper route; candidates select from 4 exams Prerequisites: None Specializations: Several tracks available. Exams taken vary depending on track.
Oracle MySQL	Oracle PL/SQL Developer Certified Associate	2	6	2	3.20	2	6.8	30.8	Exam Cost: 2 exams; \$320 USD (Cheapest route; candidates may choose from 5 exams to meet the requirement; highest path is \$390 USD) Prerequisites: None Recertification: Specializations: None
Brocade	Brocade Accredited Internetworking Specialist	2	6	1	0.2	2	8	29.2	Exam Cost: \$20 Prerequisites: Training is recommended but not required Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
Linux Professional Institute	LPIC-1	2	6	2	3.46	2	5.6	28.66	Exam Cost: 2 exams, \$173 each Prerequisites: None Recertification: Recertification is recommended after two years from the date of the certification designation to retain a current certification status. However, to RETAIN an ACTIVE certification status, a certification holder is REQUIRED to recertify within 5 years of the certification designation. Recertification requires that the individual candidate passes all up-to-date exams that are only required for the highest earned certification designation. After successful recertification, the designation status will be updated to ACTIVE for a period of FIVE years.exam required every five years. Specializations: None listed
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.

Certification Rankings - By Rank

Vendor	Name	Level	Time	#Exams	Cost	Experience	\$\$\$	Rank	Comments
<i>Weightings:</i>		1	1	1	1	2	2	Rank	<i>Experience and average pay values double in ranking computations.</i>
Cisco	Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)	4	3	1	2.50	4	5	28.5	Exam Cost: 1 exam, \$250 USD Note: Base certification requires one to two exams. Prerequisites: None Recertification: CCNA valid for three years. Must pass exam before certification expiration to recertify. Specializations: Service Provider Operations (CCNA SP Ops), security (CCNA Security), voice (CCNA Voice), and wireless (CCNA Wireless). To qualify for the specialization, credential seekers must possess a valid CCNA or any CCIE credential. Additional exams are required for specializations.
Apple	Xsan 2 Administrator	2	6	1	1.5	4	6	28.5	Exam Cost: 1 exam \$150 USD Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
CompTIA	Linux+ powered by LPI	2	9	2	3.46	2	4	28.46	Exam Cost: 2 exam;s \$173 USD (non-member price) Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed
Help Desk Institute (HDI)	Desktop Support Technician (DST)	4	6	1	1.45	4	3.5	27.45	Exam Cost: \$145 Note: Course which includes exam can be purchased for \$545 for members, and \$595 for non-members. Prerequisites: None Recertification: None Specializations: None

Certification Rankings - By Rank

Vendor	Name	Level	Time	#Exams	Cost	Experience	\$\$\$	Rank	Comments
<i>Weightings:</i>		1	1	1	1	2	2	Rank	<i>Experience and average pay values double in ranking computations.</i>
Microsoft	Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist (MCTS)	2	6	1	1.50	2	6	26.5	Exam Cost: \$150, Most tracks require 1 - 3 exams Prerequisites: None Recertification: MCTS exams retire when Microsoft discontinues mainstream support for the related technology; upgrade paths are generally available enabling credential holders to upgrade with fewer exams. Specializations: Over 50 specializations are available; concentration areas include Exchange Server, Lync Server and Office Communications, Project and Project Server, SharePoint and SharePoint Server, SQL Server, System Center, Virtualization, Visual Studio, Windows Client, Windows Embedded, Windows Mobile, Windows Server, and other technologies. Over 50 paths available. Some require second exam.
CompTIA	Network+	4	3	1	2.46	4	4	26.46	Exam Cost: 1 exam; \$246 (non-member price) Note: A new was released Dec. 1, 2011. The prior exam will be available through Aug. 31, 2012. Prerequisites: None Recertification: Those certified prior to 12/31/2010 are certified for life. Those certified after 1/31/2011 must recertify every three years. Two recertification options are available: 1) pass the then current exam; or 2) earn 30 continuing education credits and pay an annual fee of \$49. Certifications obtained before Dec 31, 2010, do not expire. After January 1, 2011, certification valid for three years. Specializations: None
Apple	Apple Certified Support Professional (ACSP)	2	6	1	2	2	4.5	24	Exam Cost: 1 exam \$200 USD Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: No requirements listed Specializations: None listed
CompTIA	Security+	2	3	1	2.66	2	4.5	21.66	Exam Cost: \$266 (non-member price) The current version of CompTIA Security+ is exam code SY0-301. The previous version, exam code SY0-201, will be available through Dec. 31, 2011. Prerequisites: None Recertification: Certifications obtained before Dec 31, 2010, do not expire. After January 1, 2011, certification valid for three years. Two recertification options are available: 1) pass the then current exam; or 2) earn 50 continuing education credits and pay an annual fee of \$49. Specializations: None

Certification Rankings - By Rank

Vendor	Name	Level	Time	#Exams	Cost	Experience	\$\$\$	Rank	Comments
<i>Weightings:</i>		1	1	1	1	2	2	Rank	<i>Experience and average pay values double in ranking computations.</i>
CompTIA	A+	2	3	2	3.46	2	3.5	21.46	Exam Cost: 2 exams; \$173 USD (non-member price) Prerequisites: None Recertification: Those certified prior to 12/31/2010 are certified for life. Those certified after 1/31/2011 must recertify every three years. Two recertification options are available: 1) pass the then current exam; or 2) earn 20 continuing education credits, pay annual CE fee of \$25 per year Specializations: None listed Prior to Dec 31, 2010, certification is valid for life. After January 1, 2011, certifications valid for 3 years.
Cisco	Cisco Certified Entry Networking Technician (CCENT)	2	3	1	1.50	2	4.5	20.5	Exam Cost: 1 exam, \$150 USD Prerequisites: None Recertification: CCENT valid for three years. Exam required before certification expiration to recertify. Specializations: None
Adobe	Adobe Certified Associate	2	3	1	1.5	2	4	19.5	Exam Costs: 1 exam, \$150 Prerequisites: None Recertification: must recertify 90 days after a new exam for your product is published Specializations: PhotoShop, Dreamweaver, and Flash.
Red Hat Certification	Red Hat Certified System Administrator (RHCSA)	2	4	1	4.00	6		19	Exam: 1 exam; \$400 USD Prerequisites: None listed Recertification: Until release of Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6 (RHEL6), certification was current for two major releases. With release of RHEL6, certification is current for a 306ear calendar based sindow. Credential holders certified under RHEL6 must pass RHCE Exam to recertify. Specializations: None listed
CompTIA	Cloud Essentials	2	6	1	1.85	2	2	18.85	Exam Cost: \$185 USD Prequisites: None required but 6 months experience recommended Recertification: none listed Specializations: none listed

Certification Rankings - By Rank

Vendor	Name	Level	Time	#Exams	Cost	Experience	\$\$\$	Rank	Comments
Weightings:		1	1	1	1	2	2	Rank	<i>Experience and average pay values double in ranking computations.</i>
Microsoft	Microsoft Office Specialist	1	3	1	0.75	1	3.8	15.35	Exam: \$75 Prerequisites: None Recertification: None listed Specializations: Microsoft Office Specialist on Microsoft Office 2010, Microsoft Office Specialist on 2007 Microsoft Office System and Windows Vista, and Microsoft Office Specialist on Microsoft Office 2008, Microsoft Office XP, and Office 2000
ITIL	ITIL Foundation	2	1	1	1.50	2	2	13.5	Exam Cost: 1 exam, \$150 USD Prerequisites: Must complete 10 training units, generally all can be taken in a 3-day course with exam at the end. Recertification: None listed Specializations: None listed