

Five Tips to Get DevNet Certified Now



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The moment we fail to keep learning is the moment the technology industry will leave us in its dust. In today's rapidly-evolving connected world, almost all of us would benefit from developing software skills. If you're already working in IT networking, improving those skills is absolutely essential. So, if you're thinking about adding software programming skills to your resume, there's no better time to start.

Companies are now focusing their time and effort on creating business innovations, particularly those that leverage connectivity and connect us all in new ways. The potential of software solutions to quickly and more easily produce these innovations is undeniable. However, organizations continue to struggle to staff their IT teams with professionals who have the skills needed to drive digital business forward and adapt to the ever-changing IT landscape.

[The DevNet Class of 2020](#), the first generation to become DevNet certified, will be among the first to unleash the true potential of the software-defined network. They will harness the sheer power of combining software with IT infrastructure, and soon, they will become the industry's pioneers and game-changers. With all of this in mind, let's review the five things you need to do right now that will pave your way to a DevNet Certification.

* Data curated by Cisco in collaboration with the world's leading research organization.

1 Know what's driving you



When you imagine yourself holding a DevNet Associate or Professional certificate, ask yourself why certification matters and what you hope to achieve by earning yours. Is your motivation to become more skilled? To conquer the technology world? To position yourself favorably for new IT job roles? Well, you can accomplish all three, but it will take hard work and commitment to follow through and build the knowledge you need to pass your DevNet certification exam.

The trick is to envision what a DevNet certification will empower you to do. DevNet Certifications have only been available since February 2020. But IT decision-makers hunt for employees who show the initiative to invest in their own skills development. According to the 2020 IT Skills and Salary Report from Global Knowledge, IT professionals who gained new skills and/or certifications last year received an average salary raise of \$12,000–\$13,000 USD.

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**2020 IT Skills and Salary Report,
Global Knowledge**

Across the population of titles and business needs, the requirements for DevNet-related skills are high. Professionals with architecture-related skills—such as data, security, and application architecture—are difficult to source and expensive to hire. So, to meet that demand and fill those roles, seasoned IT professionals are re-skilling and switching job titles.

DevNet Associate



A DevNet Certification qualifies you for an expanded range of these new, in-demand job roles, like junior application developers, junior software engineers, test development engineers and more.

One Course

Available via instructor-led, digital e-learning, virtual classroom options

One Exam

(Proctored by Pearson VUE)

Supported Job Roles

- Jr/Entry-level Developer
- Jr/Entry-level Software Engineer
- Jr/Entry-level Applications Developer
- Jr/Entry-level Automation Developer
- Jr/Entry-level Cloud Developer
- Associate Site Reliability Engineer (SRE)
- Jr/Entry-level DevOps Engineer
- Test Development Engineer
- Automation Engineer

If your motivation to get certified revolves around the salary you can earn, think about what you could do with that extra money. If 69% of hiring managers admit to being unable to fill at least one open position on their IT team, your idea of success can be just one exam away. Now, envision what that looks like. Envision what it feels like. But before you get too excited about your future and your dreams, let's move on to the next step.

“Cisco certifications have always been the gold standard for networking. The new DevNet certifications are now the gold standard in programmability.”



Jose Bogarin, DevNet Class of 2020

[Learn more about Jose's story](#)

2 Don't go it alone



Become a
Cisco DevNet
member today.

Join now

You've now defined what success looks like. However, the more you keep your dreams to yourself, the less likely it is that they'll come true. Which means it's time to share your ambitions with your network. Start building a DevNet Certification cheering section, and fill it with people and communities who will keep you motivated and hold you accountable.

First and foremost, your biggest fans are your loved ones. While they may not always understand the technologies you work with on your way to becoming a professional developer, they understand you. They'll provide invaluable support whenever you doubt yourself, and they'll be there to remind you of what inspired you to pursue a DevNet Certification in the first place.

The journey to becoming certified isn't easy. So, you'll also want to rally up a team of peers and pros. You can share the experience with others preparing for their certifications. And you can learn from pros who've already earned at least one Cisco Certification. They can offer indispensable tips and advice that you won't find anywhere else. You can meet such individuals on the Cisco Learning Network's DevNet Community. It's open to all Cisco Learning Network members, and it's free to join.

[Join the DevNet Certifications Community.](#)

Popular discussions:

1. [Start Here: Your Ultimate DevNet Associate Self-Study Resource](#)
2. [All your DevNet Associate Prep Resources in one place](#)
3. [Pushing configs to multiple routers from an Excel sheet](#)
4. [Yang Data Models - What is a JSON instance or an XML instance?](#)

“FASTMAP is used by NSO to simplify task and management of any kind of change or deletion, what happens if an instance of a device is corrupted within the CDB?”

Learn more

3 Choose the tools and resources that are right for you



Follow DevNet Superstars:

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2. [@bigevilbeard](#) Stuart Clark, Cisco Developer Advocate
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7. [@davidsamuelps](#) David Peñaloza, CCIE, Cisco VIP and Cisco Champion
8. [@annegentle](#) Anne Gentle, Cisco DevNet Developer Experience Engineer
9. [@prodoom](#) Paul Zimmerman, Cisco Developer Advocate
10. [@CiscoDevNet](#) Cisco DevNet's official Twitter account

You've identified your intentions. You've connected with the right people to push you forward. Now, it's time to decide which tools and resources you'll need to make your certification a reality. There's no shortage of Cisco learning resources. First, take a peek at the [Cisco DevNet Associate and Professional exam blueprints](#). Then explore the different DevNet concentrations you can choose from. Also, don't miss the many webinars, DevNet Associate Prep programs, independent e-learning courses, and study groups available.

Free resources are helpful, allowing you to save money and study independently. However, resources such as [Cisco Certified DevNet Associate Guided Study Groups](#)—curated and developed by Cisco experts—can save you time by expediting your journey resulting in a great return on investment. [See the list of our curated courses](#).

The choice is yours, of course. If you prefer to do your own legwork, we have no doubt you'll succeed. On the other hand, streamlined, hands-on lab practice with instructor-led classes can help you learn, get certified, and meet your objectives faster. Now is the right time for you to decide which direction you will take.

“Even at the associate level, DevNet makes sure you get the foundation, the tools and methodologies you need to become a functional, successful member of a development team.”



Ioannis Theodoridis, DevNet Class of 2020

4 Commit early and stay accountable



Training

- DevNet Fundamentals
- DevNet Associate Guided Study Group (save 50% for a limited time)
- Cisco Digital Library
- DevNet Associate and Professional Learning Bundles (save 15%)

Self-Study Resources

- DevNet Essentials
- DevNet Prep
- DevNet Day On Demand
- DevNet webinar recordings
- Cisco Press books

We all have obligations. We all have responsibilities. But if you allow them to stand in your way, you'll never get anything accomplished. You will need to make earning your certification a priority. The best way to do that is to formulate a plan you can follow.

Determine the time of day when you're most motivated to study. Whether you're an early riser or a night owl, schedule study time for yourself when you can focus and learn. Commit to learning three new things each day. After each study session, write down the items you've learned. Many people review the exam topics to confirm what they know and where to focus. When you resume studying the next day, revisit those items to evaluate how well you retained the information. It might help to know that individuals who pursue CCNA Certifications take up to six months on average to certify.

If you haven't already introduced yourself to the Cisco Learning Network DevNet Community, do it now. Ask your peers for their favorite planning tips. That way, you can learn what worked for others, build a study schedule that works best for you, and set realistic expectations.

“Automation is networking, reimagined. As network engineers, it’s up to us to pioneer this new frontier, and with the DevNet program as our guide, we can lead the way into new territory. DevNet certifications are the way current and future generations of network engineers prove their credibility.”



Claudia de Luna, DevNet Class of 2020

5 Play in the Sandbox



As you begin your study plan, be confident that there are resources to help you meet your training and certification goals. If you're completely new to programming, or you're expanding on your knowledge of infrastructure, you can [get started with a curated list of learning content](#) directly from Cisco DevNet. The content contains hours upon hours of training, including hands-on learning labs. That's where the [Developer Sandbox](#) comes in.

Once you have your development environment built, you still need a platform on which to test your code. The Sandbox allows you to explore and test your code safely—24 hours a day, seven days a week—against live infrastructure. It's also where you'll find all over 70 labs made up of virtualized environments, simulators, and real hardware, including the latest Cisco Platforms including [Cisco Modeling Labs \(CML\)](#), SD-WAN, Internet of Things (IoT), and many more.

The [DevNet Code Exchange](#) is yet another free resource that jumpstarts your work with Cisco platforms and products. Hundreds of code repositories created and maintained by Cisco engineers, ecosystem partners, and individual developers are available on public GitHub. Browse through repos and curated projects to get inspired, quickly find code to advance your work forward, and collaborate with the developer community. Code Exchange also provides you with the opportunity to share what you've been working on with your peers. That's right—soon enough, you'll be ready to contribute and [submit your own code to Code Exchange](#).

Organizations are eager to find and hire IT professionals that can merge their knowledge of infrastructure with software to unleash the full capabilities of the new network. Network professionals and software developers together in one community can create multi-domain solutions that are scalable, automated, and customizable. Visit the [DevNet Automation Exchange](#) to see the use cases that make network automation simple for IT teams. You'll soon see that the possibilities are endless.

That covers it. Once you identify your motivation, build a support group, explore your resources, plan your approach, and create a test environment, you're ready to go. Good luck, and we'll be there to congratulate you when you earn your first Cisco DevNet Certification.

For more information on the DevNet Associate and Professional certifications, including exam topics and recommended training options, visit developer.cisco.com/certifications.

[Learn more](#)