Techionista
Academy

Microsoft Azure Certified Data & AI Track

SC-900:
Microsoft Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals

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Introduction to the SC-900

Here you will lean more about the SC-900 and why it is an important topic to learn.

Introduction to the SC-900

After creating databases and analyzing the data to get the best insights, who takes care of the safety practices of your data business? If you're reading this guide, it just might be you! Welcome to the **SC-900 exam guide** and to **Microsoft's certificate on Security, Compliance, and Identity (SCI) Fundamentals**. You will learn how to protect sensitive data against breaches and loss, about different authentication and password management methods, and everything that has to do with data governance. You will also be able to track access across your organization. As a holder of the SC-900 certification, you can be entrusted with greater responsibilities and have greater value in an organization. You will be more confident in working with delicate data both on-premise and on the cloud.

After completing this course, you will know different defense strategies against threats to your data, such as firewalls, encryption, or identity management. You will also learn about **Azure Active Directory**, a cloud-based identity and access management service. Another useful tool you will encounter is **Microsoft Purview**, which is a family of data governance, risk, and compliance solutions that can help your organization govern, protect, and manage your entire data estate. As an exam candidate, you should be familiar with Microsoft Azure and Microsoft 365. If you want to know more about the certification, check out the **official Microsoft guide**.

Why Azure?

Managing data on-premise can take a lot of time and capital, a reason why more and more organizations rely on cloud services. Depending on the package, the responsibility division between the customer and the cloud provider differs. For example, in the case of Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), the cloud provider is responsible for managing everything except data, devices, accounts, and identities for the customer, based on a monthly or annual subscription.

Completing the SC-900 certification means you will be able to implement, monitor, and troubleshoot Azure security technologies for a client, or, on the flip side, you will understand the behind-the-scenes of these processes so you have better control of your organization.

Why Complete the SC-900?

Just like thieves can target your physical belongings, cyber threats can be a big problem. Especially in the context of big data, information is power. You or your organization should be able to defend your data and store it in adequate conditions. Unprotected, cyberattacks can cause power outages, failure of military equipment, even breaches of national security secrets. Sensitive data like medical records and just personal data in general can be very valuable and therefore dangerous to lose. Whether it is business competitors, criminal organizations, or simply an inexperienced employee, data leakage is a prevalent and costly issue.

Having the SC-900 certification, you will learn all the layers around data protection. You will explore the capabilities of Azure SCI software such as the **Microsoft Defender** or **Sentinel**. You will be able to apply the Cloud security posture management (CSPM) principles and tools to make sure your resources are fully protected:

- **Zero Trust-based access control**: Consider the active threat level during access control decisions.
- **Real-time risk scoring**: Provide visibility into top risks.
- **Threat and vulnerability management (TVM)**: Establish a holistic view of the organization's attack surface and risk and integrate it into operations and engineering decision-making.
- **Discover risks**: Understand the data exposure of enterprise intellectual property, on sanctioned and unsanctioned cloud services.
- **Technical policy**: Apply guardrails to audit and enforce the organization's standards and policies to technical systems.
- **Threat modeling systems and architectures**: Use alongside other specific applications.

Why is Obtaining this Certification Important?

This certification guides you through everything that is involved in data security. The Microsoft SC-900 certification is will help you build the foundation to start a career in cloud security. The certificate will prove you are an important asset who has in-depth knowledge about data protection and risk management.

Helpful Definitions

Cloud Computing
The delivery of on-demand computing services such as servers, storage, applications, and other resources over the internet.

Big Data
Refers to large volumes of data, both structured and unstructured, that businesses can use to gain insights and make informed decisions. Azure provides services to store, process, and analyze Big Data.

Learning materials for the DP-900

Here you will lean more about learning materials for the SC-900.

What to Learn

In this section, we'll cover the mandatory learning materials that prepare you the SC-900 exam. In a later section, we will also share some recommendations for additional resources that you can use to expand your knowledge.

Mandatory Learning Materials

To help you learn the hard skills needed as a Microsoft data professional, we will use the tools listed below. For more information about these tools, check out our Starter Guide which can be found in the file folder of the general channel.

Microsoft Learn
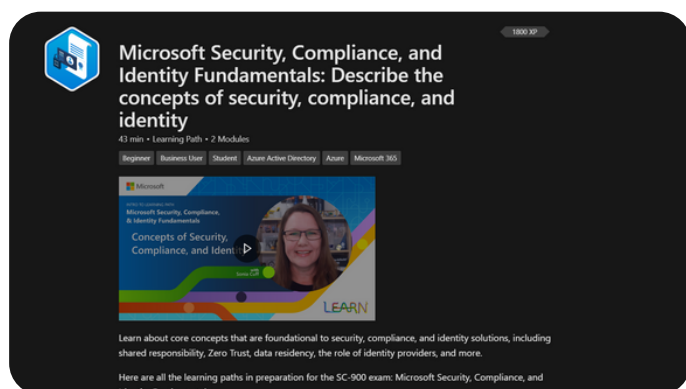
Microsoft Learn provides free interactive, hands-on training content continuously updated by Microsoft. This is especially useful when preparing for Microsoft Certifications, as you can be confident that you are always learning the latest updated content. With over 1000+ courses available on the platform, you can learn a variety of topics. Microsoft Learn offers single modules and learning paths that combine single modules, allowing you to follow a step-by-step learning journey.

The learning path that you will complete for the SC-900 is:

- **Describe the concepts of security, compliance, and identity**
- **Describe the capabilities of Microsoft Azure Active Directory (Azure AD), part of Microsoft Entra**
- **Describe the capabilities of Microsoft Security solutions**
- **Describe the capabilities of Microsoft compliance solutions**

Training Day by a Microsoft Certified Trainer

To make sure you have the chance to ask all your questions to a Microsoft Certified Trainer, we also organize training days with a Microsoft Certified Trainer.

Additional Learning Materials

Below you will find some additional information resources that will help you with your Data Fundamentals exam.

- **This website** allows you to try out over 100 example questions for the SC-900 exam! Try out your skills with this (free!) test that simulates the Microsoft exam format. You even have explanations and resources linked to each question. Practice makes perfect!
- The **Microsoft Security Compliance and Identity (SC-900) - Full Course** YouTube video by Andrew Brown covers everything you need to know and expect in the SC-900 exam! With very clear timestamps, you can revisit all the knowledge concepts related to the certification.
- **SC-900 Microsoft Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals Study Cram** by John Savill also provides a great summary of the certification, a great way to make sure you're up-to-speed before the exam.
- If you prefer books, you can check out the **Exam Ref SC-900 Microsoft Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals**. It doesn't include exam questions, so make sure you exhaust your online resources first.
- This **cheatsheet** on Github contains all relevant SC-900 definitions, with links to Microsoft Documents for more info. Great if you want to quickly look something up!

How to prepare for the SC-900

Here you will lean more about how to study and prepare for the SC-900 exam.

What Will the Exam Test?

This exam measures your ability to accomplish the following technical tasks: describing core data concepts, working with relational data, non-relational data, and analytical pipelines on Azure. For a detailed description of what the exam tests, have a look at "skills measured" in the **SC-900 Exam Study Guide (microsoft.com)**.

Scheduling your Exam

When to schedule your exam?
It's good to follow the SC-900 content if you want to get foundational knowledge in the world of data. If you want to go one step further and earn a certification to add to your portfolio, here are a few tips on how to tackle the SC-900 exam.

It is good to keep in mind that you should only schedule the exam when you are ready to take it, as this will increase your chances of passing. Registering for the exam gives you one chance to pass it, so it is a good idea to prepare thoroughly beforehand. Every resit will require you to pay the exam fee again.

How to schedule your exam?
You can schedule your exam quite far in the future, so you can make use of this if you do not feel quite ready yet. If you unexpectedly won't be able to take the exam on this date, you can then reschedule (have a look at the Microsoft website for the specific rules as these do change from time to time). You can schedule your exam yourself with Pearson VUE, a provider of global computer-based tests. Pearson VUE provides licensure and certification exams for companies such as Microsoft, Oracle, HP and many more. You will find step-by-step instructions on how to schedule your exam using Pearson VUE in the **Pearson VUE guide.** You will need to be logged into your Techionista account to view this guide.

Preparing for the Exam

Once you have committed to a date and scheduled your exam, it is time to start preparing for it! Our best advice? Practice, practice, practice! We would recommend that you practice with as many exam questions as you can. Start with reviewing sample questions that can help you prepare for the types of questions you can expect to see on the exam. You can find sample questions on the Microsoft website.

What to Expect During the Exam?

Where will you take the exam?
You can take the online version of the exam from your home/office. Alternatively, you can arrange to take the exam in an official Microsoft exam center when registering for the exam.

What will the exam look like?
You can expect around 40 to 60 multiple-choice questions. You have 45 minutes to complete the exam. Seat duration is 65 minutes which refers to the amount of time that you should allocate for the exam. It includes the time needed to review the instructions, read and accept the NDA, complete the exam questions, and provide comments after completing it (if you choose to do so).

When do you pass the exam?
You are required to score a minimum of 700 to pass the exam. Anyone scoring less than this mark will be considered a fail. Just on submission of the paper, your result will be declared within a few minutes. Your scorecard will contain details including overall performance in the exam, PASS/FAIL status, a bar chart demonstrating your performance in key areas of the exam, together with the instructions on exam results interpretation.

To learn more about:
- **Microsoft exam scores**
- **Exam duration, breaks, and question types**
- **Register and schedule an exam**
- **Testing your computer's specifications**
- **Exam policies and FAQs**

Questions?

Here you will find more information about where to ask questions and find help.

Where to go with questions?

A part of becoming a data analyst, data engineer, or data scientist is having good problem-solving skills. Throughout the track, you may run into situations where you feel stumped and need help finding an answer. In order to practice great problem-solving skills there are a few avenues of support we recommend trying before using the Question Form provided by Techionista. Here are the avenues available to you that can help you find answers to many problems:

Your favorite search engine
Google (or your favorite search engine) will be your best friend during this track! If you find yourself stuck, the possibility of finding your answer online is high and we always recommend starting there. You would also be surprised by how many data experts use the internet to search for answers on a daily basis!

Your fellow Techionistas
If you still can't find the answer you are looking for on the internet or via one of the learning materials provided check with your study group or the other members of your cohort! Chances are someone may have the answer to your question or there are other people in the group who also are wondering the same thing! You can work together to share knowledge and find answers, which are also important skills to have: teamwork and collaboration!

Live training days
Come prepared for live training days with your hard skills questions! The best time and place to get your questions answered is by our great instructors. During live training days, there is always enough time to answer your remaining questions!

Question Form
If you cannot find an answer to your question, please don't hesitate to ask the Techionista Team! Whether it be about hard skills, career skills, schedule, or a personal issue, please reach out via the **Question Form**. The Question Form is then routed to the rest team member for your question, and you will receive a response via a MS Teams message within two working days.