

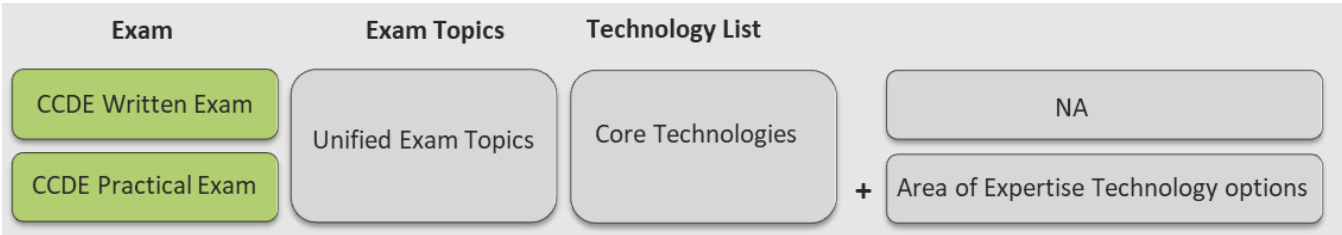


## Cisco Certified Design Expert Exam v3.1

Both the CCDE Written and the Practical exam focuses on High-Level Design (HLD) aspects as well as business requirements within the context of enterprise network architectures.

Both exams share one *single unified blueprint*, or exam topics. The CCDE Written Exam will validate core enterprise network architectures HLD aspects. The CCDE Practical Exam is built to be modular and provides you the flexibility to focus on your area of expertise in addition to validating core enterprise architecture HLD aspects. The exams are designed with dual-stack in mind, so candidates are expected to have solid understanding of both IPv4 and IPv6.

This flexibility is achieved by using multiple technology lists. The *core technology list* contains all core enterprise architecture technologies, and multiple *area of expertise technology lists* contain logically grouped technologies, focusing on your area of expertise.



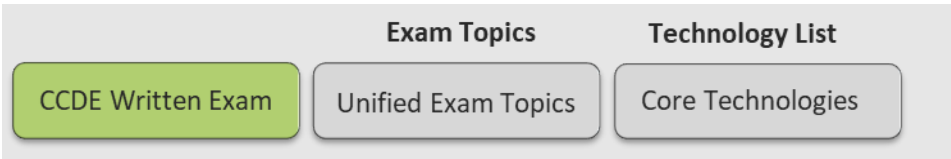
### CCDE Written Exam

The CCDE Written exam (400-007) validates High-Level Design (HLD) aspects as well as business requirements within the context of enterprise network architectures. The exam is a two-hour, multiple-choice test with 90-110 questions that focuses on core enterprise network architecture HLD aspects. The exam serves as a pre-requisite for the CCDE Practical Exam and provide a a means of recertifying your CCIE (as well as lower-level certifications). The exam is closed book and no outside reference materials are allowed.

For more information on what to expect on your CCDE Written Exam, please refer to:

- The Unified Exam Topics, and
- The *Core* technology list

The CCDE Written exam is administered at [Pearson VUE](#) test centers.



## CCDE Practical Exam

The CCDE Practical Exam v3.1 is an 8-hour scenario-based exam that is built to be modular and provides you the flexibility to focus on your area of expertise, in addition to validating core enterprise architecture technologies. At the beginning of your CCDE Practical exam, you will be prompted to select one area of expertise. This determines the type of scenario you will get as the fourth and final module of the exam. The first three modules will always be of the Core type, meaning they are focusing on Enterprise technologies and topologies.

These are the currently offered area of expertise types:

1. Large Scale Networks  
*The Large Scale Networks area of expertise focuses on the aspects of designing large-scale networks, such as Service Provider networks or large enterprise networks and their associated technologies.*
2. On-Prem and Cloud Services  
*The On-Prem and Cloud Services area of expertise is centered around design and integration of business-critical services from a networking perspective. These services may be placed in an on-premises data center, in the cloud, or a hybrid thereof. A deep understanding of applications and their requirements, as well as related networking technologies is expected for this module.*
3. Workforce Mobility  
*The Workforce Mobility area of expertise is focused on the design of solutions that benefit users in their daily job and routines, allowing them to roam freely across campuses and buildings without losing access to the services they depend on. This requires a well-planned and well-designed wireless network to achieve.*
4. AI Infrastructure  
*The AI infrastructure area of expertise works with the various aspects of designing infrastructure that enables use of AI/ML applications while also ensuring the workloads are manageable and able to operate in a secure fashion. Often the applications have very strict requirements on performance and on the services offered. This requires specialized technologies and protocols to deliver, and a deep understanding of these technologies are required.*

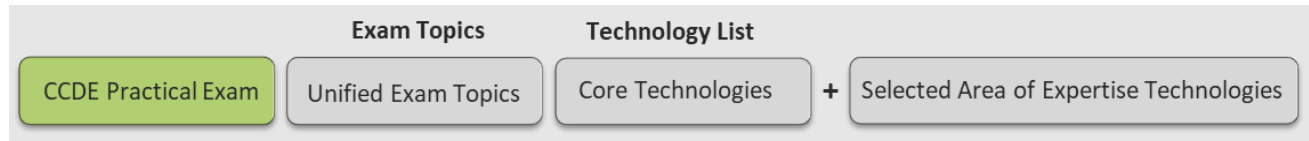
Technologies and concepts relevant to these are grouped together in *area of expertise* technology lists. Each *area of expertise* has its own corresponding technology list.

For more information on what to expect on your CCDE Practical exam, please refer to:

- Unified Exam Topics
- Core Technology List
- The technology list associated with the *Area of Expertise* you intend to select.



Upon booking your CCDE Practical Exam you do not indicate your preferred area of expertise; this will be selected on the day of your CCDE Practical exam.



## Practical Exam delivery

The delivery of CCDE Practical exams is administered at Cisco Certification Centers, including both fixed locations and mobile events- Booking your CCDE Practical Exam is done on the [Cisco Expert Level Certifications Tracker portal](#).

## Practical Exam flow

The CCDE 8-hour practical exam contains four 2-hour scenarios. Within these scenarios your skills and abilities in high level network design is validated by making you analyze technical as well as business requirements, identify relevant solutions to presented challenges, build implementation plans, and align Enterprise Architecture high level designs to business outcomes.

Each of the scenarios you encounter during your exam stands on its own; there's no connection between them. When you get to the start of a new scenario, you can essentially reset your mind in preparation for the next scenario, as you will not be required to retain information from any previous scenario in your exam.

The first three scenarios focus on enterprise architecture core technologies that are listed in the *core technology* list, the fourth scenario focusses on your selected area of expertise and corresponding *area of expertise* technology list.

As you work your way through a scenario, you will be provided with an extensive set of information, such as extensive background information and topology drawings that will set the stage for the scenario you are working on. As the scenario progresses you may be presented with additional information that, for instance, impact the existing network or marks a new direction mandated by management.

As the scenario will often place you in the role of a network architect or network consultant, it is generally suggested that you assume that role from the perspective of your mindset. Do not spend time trying to map the requirements or design options into configuration sections or snippets – instead, stay inside the context of the scenario and the question in particular.



## Practical Exam scenario details

You have 8 hours in total to complete 4 scenarios. You have a maximum of 2 hours for each scenario. If you spend less than 2 hours on one scenario, you cannot carry over any of the unused time to the next scenario.

During the exam, it is not possible to navigate backwards, so once you provide the answer to a question and move on to the next, your answer is final and cannot be changed.

The point value for the questions will not be shown during the exam. Partial credit might be available based upon the question intent.

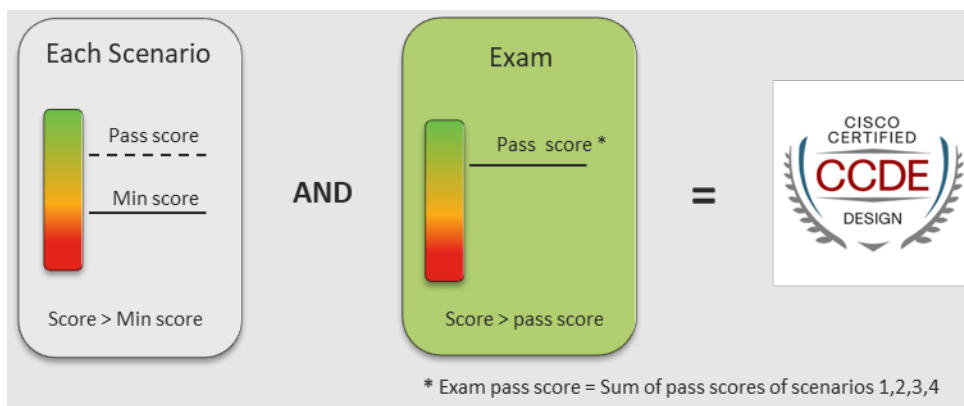
The exam is closed book, but access to relevant documentation on [cisco.com](https://www.cisco.com) is provided.

## Practical Exam Scoring

Each scenario has both a minimum score and a pass score. Both minimum and pass scores are set on a per-scenario basis, based upon exam difficulty level.

- The pass score corresponds with expert level competence.
- The minimum score is the absolute minimum score expected from an expert level candidate.

To pass the exam, candidates need to score higher than the aggregated pass score of all 4 scenarios and score higher than the minimum score set on each of the scenarios individually.



If candidates score less than the overall aggregated pass score of all scenarios OR score less than the minimum score set on one or more of the individual scenarios, they will fail the exam.

Upon passing the exam, candidates will not be provided any additional score details.



Candidates that fail the exam will be given a score report that provides cumulative scoring percentages on a per-domain level.

Summary

The graphic illustrates key CCDE Practical exam elements.

	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
Exam topics	Unified Exam Topics			
Technology	Core			Core + Area
Format	Scenario-based			
Total Exam	8 hours			
Time/scenari	Max 2 hours	Max 2 hours	Max 2 hours	Max 2 hours
Backwards	No			
Point values	Not shown			