

## TODAY'S TOP STORIES

# Top 15 IT certifications in demand for 2021

IT certifications can help you quickly gain and validate valuable skills and know-how in a domain that will further your career. Here are the most popular IT certs today.

By Sarah K. White

Senior Writer, CIO

JAN 8, 2021 2:00 AM PST

Certifications can validate your IT skills and experience to show employers you have the expertise to get the job done. You can get certified in skills you already have or skills you'd like to put to use in your career — whatever your reason, certifications are a great way to strengthen your resume and set yourself apart from other candidates in a job search.

According to the 2021 IT Salary report from Robert Half, IT professionals holding the following popular certifications can earn 5% to 10% more than their peers. Whether you're just starting out and building your resume or you've been in the industry for 20 years, there's a certification that can help boost your salary and your career.

**[ Get ahead with the top certs for big data, project management, agile, data science, IT management and the cloud, as well as the top-paying certs and emerging certifications for today's hottest skills. | Get weekly career tips by signing up for our CIO Leader newsletter. ]**

## 15 most in-demand certifications for 2021

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional
- Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)
- Certified Data Privacy Solutions Engineer (CDPSE)
- Certified Data Professional (CDP)
- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)
- Certified Information Security manager (CISM)
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)

- Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert (CCIE)
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
- Cisco Certified Professional Network Professional (CCNP)
- Microsoft Certified Azure Solutions Architect
- Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate (MCSA)
- Oracle Certified MySQL Database Administrator (CMDDBA)
- Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Salesforce Certified Development Lifecycle and Deployment Designer

## **AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional**

Amazon offers a long list of AWS certifications, but the AWS Certified Solutions Architect is one of the most popular cloud computing certifications you can earn. AWS is widely used at companies large and small, so whether you already work for a company using AWS or plan to in the future, it's a good choice for your resume. The certification focuses on your ability to design and deploy scalable systems on AWS with a focus on keeping it cost effective without sacrificing on security, reliability and quality.

*Average annual salary (according to PayScale): \$113,000*

## **Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)**

The Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP) certification is offered through the International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC)<sup>2</sup>. The certification demonstrates your knowledge and abilities when designing, managing and securing data, applications and infrastructure in the cloud. It's designed for those working with cloud technology including enterprise architects, security administrators, systems engineers, security architects, systems architects or consultants, engineers or managers. The certification exam covers cloud concepts, architecture, design, security and risk and compliance. While not required, the (ISC)<sup>2</sup> recommends having at least five years of experience in IT, with at least three years in information security and one year in one or more of the six domains found in the CCSP CBOK.

*Average annual salary: \$118,559*

## **Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert (CCIE)**

The Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert (CCIE) certification is the highest level of certification you can reach in Cisco's program. The expert-level certifications are offered in specialty areas, including enterprise infrastructure, enterprise wireless, data center, security, service provider and collaboration. Once you have passed your CCIE exam in your topic of choice, you will have reached the highest level of Cisco certification currently available. Before you can earn your expert-level certification, it's recommended to have at least five to seven years of experience in the certification subject.

*Average annual salary: \$126,000*

## **Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)**

The Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) certification is offered in several specializations, including security, wireless, routing and switching, industrial, IoT, data center, cyber operations, collaboration and cloud. The exam covers network fundamentals, network access, IP connectivity, IP services, security fundamentals and automation and programmability. You'll need at least one year of experience working with Cisco products and services, basic knowledge of IP addressing and a strong understanding of network fundamentals to pass the exam.

*Average annual salary: \$78,000*

## **Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP)**

The Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP) certifications will be the next step on your Cisco certification journey after you earn your CCNA. With CCNP, you can choose to be certified in enterprise, data center, security, service provider, collaboration, CyberOps or DevNet. You'll need to pass an exam at the CCNP level to move on to the final expert level of certifications. It's recommended to have at least three to five years of experience in any certification path you choose.

*Average annual salary: \$95,000*

## **Microsoft Certified Azure Solutions Architect Expert**