Prepare for DEVASC 200-901 in 6 weeks

From zero to hero – v1.0

Target

This document is targeted to anyone that wants to achieve the DEVASC but only has 1-2 hours to study during the week, due to work. By reserving 1-2 hours every day and 4 hours each day of the weekend, you'll manage to get ready in 6 weeks.

Resources

Certification Information

- Certification Official Page
- Certification Topics Overview

Official Courses:

- Digital Learning DEVASC course. Great source to study the theory. don't spend too much time on the labs, as they are only click through, simply read the solution to every step and make sure you understand why that is done and why you have that outcome.
  Time to complete: 64 hours
- ~~DevNet Associate course~~. *[Unfortunately, is not free for Cisco employees]* Great for both theory and practice, this course is filled with actual labs to try and learn from.
  Time to complete: 60 hours.
- Git crash course. Git is explained in both the before mentioned courses, but since this is an important topic in the certification, so make sure you actually understand it, play with it and **really look** at the output git gives you for each command.
  Time to complete: 2-4 hours.

Other specific material to improve your knowledge:

- DevNet Sandbox. Perfect to play around with the newly learnt APIs.
- Fundamentals DevNet Track. From this link, focus on the following two sections:
  - Programming Fundamentals
  - REST API Fundamentals
- In-depth DevNet Tracks:
  - Security Track
  - Data Center
    - ACI specific track
    - NX-OS specific track
  - Meraki
  - EN
    - NSO specific track
    - IOS-XE specific track
  - Collaboration
    - Webex specific track. Focus on the following sections: Webex Teams API 101; Automating Webex Teams (Python); Introduction to Webex Devices Programmability.

Schedule

Week	Topic	Time needed
1	Get the Fundamentals Right	9h
2	Software Development and Design	9h 30m
3	Application Deployment and Security	10h
4	Infrastructure and Automation	9h
5	Cisco Platforms and Development – Part 1	8h 30m
6	Cisco Platforms and Development – Part 2	8h 30m
EXTRA	Review the content	8h
EXTRA	Network Fundamentals	9h

Considerations on the Schedule

Studying the theory and going through the course and the material is good and all, but it might not be enough to have you pass the certification. Hands-on and practice is *fundamental*. To get this you have two options:

- Go through the DevNet tracks available here: DevNet Express tracks. If you have time, this is much more detailed and of course worth the extra effort.
- Do the labs available on the second course mentioned above, both online and trying to repeat them on your own laptop.
  This is my suggestion if you don't have much time.

For those of you who don't have experience with programming I strongly suggest to get a *good* grasp on git, as there will be questions about it, and not only on a high-level, but some detailed questions too.

Tips & Tricks

- DO NOT underestimate the *Cisco Platforms and APIs* section, there is A LOT of material there, but it is worth to be studied and tried and understood before running on to the next chapter.
- The same goes for the *Software development and design* section. I personally have 5+ years of SW development experience, yet it took me quite some time to make some concepts here mine.
- Remember those *really specific* questions you had in CCNA / CCNP *about that one detail* that you hated so much? They are still there, so be ready.
- TAKE YOUR TIME to read the questions and the answers. They are not made to fool you, but sometimes the difference is so small that it might go unnoticed if you read quickly.
- Use your time wisely, you have almost 3 hours at your disposal (170 minutes), DO NOT run through the questions, but do not waste your time either. The time you are given is quite fair, make the best out of it (if you have a question where you have no idea what's the answer, don't waste time on it, pick a random one and go on).

This all being said, this is a certification that can be achieved even with little to no Cisco related knowledge. If you have 3+ years of SW development experience, you can get certified without too much issues.