

## At-A-Glance: New Cisco CCNA Curricula

The Cisco® Networking Academy® Program is pleased to announce the next generation of the Cisco CCNA® curricula. These curricula were designed to address a changing marketplace and respond to input from administrators, instructors, and students.

New features of the next-generation curricula include embedded e-doing, which uses the capabilities of a computer to provide guidance and opportunities for exploration and experimentation; enhanced instructional features; and an updated graphical user interface (GUI). In addition, they support Cisco's commitment to delivering the curricula in multiple languages by allowing for more efficient translation.

### New Curricula Description

Two separate curricula were created so that instructors can more easily and effectively teach CCNA concepts to students at different skill levels:

- CCNA Discovery provides a hands-on approach to learning networking skills. It uses easy-to-follow labs to help students learn the general theory needed to build networks. CCNA Discovery allows for quick application of learned concepts to encourage students to consider additional education in IT and helps prepare students for entry-level IT careers by teaching applied skills midway through the four-course series. CCNA Discovery was designed to be delivered as an independent curriculum or possibly integrated into a broader course of study at upper-secondary institutions, career and technical schools, and colleges. It is designed for students with basic PC usage skills.
- CCNA Exploration offers in-depth theory, challenging labs, and detailed lessons about protocol operation. It prepares students to be successful IT professionals in small-to-medium businesses as well as enterprise and service-provider environments. CCNA Exploration was designed to be part of an integrated curriculum or continuing education program at post-secondary institutions such as career and technical schools, colleges, and universities. CCNA Exploration is for students with advanced problem solving and analytical skills, such as students who are pursuing degrees in engineering, math, or science.

### Why Did We Create *Two* New Curricula for CCNA?

The new CCNA curricula were created in response to input from administrators, instructors, and students. CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration target different student segments based on academic experience and goals. By using different methodologies to teach students with different educational backgrounds and interests, we can help students successfully achieve their learning goals. This will improve both student and instructor satisfaction and help increase enrollment rates.

CCNA Discovery maps to everyday experiences with networks. The curriculum is organized around the types of work environments students may encounter, such as a home or small office, and students develop applied skills early in the curriculum. CCNA Exploration goes into greater technical depth and incorporates engineering concepts and terminology.

## Advantages of the New CCNA Curricula

Both CCNA Discovery and CCNA Exploration offer many new features, including the following:

- Improved accuracy and flow of information, with less redundancy
- Optimal balance of theory, practice, and application
- Enhanced and embedded network simulation tool for e-doing, which provides guidance and opportunities for exploration and experimentation
- Design supporting more efficient localization
- High and low bandwidth delivery capabilities
- Alignment of learning objectives with job skills
- Increased use of rich media for ongoing interactivity throughout the learning process

## Who Should Consider Adopting the CCNA Discovery Curriculum?

The CCNA Discovery curriculum is primarily designed for Academies with students looking for career-oriented, IT-skills instruction or a quick path to job entry and career exploration. The CCNA Discovery curriculum has the following features:

- Designed for students with basic PC skills
- Can be delivered as an independent curriculum or integrated into broader course studies at upper-secondary institutions, career and technical schools, and colleges
- Offers a hands-on, career-oriented approach to learning networking that emphasizes practical experience
- Maps more directly to everyday experiences with networks and covers key networking concepts according to the types of practical network environments students may encounter; ranging from home office or small business networking to more complex enterprise and theoretical networking models later in the curriculum
- Includes activities that emphasize the implementation of networking

## Who Should Consider Adopting the CCNA Exploration Curriculum?

Academies with students who prefer a challenging, theoretical, and integrated approach typically used at higher-education institutions should consider adopting CCNA Exploration, which has the following features:

- Designed for students with advanced problem-solving and analytical skills, such as students who are pursuing degrees in engineering, math, or science
- Can be part of an integrated curriculum or continuing education program at postsecondary institutions, such as career and technical schools, colleges, and universities
- Includes highly complex and challenging hands-on labs
- Presents an integrated and comprehensive coverage of networking topics, from fundamentals to advanced applications and services
- Previews the future direction of networking with an early introduction to advanced technologies such as voice, video, wireless, and security

- Familiarizes students with converged networked applications and the services that networks provide to those applications
- Organizes topics to allow for flexibility in the order and delivery of the courses
- Builds deeper conceptualizations, connections, and technology language that will integrate with other engineering concepts

### Availability

The English versions of CCNA Discovery courses 1 and 2 and CCNA Exploration courses 1 and 2 will be available in the June–August 2007 timeframe. The English versions of CCNA Discovery courses 3 and 4 and CCNA Exploration courses 3 and 4 will be available in the November–December 2007 timeframe. The current CCNA curriculum will continue to be made available as long as it aligns with customer needs and certification requirements.

Cisco is committed to translating the new CCNA curricula into other languages. Information about the translations that will be sponsored by Cisco will be announced in the June–August 2007 timeframe.

### Why Choose the Cisco Networking Academy Program?

Cisco founded the Networking Academy program in 1997 to foster access to education and professional opportunities on a global scale. Since then, approximately two million students have enrolled at more than 10,000 Academies in more than 160 countries; helping to fill the growing demand for qualified IT professionals around the world.

The Networking Academy program uses a combination of face-to-face training with online curricula, hands-on lab exercises, realistic network simulations, and an Internet-based assessment tool to deliver standards-based content. By using our innovative networking technology and communications expertise to deliver IT education, we can help improve communities around the world, especially those that are underserved, and provide students with the skills needed to succeed in the wide range of careers available today and in the future.



**Americas Headquarters**  
 Cisco Systems, Inc.  
 170 West Tasman Drive  
 San Jose, CA 95134-1706  
 USA  
[www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)  
 Tel: 408 526-4000  
 800 553-NETS (6387)  
 Fax: 408 527-0883

**Asia Pacific Headquarters**  
 Cisco Systems, Inc.  
 168 Robinson Road  
 #28-01 Capital Tower  
 Singapore 068912  
[www.cisco.com](http://www.cisco.com)  
 Tel: +65 6317 7777  
 Fax: +65 6317 7799

**Europe Headquarters**  
 Cisco Systems International BV  
 Haarlerbergpark  
 Haarlerbergweg 13-19  
 1101 CH Amsterdam  
 The Netherlands  
[www-europe.cisco.com](http://www-europe.cisco.com)  
 Tel: +31 0 800 020 0791  
 Fax: +31 0 20 357 1100

Cisco has more than 200 offices worldwide. Addresses, phone numbers, and fax numbers are listed on the Cisco Website at [www.cisco.com/go/offices](http://www.cisco.com/go/offices).

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