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Is the ccna worth it

Is CCNA worth getting, or should I try the CCIE?? I'm trying to figure out if the witch... Ccna is a prerequisite for the Cisco certification ecosystem. This can be a joint won by the Cisco Network Academy (NetAcad), typically community colleges, over two semesters. First semester is much easier than the second semester for most people. Completing NetAcad's corresponding quality gives a voucher for the CCNA to be taken from a testing center. Cost a couple hundred classes and books. Since these are considered community colleges, there is a side advantage to obtaining college credits. With CCNA, there is an option to go to Cisco Professional level certificates ins R&Amp;t; S, wireless, sound, or security. Netacads exist, but they are rare. CCIE much later off the field. It is known to have low pass-through rates and is usually several months dedicated. Expect to cost a few thousand dollars for tests fees, labs, books, and other materials. CCNA first, you can see where you move to the right perspective after completion. EDIT: Annoying Typo Edited January 29, 2013 at 5:37 am UTC If you do a search of the Spiceworks community you will see the Group-On that's going on for \$99 CCNA of course. I bought this as well as the book CCENT Study Guide by Todd Lammle and along with it should put me at CCENT and then onto the CCNA. A \$99 course alone isn't enough. \$99? Completely! But to really learn everything you need for the exam will take a bit. I have the Network+ and basically the CCNA course is like Network+ on steroids as well as Cisco IOS. I know the IT manager isn't looking for people at CCNA, but it definitely helps us with the resume of Sys Admins, like everything from configuring Routers/Switches to Active Directory, Cisco Aironets, SQL, cabling, Tier 3 helpdesk to anything from electricity under the sun to relm to Super Accessories. CCNA is the first step on the road. Assuming you want to work with Cisco as you make the long way to CCIE you'll want to take steps along the way anyway. Can a ccna get me a good paying job and if so, how much? Danny7062 wrote: Can a ccna mean a good paying job and if so, how much? No, CCNA is very entry-level. Cisco, in general, has devalued dramatically over the past decade. Network Admin isn't the high end job it used to be and the whole Cisco camp has lost value as we just said on another thread. CCNA was special 12 years ago. Today everyone and anyone has one, and it basically ignores your resume. Not that it's bad to have, but good paying jobs don't go to entry-level certs. No certs earn you big bucks, those days ago long ago. Today high-end certs only work to validate your experience. If you have experience proportional to what the CCNA is supposed to represent, you'll earn maybe \$45K in Missouri, I think. CCNA is just a small step above the network + but specifically cisco, which looked down quite strongly today. CCNP is the first cert that will make a difference. But also the work building resume. Only certs do nothing for you. Also, keep in mind that Cisco certs, and Cisco skills, are not very useful for the SMB (this is the community.) The thing that Cisco engineers do is almost exclusively for consultants or corporate stores. So limiting your choices dramatically (but open other doors, it's not all wrong) goes down the path to nature. You've tied your fortune very much to Cisco. Server+ is between A+ and Network+. Not that it's a bad cert, but it's insanely basic. The material, at least back when I bought it, was valuable, just not too deep. Overall, I've thought about it fairly. I doubt this is going to get an interview. Server+ is uniquely responsible for authenticating entry-level data center technicians. DC Tech is a relatively dead end job. This is necessary and there is work there, but it pays lousy and there is no progress path. Spends your days racking and stacking, pulling cables and changing drives. You don't log on to computers, but move them to places where administrators can work on them. No amount of DC Tech (aka Server Tech) experience entitles you to the next step, so you have to seriously work hard in this role to move onto something else. The point is that certs don't get you a job and rarely do you get raises. But if you're looking for a CCNA, you don't need to be considering server+. I think that you need to back up and start setting a goal instead of looking at roads and seeing if they are going somewhere that you like. Scott Alan Miller wrote: if you are looking for a CCNA, you do not need to consider the Server + ... Very different paths. The added thoughts see well - Guess the question (&confirm SAM's last note): what sought to finally be achieved work-wise? Scott Alan Miller wrote: Danny7062 wrote: Can a ccna get me a good payer and if so, how much? No, CCNA is very entry-level. In general, Cisco dramatically over the past decade. Network Admin isn't the high end job it used to be and the whole Cisco camp has lost value as we just said on another thread. CCNA was special 12 years ago. Today everyone and anyone has one, and it basically ignores your resume. Not that it's bad to have, but good paying jobs don't go to entry-level certs. No certs earn you big bucks, those days ago long ago. Today high-end certs only work to validate your experience. If you have experience proportional to what the CCNA is supposed to represent, you'll earn maybe \$45K in Missouri, I think. CCNA is just a small step above the network + but specifically cisco, which looked down quite strongly today. CCNP is the first cert that will make a difference. But also the work building resume. Only certs do nothing for you. What does it matter about good paying jobs and getting interviews? For example, I was a local IT provider with 2 employees for 5 years, sold my business a great opportunity for a fast growing small business like 80% 1-Man-System Admin 20% engineering R&Amp;D (integrate computers with new tools in the company's products). I planned and implemented replacement, DFS-R file server, active directory, and Cisco routers site to site vpn. (It's still there, enjoying it, but I want to plan for the long term and maximize my income like everyone else) I left college 2 years ago with a degree about 8 years ago now with an IT opportunity. So, I have no degree, 5+ years of small / medium server / network experience and no certificates, as I do not think the compita stuff was worth it. As someone who loves virtualization, working with end users/IT team members, providing a solution of any kind, I can't decide what I need to do to further my career in terms of learning. What's the best way now in terms of maximizing income. RoguePacket by Scott Alan Miller wrote: if you are looking for a CCNA, you do not need to consider the Server + Very different paths. The added thoughts see well - Guess the question (&confirm SAM's last note): what sought to finally be achieved work-wise? Note, however, that Server+ is not connected to system administration. This is physical support guys from SA. We have teams of Server Techs who support... But none of them are on the road to getting my job or being on my team. They do manual work, we sit in the booths, they work in the data center, we work all over the world from physical boxes. They put the servers in the trunk and plugged them in for us. SA path ratings include MCSE in the Microsoft world, RHCE in the Linux world and Solaris Certified Admin in the Solaris world. There are many others, but as an example, SA is pretty much the top paid non-management role. I do not know any staff network admins, server tech, desktop techs, etc. for \$200K-\$ annual salary. That's pretty much it. So much, an SA price tag. But even for SAs, certs is used to acquire \$65K entry-level tasks. Good sa's don't go to interviews, and they don't ask anyone about their certs. I have over 150 certs and I have discussed exactly zero of them over the past decade. Certs don't mean anything on the upper floors. Neither is college. Nobody cares about the paper, they care about the results. Steve.FIT wrote: Scott Alan Miller wrote: Danny7062 wrote: Can a ccna give me a good paying job and if so, how much? No, CCNA is very entry-level. Cisco, in general, has devalued dramatically over the past decade. Network Admin isn't the high end job it used to be and the whole Cisco camp has lost value as we just said on another thread. CCNA was special 12 years ago. Today everyone and anyone has one, and it basically ignores your resume. 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(It's still there, enjoying it, but I want to plan for the long term and maximize my income like everyone else) I left college 2 years ago with a degree about 8 years ago now with an IT opportunity. So, I have no degree, 5+ years of small / medium server / network experience and no certificates, as I do not think the compita stuff was worth it. As someone who loves virtualization, working with end users/IT team members, providing a solution of any kind, I can't decide what I need to do to further my career in terms of learning. What's the best way now in terms of maximizing income. Experience and skills. Alternative things. Fascinating things. When I'm interviewing people I talk about tech for a long time (a long time) and expect to keep up. I focus on what they know, and mostly I let them drive. I want to see if they're really talking. Anyone can memorize the answers, I want to know how they do it in a real conversation. I want to know what they're doing at home. Are there racks cisco gear along with some ProCurve, Juniper, SonicWall, etc. to learn from the them in different ways? Do you really know the things they claim to care about? Even if they don't know everything, are they really a fan? I have three SAN's at home, some NAS, all kinds of virtualized systems. I have half a rack and plenty of servers. I've had it since I started IT. My equipment is better today, but I actually did more at home than I do now. Back in 1997 there were servers and several workstations at home in each network. Even having a four port hub was the height of you being at home! back then. I want to know what people are, and they've read it. Any good books? Podcasts? Seminars? What were you doing at work? Something cool? If not, will you volunteer to do something awesome? What about teaching? Are you involved in online communities? Are you Irish? Tos? Stand out. That's the big deal. The wife, not kids (none of us want more and then make a good uncle and aunt) and vmware / hyper-v servers / NAS / Cisco router / netgear managed to switch at home constantly to learn off I feel very good the time is there to learn on their own. No SAN stuff at my level, the best I can do is use iscsi on my synology as a ghetto concept-replacement. I like to learn anything in my field, and as someone who's hired in the field I can definitely say that I have someone with a passion for learning, but I don't graduate as someone with a degree who thinks they've got it all down. I interviewed quite a few people, and the majority had the ego that didn't meet their passion for learning. Whatever I do, I will never lose the drive to do more because I never think I'm safe to stop. I'll keep grabbing books off amazon, reading spiceworks community, and playing in my lab at home I think. I think I might start working on MSCSE. Sorry to hijack. I hope others can learn from the questions and thoughts I put out. While CCNA is very CISCO ce tric I don't describe it as a waste of money or time, especially if I don't have any IT education like an associate or bachelors. There are several reasons for this, one of which is that it has some good network knowledge that applies to any network. The second is that CISCO has pretty much had a high watermark traditionally for networking, and many advanced networking has tried to be based on or compete with CISCO in many ways. For example, iproute2, which has replaced the basic routing of the Linux kernel emulates CISCO in many ways, and advanced network Linux. But I agree with Scott that you need to step back and decide what you want to do, what your goal is. If you don't know what you want to do, then I suggest you take some IT courses at your local community college to see who you are on topics you may not have been exposed to or that you haven't met in your work. Then you can better decide what your goals are and what you need to But let me make an important point, do it for yourself, because you want to enrich yourself and your knowledge, not because it looks good on your resumé. You'll get a lot more of it if you don't yourself as merely some kind of profit motive. Danny7062 wrote: What bout server +? As it happens, like Comp TIA certs, but SAM has a valid point that is not too difficult to cover the overall floor space, as if, in my Security + I bought a book, read it and took the exam, all done and dusted, as the certs in general, I think they indicate the value the person puts their own education inside, and as such, I want to actually complete my MCSE 2003 before going out of fashion: oP life took another trip to one planned, s enough to say that I'm still here and still learning one last one, in my above scenario, getting the cert just the beginning, I need to keep working within this as well, and if the cert updates, I need to update it just for my 02c Rambler wrote : Getting the cert is just the beginning, I need to keep working in this area as well, and if the cert updates, I need to update it too I don't update the certs. A lot of effort, nearly zero payouts. Just put the certificate date on your resume. 99% of the value, 50% of the costs and effort. If a cert needs to re-up it's not a serious one because serious certs know they need to move on and keep time focusing on the lower parts of their careers. CompTIA is a great example. It is assumed that people using them will never advance their careers, giving you re-ups to prove that they are still entering the level and have not fallen below that line. That's harsh. I am currently working on my CCNA, not because it will help my career, but because I want to. I am also working on my MBA for the same reason. Although they might help you pay more, that's not the point. I'm proving myself, not the people I want to hire. That's how it's done. I assume that you can use it to drive knowledge and understanding of the subject. I love the certs for this. If I have a cert, that's because I want to know the substance involved. I don't get the cert. But the cert process pushes you to bits of knowledge that you can ignore on your own. There is some good information here and Scott has made a lot of valid points. I can't tell you how many times people send things to me because they can't figure out how to change their default printer or whether they are having hardware problems. I handle over 9000 workstations remotely (sys admin/development) and it's frustrating because the person who paid to solve the problem can't do that. I love getting the because it validates learning, not re-cushioning, but because I want to see if I honestly learned the material. The most successful people in IT are those who use a home lab to learn new technologies. When I have to send tickets down to another group bai I can practically manually walk them through the solution (I just don't have the permissions). Anyway I just got ccna yesterday and it made me feel good about myself. The people I work with don't know much about itinerary planning and switching, so I thought I'd pick it up. Entry-level jobs in NC are likely to be around 60K. There are many good points, especially about being in a home lab for learning and experimenting. I started off the Cisco trip in 2007 and picked up the CCNA that November. Did the CCNA exam 11/2010 on recert and am currently working with CCNA Security and then back to the CCNP. I built a lab along the INE CCIE spec and think it's worth the investment. As for the value of the CCNA I think it might be a little more value than they give here. I've been a self-employed SMB IT consultant since 2001 and out of an open-end W2 contract as a network analyst at the Fortune 500 company last year (2012) and getting close to 6 numbers. I left the position after nine months as the major projects I was hired completed and not much new and interesting seemed to be in the works. When I updated my LinkedIn profile to indicate that I had left the Fortune 500 position, I received 6 calls from recruiters in a few weeks. Each position offered paid good or better than the one you've just left, and one in particular has had a \$125K fund up to a \$50K upside in performance. Now I'm probably a little older than the average bear who just got to 60. I also have a fairly diverse background having a B-School undergrad and having started several small businesses over the years. It was a combination of tech and business skills that most recruiters noted they were looking for. I'm sure everyone has their own opinion of what they consider a good salary, but I know that personal experience with a little coming and good people skills at the \$100k mark is very feasible. It doesn't make you rich, but it makes a reasonable living and does what you want. I'm just starting my IT trip as I'll be forced to retire a few years due to the age limit for federal law enforcement (I work for the FBI and will be 52 next year) - I did a Marine pilot before the office and before that I got my mis degree in 1984. My college education is so outdated that people laugh when I tell them I use punch cards, a card reader, and Fortran in a mainframe made by DEC (Digital Electronics Corp) when I attended college. I get a CCNA at my local community college to get a little up to speed on something new - I'm taking a leap of faith that it's going to be a bit of fun (as I always kind of computer nerd in many ways, just never in the field) I'll be looking for some type of employment for a few years as well - so hoping some of my work experience coupled with some updated knowledge will help me... Edited June 30, 2014 at 8:23pm UTC By David... If you enjoy that half of the battle as if you don't, you can't really excel at it. The field is changing so fast that it can accelerate pretty quickly, and someone with years of experience in the real world has great value among some of the 22-year-olds who think they know everything about :) You may be carrying smarts, but how to actually run a business successfully is something else. Mike Shafer wrote: As for the value of the CCNA I think it might be a little more value than they give here. A number of things said in this topic are that they do not bear any relation to reality. Some of the things that I've posted in this thread, I read it and shook my head. It's so far from reality that maybe we live in an alternate universe. I hope the recruits here don't read some of these and take it at face value just because someone said that's right. I don't know many CCNAs who are making under \$55,000 and I know some who are in the \$100,000+ range. And there are definitely people who love to bash on Cisco, but they are still top dog in the network world. No one makes sense looking down on Cisco, strongly or otherwise. And as for certs, they need to be renewed vs. those that don't. Until recently CompTIA was a policy once certified, always certified. They have rightly criticized this policy because what good is A+ or Network+ that it acquired 15 years ago? It bears so little significance that IT today would be worthless. There may be some certificates today that don't require periodic re-certification, but most don't, and I don't have much faith in any cert that was acquired years ago and never renewed. I actually like the model that CompTIA, Cisco, and probably other certification bodies now use to achieve an additional, higher level of cert to renew lower-level certs. This encourages you to continue to develop. For example, winning Security+ automatically renews A+ and Network+. Earning CCNA Security or CCNP R&Amp;t; S renews the CCNA. Ccna.

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