

CompTIA A+ - 2009 Edition



The CompTIA A+ certification is the industry standard for computer support technicians. The international, vendor-neutral certification proves competence in areas such as installation, preventative maintenance, networking, security and troubleshooting. CompTIA A+ certified technicians also have excellent customer service and communication skills to work with clients.

Information technology, even in a tough economy, is a rapidly growing field, and the amount of knowledge that IT professionals have cuts a wide swath. CompTIA certifications help to train and identify qualified, knowledgeable employees and match them with employers who have jobs to fill. Earning a certification not only proves you have the right skills, but also the dedication and commitment to your IT career to continue learning.

CompTIA certifications are trusted because they are such an accurate predictor of employee success. When developing an exam, CompTIA engages international focus groups and recruits subject matter experts from around the world to define programs, write, review and participate in beta exams. CompTIA certifications are built with the knowledge of experts and industry leaders from the public and private sectors, including training, academia and the government.

CompTIA is the leading provider of vendor-neutral IT certifications worldwide, and employers depend on CompTIA certifications to make hiring decisions. Earning certifications shows not only that you have the right knowledge and skills to do the job, but also that you are dedicated to your IT career.

Certified technicians are more knowledgeable and confident about the problems they handle than non-certified technicians, and can more easily adapt to changing technologies. This can lead to new career opportunities. Forty percent of certified professionals received a promotion within one year of attaining a primary certification, according to an IDC survey.

The latest version of CompTIA A+ is CompTIA A+ 2009 Edition. Two exams are necessary to be certified: CompTIA A+ Essentials, exam code 220-701; and CompTIA A+ Practical Application, exam code 220-702.

CompTIA A+ Essentials measures the necessary competencies of an entry-level IT professional with at least 500 hours of hands-on experience in the lab or field. It tests for the fundamentals of computer technology, networking and security, as well as the communication skills and professionalism now required of all entry-level IT professionals.

CompTIA A+ Practical Application is an extension of the knowledge and skills identified in CompTIA A+ Essentials, with more of a "hands-on" orientation focused on scenarios in which troubleshooting and tools must be applied to resolve problems.

Why A New Exam?

The CompTIA A+ exam was last updated in 2006. Releasing a new version of the exam ensures that CompTIA A+ reflects changes in technologies and covers the latest skills needed by IT technicians. Additionally, CompTIA A+ is ISO 17024 accredited and must be reviewed and updated every three years to maintain accreditation.