



CompTIA Security+ TM

Secure What?

Security is unlike any other topic in computing. To begin with, the word is so encompassing that it is impossible to know what you mean just by using it. When you talk about security, do you mean physical security of servers and workstations from those who might try to steal them, or damage that might occur if the side of the building collapses? Or do you mean the security of data from viruses and worms and the means by which you keep them from entering the

network? Or do you mean security of data from hackers and miscreants who have suddenly targeted you and have no other purpose in life than to keep you up at night? Or maybe security to you is the comfort that comes in knowing that you can restore files if a user accidentally deletes them. The first problem with security is that it is next to impossible to have everyone agree on what it means since it can include all of these items. The next problem with security is that we don't really mean that we want things to be completely secured. If you wanted the customer list file to truly be secure, you would never put it on the server and make it available. It is on the server because you need to access it and so do 30 other people. In this sense, security means that only 30 people can get to it and not anyone outside of the select 30. The next problem is that while everyone wants security, no one wants to be inconvenienced by it. To use an analogy, few are the travelers who do not feel safer by watching airport personnel frisk and pat down all who head to the terminal—they just don't want it to happen to them. This is true in computing as well; we all want to make sure data is accessed only by those who truly should be working with it, but we don't want to have to enter 12-digit passwords and submit to retinal scans. As a computer security professional, you have to understand all of these concerns. You have to know that a great deal is expected of you, but few users want to be hassled or inconvenienced by the measures you must put in place. You have a primary

responsibility to protect and safeguard the information your organization uses. Many times, that means educating your users and making certain they understand the "why" behind what is being implemented. Security is a high-growth area in the computer industry, and has been for several years now. The need for qualified people is increasing rapidly, as a search of job boards will quickly illustrate. Your pursuit of the Security+ certificate is a good first step in this process. Security+ is not the only security certification on the market, and it is not even the only entry-level certification available to you. It is, however, the only one to truly focus on the topics that most think of when security comes to mind.

PREREQUISITE: At least 1 MCP track, Good Knowledge of Operating Systems Technology, Over 1 year Practical use of computers.

DURATION: 8weeks **Why Become Security+ Certified?**

There are a number of reasons for obtaining a Security+ certification:

Provides proof of professional achievement
Specialized certifications are the best way to stand out from the crowd. In this age of technology certifications, you'll find hundreds of thousands of administrators who have successfully completed the Microsoft and Cisco certification tracks. To set yourself apart from the crowd, you need a little bit more. The Security+ exam is

part of the CompTIA certification track that includes A+, Network+, and Server+. This exam will help you prepare for more advanced certifications, because it provides a solid grounding in security concepts and will give you the recognition you deserve.

Increases your marketability

Almost anyone can bluff their way through an interview. Once you're security certified, you'll have the credentials to prove your competency. And, certifications can't be taken from you when you change jobs—you can take that certification with you to any position you accept. **Provides opportunity for advancement**

Individuals who prove themselves to be competent and dedicated are the ones who will most likely be promoted. Becoming certified is a great way to prove your skill level and show your employer that you're committed to improving your skill set. Look around you at those who are certified: They are probably the people who receive good pay raises and promotions. **Fulfills training requirements**

Many companies have set training requirements for their staff so that they stay up-to-date on the latest technologies. Having a certification program in security provides administrators with another certification path to follow when they have exhausted some of the other industry-standard certifications.

Raises customer confidence

As companies discover the CompTIA advantage, they will undoubtedly require qualified staff to achieve these certifications. Many

companies outsource their work to consulting firms with experience working with security. Firms that have certified staff have a definite advantage over firms that don't.

How to Become a Security+ Certified Professional

There are two Security+ exam providers: Thompson Prometric and Pearson VUE. The following table contains all the necessary contact information and exam-specific details for registering. Exam pricing may vary by country or by CompTIA membership.