

Microsoft

# CompTIA Security+

Exam SY0-301



David Seidl  
Mike Chapple  
James Michael Stewart

# Training Kit

# CompTIA Security+

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Ace your preparation for the skills measured by CompTIA Security+ Exam SY0-301. Work at your own pace through a series of lessons and reviews that fully cover each exam objective. Then, reinforce what you've learned by applying your knowledge to real-world case scenarios and practice exercises. This guide is designed to help make the most of your study time.

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- Threats and vulnerabilities
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- Access control and identity management
- Cryptography

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## EXAM SY0-301

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For *system requirements*, see the introduction.

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# CompTIA Security+ (Exam SY0-301)

## Objective lesson map

	OBJECTIVE	CHAPTER
<b>1.0</b>	<b>NETWORK SECURITY (21 PERCENT)</b>	
1.1	Explain the security function and purpose of network devices and technologies: Firewalls; Routers; Switches; Load Balancers; Proxies; Web security gateways; VPN concentrators; NIDS and NIPS (Behavior based, signature based, anomaly based, heuristic); Protocol analyzers; Sniffers; Spam filter, all-in-one security appliances; Web application firewall vs. network firewall; URL filtering, content inspection, malware inspection	2
1.2	Apply and implement secure network administration principles: Rule-based management, Firewall rules, VLAN management, Secure router configuration, Access control lists, Port Security, 802.1x, Flood guards, Loop protection, Implicit deny, Prevent network bridging by network separation, Log analysis	2, 3
1.3	Distinguish and differentiate network design elements and compounds: DMZ, Subnetting, VLAN, NAT, Remote Access, Telephony, NAC, Virtualization, Cloud Computing (Platform as a Service, Software as a Service, Infrastructure as a Service)	3
1.4	Implement and use common protocols: IPSec, SNMP, SSH, DNS, TLS, SSL, TCP/IP, FTPS, HTTPS, SFTP, SCP, ICMP, IPv4 vs. IPv6	3
1.5	Identify commonly used default network ports: FTP, SFTP, FTPS, TFTP, TELNET, HTTP, HTTPS, SCP, SSH, NetBIOS	3
1.6	Implement wireless network in a secure manner: WPA, WPA2, WEP, EAP, PEAP, LEAP, MAC filter, SSID broadcast, TKIP, CCMP, Antenna Placement, Power level controls	3
<b>2.0</b>	<b>COMPLIANCE AND OPERATIONAL SECURITY (18 PERCENT)</b>	
2.1	Explain risk related concepts: Control types (Technical, Management, Operational); False positives; Importance of policies in reducing risk (Privacy policy, Acceptable use, Security policy, Mandatory vacations, Job rotation, Separation of duties, Least privilege); Risk calculation (Likelihood, ALE, Impact); Quantitative vs. qualitative; Risk-avoidance, transference, acceptance, mitigation, deterrence; Risks associated to Cloud Computing and Virtualization	1, 4
2.2	Carry out appropriate risk mitigation strategies: Implement security controls based on risk, Change management, Incident management, User rights and permissions reviews, Perform routine audits, Implement policies and procedures to prevent data loss or theft	1, 4
2.3	Execute appropriate incident response procedures: Basic forensic procedures (Order of volatility, Capture system image, Network traffic and logs, Capture video, Record time offset, Take hashes, Screenshots, Witnesses, Track man hours and expense), Damage and loss control, Chain of custody, Incident response: (first responder)	1
2.4	Explain the importance of security related awareness and training: Security policy training and procedures; Personally identifiable information; Information classification: Sensitivity of data (hard or soft); Data labeling, handling and disposal; Compliance with laws, best practices and standards; User habits (Password behaviors, Data handling, Clean desk policies, Prevent tailgating, Personally owned devices); Threat awareness, (New viruses, Phishing attacks, Zero-day exploits); Use of social networking and P2P	4
2.5	Compare and contrast aspects of business continuity: Business impact analysis, Removing single points of failure, Business continuity planning and testing, Continuity of operations, Disaster recovery, IT contingency planning, Succession planning	4

**Exam Objectives** The exam objectives listed here are current as of this book's publication date. Exam objectives are subject to change at any time without prior notice and at CompTIA's sole discretion. Please visit the CompTIA Certifications webpage for the most current listing of exam objectives: <http://certification.comptia.org/getCertified/certifications.aspx>.

<b>2.0 COMPLIANCE AND OPERATIONAL SECURITY (18 PERCENT)</b>		
2.6	Explain the impact and proper use of environmental controls: HVAC, Fire suppression, EMI shielding, Hot and cold aisles, Environmental monitoring, Temperature and humidity controls, Video monitoring	4
2.7	Execute disaster recovery plans and procedures: Backup / backout contingency plans or policies; Backups, execution and Frequency; Redundancy and fault tolerance (Hardware, RAID, Clustering, Load balancing, Servers); High availability; Cold site, hot site, warm site; Mean time to restore, mean time between failures, recovery time objectives and recovery point objectives	4
2.8	Exemplify the concepts of confidentiality, integrity and availability (CIA)	1
<b>3.0 THREATS AND VULNERABILITIES (21 PERCENT)</b>		
3.1	Analyze and differentiate among types of malware: Adware, Virus, Worms, Spyware, Trojan, Rootkits, Backdoors, Logic bomb, Botnets	5
3.2	Analyze and differentiate among types of attacks: Man-in-the-middle, DDoS, DoS, Replay, Smurf attack, Spoofing, Spam, Phishing, Spim, Vishing, Spear phishing, Xmas attack, Pharming, Privilege escalation, Malicious insider threat, DNS poisoning and ARP poisoning, Transitive access, Client-side attacks	5
3.3	Analyze and differentiate among types of social engineering attacks: Shoulder surfing, Dumpster diving, Tailgating, Impersonation, Hoaxes, Whaling, Vishing	5
3.4	Analyze and differentiate among types of wireless attacks: Rogue access points, Interference, Evil twin, War driving, Bluejacking, Bluesnarfing, War chalking, IV attack, Packet sniffing	5
3.5	Analyze and differentiate among types of application attacks: Cross-site scripting, SQL injection, LDAP injection, XML injection, Directory traversal/command injection, Buffer overflow, Zero day, Cookies and attachments, Malicious add-ons, Session hijacking, Header manipulation	5
3.6	Analyze and differentiate among types of mitigation and deterrent techniques: Manual bypassing of electronic controls (Fail-safe/secure versus fail-open), Monitoring system logs (Event logs, Audit logs, Security logs, Access logs), Physical security (Hardware locks, Mantraps, Video surveillance, Fencing, Proximity readers, Access list), Hardening (Disabling unnecessary services, Protecting management interfaces and applications, Password protection, Disabling unnecessary accounts), Port security (MAC limiting and filtering, 802.1x, Disabling unused ports), Security posture (Initial baseline configuration, Continuous security monitoring, remediation), Reporting (Alarms, Alerts, Trends), Detection Controls vs. prevention controls (IDS vs. IPS, Camera vs. guard)	6
3.7	Implement assessment tools and techniques to discover security threats and vulnerabilities: Vulnerability scanning and interpret results, Tools (Protocol analyzer, Sniffer, Vulnerability scanner, Honeypots, Honeynets, Port scanner), Risk calculations (Threat vs. likelihood), Assessment types (Risk, Threat, Vulnerability), Assessment technique (Baseline reporting, Code review, Determine attack surface, Architecture, Design reviews)	7
3.8	Within the realm of vulnerability assessments, explain the proper use of penetration testing versus vulnerability scanning: Penetration testing (Verify a threat exists, Bypass security controls, Actively test security controls, Exploiting vulnerabilities), Vulnerability scanning (Passively testing security controls, Identify vulnerability, Identify lack of security controls, Identify common misconfiguration), Black box, White box, Gray box	7
<b>4.0 APPLICATION, DATA AND HOST SECURITY (16 PERCENT)</b>		
4.1	Explain the importance of application security: Fuzzing, Secure coding Concepts (Error and exception handling, Input validation), Cross-site scripting prevention, Cross-site Request Forgery (XSRF) prevention, Application configuration baseline (proper settings), Application hardening, Application patch management	8
4.2	Carry out appropriate procedures to establish host security: Operating system security and settings, Anti-malware (Anti-virus, Anti-spam, Anti-spyware, Pop-up blockers, Host-based firewalls), Patch management, Hardware security (Cable locks, Safe, Locking cabinets), Host software baselining, Mobile devices (Screen lock, Strong password, Device encryption, Remote wipe/sanitation, Voice encryption, GPS tracking), Virtualization	9
4.3	Explain the importance of data security: Data Loss Prevention (DLP), Data encryption (Full disk, Database, Individual files, Removable media, Mobile devices), Hardware based encryption devices (TPM, HSM, USB encryption, Hard drive), Cloud Computing	10

<b>5.0 ACCESS CONTROL AND IDENTITY MANAGEMENT (13 PERCENT)</b>		
5.1	Explain the function and purpose of authentication services: RADIUS, TACACS, TACACS+, Kerberos, LDAP, XTACACS	11
5.2	Explain the fundamental concepts and best practices related to authentication, authorization and access control: Identification vs. authentication, Authentication (single factor) and authorization, Multifactor authentication, Biometrics, Tokens, Common access card, Personal identification verification card, Smart card, Least privilege, Separation of duties, Single sign on, ACLs, Access control, Mandatory access control, Discretionary access control, Role/rule-based access control, Implicit deny, Time of day restrictions, Trusted OS, Mandatory vacations, Job rotation	
5.3	Implement appropriate security controls when performing account management: Mitigates issues associated with users with multiple account/roles, Account policy enforcement (Password complexity, Expiration, Recovery, Length, Disablement, Lockout), Group based privileges, User assigned privileges	11
<b>6.0 CRYPTOGRAPHY (11 PERCENT)</b>		
6.1	Summarize general cryptography concepts: Symmetric vs. asymmetric, Fundamental differences and encryption methods (Block vs. stream), Transport encryption, Non-repudiation, Hashing, Key escrow, Steganography, Digital signatures, Use of proven technologies, Elliptic curve and quantum cryptography	12
6.2	Use and apply appropriate cryptographic tools and products: WEP vs. WPA/WPA2 and pre-shared key, MD5, SHA, RIPEMD, AES, DES, 3DES, HMAC, RSA, RC4, One-time-pads, CHAP, PAP, NTLM, NTLMv2, Blowfish, PGP/GPG, Whole disk encryption, TwoFish, Comparative strengths of algorithms, Use of algorithms with transport encryption (SSL, TLS, IPSec, SSH, HTTPS)	12
6.3	Explain the core concepts of public key infrastructure: Certificate authorities and digital certificates (CA, CRLs), PKI, Recovery agent, Public key, Private key, Registration, Key escrow, Trust models	12
6.4	Implement PKI, certificate management and associated components: Certificate authorities and digital certificates (CA, CRLs), PKI, Recovery agent, Public key, Private keys, Registration, Key escrow, Trust models	12



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Mike Chapple  
James Michael Stewart

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# Contents at a glance

	<i>Introduction</i>	<i>xix</i>
CHAPTER 1	Risk management and incident response	1
CHAPTER 2	Network security technologies	39
CHAPTER 3	Secure network design and management	67
CHAPTER 4	Operational and environmental security	109
CHAPTER 5	Threats and attacks	149
CHAPTER 6	Monitoring, detection, and defense	201
CHAPTER 7	Vulnerability assessment and management	253
CHAPTER 8	The importance of application security	287
CHAPTER 9	Establishing host security	317
CHAPTER 10	Understanding data security	371
CHAPTER 11	Identity and access control	411
CHAPTER 12	Cryptography	449
	<i>Glossary</i>	<i>489</i>
	<i>Index</i>	<i>503</i>



# Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>xix</b>
<i>System requirements</i>	xxii
<i>Using the companion CD</i>	xxiv
<i>CompTIA professional certification program</i>	xxvi
<i>How certification helps your career</i>	xxvi
<i>It pays to get certified</i>	xxvii
<i>Four steps to getting certified and staying certified</i>	xxvii
<i>How to obtain more information</i>	xxviii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xxviii
<i>Support &amp; feedback</i>	xxx
<i>Preparing for the exam</i>	xxxi
<b>Chapter 1 Risk management and incident response</b>	<b>1</b>
CIA and DAD triads . . . . .	2
Confidentiality and disclosure	3
Integrity and alteration	3
Availability and denial	3
Risk assessment and mitigation . . . . .	4
Likelihood and impact	5
Managing risk	9
Security controls . . . . .	12
Technical controls	12
Operational controls	12
Management controls	13

---

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Incident response . . . . .	14
Incident response team	14
Incident response life cycle	19
Incident communications	25
Collecting evidence	26
Computer forensics	28
Chapter summary . . . . .	34
Chapter review . . . . .	35
Answers . . . . .	37
<b>Chapter 2 Network security technologies</b>	<b>39</b>
Network security . . . . .	40
Humongous Insurance: a modern secure network	41
Firewalls	41
Routers	46
Switches	47
Load balancers	49
Proxies	51
VPN concentrators	52
Network intrusion detection systems (NIDS) and net- work intrusion prevention systems (NIPS)	54
Protocol analyzers	57
Inspection	58
All-in-one security appliances	62
Chapter summary . . . . .	62
Chapter review . . . . .	63
Answers . . . . .	65
<b>Chapter 3 Secure network design and management</b>	<b>67</b>
Network design and implementation . . . . .	69
IP: the Internet Protocol	69
Network and application protocols	77
Ports and protocols	83

Network design and segmentation . . . . .	84
Remote access	87
Telephony and VoIP	89
Virtualization	90
Network administration and management . . . . .	95
Access control lists (ACLs)	95
Firewall rules	96
Logging	96
Secure switch and router configuration . . . . .	98
VLAN management	98
Port security	98
802.1x authentication	99
Flood guards	99
Loop protection	100
Preventing network bridging	100
Wireless protocols: encryption and authentication . . . . .	101
Designing and implementing secure wireless networks	103
Chapter summary . . . . .	104
Chapter review . . . . .	105
Answers . . . . .	107
<b>Chapter 4 Operational and environmental security</b>	<b>109</b>
Security policies . . . . .	111
Security policy	113
Privacy policy	113
Acceptable use policy	115
Personnel security best practices	115
Security awareness and training . . . . .	118
Security policy training	118
Compliance training	119
User habits	119
Threat awareness	123

Information classification and labeling . . . . .	124
Personally identifying information (PII)	126
Environmental controls . . . . .	128
Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC)	128
Fire suppression	129
EMI shielding	130
Environmental and video monitoring	130
Business continuity planning . . . . .	132
Business impact assessment (BIA)	132
Removing single points of failure	133
Designing and testing the business continuity plan	135
Succession planning	137
Disaster recovery planning . . . . .	138
Disaster recovery metrics	138
Backups	140
Building fault-tolerant environments	141
Disaster recovery sites	143
Chapter summary . . . . .	144
Chapter review . . . . .	145
Answers . . . . .	147

**Chapter 5 Threats and attacks 149**

Client-side attacks . . . . .	151
Malware	151
Application attacks	161
Application vulnerabilities	164
Web attacks . . . . .	166
Cookies	166
Header manipulation	168
Directory traversal	169
Cross-site scripting	170
Preventing XSS	171

Injection and modification attacks .....	171
SQL injection	172
LDAP and XML injection	173
Command injection	174
Network attacks .....	175
Spoofing	175
Packet sniffing	176
Man-in-the-middle	176
Replay attacks	177
DNS and ARP poisoning	178
Denial of service and distributed denial of service attacks	179
Smurf attacks	180
Xmas attacks	181
Wireless attacks.....	182
Rogue access points	183
Bluetooth attacks	185
War driving	185
Packet sniffing and wireless networks	186
Social engineering and phishing .....	188
Hoaxes	190
Phishing	190
Email attacks	193
Chapter summary .....	195
Chapter review.....	196
Answers.....	198
<b>Chapter 6 Monitoring, detection, and defense</b>	<b>201</b>
Securing and defending systems .....	202
Hardening	203
Secure system configuration and management	209
Network device hardening	221

Monitoring and reporting . . . . .	223
Continuous security monitoring	223
System log monitoring	223
Reporting and monitoring	236
Physical security design and concepts . . . . .	241
Chapter summary . . . . .	248
Chapter review . . . . .	249
Answers . . . . .	251
<b>Chapter 7 Vulnerability assessment and management</b>	<b>253</b>
Vulnerabilities and vulnerability assessment . . . . .	255
Risk-based vulnerability assessments	256
Assessment techniques	258
Vulnerability scanning . . . . .	261
Vulnerability scanning tools	261
Port scanners	263
Vulnerability scanners	265
Honeypots and honeynets	269
Penetration testing . . . . .	272
Types of penetration tests	274
Conducting a penetration test	275
Chapter summary . . . . .	281
Chapter review . . . . .	282
Answers . . . . .	284
<b>Chapter 8 The importance of application security</b>	<b>287</b>
Fuzzing . . . . .	287
Secure coding concepts . . . . .	290
Error handling and exception handling	292
Input validation	293
Cross-site scripting prevention . . . . .	296
Cross-site request forgery (XSRF) prevention . . . . .	297
Application configuration baseline (proper settings) . . . . .	301



Application hardening . . . . .	303
Application patch management . . . . .	306
Chapter summary . . . . .	309
Chapter review . . . . .	311
Answers . . . . .	313

**Chapter 9 Establishing host security 317**

Operating system security and settings . . . . .	318
Anti-malware . . . . .	321
Anti-virus . . . . .	324
Anti-spam . . . . .	331
Anti-spyware . . . . .	333
Pop-up blockers . . . . .	336
Host-based firewalls . . . . .	337
Patch management . . . . .	339
Hardware security . . . . .	341
Cable locks . . . . .	343
Safe . . . . .	345
Locking cabinets . . . . .	347
Host software baselining . . . . .	349
Mobile devices . . . . .	351
Screen lock . . . . .	354
Strong password . . . . .	355
Device encryption . . . . .	356
Remote wipe/sanitization . . . . .	358
Voice encryption . . . . .	359
GPS tracking . . . . .	359
Chapter summary . . . . .	362
Chapter review . . . . .	364
Answers . . . . .	367

---

**Chapter 10 Understanding data security 371**

Data loss prevention (DLP) .....	371
Data encryption .....	373
Full-disk encryption	377
Database encryption	384
Individual file encryption	385
Removable media	388
Mobile devices	391
Hardware-based encryption devices .....	393
Trusted Platform Module	395
Hardware security module	396
USB encryption	398
Hard drive encryption	399
Cloud computing .....	401
Chapter summary .....	401
Chapter review .....	404
Answers .....	407

**Chapter 11 Identity and access control 411**

Identification and authentication .....	412
Authentication	413
Authentication and authorization .....	414
User accounts	414
Single-factor vs. multifactor authentication	414
Biometrics	416
Tokens	420
Authentication services .....	423
RADIUS	423
TACACS and TACACS+	424
The Kerberos protocol	425
LDAP	426
Active Directory Domain Services	428
Single sign-on	429

Access control concepts and models. . . . .	431
Trusted operating systems	432
Least privilege	432
Separation of duties	433
Job rotation	434
Time-of-day restrictions	434
Mandatory vacation	434
Access control models	435
Account management . . . . .	439
Passwords	439
Privileges	442
Centralized and decentralized privilege management	443
Chapter summary . . . . .	444
Chapter review. . . . .	445
Answers. . . . .	447

**Chapter 12 Cryptography 449**

Goals of cryptography . . . . .	451
Cryptographic concepts. . . . .	452
Symmetric vs. asymmetric cryptography	454
One-time pads	459
Symmetric encryption algorithms . . . . .	460
Data Encryption Standard	460
Advanced Encryption Standard	465
Blowfish	465
Twofish	466
RC4	467
Asymmetric encryption algorithms. . . . .	467
Rivest, Shamir, and Adelman (RSA)	468
Pretty Good Privacy (PGP)	468
Elliptic curve cryptography (ECC)	470

---

Digital signatures . . . . .	471
Cryptographic hashes	471
Creating digital signatures	473
Public-key infrastructure . . . . .	476
Digital certificates	476
Key recovery and key escrow	478
Protecting data with encryption . . . . .	478
Encrypting data at rest	479
Encrypting data in motion	481
Authentication . . . . .	483
Chapter summary . . . . .	484
Chapter review . . . . .	485
Answers . . . . .	487
<i>Glossary</i>	489
<i>Index</i>	503

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# Introduction

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This training kit is designed for information technology (IT) professionals who want to earn the CompTIA Security+ certification. It is assumed that you have a basic understanding of computers and operating systems. However, the CompTIA Security+ certification is an entry-level certification, so you are not expected to have any in-depth knowledge to use this training kit.

To become a CompTIA Security+ certified technician, you must first understand the SY0-301 exam. The primary goal of this training kit is to help you build a solid foundation of IT knowledge so that you can successfully pass the exam the first time you take it.

The materials covered in this training kit and on exam SY0-301 are for the technologies a successful security professional is expected to understand. These include risk management, infrastructure security, application security, policy, and confidential by design (Cobd) availability concerns. You can download the objectives for the SY0-301 exam from the CompTIA website here:

<http://certification.comptia.org/training/learning-paths/it-manufacturing.aspx>

By using this training kit, you will learn how to do the following:

- Conduct risk assessment and risk management activities.
- Respond to a security incident.
- Understand the roles associated with cloud computing and virtualization.
- Explain the various types of network security devices and techniques.
- Design a network with adequate security controls.
- Administer network security controls on an ongoing basis.
- Secure wireless networks with acceptable encryption.
- Provide adequate environmental and physical security controls.
- Understand the threats on the security landscape.
- Deploy defenses to prevent and mitigate attacks.
- Conduct vulnerability assessments and manage vulnerabilities.
- Secure endpoint devices against attack.
- Secure operating systems against malware threats.
- Use encryption to protect information at rest and in transit.
- Deploy access controls to implement identification, authentication, and authorization.

Refer to the objectives mapping page on the front of this book to see where in the book each user exam objective is covered.

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## About the exam

The SY0-301 exam is focused on skills required to secure systems, applications, and networks. It includes objectives in the following six areas:

- Network security (21 percent of exam)
- Compliance and operational security (18 percent of exam)
- Threats and vulnerabilities (21 percent of exam)
- Application, data, and host security (16 percent of exam)
- Access control and identity management (13 percent of exam)
- Cryptography (11 percent of exam)

The current version of the exam became available in 2011. Over the years, more than 45,000 people around the world have earned the CompTIA Security+ certification. Information security professionals often start with the CompTIA Security+ certification to lay a solid foundation of information security knowledge and later move on to higher-level certifications and better-paying jobs. Among those test takers are those who are working to meet the US Department of Defense's Directive 8570.01-M, which lists the CompTIA Security+ exam as one of the required certifications for employees and contractors who perform information security work.

The CompTIA Security+ exam has a maximum of 100 questions, including both multiple-choice and performance-based questions. You will have 90 minutes in which to take the test, and a score of 750 on a scale of 100-900 is considered a passing score. You can find more information about the exam at:

<http://certification.comptia.org/getCertified/certifications/security.aspx>

## Prerequisites

CompTIA recommends that test takers have the CompTIA Network+ certification as well as two years of technical networking experience with an emphasis on information security work.

Note that this is not a requirement to take the exams. Anyone can take the exams after paying for them, and if they pass, they earn the certification. However, you'll have the best chance of success if you have been studying and working with networks and information security professionally and are familiar with the material in the CompTIA Network+ exam.

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## Performance-based testing

A significant difference in the SY0-301 exam over previous versions is the introduction of performance-based testing. Instead of just using multiple-choice questions, CompTIA is introducing questions that will require you to perform a task. You should expect to see somewhere around three of these questions on the exam, so don't stress over them.

Imagine that you wanted to know if a person could ride a bike. You could ask some multiple-choice questions but you'll find that these questions aren't always reliable. A person might answer questions correctly but not be able to actually ride the bike. Put the person in front of a bike, ask them to ride it, and you'll quickly know whether they can or not. Performance-based testing uses this philosophy to see if the candidate has a skill.

Consider this multiple-choice question:

1. What TCP port is used for SMTP traffic by default?
  - A. 21
  - B. 23
  - C. 25
  - D. 80

The correct answer is port 25.

In a performance-based question, you might instead be asked to complete a set of firewall rules by filling in the missing information. This might include selecting the ports corresponding to several services and specifying which rules should be set to allow or deny traffic.

When it's a multiple-choice question, you have a 25-percent chance of getting it correct. In a performance-based question, there are an infinite number of possibilities, and the test designers are able to test you on multiple concepts or facts simultaneously.

Throughout the book, we've included steps and instructions on how to do many tasks with performance-based testing in mind. If you do these tasks as you work through the book, you'll be better prepared to answer these performance-based tests.

## Study tips

There's no single study method that works for everyone, but there are some common techniques that many people use to successfully pass these exams. These include:

- **Setting a goal** Pick a date when you expect to take the exam, and set your goal to take it then. The date is dependent on how long it will take you to read the chapters and your current knowledge level. You might set a date two months from now, four months from now, or something else. However, pick a date and set a goal.

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- **Taking notes** If concepts aren't familiar to you, take the time to write them down. The process of transferring the words from the book, through your head, and down to your hand really helps to burn the knowledge into your brain.
  - **Reading your notes** Go back over your notes periodically to see what has stuck, and what you need to review more. You can't bring notes with you into the testing area, but you can use them to review key material before the exam.
  - **Using flash cards** Some people get a lot out of flash cards that provide a quick test of knowledge. These help you realize what you don't know and what you need to brush up on. Many practice test programs include flash cards, so you don't necessarily have to create them yourself.
  - **Reviewing the objectives** This is what CompTIA says they'll test you on. Sometimes just understanding the objective will help you predict a test question and answer it correctly.
  - **Recording your notes** Many people record their notes in an MP3 player and play them back regularly. You can listen while driving, while exercising, or just about any time. Some people have a partner read the notes, which can give an interesting twist to studying.
  - **Taking the practice test questions on the CD** The practice test questions on the CD are designed to test the objectives for the exam but at a deeper level than you'll have on the live exam. Each question includes detailed explanations on why the correct answer is correct, and why the incorrect answers are incorrect. Ideally, you should be able to look at the answers to any question and not just know the correct answer, but also why the incorrect answers are incorrect.

## System requirements

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The actual system requirements to use this book are minimal. The only requirement is a computer you can use to install the practice tests on the companion CD.

Many of the examples in the book use Windows 7 and Linux or Mac OS X. In most organizations, security staff work with a variety of operating systems, and we have attempted to reflect that in this book. You will find that most Windows commands remain the same whether you are using Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, or Windows 8, with most differences appearing in the menus used to get to settings. Thus, if you only have a Windows XP-based system to practice Windows commands with, you can still expect to successfully learn the critical practical techniques covered in the book.



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