

CompTIA CloudNetX Certification Exam Objectives

EXAM NUMBER: CNX-001











About the Exam

The CompTIA CloudNetX certification exam will certify the successful candidate has the knowledge and skills required to:

- Analyze business requirements to design and configure secure network architecture for on-premises and cloud environments.
- Analyze requirements to design for network security, availability, Zero Trust, and identity and access management technologies.
- Apply and configure concepts and tools related to network monitoring and performance, automation, and scripting.
- Troubleshoot network issues related to connectivity, performance, access, and security.
- Perform network operation and maintenance.

ANSI ACCREDITATION

The CompTIA CloudNetX exam is accredited by ANSI to show compliance with the ISO 17024 standard and, as such, undergoes regular reviews and updates to the exam objectives.

EXAM DEVELOPMENT

CompTIA exams result from subject matter expert workshops and industry-wide survey results regarding the skills and knowledge required of an IT professional.

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PLEASE NOTE

The lists of examples provided in bulleted format are not exhaustive lists. Other examples of technologies, processes, or tasks pertaining to each objective may also be included on the exam, although not listed or covered in this objectives document. CompTIA is constantly reviewing the content of our exams and updating test questions to be sure our exams are current, and the security of the questions is protected. When necessary, we will publish updated exams based on existing exam objectives. Please know that all related exam preparation materials will still be valid.



TEST DETAILS

Required exam CNX-001

Number of questions Maximum of 90

Types of questions Multiple-choice and performance-based

Length of test

Recommended experience A minimum of ten years of experience in the IT field and five years of

experience in a network architect role, with experience in the hybrid cloud environment. Network+, Security+, and Cloud+ or equivalent experience.

Passing Score Pass/fail only; no scaled score

EXAM OBJECTIVES (DOMAINS)

The table below lists the domains measured by this examination and the extent to which they are represented.

DOMAIN PERCENTA		AGE OF EXAMINATION
1.0	Network Architecture Design	31%
2.0	Network Security	28%
3.0	Network Operations, Monitoring, and Performance	16%
4.0	Network Troubleshooting	25%
Total		100%











1.0 Network Architecture Design

- Given a scenario, analyze business requirements to apply core networking concepts to a network design.
 - Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model
 - Internet Protocol (IP) addressing
 - IPv4
 - IPv6
 - IP subnetting
 - Classless Inter-domain Routing (CIDR) notation
 - Variable Length Subnet Mask (VLSM)
 - Public vs. private
 - Static vs. dynamic
 - Network address translation (NAT)
 - Port forwarding
 - Port address translation (PAT)
 - NAT64
 - · Networking protocols
 - Transmission Control Protocol (TCP)/ User Datagram Protocol (UDP)
 - Authentication protocols
 - Power and cooling
 - 。 802.1X
 - Remote Authentication Dial-in User Service (RADIUS)

- Terminal Access Controller Access Control System Plus (TACACS+)
- Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP)
- Routing protocols
 - Dynamic
 - Open Shortest Path First (OSPF)
 - Border Gateway Protocol (BGP)
 - Static
 - Routing tables
- Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)
- Network Time Protocol (NTP)
- Domain Name System (DNS)
 - Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC)
 - DNS over Transport Layer Security (TLS) (DoT)
 - DNS over Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) (DoH)
- · Container networking
- Network virtual interfaces
- Given a scenario, analyze business requirements to select and implement the appropriate network architectures and topologies.
 - · Topology types
 - Mesh
 - Star
 - Hub-and-spoke
 - Spine-and-leaf
 - Point-to-point
 - Zones
 - Trusted
 - Untrusted
 - Screened subnet
 - · Traffic flows
 - North/south
 - East/west

- Segmentation
- Virtual local area network (VLAN)
- Virtual extensible LAN (VXLAN)
- Generic Network Virtualization Encapsulation (GENEVE)
- Environments
- Production
- Non-production



- Given a scenario, analyze requirements to select appropriate connectivity solutions in a hybrid environment.
 - Multi-protocol Label Switching (MPLS)
 - Software-defined wide area network (SD-WAN)
 - Cellular
 - Satellite
 - Dark fiber
 - Direct internet access
 - Metro network
 - Public cloud connectivity
 - ExpressRoute
 - Direct Connect

- Software-defined cloud interconnect (SDCI)
- Remote access
- Bastion host
- Secure Shell (SSH)
- Remote Desktop Protocol (RDP)
- Application gateways
- Private Platform as a Service (PaaS) connectivity
- Service endpoints

- Transit gateways
- Virtual private cloud
 (VPC) peering
- Private link
- Virtual private network (VPN)
- Site-to-site
- Point-to-site
- Remote access
- Split tunneling
- WireGuard
- Given a scenario, analyze availability requirements to recommend technologies that meet business needs.
 - Load balancing
 - Global
 - Local
 - Virtual IP (VIP)
 - Methods
 - Round robin
 - Load-based
 - Least connections
 - Weighted

- High availability
 - Active-active
 - Active-passive
- Link aggregation
- Autoscaling
- · Regions and availability zones
- · Content delivery network (CDN)
- Fault domains

- Update domains
- Redundancy
- Devices
- Paths

- Given a scenario, evaluate business requirements to make recommendations for physical campus installations.
 - Power considerations
 - Voltage
 - Wattage
 - Amperage
 - Power distribution unit (PDU)
 - Uninterruptible power supply (UPS)
 - Utility power
 - Emergency power off (EPO)
 - Backup power generators

- Power disruption
 - Blackout
 - Brownout
 - Surge
- Spike
- Environmental factors
- Temperature
- Humidity
- British thermal units (BTUs)

- Fire suppression
- Physical access controls
- Video surveillance
- Biometrics
- Proximity readers
- Locks and keys
- Near-field communication (NFC)
- Door sensors

- Given a scenario, analyze business requirements to select the appropriate campus wired network components.
 - Layer 2 vs. Layer 3
 - Switch
 - Router
 - Power over Ethernet (PoE)
 - Three-tier hierarchy
 - Core
 - Distribution
 - Access
 - Collapsed core
 - Intermediate distribution frame (IDF)/Main distribution frame (MDF)
 - Cable management

- Spanning Tree Protocol (STP)
- Tagging/trunking
- Bonding
- Voice and video
- Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)
- WebRTC
- Real-time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)
- H.323
- Customer premises equipment (CPE)
- Media converters
- Given a scenario, analyze business requirements to select the appropriate campus wireless network components.
 - Wi-Fi
 - Wireless access points
 - Antenna types
 - Omni-directional
 - Directional
 - Placement
 - Enclosure
 - Power considerations
 - Controllers
 - Standards and protocols

- 。 802.11
- Frequencies
 - 2.4GHz
 - 5GHz
- 。 6GHz
- Channels
- Service set identifier (SSID)
- Hidden vs. advertised
- Wireless roaming

- Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE)
- NFC
- Long-range wide area network (LoRaWAN)

- 1.8 Given a scenario, analyze requirements to select the appropriate artifacts for architecture documentation.
 - Requirements analysis
 - Business
 - Technical
 - Regulatory compliance
 - Statement of work (SOW)
 - · Network diagramming
 - Physical vs. logical
 - High-level vs. low-level designs
 - Flow diagrams

- · Verification and validation
- Runbooks
- Work breakdown structure (WBS)
- · Knowledge base articles
- Baselines
- · Reference architectures
- External
- Internal
- Configuration management database (CMDB)





2.0 Network Security

- 2.1 Explain common cloud and network threats, vulnerabilities, and mitigations.
 - Threats
 - Distributed denial-ofservice (DDoS) attack
 - Data exfiltration
 - On-path attack
 - Credential reuse
 - Brute-force attack
 - Out-of-band (OOB) attack
 - IP spoofing
 - Buffer overflow
 - Privilege escalation
 - Insider threat
 - Evil twin
 - Rogue access point

- Initialization vector attack
- BGP hijacking
- Social engineering attack
- Vulnerabilities
- Zero-day
- Open Worldwide Application
 Security Project (OWASP) top 10
- Overly permissive rules
- IP reuse
- Legacy access control lists (ACLs)
- Insecure protocols
- Unpatched devices
- Misconfigurations

- Mitigations
- Input sanitization
- Data loss prevention (DLP) controls
- IP address management (IPAM)
- MITRE ATT&CK Framework
- Cyber Kill Chain
- Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM)
- Patch management
- Vulnerability management
- Center for Internet Security
 (CIS) benchmarks
- Configuration reviews
- Null routing
- 2.2 Given a scenario, analyze requirements to select the appropriate technology to secure a network.
 - Firewalls
 - Next-generation firewall (NGFW)
 - Cloud-native firewall
 - Web application firewall (WAF)
 - Intrusion prevention system (IPS)/ intrusion detection system (IDS)
 - Encryption

- Protocol types
- Secure sockets layer (SSL)/TLS inspection
- Cipher suites
- Algorithms
- Asymmetric
- Symmetric

- · Application gateway
- · Secure web gateway
- Network access control (NAC)
- Posture assessment
- Dynamic list
- 2.3 Given a scenario, configure the appropriate access controls to secure a network.
 - · Firewall rules
 - Decryption rules
 - Application aware
 - Source and destination
 - Allow list
 - Block list
 - Network access control lists (NACLs)
 - Network security groups
 - Inbound rules
 - Outbound rules

- IPS/IDS signature rules
- Geolocation rules
- Content/Uniform Resource Locator (URL) filtering
- Categories
- Applications
- File blocking
- · DLP controls
- · Port security



Given a scenario, analyze requirements to apply the appropriate Zero Trust architecture (ZTA) principles to secure a network.

- Microsegmentation
- Secure Access Service Edge (SASE)
- Secure Service Edge (SSE)
- Cloud Access Security Broker (CASB)
- · Identity as the perimeter
- Device trust
- · Principle of least privilege
- · Zero Trust network access

2.5 Given a scenario, apply identity and access management to secure a network environment.

- Single sign-on (SSO)
- Federation
- Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML)
- OAuth 2.0
- OpenID Connect (OIDC)
- Passwordless
- Multifactor authentication (MFA)
- · Conditional access
- Geofencing
- Privileged access

- management (PAM)
- Risk-based authentication
- Role-based access control
- Attribute-based access control (ABAC)
- Endpoint trust
- User and entity behavior analytics (UEBA)
- Public key infrastructure (PKI)
- Certificate-based authentication
- Key management system (KMS)

- · Session-based tokens
- Just-in-time (JIT) provisioning
- System for Cross-domain Identity Management (SCIM)
- Cloud Infrastructure Entitlement Management (CIEM)

- 2.6 Given a scenario, use the appropriate wireless security method or configuration.
 - Encryption
 - Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)
 - Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2)
 - Wi-Fi Protected Access 3 (WPA3)
 - Authentication
 - Temporal Key Integrity Protocol (TKIP)
 - Preshared key (PSK)
 - PSK enterprise

- Guest access
- Captive portal
- · Layer 2 client isolation
- Media access control (MAC) address filtering

- 2.7 Given a scenario, implement the appropriate appliance-hardening technique.
 - Patch management
 - Delivery channels
 - Verification
 - Default credential management
 - Disabling unneeded services
 - · Local password management
- Password complexity
- Password length
- Password rotation
- Protocol configuration
- Disabling insecure protocols
- Restricting access to administrative interfaces
- · Disabling unused physical ports
- Log management
- Log rotation
- Remote logging





3.0 Network Operations, Monitoring, and Performance

- 3.1 Explain concepts related to operating and maintaining a network environment.
 - · Risk management
 - Risk acceptance
 - Waivers and exceptions
 - Risk avoidance
 - Risk transference
 - Risk mitigation
 - Risk register
 - Business continuity
 - Mean time to recovery (MTTR)
 - Mean time between failures (MTBF)
 - Mean time to detect (MTTD)
 - Mean time to investigate (MTTI)
 - Recovery point objective (RPO)/ recovery time objective (RTO)
 - · Disaster recovery
 - Service management

- Auditing
- Failure rate
- · Contracts, agreements, and terms
- Interconnection Security Agreement (ISA)
- Memorandum of understanding (MOU)
- Master service agreement (MSA)
- Service-level indicator (SLI)/ key performance indicator (KPI)
- Service-level objective (SLO)
- Service-level agreement (SLA)
- Operational-level agreement (OLA)
- Non-disclosure agreement (NDA)
- Licensing agreements
- End-of-life (EOL)/endof-support (EOS)
- Network function

- virtualization (NFV)
- Firewall as a service
- Reverse proxy
- Forward proxy
- NAT gateways
- OOB management
- Network cost management
- Operating expenditure (OpEx)
- Capital expenditure (CapEx)
- Cost optimization
- Chargeback model
- Orphaned resources
- · Service delivery
- Self-service
- Cross-connect
- Time to market
- 3.2 Given a scenario, use tools and techniques related to monitoring and performance.
 - Traffic analysis
 - Traffic mirroring
 - Throughput
 - Latency
 - Loss
 - Jitter
 - Network flows
 - Reachability
 - Log collection
 - Centralized logging

- Security information and event management (SIEM)
- Sysloc
- JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)
- Data lake
- Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP)
- Quality of service (QoS)
- Alerting
- Telemetry

- Dashboards
- Status pages
- Metrics
- · Continuous monitoring
- Resource utilization
- Bandwidth utilization
- Reactive vs. proactive monitoring





Given a scenario, apply automation and scripting to administer a hybrid cloud environment.

- Infrastructure as code (IaC)
- Resource provisioning
- Resource configuration
- Yet Another Markup Language (YAML)
- JSON
- Linters
- Life cycle management
- Mutable infrastructure
- Immutable infrastructure
- Patch management

- Version control
- Public vs. private repositories
- Secrets management
- DevOps
- Continuous integration and continuous delivery (CI/CD) pipeline management
- GitOps
- Generative artificial intelligence (AI)
- Application programming interface (API)

- Software development kit (SDK)
- Command-line interface (CLI)
- Desired state
- Configuration reviews
- Baselines/benchmarks
- Configuration backup and restore
- Change management





4.0 Network Troubleshooting

- 4.1 Explain the troubleshooting methodology.
 - · Identify the problem
 - Gather information
 - Question users
 - Identify symptoms
 - Determine if anything has changed
 - Duplicate the problem, if possible
 - Approach multiple problems individually
 - Establish a theory of probable cause
 - Question the obvious
 - Consider multiple approaches
 - Top-to-bottom/bottomto-top OSI model
 - Divide and conquer

- · Test the theory to determine cause
- If the theory is confirmed, determine the next steps to resolve the problem
- If the theory is not confirmed, reestablish a new theory or escalate
- Establish a plan of action to resolve the problem and identify potential effects
- Implement the solution or escalate as necessary
- Verify full system functionality and if applicable implement preventive measures

 Document findings, actions, outcomes, and lessons learned throughout the process

- 4.2 Given a scenario, use the appropriate tool or command.
 - Tools
 - Wireshark
 - Netcat
 - Nmap
 - Iperf
 - radclient
 - OpenSSL
 - Postman
 - Commands
 - tcpdump

- dig
- mtr
- arp
- netstat
- curl
- ping
- nslookup
- traceroute
- ip
- ipconfig
- flushdns

- ifconfig
- route
- SS
- dhclient
- top
- snmpwalk
- nfdump
- 4.3 Given a scenario, analyze output from network tools and commands to resolve issues.
 - Tools
 - Wireshark
 - Netcat
 - Nmap
 - Iperf
 - radclient
 - OpenSSL
 - Postman
 - Spectrum analyzer
 - Heat map
 - SIEM

- Commands
- tcpdump
- dig
- mtrarp
- netstat
- curl
- ping
- nslookup
- traceroute
- ip
- ipconfig

- ifconfig
- route
- SS
- dhclient
- top
- snmpwalk
- nfdump
- Performance issues
- · Connectivity issues
- · Access and security issues

Given a scenario, troubleshoot connectivity issues.

- Intermittent connectivity
- DNS issues
- Asymmetric routing
- Port exhaustion
- Port misconfiguration
- VLAN assignment
- Duplicated IP addresses
- Duplicated MAC addresses
- IP address exhaustion
- NAT table exhaustion

- DHCP issues
- Request timeouts
- IPv6 router advertisements
- Physical layer disruptions
- Stale cache
- IPSec issues
- BGP issues
- Routing loops
- Single point of failure

4.5 Given a scenario, troubleshoot network performance issues.

- Latency issues
- Packet loss
- Maximum transmission unit (MTU) issues
- Misconfigured jumbo frames
- Fragmentation
- Hairpinning

- Broadcast storm
- · Resource exhaustion
- Bandwidth issues
- Overutilization
- Bottleneck
- Throttling
- · Network scanning issues

4.6 Given a scenario, troubleshoot Wi-Fi performance issues.

- · Signal interference
- Signal loss
- Signal degradation
- Low signal strength
- Band steering issues
- Channel overlap

- · Incorrect channel width
- Client disassociation
- Roaming issues
- Sticky clients
- Transmitter/receiver incompatibility

4.7 Given a scenario, troubleshoot access and security issues.

- Rule and policy issues
- Incorrect security group
- Missing rules
- Misconfigured rules
- Overly permissive rules
- URL/web content filtering
- Geo-restriction
- ACL issues
- DoS issues
- DDoS
- SYN floods
- Authentication and authorization failures
- Password issues

- Incorrect group membership
- Mismatched secrets
- Certificate issues
- Mismatch
- Expired certificates
- Revoked certificates
- Trust issues
- Hash incompatibility
- TLS issues
- · Blocked or dropped traffic



CompTIA CloudNetX CNX-001 Acronym List

The following is a list of acronyms that appears on the CompTIA CloudNetX CNX-001 exam. Candidates are encouraged to review the complete list and attain a working knowledge of all listed acronyms as part of a comprehensive exam preparation program.

-	CRO	13/8/	DEFINITION

AAA Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting

ABAC Attribute-based Access Control

ACL Access Control List

ACME Automated Certificate Management Environment Protocol

AES Advanced Encryption Standard

Al Artificial Intelligence

AP Access Point

API Application Programming Interface

BIA Business Impact Analysis
BGP Border Gateway Protocol
BLE Bluetooth Low Energy
BPDU Bridge Protocol Data Units
BPF Berkeley Packet Filter
BTU British Thermal Unit
BYOD Bring Your Own Device

CASB Cloud Access Security Broker

CCM Cloud Controls Matrix CCTV Closed-circuit TV

CDN Content Delivery Network

CI/CD Continuous Integration and Continuous Deployment

CIDR Classless Inter-domain Routing

CIEM Cloud Identity Entitlement Management

CIS Center for Internet Security
CLI Command-line Interface

CMDB Configuration Management Database
CPE Customer Premises Equipment

CPU Central Processing Unit
CSP Cloud Service Provider
DAC Discretionary Access Control
DDoS Distributed Denial of Service

DHCP Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol

DLP Data Loss Prevention
DNS Domain Name System

DNSSEC Domain Name System Security Extensions

DOH DNS over HTTPS
DOT DNS over TLS

EDR Endpoint Detection and Response

EOL End-of-life
EOS End-of-support
EPO Emergency Power Off
FTP File Transfer Protocol

GENEVE Generic Network Virtualization Encapsulation



ACRONYM DEFINITION

HCL HashiCorp Configuration Language

HSM Hardware Security Module
HTTP Hypertext Transfer Protocol

HTTPS Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure

laC Infrastructure as Code

IAMIdentity and Access ManagementIDFIntermediate Distribution FrameIDSIntrusion Detection System

Internet of Things
IP Internet Protocol

IPAM IP Address Management
IPS Intrusion Prevention System

ISA Interconnection Security Agreement ISO Industry Standards Organization

ISP Internet Service Provider

JIT Just-in-time

JSON JavaScript Object Notation KMS Key Management System KPI Key Performance Indicator

LAN Local Area Network

LDAP Lightweight Directory Access Protocol

LoRaWAN Long-range Wide Area Network

MAC Media Access Control
MDF Main Distribution Frame

MIB Management Information Base
MFA Multifactor Authentication
MOU Memorandum of Understanding
MPLS Multi-protocol Label Switching

MSA Master Service Agreement
MSP Managed Service Provider
MTBF Mean Time Between Failures

MTTD Mean Time To Detect

MTTI Mean Time To Investigate

MTTR Mean Time To Recovery

MTU Maximum Transmission Unit

MX Mail Exchange

NAC Network Access Control
NACL Network Access Control List
NAS Network Attached Storage
NAT Network Address Translation
NDA Non-disclosure Agreement
NFC Near-field Communication
NFV Network Function Virtualization

NGFW Next-generation Firewall
NOC Network Operations Center
NSG Network Security Group
NTP Network Time Protocol

OIDC OpenID Connect

OLA Operational-level Agreement

OOB Out-of-band
OS Operating System

OSI Open Systems Interconnection
OSPF Open Shortest Path First
OTP One-time Password



ACRONYM DEFINITION

OWASP Open Worldwide Application Security Project

PaaS Platform as a Service

PAM Privileged Access Management

PAT Port Address Translation

PCAP Packet Capture

PDU Power Distribution Unit

PII Personally Identifiable Information

PKI Public Key Infrastructure
PoE Power over Ethernet
PSK Pre-shared Key
QoS Quality of Service
QR Quick Response

RADIUS Remote Authentication Dial-in User Services
RAID Redundant Array of Independent Disks

RDP Remote Desktop Protocol
REST Representational State Transfer
RPO Recovery Point Objective
RTMP Real-time Messaging Protocol

RTO Real Time Objective

RTSP Real-time Streaming Protocol

SaaS Software as a Service

SAE Simultaneous Authentication of Equals SAML Security Assertion Markup Language

SASE Secure Access Service Edge

SCIM System for Cross-interdomain Identity Management

SDCI Software-defined Cloud Interconnect

SDK Software Development Kit

SD-WAN Software-defined Wide Area Network

SFP Small Form-factor Pluggable

SIEM Security Information and Event Management

SIP Session Initiation Protocol
SLA Service-level Agreement
SLI Service-level Indicator
SLO Service-level Objective

SNMP Simple Network Management Protocol

SOW Statement of Work

SQL Structured Query Language

SSE Secure Service Edge

SSH Secure Shell

SSID Service Set Identifier
SSL Secure Socket Layer
SSO Single Sign-on

STP Spanning Tree Protocol

TACACS+ Terminal Access Controller Access Control System Plus

TCP Transmission Control Protocol
TKIP Temporal Key Integrity Protocol
TLS Transport Layer Security

TLS Transport Layer Security
UDP User Datagram Protocol
UEBA User Entity Behavior Analytics
UPS Uninterruptible Power Supply
URL Uniform Resource Locator

VIP Virtual IP

VLAN Virtual Local Area Network
VLSM Variable Length Subnet Mask



ACRONYM DEFINITION

VM Virtual Machine

VoIP Voice Over Internet Protocol

VPC Virtual Private Cloud VPN Virtual Private Network Virtual Extensible LAN VXLAN WAF Web Application Firewall Wide Area Network WAN WAP Wireless Access Point **WBS** Work Breakdown Structure Wireless Local Area Network WLAN WPA2 Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 WPA3 Wi-Fi Protected Access 3 Extensible Markup Language XML

XXS Cross-site Scripting

YAML Yet Another Markup Language

ZTA Zero Trust Architecture



CloudNetX Proposed Hardware and Software List

CompTIA has included this sample list of hardware and software to assist candidates as they prepare for the CloudNetX exam. This list may also be helpful for training companies who wish to create a lab component to their training offering. The bulleted lists below each topic are a sample list and not exhaustive.

HARDWARE

- NGFWs
- Routers
- Switches
- Wireless access points
- · Wireless controllers
- Cables
- Spectrum analyzer
- · Cable tester

SOFTWARE

- · Device enumeration software
- Protocol analyzer
- · Cisco packet tracer
- Load balancer
- CLI
- Wireshark
- Nmap
- Sample packet capture (pcap) files
- Diagramming software
- Access to Linux and Windows operating systems
- Postman
- Terraform
- IPS/IDS
- · Git client
- Python/Bash/PowerShell
- Log samples
- Integrated development environment

OTHER

- Whiteboard
- · Access to a cloud provider
- OWASP Top Ten
- MITRE ATT&CK Framework
- Cloud Security Alliance Cloud Controls Matrix (CCM)
- CIS benchmarks

