

Brocade BPIPA and NIP Courses Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction

The Brocade® Education team is currently building a best-in-class certification program. This updated program is streamlined and aligned to Brocade technology areas, with clearly defined certification tracks organized by job role and proficiency level. This structure ensures that individuals learn the skills that are most relevant to their job.

The updated certification program is based upon the results of a series of workshops from all Brocade stakeholders and will be delivered in a phased approach through the remainder of 2016 and into early 2017. New systems are being implemented for ease of exam development and management. Process are being updated to improve exam security and protect Brocade intellectual property. The purpose of this document is to answer questions about this transition.

New Certifications

The **Brocade Certified Network Engineer (BCNE)** and **Brocade Certified Network Professional (BCNP)** certification exams are being redesigned and both of them will be replaced by the **Brocade Professional IP Administrator (BPIPA)** certification. The BPIPA certification is targeted to launch early March 2016. The BCNE and BCNP certifications will be retired in March when the new BPIPA certification becomes available.

The supporting courseware for the Brocade Certified Network Engineer (CNE 200) and Brocade Certified Network Professional (CNP 300) courses have been retired as of January 2016. Brocade University introduced two new courses to support the BPIPA certification: Network Industry Protocols (NIP 200) and Brocade Professional IP Administrator (BPIPA 200). Both courses are widely available around the globe through Brocade Authorized Training Partners (ATP).

For more information about NIP 200, visit:

<http://www.brocade.com/en/education/courses/brocade-network-industry-protocol-training.html>

For more information about BPIPA 200, visit:

<http://www.brocade.com/content/brocade/en/education/courses/brocade-professional-ip-administrator.html>

General Questions and Answers

Q. Why is Brocade retiring the CNE 200 and CNP 300 courses?

A. Brocade University conducted competency modeling workshops across its Education portfolio in 2015. The CNE 200 course mainly focused on Network Industry Protocols, as well as high-level overviews of the Brocade Ethernet Switch and Router family of products, their architecture, core features and benefits, how they are utilized in the network, and some basic configuration. The CNP 300 provided an in-depth study of the Brocade Ethernet Switch and Router family of products and how they are utilized in an enterprise network as well as advanced configurations.

The IP workshop participants identified overlap in industry protocol content in the CNE 200 and CNP 300 courses. Standard networking industry protocols were packaged into a separate course (NIP 200) and streamlined from four to three days. The remaining content from the CNE 200 was combined into the CNP 300 to create the BPIPA 200 and focuses on configuring Brocade products as well as Brocade proprietary functions and features. The merged content extended the course from three days to four days.

Table 1: Courseware and Certification Replacements.

New Course	Days of training	Exam	What does it replace?	Days of training	Exam
NIP 200 Network Industry Protocols	3	No	CNE 200 Brocade Certified Network Engineer	4	Yes
BPIPA 200 Brocade Professional IP Administrator	4	Yes	CNP 300 Brocade Certified Network Professional	3	Yes

Q. What are the benefits of the BPIPA course?

A. The benefits of the BPIPA course include:

- The structure and content ensure that students learn the skills that are most relevant to their jobs by focusing on the individual's job role and proficiency level.
- There are only four days of BPIPA training and one exam, accommodating full-time work schedules.
- Certifications are valid for three years.
- Net new partners and those that score below 85 percent on the Network Standards Protocols Pre-Assessment will have the same number of days of training as the retired BCNE and BCNP courses, and there is one less exam to prepare for and take. (See Table 1.)

Q. When will the CNE 200 and CNP 300 courses retire?

A. Both courses were retired on January 1st, 2016.

Q. When will the NIP 200 and BPIPA 200 courses become available?

A. ATPs began teaching these new courses when the CNE 200 and CNP 300 retired January 1, 2016. Visit <http://www.brocade.com/en/education/course-schedule.html> to find a location near you.

Q. Are the NIP 200 and BPIPA 200 courses just updated versions of the CNE 200 and CNP 300?

A. No. The course format and content has been re-designed and updated.

Q. How are NIP and BPIPA courses different from CNE and CNP?

A. NIP deals with industry standards, some of which were covered in CNE and CNP, as well as many new protocols. BPIPA, unlike CNE and CNP, no longer covers protocols. Instead, it is designed to teach students how to configure standard protocols on Brocade equipment, as well as learn about Brocade proprietary features and functions and how to configure them.

Q. Who should take the BPIPA and NIP courses?

A. The courses are intended for the same students who took CNE and CNP, and for professionals who install, configure and maintain all Brocade Layer 2/Layer 3 products. Additionally, the NIP course is for anyone who has not already taken the CNE or CNP and may be newer to the networking industry.

To test your knowledge of industry-standard network protocols, it is recommended that the Network Standards and Protocols Pre-Assessment (NSPP) be taken before registering for the BPIPA course or exam. The NSPP is a 28-question assessment with a passing score of 85 percent and is administered as a free course through MyBrocade. Should you not achieve a passing score, it is highly recommended that you register for the Network Industry Protocols (NIP 200) training. A solid understanding and mastery of industry-standard protocols is necessary to succeed in the BPIPA training and exam.

Q. Will a Web-based version of the courseware be available?

A. No, not at this time. Virtual instructor-led courses are available through ATPs.

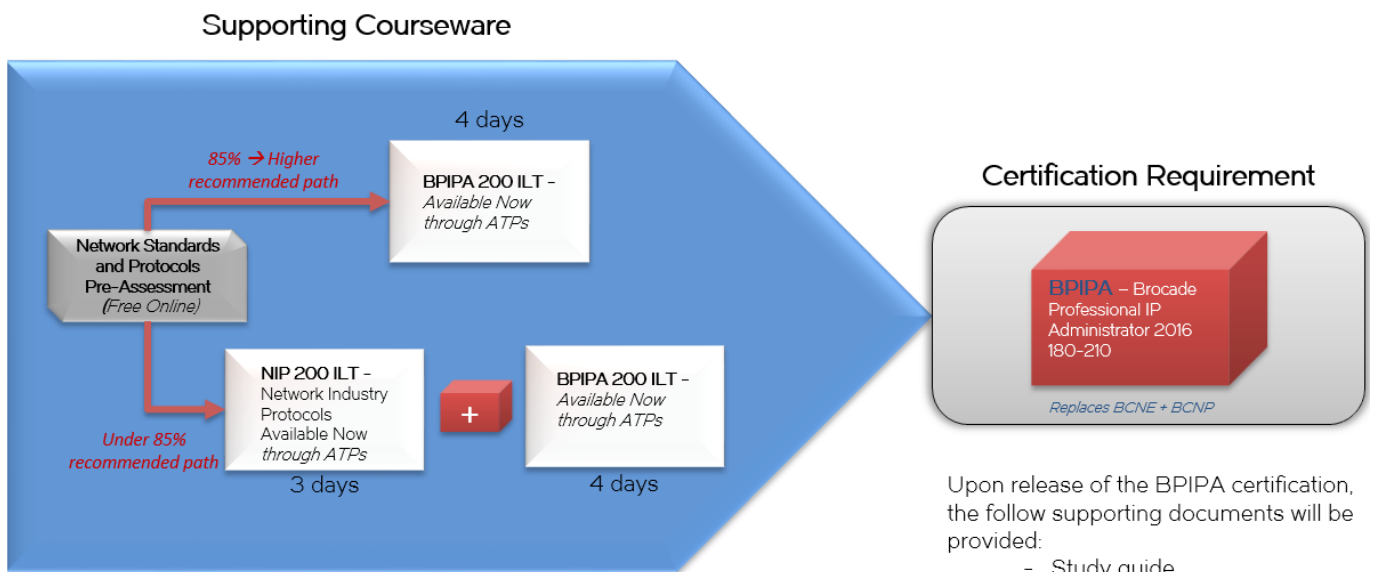
Q. Will a Nutshell Study Guide be available for the BPIPA?

A. No. The Nutshell Study Guides will no longer be created. A BPIPA study guide and practice exam will be provided upon availability of the BPIPA certification.

Q. What is the recommended course path to take to prepare for the BPIPA certification?

A. The recommended course path can be seen in the figure below.

Figure 1: Course Path for BPIPA Certification.



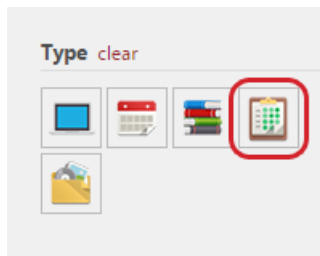
Q. How do I access the free online pre-assessment exam?

A. Perform the following steps to access the form:

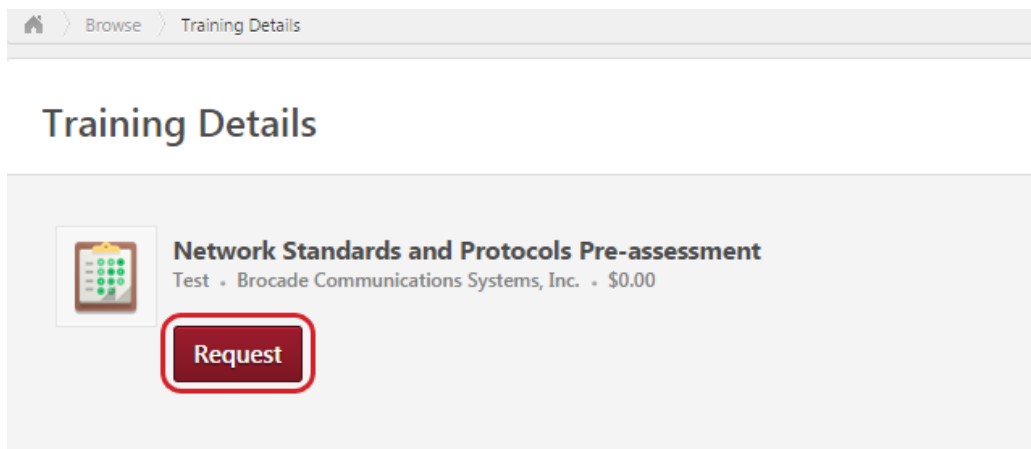
1. Select My Education from within MyBrocade.
2. Click on Brocade Training Portal.
3. From the Portal landing page, select "Browse."



4. Scroll down and click on the Test icon (shaped like a clipboard) on the left-hand side of page.



5. From the available tests displayed, select the exam and then click on "Request" to launch. Upon completion of the exam, you will immediately see your score. This will help determine which education path to take.



Q. How much industry protocol knowledge or experience is required before registering for the BPIPA?

A. The BPIPA course is for people who already have expertise on industry protocols, have a BCNE, BCNP, or equivalent certification such as CCNE or JCNE, and are ready to learn how to configure industry protocols on Brocade equipment.

Q. If I'm CCNE- or CCIE-certified, which course should I take?

A. If you are already familiar with NIP, then you may take the BPIPA course without taking the NIP course. The NIP course may be useful to CCNAs who are looking for a refresher on industry protocols.

Q. Are the BPIPA and NIP courses available in all regions?

A. Yes. Both courses are offered by Brocade ATPs globally.

Certification Questions and Answers

Q. What is happening to the BCNE and BCNP certification exams?

A. The BCNE and BCNP certifications will be retired when the BPIPA exam goes live in March 2016.

Q. What will happen to my current certifications?

A. Current BCNE and BCNP credentials will still fulfill current BDA requirements.

Q. Will there be new certification exams for the BPIPA and NIP courses?

A. A BPIPA certification exam will be launching in March 2016. The BPIPA exam replaces the BCNE and BCNP requirements in the BPN and SDP programs. There will also be a pre-assessment called NSPP that should be taken before registering for the BPIPA course, available within the Brocade online training portal (see question "Who should take the BPIPA and NIP courses?" above). The NIP course will have an accompanying certificate of completion.

Q. What else is new in the Brocade Certification Program?

A. Brocade is implementing provisional scoring for the BPIPA exam and all new certifications exams released in the future. Provisional scoring does not apply to certification exams released prior to the BPIPA or to accreditation exams.

Q. What is provisional scoring and why is Brocade implementing it?

A. Provisional scoring applies only to a passing score. The passing score is provisional while the results undergo further statistical analysis to determine if they are in compliance with the Brocade Certification Program Candidate Agreement or if results are outside an acceptable statistical range. Brocade is implementing provisional scoring to proactively increase security and protect the intellectual property of its exams.

Q. What happens if after further statistical analysis, my results are determined to violate the Brocade Certification Program Candidate Agreement or are outside an acceptable statistical range?

A. Your results will be reviewed individually. If after the review, the results indicate that Brocade cannot prove with certainty that you have demonstrated valid measures of your ability as sampled by the exam, your test results will be invalidated and you will be notified by e-mail of further action. Using cheat site material can result in being permanently banned from the Brocade Certification Program.

Q. How long will it take for my results to appear in my CertMetrics account?

A. If you have failed an exam the results will appear in CertMetrics in two to three business days as they always have. If you receive a provisional pass at Pearson VUE and after the additional statistical analyses, it is determined that your results are normal and will appear in CertMetrics in two to three business days as they always have. If your results do not pass the additional analyses, you will be notified by e-mail of further action.

Q. What will my score report indicate?

A. If you have failed the exam, the score report will indicate the failure. If you have a provisional pass, the score report will say "Provisional Pass."

Q. If my results pass the additional analyses will I receive an updated score report?

A. No. Your results will be indicated in CertMetrics and you will be able to download the credential associated with the exam.

Learn More

Q. How do I find out more about the BPIPA and NIP courses?

A. Visit the Brocade Education page on www.brocade.com for more information about education and certification, or contact education@brocade.com for additional questions.

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