



Network threats are becoming more complex and stealthy. You need to stay current on the latest security solutions. We'd like to help. Learn how you can add security to all aspects of your customers' networks. Adapt to new threats. And give customers the security coverage they need. The Master Security Specialization will help you achieve these goals.

# The Cisco Master Security Specialization

## The Highest Level of Security Expertise

Master Security Specialized partners have the highest capabilities in Cisco security technologies and architectures. Their level of knowledge and experience, coupled with an investment in people, processes, and network management tools, allows Master Security partners to service very complex security environments.

## The Updated Master Security Specialization

Beginning June 25, 2015, we are updating the Cisco® Master Security Specialization requirements to help ensure that you're up to the task.

The new Master Security Specialization will include the following changes:

- Two new prerequisites: One [FireJumper](#) and, instead of one third-party security certified individual, we will now require one individual to hold a [Cisco CCNP® Security certification](#).
- A required Partner Executed Proof of Values (POVs) to determine whether a product or technology directly addresses a defined set of business outcomes.
- An updated [onsite audit](#) with six newly designed "practice areas": threat visibility, network vulnerability, incident response, secure cloud, secure data center, and secure Internet of Things (IoT). You will need to demonstrate proficiency in at least three of the six practice areas.
- The success criteria for the During-Audit Customer Demonstration Guidelines have been updated with a revised set of domain areas.
- Updated audit policies to reflect the changes mentioned above and remove redundancy with the Cisco Gold Certification requirements.

If you are an existing Master Security Specialized partner, you can choose to meet either the existing requirements or the new requirements now through September 25, 2015. After September 25, 2015, you will need to comply with the new requirements.



## Why Choose the Cisco Master Specialization?

No other Cisco specialization or certification demands such extensive proof of your design and implementation capabilities as the Master Specialization. Master Specialized partners use Cisco validated designs when deploying solutions. They must demonstrate current examples of successful projects in which they integrated multiple solutions and services.

A stringent, third-party, onsite audit validates that Master Specialized partners maintain their capabilities to deploy and support solutions. Master Specialized partners also must continue developing their skills as Cisco refreshes the solution areas and requirements for each Master-level specialization to reflect advances in technology.

## For More Information

For more information about Master Security, visit:  
[www.cisco.com/go/mastersecurity](http://www.cisco.com/go/mastersecurity).

To review the Master Specialization audit policies, visit:  
[www.cisco.com/go/audit](http://www.cisco.com/go/audit).