# CompTIA CloudNetX Certification Exam Objectives

### **EXAM NUMBER: CNX-001**



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## 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.

### 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 Number of questions Types of questions Length of test Recommended experience CNX-001

Multiple-choice and performance-based

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

### EXAM OBJECTIVES (DOMAINS)

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

DOMAIN		PERCENTAGE 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

# <sup>11</sup> Given a scenario, analyze business requirements to apply core networking concepts to a network design.

- Open Systems Interconnection
   (OSI) model
- Internet Protocol (IP) addressing

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- 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



# <sup>1.3</sup> Given a scenario, analyze requirements to select appropriate connectivity solutions in a hybrid environment.

- Multi-protocol Label Switching (MPLS)
- Software-defined wide area network (SDWAN)
- 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

- 14 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

- 1.5 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



## 1.6 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

# <sup>1.7</sup> 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)

<sup>1.8</sup> 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

### <sup>2.1</sup> Explain common cloud and network threats, vulnerabilities, and mitigations.

### Threats

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

- Application gateway
- Secure web gateway
- Network access control (NAC)

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- Posture assessment
- Dynamic list

Encryption

### <sup>2.3</sup> 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

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# <sup>2.4</sup> Given a scenario, analyze requirements to apply the appropriate Zero Trust architecture (ZTA) principles to secure a network.

Microsegmentation

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

## 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
- 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





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# 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)/end-ofsupport (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

# <sup>3.2</sup> 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)
- Syslog
- 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



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## <sup>3.3</sup> 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

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- Duplicate the problem, if possible
- Approach multiple problems individually
- Establish a theory of probable cause
  - Question the obvious

- Consider multiple approaches
   Top-to-bottom/bottom-to-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, re-establish 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

### <sup>4.2</sup> 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
  - mtr
  - arp
  - 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
- IPSec issues
- BGP issues
- Routing loops Single point of failure

### 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.

DoS issues

- DDoS

failures

- SYN floods

- Password issues

- Mismatched secrets

Authentication and authorization

- Incorrect group membership

- Signal interference
- Signal loss
- Signal degradation
- Low signal strength

Rule and policy issues

Missing rulesMisconfigured rules

- Geo-restriction

- ACL issues

- Incorrect security group

- Overly permissive rules

- URL/web content filtering

- Band steering issues
- Channel overlap
- Incorrect channel width
- Client disassociation
- Given a scenario, troubleshoot access and security issues.

Roaming issues

- Sticky clients

Transmitter/receiver incompatibility

- Certificate issues
  - Mismatch
  - Expired certificates
  - Revoked certificates
  - Trust issues
  - Hash incompatibility
  - TLS issues
- Blocked or dropped traffic

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## 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.

Acronym	Spelled Out	Acronym	Spelled Out
ABAC	Attribute-based Access Control	IDF	Intermediate Distribution Frame
ACL	Access Control List	IDS	Intrusion Detection System
AES	Advanced Encryption Standard	IP	Internet Protocol
AI	Artificial Intelligence	IPAM	IP Address Management
API	Application Programming Interface	IPS	Intrusion Prevention System
BGP	Border Gateway Protocol	ISA	Interconnection Security Agreement
BLE	Bluetooth Low Energy	JIT	Just-in-time
BTU	British Thermal Unit	JSON	JavaScript Object Notation
CASB	Cloud Access Security Broker	KMS	Key Management System
ССМ	Cloud Controls Matrix	KPI	Key Performance Indicator
CDN	Content Delivery Network	LDAP	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
CI/CD	Continuous Integration and Continuous	LoRaWAN	Long-range Wide Area Network
	Deployment	MAC	Media Access Control
CIDR	Classless Inter-domain Routing	MDF	Main Distribution Frame
CIEM	Cloud Identity Entitlement Management	MFA	Multifactor Authentication
CIS	Center for Internet Security	MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
CLI	Command-line Interface	MPLS	Multi-protocol Label Switching
CMDB	Configuration Management Database	MSA	Master Service Agreement
CPE	Customer Premises Equipment	MTBF	Mean Time Between Failures
DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service	MTTD	Mean Time To Detect
DHCP	Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol	MTTI	Mean Time To Investigate
DLP	Data Loss Prevention	MTTR	Mean Time To Recovery
DNS	Domain Name System	MTU	Maximum Transmission Unit
DNSSEC	Domain Name System Security Extensions	NAC	Network Access Control
DoH	DNS over HTTPS	NACL	Network Access Control List
DoT	DNS over TLS	NAT	Network Address Translation
EOL	End-of-life	NDA	Non-disclosure Agreement
EOS	End-of-support	NFC	Near-field Communication
EPO	Emergency Power Off	NFV	Network Function Virtualization
GENEVE	Generic Network Virtualization	NGFW	Next-generation Firewall
	Encapsulation	NTP	Network Time Protocol
HTTPS	Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure	OIDC	OpenID Connect
laC	Infrastructure as Code	OLA	Operational-level Agreement





Acronym	Spelled Out	Acronym	Spelled Out
OOB	Out-of-band	SSL	Secure Socket Layer
OSI	Open Systems Interconnection	SSO	Single Sign-on
OSPF	Open Shortest Path First	STP	Spanning Tree Protocol
OWASP	Open Worldwide Application Security	TACACS+	Terminal Access Controller Access
	Project		Control System Plus
PaaS	Platform as a Service	TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
PAM	Privileged Access Management	ТКІР	Temporal Key Integrity Protocol
PAT	Port Address Translation	TLS	Transport Layer Security
PCAP	Packet Capture	UDP	User Datagram Protocol
PDU	Power Distribution Unit	UEBA	User Entity Behavior Analytics
PKI	Public Key Infrastructure	UPS	Uninterruptible Power Supply
PoE	Power over Ethernet	URL	Uniform Resource Locator
PSK	Pre-shared Key	VIP	Virtual IP
QoS	Quality of Service	VLAN	Virtual Local Area Network
RADIUS	Remote Authentication Dial-in User Services	VLSM	Variable Length Subnet Mask
RDP	Remote Desktop Protocol	VPC	Virtual Private Cloud
RPO	Recovery Point Objective	VPN	Virtual Private Network
RTO	Real Time Objective	VXLAN	Virtual Extensible LAN
RTSP	Real-time Streaming Protocol	WAP	Web Application Firewall
SAML	Security Assertion Markup Language	WBS	Work Breakdown Structure
SASE	Secure Access Service Edge	WPA2	Wi-Fi Protected Access 2
SCIM	System for Cross-Interdomain Identity	WPA3	Wi-Fi Protected Access 3
	Management	YAML	Yet Another Markup Language
SDCI	Software-defined Cloud Interconnect		
SDK	Software Development Kit		
SDWAN	Software-defined Wide Area Network		



Security Information and Event Management

Simple Network Management Protocol

Session Initiation Protocol

Service-level Agreement

Service-level Indicator

Service-level Objective

Statement of Work

Secure Shell

Secure Service Edge

Service Set Identifier

SIEM SIP

SLA

SLI

SLO

SNMP

SOW

SSE

SSH SSID



# 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



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