

VMware Certified Design Expert 6 – Data Center Virtualization (VCDX6-DCV) Handbook

Version 1.1
1 Dec 2017



Table of Contents

VMware Certified Design Expert Certification Program	3
<i>Goal of the VCDX6-DCV Program</i>	3
<i>Benefits of Becoming a VCDX</i>	3
VCDX6-DCV Eligibility Requirements	4
Selection of virtual infrastructure design to defend.....	5
Policy regarding teamwork	5
Design Defense Preparation	6

VCDX6-DCV HANDBOOK

VMware Certified Design Expert Certification Program

The VMware Certified Design Expert 6 – Data Center Virtualization (VCDX6-DCV) is an advanced certification developed for design architects of VMware enterprise deployments. The VMware Certified Design Expert program measures a candidate's ability to gather and interpret requirements, plan, create, document, and test an implementable design for a VMware technology based data center infrastructure that meets customer objectives and constraints.

The successful VCDX-DCV candidate holds primary responsibility for gathering and vetting customer requirements to create an architectural design consisting of virtual infrastructure, configuration recommendations and planning, and identification of deployment validation processes and procedures within the data center virtualization technical solution-track. The successful VCDX6-DCV is able to create detailed documentation with a logical structure, can present and defend rationale for a solution, and understands all facets of the design.

Goal of the VCDX6-DCV Program

- Allow certified individuals to differentiate themselves in the marketplace as having demonstrated a level of knowledge and skill to successfully design, implement, document, and test enterprise-wide deployments of VMware-based virtual infrastructures.
- Allow client organizations to verify that practitioners have the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully design, document, implement, and test enterprise-wide deployments of VMware technology-based virtual infrastructures.
- Have organizations (clients and partners) that design and implement VMware technology-based virtual infrastructures benefit from a body of practitioners that have validated their knowledge and skills relevant to performing the task.

Benefits of Becoming a VCDX

- Publically recognized credential validating advanced level of competence in virtual infrastructure design
- Distinction for (partner) organizations with VCDX-certified personnel
- Increased customer confidence in designs delivered by VCDXs
- Membership in an elite community of practice

VCDX6-DCV Eligibility Requirements

There are five key requirements within the VMware Certified Design Expert certification program. The candidate:

1. Must hold the **VMware Certified Professional 6 – Data Center Virtualization (VCP6-DCV)** certification.
 - Course and exam requirements for this certification are described at [this link](#).
 - Exams are available through Pearson VUE testing centers. One can register for the exams at www.pearsonvue.com/vmware.
 - Travel and associated expenses are not covered by VMware.
2. For new VCIX candidates, must hold the **VMware Certified Advanced Professional 6 – Data Center Virtualization Deployment (VCAP6-DCV Deploy)** certification.
 - Exam requirements and details for this certification are described at [this link](#).
 - This exam is offered at select Pearson VUE testing centers. A listing of all Pearson testing locations can be found at <http://www.pearsonvue.com/vmware>, although you will need to begin registering for the exam to identify which locations are able to deliver this exam.
 - This is a remote live lab exam.
 - The exam is offered in English only at present.
 - No specific training course is required for the VCAP6-DCV Deploy certification. Recommended courses are listed [at this link](#).
 - Travel and associated expenses are not covered by VMware.
3. Must hold the **VMware Certified Advanced Professional 6 – Data Center Virtualization Design (VCAP6-DCV Design)** certification.
 - Exam requirements and details for this certification are described at [this link](#).
 - This exam is offered at select Pearson VUE testing centers. A listing of all Pearson testing locations can be found at <http://www.pearsonvue.com/vmware>.
 - This exam contains complex scenarios and simulations.
 - The exam is offered in English only at present.
 - No specific training course is required for the VCAP6-DCV Design certification. Recommended courses are listed at [this link](#).
 - Travel and associated expenses are not covered by VMware.
4. Must submit a **VCDX6-DCV Application** package that is approved to move to the Defense Phase.
 - An acceptable package consists of: a completed VCDX6-DCV Application form, a VMware vSphere® 6.x-based virtual infrastructure design, and supporting documentation.
 - An application fee is due at the time of application review.
 - Candidates must review and initial the **VCDX Standards of Conduct Statement**, sign the **Statement of Attestation**, and return these documents with their application package. (These documents are supplied with the VCDX Application.)
 - The application and project must be submitted in English.
5. Must successfully complete **VCDX Defense** activities.
 - The defense session will be conducted in English.
 - The registration fee is due at the time of defense scheduling.
 - Travel and associated expenses are not covered by VMware.

Selection of virtual infrastructure design to defend

- The design you submit must be for a VMware vSphere 6.x-based infrastructure
 - where business **requirements** drive design and implementation decisions,
 - suited for **mission-critical** applications,
 - and is in a **managed** environment.
- The application form requests that, for your design, you identify requirements, constraints, and assumptions. If you find it difficult to name five of each, you may also find it difficult to fully display your mastery of design principles using that design. It is also possible that you have not phrased the requirements, constraints, and assumptions with the detail required.
- If your selected design and project does not require the areas outlined in the VCDX6-DCV Exam Guide blueprint, you are encouraged *either* to select a different design *or* to augment/modify the base design. The submitted design must fully demonstrate your knowledge and skills in the areas identified in the blueprint. All documentation must be consistent with the submitted design.
- If your design is based on an actual project, it is recommended that you played an architect role for that project.

Policy regarding teamwork

Candidates may submit designs based on projects in which other architects were involved. In fact, there is no rule against multiple candidates submitting designs based on the same project, except for the limit of three candidates submitting the same shared design. In the application materials, candidates must clearly distinguish between their own work and that of others. Even the appearance of claiming others' work as one's own disqualifies an application; application fees will not be refunded.

It is often the case that candidates worked within a team to deliver the final design. The Project References section in the Application provides the opportunity to recognize teammates' contributions, and in doing so, accurately attest to the portions of the project that was truly your contribution. Please complete as much of the Project References section as possible, keeping this in mind.

The application materials and the candidate's defense must establish his or her mastery of all parts of the VCDX Blueprint. Demonstrating full mastery may be more difficult with a project in which other architects were involved. The responsibility for overcoming this obstacle is solely that of the candidate.

During the VCDX defense session, candidates must expect to be called upon to explain and justify all aspects of the design, including those created or implemented by others.

All policies and procedures are available on the VCDX Directory site at <http://vcdx.vmware.com/policies-and-procedures>.

Design Defense Preparation

If your application is accepted, you will be required to defend your design before a panel of other VMware Certified Design Experts. Listed below are some details that will help you to prepare for your defense.

- The Defense consists of two main parts:
 - Design Defense
 - The Design Defense is 75 minutes.
 - Prepare a PowerPoint presentation for approximately the first 15 minutes of the defense that provides an executive summary of the design.
 - For the remainder of the 75 minutes, you will be asked questions by the panel to help determine your understanding of the design and your skills as an architect to make decisions based upon customer requirements, assumptions, and constraints.
 - Handouts and or exhibits (other than the PowerPoint presentation) are not permitted
 - A brief 15-minute intermission will follow the Design Defense portion.
 - Design Scenario
 - The Design Scenario role play segment is 45 minutes.
 - The panelists will pretend to be customers with a design project.
 - You will be presented with information about the scenario, and then asked to walk through your design process from requirements gathering to proposed solution.
 - Due to the time constraints, you may not necessarily create a complete design solution; your panel is more interested in your thought process and considerations than a complete design.