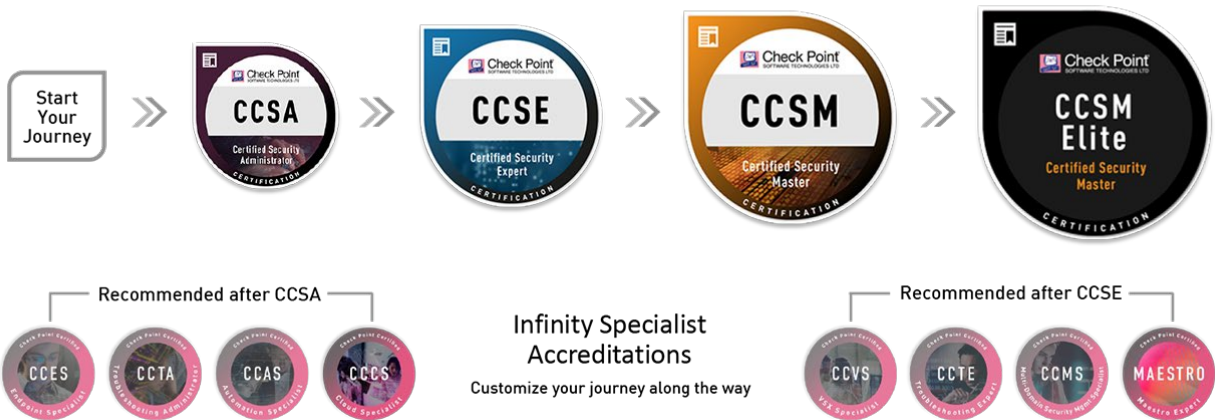# Check Point

SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGIES LTD

Check Point Learning & Training
New Certification Program Model FAQ

New Certification Program Model

Starting 31 January 2021 Check Point is implementing a new Certification Model!

Your Journey to Cyber Security Mastership

Start Your Journey → CCSA Certified Security Administrator → CCSE Certified Security Expert → CCSM Certified Security Master → CCSM Elite Certified Security Master

Recommended after CCSA: CCES Endpoint Specialist, CCTA Troubleshooting Administrator, CCAS Automation Specialist, CCCS Cloud Specialist

Infinity Specialist Accreditations
Customize your journey along the way

Recommended after CCSE: CCVS VSX Specialist, CCTE Troubleshooting Expert, CCMS Multi-Domain Security Mgmt Expert, MAESTRO Maestro Expert

Core Certifications

Check Point Certified Security Administrator

This core 3-day technical certification course provides an understanding of basic concepts and skills necessary to configure and manage Check Point Security Gateways and Management Software Blades.

Exam #
156-215.80

Check Point Certified Security Expert

This advanced 3-day security engineering course provides an in-depth explanation of Check Point technology and an understanding of skills necessary to effectively design, maintain, optimize, and protect your enterprise network from aggressive cyber threats.

Exam #
156-315.80

Security Master Certifications

Check Point Certified Security Master

The CCSM certification recognizes and validates technical mastery of the Check Point Infinity architecture. It is awarded to Cyber Security professionals with advanced knowledge and expertise in configuring, deploying, managing, and troubleshooting Check Point products and services.

Check Point Certified Security Master Elite

Introducing CCSM Elite – We are happy to announce the addition of a new level of achievement to our Certification program, the CCSM Elite! This level of certification validates the highest achievement of technical mastery and consists of an elite club of Check Point Certified Security Masters.

 9 December 2020

New Certification Path to Cyber Security Mastership

Check Point Certified Security Master

With Check Point's new path to Security Mastery, you will need to achieve
2 Infinity Specialist Accreditations after the CCSE.

CCSA
Certification

CCSE
Certification

+ Any 2
Infinity Specialist
Accreditations

CCSM
Certified

2-Year
Certification

2-Year
Certification

Award the
CCSM!

2-Year
Certification

Check Point Certified Security Master Elite

To achieve Check Point's new Security Master ELITE you will need to pass
2 Infinity Specialist Accreditations after the CCSM.

CCSE
Certification

+ Any 2
Infinity Specialist
Accreditations

CCSM
Certification

+ Any 2 Additional
Infinity Specialist
Accreditations

CCSM Elite
Certified

2-Year
Certification

2-Year
Certification

2-Year
Certification

Infinity Specialist Accreditations

Check Point's Infinity Specialist Accreditations are designed to enable Security professionals to demonstrate that they understand the concepts and skills needed to administer, deploy and manage specific Security solutions within the Check Point Infinity Cyber Security Architecture. Infinity Specialist Accreditations are also the building blocks to the Security Master and Security Master Elite certifications.

Accreditation	Infinity Specialist Courses	Exam #
CCAS	Check Point Certified Automation Specialist	156-520
CCME	Check Point Certified Maestro Expert	156-835
CCCS	Check Point Certified Cloud Specialist	156-560
CCSE	Check Point Certified Endpoint Specialist	156-530
CCMS	Check Point Certified Multi-Domain Security Management Specialist	156-540
CCVS	Check Point Certified Virtual System Extension Specialist	156-550
CCTA	Check Point Certified Troubleshooting Administrator	156-580
CCTE	Check Point Certified Troubleshooting Expert	156-585

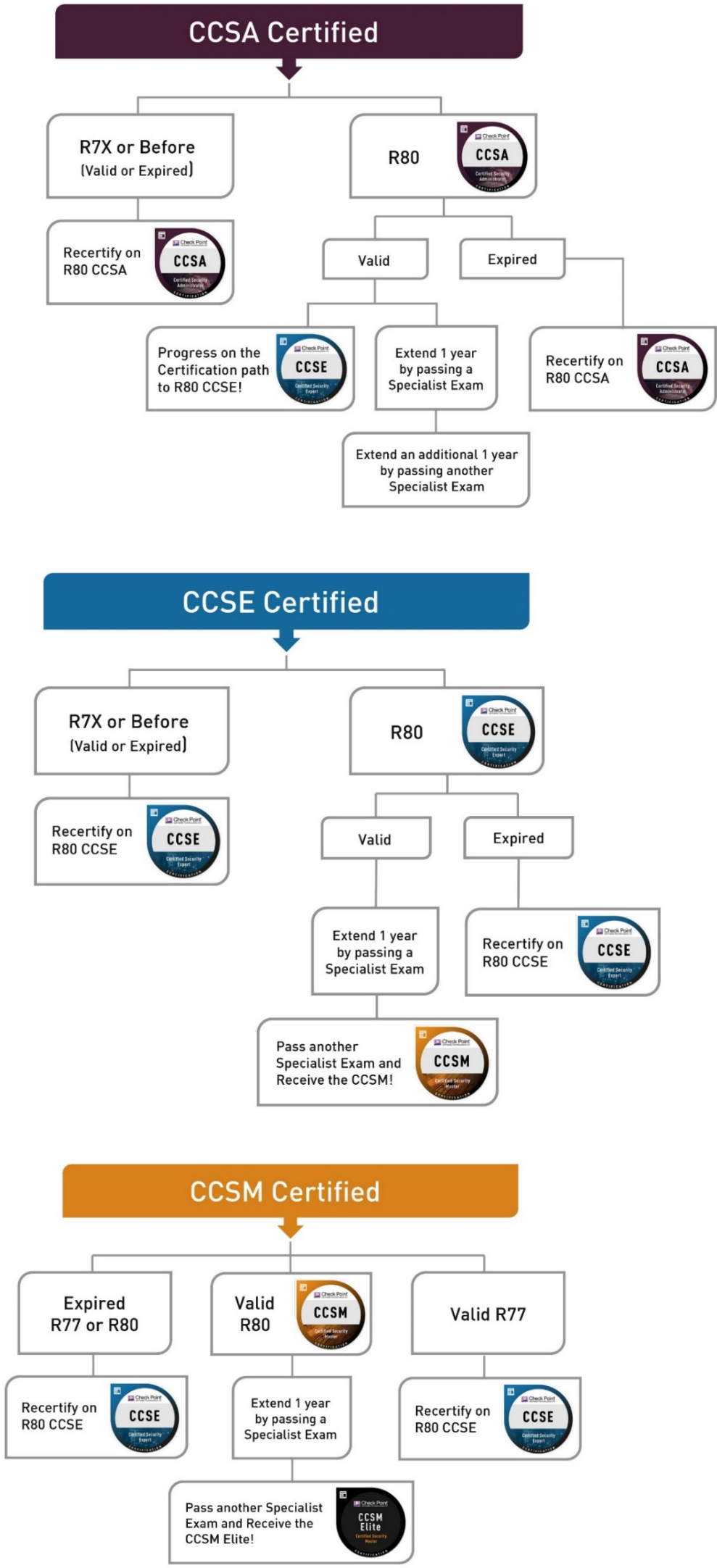|	HackingPoint Courses	
CCPE – A	AppSec for Developers	156-405
CCPE – C	Cloud Security	156-406
CCPE – I	Infrastructure Hacking Check Point Certified PenTesting Expert	156-402
CCPE – W	Web Hacking Check Point Certified PenTesting Expert	156-403

Certification Extensions & Renewals

Pass an Infinity Specialist Accreditation (ISA) to extend a valid Core certification for 1-year.

- ✓ A CCSA may be extended a *maximum of two times* by passing 2 different ISAs. (**CCSA must be current, not expired**)

- ✓ A CCSE may *be extended one time*. A second ISA will award the Accreditation and the **CCSM Certification**! (**The CCSE must be current, not expired**)

- ✓ A CCSM may *be extended one time*. A second ISA will award the Accreditation and the **CCSM Elite Certification**! (**The CCSE must be current, not expired**)

The CCSA or the CCSE exam may be retaken as a means to recertify.

- ✓ If the CCSA or CCSE is retaken and passed *before it expires*, the certification will be renewed for 2 years from the previous expiration date.
- ✓ The CCSE Update exam will no longer be the exam for recertifying a CCSE. It will be retired on 31 March 2021.

Certification Paths

CCSA Certified

- **R7X or Before** (Valid or Expired)
  - Recertify on R80 CCSA

- **R80**
  - **Valid**
    - Progress on the Certification path to R80 CCSE!
    - Extend 1 year by passing a Specialist Exam
      - Extend an additional 1 year by passing another Specialist Exam
  - **Expired**
    - Recertify on R80 CCSA

CCSE Certified

- **R7X or Before** (Valid or Expired)
  - Recertify on R80 CCSE

- **R80**
  - **Valid**
    - Extend 1 year by passing a Specialist Exam
      - Pass another Specialist Exam and Receive the CCSM!
  - **Expired**
    - Recertify on R80 CCSE

CCSM Certified

- **Expired R77 or R80**
  - Recertify on R80 CCSE

- **Valid R80**
  - Extend 1 year by passing a Specialist Exam
    - Pass another Specialist Exam and Receive the CCSM Elite!

- **Valid R77**
  - Recertify on R80 CCSE

FAQs

- **If I took an Infinity Specialist Accreditation course and exam prior to 31 January 2021, will my valid certification be extended?**
  - No, the extension program will start on 31 January 2021 and go forward. No retroactive extensions will be awarded.

- **I took an Infinity Specialist Accreditation (ISA) course over 2 years ago and it has now expired. Can I take that ISA again to extend my current certification?**
  - Yes as long as the ISA exam is passed after our new certification model start date on 31 January 2021.

- **I passed one Infinity Specialist Accreditation (ISA) to get the 1-year extension on my CCSA/CCSE/CCSM, can I retake that ISA?**
  - The Infinity Specialist Accreditations are valid for 2 years. If you take the same exam within that 2 years, it will not be credited to extend your certification. You should take a different ISA as long as it is valid. If the ISA has expired, you may take it again to get an extension.

- **I've passed the CCSA exam, what are my next steps to maintain an Active certification status?**
  - **Option 1** – You may extend the CCSA certification *while the certification is still valid* by passing an Infinity Specialist Accreditation exam for a 1-year extension (You may do this 2 times with a valid CCSA)
  - **Option 2** – You may proceed to the CCSE to continue in the certification path.
    - This will not extend the CCSA.
  - **Option 3** – You may retake and pass the CCSA exam for another 2-year extension.

- **I have a CCSA and have passed 2 Infinity Specialist Accreditations to extend my certification for an additional 2 years. Can I take a 3rd for another 1-year extension?**
  - No, 2 years is the longest extension. You may recertify by passing the CCSA again for another 2 year certification.

- **My CCSA has expired. Can I still extend the certification for 1 year by taking an Infinity Specialist Accreditation?**
  - **Extensions are only awarded on valid certifications. It is important to be aware of certification expiration dates.**
    - Recertify your CCSA by passing the CCSA certification exam again.
      - You are still eligible to take the CCSE to advance in the certification path if your CCSA is expired.

- **Where can I go to check on the expiration date of my certifications?**
  - Login to the User Center
  - Click "MY CHECK POINT"
  - Click "My Certifications" under the "My Info" option to see a list of your certifications and their expiration dates.
  - **Note:** Starting at 60 days before a core certification expires, our system will notify you by email several times on a regular interval to remind you of your expiring certification.

- **I passed one Infinity Specialist Accreditation (ISA) to get the 1-year extension added to my CCSA and now the CCSA has since expired. If I pass an ISA exam now, will my CCSA be extended?**
  - No, you will need to pass the CCSA again to get recertified. Extensions are only awarded on valid certifications.

- **I have a valid R80 CCSE, what are my next steps to maintain an Active certification status?**
  - **Option 1** – You may extend the CCSE certification *while the certification is still valid* by passing one Infinity Specialist Accreditation (ISA) exam for a 1-year extension (You may do this one time for a 1-year extension on a valid CCSE)
    - Passing a second ISA exam will award you the *CCSM certification.*
  - **Option 2** – You may retake the CCSE for another 2-year extension.

- **I received the CCSM after getting my second Infinity Specialist Accreditation while CCSE certified. How long will the CCSM be valid?**
  - o The CCSM certification will be valid 2 years.

- **My CCSE has expired. Can I still extend the certification for 1 year by taking an Infinity Specialist Accreditation?**
  - o **Extensions are only awarded on valid certifications. It is important to be aware of certification expiration dates.**
    - ▪ Recertify your CCSE by retaking and passing the CCSE exam.

- **I had the 1-year extension added to my CCSE but not my CCSE has expired. Will I still get the CCSM if I take another Infinity Specialist Accreditation?**
  - o **No, extensions are only awarded on valid certifications.** You will need to recertify your CCSE again and pass 2 more Infinity Specialist Accreditations to attain CCSM status.

- **I have a valid R80 CCSM, what are my next steps to maintain an Active certification status?**
  - o You may extend the CCSM certification *while the certification is still valid* by passing one Infinity Specialist Accreditation (ISA) exam for a 1-year extension (You may do this one time for a 1-year extension on a valid CCSM)
    - ▪ Passing a second ISA exam will award you the *CCSM Elite certification.*

- **I received the CCSM Elite certification after getting my second Infinity Specialist Accreditation while CCSM certified. How long will the CCSM Elite be valid?**
  - o The CCSM Elite certification will be valid 2 years.
  - o The CCSM Elite can be extended once for 1 year by passing another Infinity Specialist Accreditation. (A recertification path for the CCSM Elite will be announced at a later date)

- **My CCSM has expired. Can I still extend the certification for 1 year by taking an Infinity Specialist Accreditation?**
  - o **Extensions are only awarded on valid certifications. It is important to be aware of certification expiration dates.**
    - ▪ Recertify on the CCSM exam until we *retire the CCSM exam on 31-March-2021*. After the CCSM exam is retired the path to CCSM status will be through a valid CCSE.

- I have a valid CCSM Elite, CCSM or CCSE. Do I need to maintain the lower certification(s)?
  - o Your goal is to maintain your highest certification or progress to the next level. You are not required to recertify on the lower certifications. You will only recertify on a lower certification if you allow your highest level of certification to expire.

http://www.checkpoint.com/certifications

More FAQs are posted to our Certification FAQ SecureKnowledge article - SK163417
For Account-related questions please contact our Account Services team by opening a Non-Technical Ticket
Additional questions can be directed to the Certification Team at certification@checkpoint.com