

# Proven Professional Certification Program FAQ's

## Proven Professional Certification Program Overview

The Dell Technologies Proven Professional Certification program framework is being transformed. We've leveraged the latest Dell and industry intelligence to build relevant certifications aligned to the rapidly changing IT landscape. Our customers will be able to take full advantage of skill based certification offers, leading to new solutions certifications.

Key highlights:

- In February 2023, the Proven Professional Certification Program is launching a new certification framework that will include both skill and outcome-based solutions certifications.
- Net new certifications will also be released within the new certification framework.
- Existing legacy certifications will be migrated to the new framework throughout 2023.

After reviewing the information below, if you have additional questions, visit the Proven Professional section of our [website](#), or contact your Education Services Account Manager.

## FAQ's

### **Q: Why is this happening?**

**A:** To continue Dell Technologies position as a leader in training and certification, we are proactively offering essential Education Services for modern IT organizations looking to drive better business performance and foster more productive teams. The new certifications are designed to help learners achieve success in reaching certification goals aligned to critical technologies that drive business outcomes.

### **Q: What are the customer benefits?**

**A:** Our goal is to help customers accelerate the adoption of new and emerging technologies and maximize their investment. Training and certification enable our customers' workforce to become more productive and reduce the time to market of their products across many industry verticals, such as software, finance, or insurance.

Inefficient resources and skills gaps constrain innovation. An organization with a highly skilled workforce keeps pace with new technology and retains top-level talent. If business leaders do not invest in training and certifying their staff to keep competitive and on par with digital disruption, employees will find companies that do.

**Q: What are the goals of the program?**

**A:** The goals of the program are to:

- Validate essential skills and knowledge required for customers to achieve desired business outcomes
- Maximize investment of Dell products, solutions, and services
- Offer solutions certifications that include Dell and its partners like Microsoft, VMware, etc.
- Increase capability through hands-on skills validation

**Q: What's different in the new Proven Professional program?**

**A:** Skill and Solution based certification:

The new certification experience validates a greater breadth of capabilities by expanding on familiar and popular learning aspects of Dell's award-winning training. Skill based certification and achievements offer a streamlined approach to substantiating specific sets of skills and capabilities, where learners can measure their experience and knowledge. This approach is centrally focused on individual technical capability, answering the question, "can I perform the required functions in a given technology?"

Solution based certification is a fundamental rethinking of certification and how we measure the success of system implementation and modernization efforts. This certification introduces the modular concept of verifying both technical knowledge and expertise of processes to best validate that the learner is achieving an overall desired outcome.

Program changes include:

- Expanded from role-aligned to skill based certifications as the foundation for outcome based solutions.
- Simplified journey that removes formal prerequisites and reduces class time, leading to faster certification achievement
- A more streamlined approach to validate skill sets and maintain certifications
- Increased flexibility to build a customized portfolio of certifications based on individual needs

**Q: What's the timeline of changes to the program?**

**A:** The new certification framework will launch in phases on a quarterly basis in 2023, with Phase 1 launching in February. It includes the following: Achievement, Skill Certifications and Solution Certifications.

Achievement	Skill Certifications	Solution Certifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dell Security Foundations 2023</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dell NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2023</li><li>Dell Data Protection Design 2023</li><li>Dell PowerStore Deploy 2023</li><li>Dell PowerStore Operate 2023</li><li>Dell PowerScale Design 2023</li><li>Dell Unity Deploy 2023</li><li>Dell Unity Operate 2023</li><li>Dell Metro Node Operate 2023</li><li>Dell ECS Design 2023</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Infrastructure Security 2023</li></ul>

**Q: Are the Proven Professional Certification names changing?**

**A:** The Dell Technologies Proven Professional name will remain unchanged. The Associate, Specialist, and Expert legacy certifications will be phased out and retired as they are migrated to the new framework. The new framework features certification names reflecting the move to focused, skill based and outcome based solution certifications. For the new framework, the certification badges will be named as follows:

- Achievement (online, Dell skills validation)
- Skill Certification (proctored, Dell and industry-aligned skills validation)
- Solution Certification (outcome based, validated technical knowledge and expertise of processes)

The following legacy role-based certifications will migrate to the new skill type certifications listed below:

Legacy Certification	New Skill Certification Type
Implementation Engineer (IE)*	Deploy
Technical Architect (TA)	Design
Systems Administrator (SA)	Operate
Platform Engineer (PE)	Maintenance
Cloud Architect (CA)	Design

Skill certifications (Deploy, Design, Operate, Maintenance) will not require a prerequisite (ex: Associate-level) certification.

\*In some cases, legacy Implementation Engineer content may be broken out into separate Deploy and Operate skills certifications when migrated to the new framework.

Example of migrated certifications:

- Specialist - Implementation Engineer, PowerStore Solutions Version 1.0 will migrate to separate Dell PowerStore Deploy 2023 and Dell PowerStore Operate 2023 certifications
- Specialist - Technology Architect, Data Protection Version 2.0 will migrate to the Dell Data Protection Design 2023 certification
- Specialist - Platform Engineer, PowerStore Version 1.0 will migrate to the Dell PowerStore Maintenance 2023 certification
- Specialist - Systems Administrator, VxRail Version 2.0 will migrate to the Dell VxRail Operate 2023 certification

**Q: Are my current certifications still valid?**

**A:** Most Dell Technologies Proven Professional certifications do not expire and will continue to be valid as issued. For certain certifications achieved in 2022/2023, you may be granted a new skill certification. However, the new program is designed to provide customers with the right combination of foundational knowledge, skills, and solution-driven outcomes beyond the traditional role-based certification tracks.

**Q: I just completed a legacy certification in 2022/2023. When this program launches, will the corresponding new skill certification automatically be awarded?**

**A:** Some legacy certifications achieved in 2022/2023 will be automatically granted the corresponding new skill certification. New framework certifications that are automatically granted will display in your [CertTracker](#) account. If you have questions, please contact [Proven Professional Support](#).

The Proven Professional Program will be sending communications regarding current courses and learning paths that will be able to be applied and used toward Achievement, Skills, and Solution certifications.

**Q: Do I still schedule my certification exams via PearsonVUE?**

**A:** Yes, you will still schedule your legacy or new certification framework exams with PearsonVUE. Onsite Test Centers and OnVUE online proctoring options remain available. Visit the [PearsonVUE](#) website to schedule your exam.

**Q: Will there still be free practice exams?**

**A:** Yes, there will still be free practice exams for legacy or new framework certification exams. You can access the practice exam and/or simulation demo (when applicable) from the Exam Description for the certification you are pursuing.

**Q: Will there still be Exam Prep videos?**

**A:** Yes, any available exam preparation videos will still be accessible on the [Exam Preparation Resources](#) page. Selections are limited, especially during this period of framework migration.

**Q: Has the exam voucher purchase process changed?**

**A:** No, the purchase process for vouchers has not changed. You can purchase exam vouchers on the Education storefront using Dell Training Credits, or by working with your Education Services Account Manager.

**Q: Where can I find more information, and who can I contact for answers to other important questions?**

**A:** The Proven Professional section of our [website](#) and the Education Services Proven Professional [Community](#) provide more detailed information about the changes to the program. If you have any other questions, please contact [Proven Professional Support](#). Partners needing more information about the program can find it in the [Partner Academy](#).

The customer-facing course catalog provides information on all training offers aligned to Proven Professional Certifications. It can be downloaded [here](#).