

# Proven Professional Certification Program Updates

## A New Approach to the Proven Professional Program

The Dell Technologies Proven Professional Certification framework is being transformed. We've leveraged the latest Dell and industry intelligence to build relevant certifications aligned to the rapidly changing IT landscape.

### 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.
- The new framework will include net new Proven Professional certification releases.
- Legacy certifications will be migrated to the new framework as an ongoing activity throughout the 2023 program year.

### Benefits

- Expanded from role-aligned to skill-based certifications
- Obtain certifications faster with a simplified journey that removes formal prerequisites and reduces class time
- A more streamlined approach to validating specific sets of skills and capabilities
- Increased flexibility for learners to earn certifications based on individual needs

## Changes to the Proven Professional Framework

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.

Within the context of the certifications leveraged by the Partner Program's Portfolio, Solution and Services Competencies, the following legacy certifications will migrate to the new skill 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.

# Proven Professional Certification Program – Partner FAQ

**Q: Will the Dell Technologies Partner Program recognize both legacy and new framework certifications?**

**A:** Yes, both legacy framework certifications (IE, TA, SA, PE, CA) and new framework skill certifications (Deploy, Design, Operate, Maintenance) will be recognized and co-exist in the Partner Academy [Accepted Proven Professional Certifications](#) page for Portfolio and Solution Competencies and the [Services Competency Matrix](#) for Services Competencies.

**Q: The Dell Technologies Partner Program is now using the term Certified Resources (CR). What does this mean?**

**A:** For Storage+ competency certification requirements, a Certified Resource (CR) represents a partner resource that has earned any of the accepted certifications included on the [List of Accepted Proven Professional Certifications](#). For Services Competencies, a CR represents a partner resource that has earned any of the accepted certifications referenced on the [Services Competency Matrix](#) product-specific competency pages. CRs may hold both legacy (IE, TA, SA, PE and CA) and new framework (Deploy, Operate, Deploy and Maintenance) certifications, if these are included on the accepted certification list for Storage+ and Services respectively.

**Q: How will legacy and new framework certifications be assigned N and N-1 status within the Dell Technologies Partner Program competencies?**

**A:** Although legacy framework certifications (IE, TA, SA, PE, CA) will be migrated and released as skill certifications (Deploy, Design, Operate and Maintenance) throughout the program year, all legacy certifications (IE, TA, SA, PE and CA) currently accepted as N and N-1 as of the start of the 2023 program year will continue to be recognized as N and N-1. Starting February 2023, you will begin to see these skill certifications listed as an additional N option for their respective category or competency.

**Q: Will I be able to earn legacy certifications, such as a TA or IE certification, before they are migrated to the new framework?**

**A:** Yes, active legacy certifications (IE, TA, SA, PE, CA) will remain available for you to earn until the respective certifications are migrated to the new certification framework and the legacy certifications are retired.

**Q: If I choose to earn a legacy certification, such as a TA or IE certification, that has not been migrated to the new framework, do I still have to meet the legacy certification prerequisites?**

**A:** Yes, all prerequisite requirements, including Associate-level certifications, currently required for available IE, TA, SA, PE and CA certifications will remain in place until those legacy certifications are migrated to the new framework and retired.

**Q: If I choose to earn a new framework skill certification, such as a Deploy or Design certification, do I still have to meet legacy certification prerequisites?**

**A:** No, skill certifications (Deploy, Design, Operate, Maintenance) will not require a prerequisite certification.

**Q: Will I still be able to access all my legacy and new framework certifications in CertTracker?**

**A:** Yes, you will be able to access all Proven Professional legacy and new framework certifications in [CertTracker](#).

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

**A:** Until a new skill certification is launched, your legacy certification is recognized as the most current version of the certification (N). Some legacy certifications achieved in 2022/2023 will be automatically granted the corresponding new skill certification. Communications will be sent from the Proven Professional program if a certification you hold is eligible. New framework certifications that are automatically granted will display in your [CertTracker](#) account. If you have questions, please contact [Proven Professional Support](#).

**Q: Will I still receive channel partner discounts on training and exam vouchers?**

**A:** Yes, there are no changes to discounts for training and exam vouchers for legacy or new framework certification.

**Q: Will legacy and new framework certification-aligned, partner-only packages be listed on the Partner Academy and Services Competency Matrix and be accessible in the Dell Learning Hub Partner Plans?**

**A:** Yes, all available certification-aligned, partner-only packages will continue to be listed and updated on the Partner Academy [Accepted Proven Professional Certifications](#) page for Portfolio and Solution Competencies and the [Services Competency Matrix](#) for Services Competencies. Competency-aligned, on demand packages referenced will be accessible in the [Dell Learning Hub](#) Partner Plans.

**Q: Who can I contact regarding questions about the Partner Program's handling of legacy and new framework certifications?**

**A:** Please refer to the [Accepted Proven Professional Certifications](#) page for Portfolio and Solution Competencies and the [Services Competency Matrix](#) for Service Competencies; speak with your Channel Partner Account Manager; or contact [Partner Program Support](#).